

Mike Kelly FCIOB MCIM
Chief Executive

Our Ref LW
Your Ref OSC/LW
Date 2 September 2014
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Legal & Democratic Services
Division

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Assistant Director of Legal &
Democratic Services

TO: All Members of Council

Councillors : Adams, D Bailey, M Bailey, N Bayley, I Bevan, J Black, S Briggs, P Bury, G Campbell, S Carter, R Caserta, D Cassidy, M C Connolly, A Cummings, J Daly, E Fitzgerald, L Fitzwalter, J Frith, I Gartside, J Grimshaw, D Gunther, S Haroon, P Heneghan, R Hodgkinson, T Holt, K Hussain, T Isherwood, M James, D Jones, Kerrison, J Lewis, Mallon, A Matthews, S Nuttall, O'Brien, N Parnell, T Pickstone, A Quinn, K Rothwell, R Shori, A Simpson, J Smith, S Smith, S Southworth, T Tariq, R Walker, S Walmsley, J Walton, Whitby, M Wiseman (Chair) and Y Wright

Dear Member/Colleague

Council

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which will be held as follows:-

Date:	Wednesday, 10 September 2014
Place:	Bury Town Hall
Time:	7.00 pm
Briefing Facilities:	If Opposition Members and Co-opted Members require briefing on any particular item on the Agenda, the appropriate Director/Senior Officer originating the related report should be contacted.
Notes:	

AGENDA

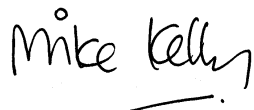
The Agenda for the meeting is attached.

Reports are enclosed only for those attending the meeting and for those without access to the Council's Intranet or Website.

The Agenda and Reports are available on the Council's Intranet for Councillors and Officers and also on the Council's Website at www.bury.gov.uk – click on **Agendas, Minutes and Forward Plan**.

Copies of printed reports can also be obtained on request by contacting the Democratic Services Officer named above.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Chief Executive

AGENDA

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Council are requested to declare any interests which they have in any items or issues before the Council for determination.

2 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL (Pages 1 - 8)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9 July 2014.

3 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive communications from the Mayor and any announcements by the Leader of the Council or the Chief Executive on matters of interest to the Council.

4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (Pages 9 - 12)

To answer questions from members of the public, notice of which has been given, on any matter relevant to the Council or its services to the community. Up to 30 minutes will be set aside for this purpose. If time permits, further questions will be invited from members of the public present.

5 PETITION

A petition has been received which was started on line using the change.org website on 10 July 2014. The following wording appeared on the petition:

"Say no to 3 weekly bin emptying. To have our grey bins emptied every 3 weeks is a disgrace. It will lead to an increase in vermin and consequently disease. The good people of Bury Borough should have their bins emptied as usual, as many residents already struggle with the way it is. To change it to 3 weeks is a selfish decision as there are surely other ways to make cutbacks.

Along with the obvious hygiene and sanitation issues, we feel the decision has not recognised those who struggle to move their bins when full. This is only going to get harder on the lesser able people as the bins get heavier. The mess on the streets will increase; the number of rats and other vermin on the streets will increase; and fly and fly lava will become inevitable."

As the petition contains in excess of 2,500 signatures from people who live, work or study in Bury, the petition organisers are entitled to have the petition debated at Council.

Under the petitions procedure, the petition organiser will be given 5 minutes to present the petition and then discussion amongst members takes place for a

maximum of 15 minutes

6 **RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES** (Pages 13 - 30)

<i>COMMITTEE/DATE</i>	<i>SUBJECT</i>	<i>RECOMMENDATION</i>
1. Cabinet – 16 July 2014	Risk Management Annual Report 2013/14	<p>1. That the progress made through 2013/2014 and actions taken during the current financial year be noted</p> <p>2. That support for the Council approach to Risk Management be affirmed.</p>
2. Democratic Arrangements Forum – 26 August 2014	Notices of Motion – Consideration prior to inclusion on Council Summons	<p>1. That Council Procedure Rule 12 headed "Scope", be amended by the addition of:</p> <p>"(2) The Mayor, or in his/her absence the Deputy Mayor, on the advice of the Solicitor, may exclude from the agenda any notice of motion which may be found to be illegal, irregular or improper. In the event of non-acceptance, the Council Solicitor shall inform the Member giving notice and the Member shall be entitled to submit a revised Notice of Motion prior to the issuance of Council Summons."</p> <p>2. That in order to provide sufficient time for Notices of Motion to be properly considered and assessed, Council Procedure Rule 12 "Notice," be amended by the deletion of "at least eight clear working days" and the substitution of "at least ten clear working days"</p>

<p>3. Democratic Arrangements Forum – 26 August 2014</p>	<p>Questions to the Leader</p>	<p>1. That questions continue to be asked through political group rotation but the sequence be dictated by political proportionality (resulting currently in 3 Labour questions to one Conservative question);</p> <p>2. That Council Procedure Rule 11.1 (b) be amended by the deletion of "There will be a 30 minute time limit on this part of the Council proceedings," and the substitution "There will be a 40 minute time limit on this part of the Council proceedings;"</p> <p>3. That these arrangements be reviewed after a couple of Council meetings to assess the impact on the efficient management of Council business;</p> <p>4. That further discussion take place regarding written questions submitted by independent members or single members.</p>
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7 **LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME** (Pages 31 - 54)

To receive a Statement from the Leader of the Council on the work of the Cabinet and to answer written questions from Members of the Council to the Leader and Cabinet Members on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties which affect the Borough, provided the necessary written notice has been given.

Verbal questions on the work of the Cabinet since the last Council meeting will be allowed subject to a limit of one question per Councillor.

8 **JOINT AUTHORITIES - REPORT BY THE COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVE AND QUESTIONS** (Pages 55 - 60)

- (A) A report by the Council's Representative on the work of the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority, Councillor Cummings.
- (B) Questions (if any) on the work of the Joint Authorities to be asked by Members of the Council for which the necessary notice has been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.2.

The following Notice of Motions have been received:-

1. NHS and Social Care Funding

"Given recent instances where Bury CCG has confirmed that it is underfunded by approximately £20m per annum and the recent front page article in the Bury Times (21 August 2014) that Adult Care in Bury is in crisis due to chronic underfunding from central Government, this Council calls on the Tory-led Government to:-

1. Immediately review and increase funding streams to the NHS and Social Care in Bury to meet demand pressures due to an ageing society.
2. Increase funding available for Public Health in a bid to focus on early intervention & prevention strategies that will prevent people needing help in the first instance and save money in the long term, which is both ethically and economically sound.

This Council also acknowledges that attempts by the Government to plug funding gaps in social and primary care via mechanisms such as the Better Care Fund are wholly inadequate and are akin to replacing a bucket full of resource with a thimble full."

In the names of Councillors P Adams, D Bailey, M Bailey, N Bayley, J Black, S Briggs, P Bury, G Campbell, S Carter, D M Cassidy, M Connolly, A J Cummings, E FitzGerald L Fitzwalter, J Frith, J Grimshaw, S Haroon, P Heneghan, T Holt, A Isherwood, M A James, D Jones, S Kerrison, J S Lewis, A K Matthews, J Mallon, E O'Brien, N A Parnell, A Quinn, K Rothwell, R Shori, A Simpson, S Smith, J Smith, S Southworth, T Tariq, S Walmsley and M Whitby.

2. Service Delivery Options

"This Council recognises that in order to put our nation's finances back on a stable footing, all Councils are looking at alternative service delivery options in order to make savings.

In relation to outsourcing or privatising services, this Council notes the recent documents in which this Labour Council is considering privatising Adult and Children's care services.

Now that this Labour Council is looking at privatisation, this Council requests that Labour cabinet members and senior officers look at other opportunities to make savings and report back to the next Council meeting.

These opportunities (in or out of partnership) may include outsourcing and reviewing existing contracts in areas such as back office, legal, and security services.

This Council also resolves to continue to sell services such as payroll, that we can offer at the lowest cost base, in order to generate addition income to the revenue budget."

In the names of Councillors I Bevan, R Caserta, J Daly, I Gartside, D Gunther, R Hodgkinson, K Hussain, S Nuttall, R Walker, J Walton and Y Wright

10 SCRUTINY REVIEW REPORTS AND SPECIFIC ITEMS "CALLED IN" BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

11 QUESTIONS ON THE WORK OF OUTSIDE BODIES OR PARTNERSHIPS

Questions on the work of outside bodies or partnerships on which the Council is represented to be asked by Members of the Council (if any).

12 DELEGATED DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Questions on the delegated decisions made by the Regulatory Committees and Scrutiny Committees contained in the Digest of Decisions 1 (2014/15) published since the last ordinary meeting of the Council, providing four clear working days' notice has been given of the question.

Members are asked to bring to the meeting their copy of Digest 1 (2014/15).

Minutes of: **AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

Date of Meeting: 9 July 2014

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor M Wiseman), in the Chair;
Councillors, P Adams, D Bailey, M Bailey, N Bayley, I Bevan, S Briggs, P Bury, G Campbell, S Carter, R A Caserta, D M Cassidy, M Connolly, A J Cummings, J Daly, E FitzGerald, L Fitzwalter, I B Gartside, J Grimshaw, D L Gunther, S Haroon, P Heneghan, R Hodgkinson, T Holt, K Hussain, A Isherwood, M A James, D Jones, S Kerrison, J Lewis, J Mallon, A Matthews, S Nuttall, E O'Brien, N Parnell, T D Pickstone, A Quinn, K Rothwell, R Shori, A Simpson, S Smith, J Smith, S Southworth, R E Walker, S Walmsley, J F Walton and M Whitby

Apologies for Absence: Councillors J Black, J Frith, T Tariq and Y Wright

Public attendance: 22 members of the public attended the meeting

C.99 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. Councillor Connolly declared a personal interest in any item which related to staffing as his partner is an employee of Bury Council.
2. Councillor Jones declared a personal interest in any item which related to staffing as his wife is an employee of Bury Council.
3. Councillor Bevan declared a personal interest in any item which related to staffing as his wife is an employee within a Bury School.
4. Councillor Mallon declared a personal interest in any item relation to staffing as his partner is an employee within a Bury high school.
5. Councillors D Bailey and M Bailey declared personal interests in Minute No. C.104, Leader's Statement and Cabinet Question Time, as they are parents of children attending Radcliffe Hall Primary School and Governors of that school.

C.100 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 3 June 2014 be signed by the Mayor as a true and correct record.

C.101 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

1. The Mayor referred to the recent passing of former Borough Treasurer, John Cook and Members observed a brief silence by way of tribute.
2. The Mayor congratulated Mrs Pamela Simpson on being awarded the British Empire Medal in recognition of services to the community.

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3. The Mayor thanked those who had attended the Mayoral Sunday service on Sunday, 29 June 2014.
4. The Mayor congratulated Mike Owen, Executive Director of Resources and Regulation, on his becoming National President of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

C.102 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Mayor reported that no written questions had been submitted. On inviting questions from members of the public present, the following issues were raised:-

Issue	Questioner	Answered By
1. Petition seeking speeding restrictions on Turton Road, Tottington.	Mrs E Grimshaw	Councillor Connolly
2. In response to a proposal to reduce the speed limit on Turton Road, Tottington from 60 mph to 50 mph, it was suggested this should be reduced further to 40 mph.	Mr T O'Shea	Councillor Connolly
3. Financial problems faced by Bury Hospice.	Ms S Southworth	Councillor Connolly
4. Services in Affetside and proposals with regard to 480 Bus Service.	Ms J Woolcroft	Councillor Connolly
5. Visitor information regarding Sculpture Centre and method of calculation.	Ms N Haydock	Councillor Connolly
6. Bury East Area Profiles.	Mr V Hagan	Councillor Connolly

C.103 RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES

The Mayor reported that there were no recommendations before Members.

C.104 LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(a) Written questions (Notice given)

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Connolly, made a statement on the work undertaken by him since the date of the last Council meeting. The Leader and the relevant Cabinet Members answered questions raised by Councillors on the following issues:

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered by (and action)
1.	Universal Credit-Role of Council	Councillor Kerrison	Councillor Walmsley
2.	Government Support for Road Repairs	Councillor Gartside	Councillor Isherwood
3.	Public Service Day of Action	Councillor Parnell	Councillor Connolly
4.	Sculpture Centre Footfall	Councillor Gunther	Councillor Lewis
5.	Financial Outturn	Councillor Mallon	Councillor Connolly
6.	School Crossing Patrols	Councillor Nuttall	Councillor Isherwood
7.	"I Will if You Will" grants	Councillor Fitzwalter	Councillor Shori
8.	Library self service	Councillor Bevan	Councillor Campbell
9.	Staff Terms and Conditions	Councillor Southworth	Councillor Holt
10.	Cash savings as a result of compulsory redundancy	Councillor Daly	Councillor Walmsley
11.	Production of Council Accounts	Councillor Jones	Councillor Connolly
12.	"I Will if You Will" fund – allocation	Councillor Gunther	Councillor Shori
13.	North West Public Health Manifesto	Councillor O'Brien	Councillor Simpson
14.	Sculpture Centre – Expenditure	Councillor Daly	Councillor Lewis
15.	Processing of Planning applications	Councillor Noel Bayley	Councillor Walmsley
16.	Traffic Management – Vicinity of Walmersley Old Road	Councillor Hussain	Councillor Isherwood
17.	Metrolink Improvement Works	Councillor Gartside	Councillor Isherwood
18.	Turton Road, Tottington – Traffic Speed	Councillor Wright	Councillor Isherwood
19.	Application of Living Wage – Employees in Schools	Councillor Pickstone	Councillor Campbell
20.	Road Repairs – Government Expenditure	Councillor Pickstone	Councillor Isherwood

Due to the lack of time to answer questions 10 to 23 inclusive, the Leader gave an undertaking that copies of those questions will be circulated to all Councillors. The Leader also gave an undertaking to make these available on the Council Web Site.

(b) Oral questions on the work of the Cabinet since the last Council meeting (without Notice)

21.	Infection control	Councillor Walker	Councillor Shori
22.	Gin Hall and Core Strategy	Councillor Daly	Councillor Connolly
23.	Government Expenditure Policy	Councillor Quinn	Councillor Connolly
24.	Road Repairs – Inspection Time	Councillor Bevan	Councillor Isherwood

C.105 JOINT AUTHORITIES – REPORTS BY THE COUNCIL’S REPRESENTATIVE AND QUESTIONS

- (a) Councillor Connolly, the Council’s representative, on the Police and Crime Panel, gave a verbal report on the work of the Panel to all Members of the Council.
- (b) The following questions had been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.2.

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered by
1.	Bus Service 480 – Rossendale Buses	Councillor Carter	Councillor Noel Bayley (Representative on the Committee for Greater Manchester Transport)
2.	Bus services to rural communities	Councillor Daly	Councillor Noel Bayley (Representative on the Committee for Greater Manchester Transport)
3.	Metrolink Improvement Works	Councillor FitzGerald	Councillor Noel Bayley (Representative on the Committee for Greater Manchester Transport)

C.106 NOTICES OF MOTION

1. Bury’s Core Strategy

A motion had been received and set out in the Summons in the names of:-

Councillors I Bevan, R Caserta, J Daly, I Gartside, D Gunther, R Hodgkinson, K Hussain, S Nuttall, R Walker, J Walton and Y Wright

It was moved by Councillor Daly and seconded by Councillor Gartside:

“THIS COUNCIL notes its disappointment at the decision of the Inspector to suspend examination of the Bury Core Strategy.

THIS COUNCIL RESOLVES TO:

1. Instruct officers that any future Core Strategy submitted for examination must reflect existing Council policy that it is inappropriate to develop on the green belt.
2. Instruct officers to delete all reference to Gin Hall being a preferred location for economic development as the site sits within the green belt. Council recognises that if the Gin Hall proposal remains within any future Core Strategy proposal as there is the real risk this will lead to that document being found to be unsound, leading to further delay and the waste of taxpayers' money.
3. Instruct officers to delete all reference to capitalising on opportunities to harness wind energy along the western and northeastern boundary and north of the Irwell Valley in relation any sites that sit within the green belt.
4. Include the Council's scrutiny process before responding to the Inspector."

It was moved by Councillor Walmsley and seconded by Councillor Isherwood as an amendment:

"THIS COUNCIL notes its disappointment at the decision of the Inspector to suspend the Examination of Bury's submitted Core Strategy.

THIS COUNCIL RESOLVES TO:

1. Continue to lawfully exercise our right as community champions to defend the green belt.

Delete 2, 3 and 4 and insert:

2. Give detailed consideration to the Inspector's concerns and what implications these may have for the Core Strategy before determining an appropriate way forward in seeking to get an up-to-date development plan in place as soon as possible.
3. Send an all-party letter to the Government expressing strong concerns regarding the significant difficulties associated with the current planning system in general, and with progressing development plans to adoption.
4. That the response to the issues raised in the Inspector's letter be the subject of a report to Cabinet which would give the opportunity for matters to be considered by Scrutiny."

It was moved and seconded that the vote be now put and this was declared carried.

Prior to the vote on the amendment, in excess of the eight Councillors requested that voting be recorded to show how each Member cast their vote, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17.5.

The result of the vote was as follows:-

For the amendment:

Councillors P Adams, D Bailey, M Bailey, N Bayley, S Briggs, P Bury, G Campbell, S Carter, D M Cassidy, M Connolly, A J Cummings, E FitzGerald, L Fitzwalter, J Grimshaw, P Heneghan, T Holt, A Isherwood, M A James, D Jones, S Kerrison, J S Lewis, J Mallon, A K Matthews, E O'Brien, N A Parnell, T Pickstone, A Quinn, K Rothwell, R Shori, A Simpson, S Smith, J Smith, S Southworth, S Walmsley and M Whitby.

Against the amendment:

None.

Abstaining from the amendment:

The Worshipful the Mayor, Councillors I Bevan, R Caserta, J Daly, I Gartside, D Gunther, R Hodgkinson, K Hussain, S Nuttall, R Walker and J Walton.

The Mayor declared the amendment carried.

The substantive motion was put to the vote.

With 36 voting for, none against and eleven abstaining, the Substantive Motion was declared carried.

2. Local Government Finance

A Motion had been received and set out in the Summons in the names of:

Councillors P Adams, D Bailey, M Bailey, N Bayley, J Black, S Briggs, P Bury, G Campbell, S Carter, D M Cassidy, M Connolly, A J Cummings, E FitzGerald, L Fitzwalter, J Frith, J Grimshaw, S Haroon, P Heneghan, T Holt, A Isherwood, M A James, D Jones, S Kerrison, J S Lewis, J Mallon, A K Matthews, E O'Brien, N A Parnell, A Quinn, K Rothwell, R Shori, A Simpson, S Smith, J Smith, S Southworth, T Tariq, S Walmsley and M Whitby.

It was moved by Councillor Connolly and seconded by Councillor Shori:-

"Since 2011 Bury Council has seen the funding that it receives from central Government cut by nearly **30%**. To make matters worse, the fact that the grant distribution formula favours southern councils means that every man, woman and child in Bury receives just **£381** from Government grant compared to an average for the country of **£445**.

As a result the Council has been forced to make budget cuts of **£38million** over the past four years; over **a third** of our controllable net budget

Bury is widely recognised as a low spending, high performing Council and we have done everything possible to achieve the cuts through further efficiency savings in order to protect, as far as possible, vital local services.

However this situation is no longer sustainable and the fact that the Council is facing £15.8m of further cuts in 2015/16 means that we will have no alternative but to make significant changes to our services.

The Council agrees to call on the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and both local MPs to meet with the Council to explore ways to deliver a Fair Deal for Bury and a level of on-going funding that means we can provide sustainable local services to the people of Bury."

It was moved by Councillor Gartside and seconded by Councillor Daly as an amendment:-

Delete all wording except for "Since 2011 Bury Council has seen the funding that it receives from central Government cut by nearly 30%."

Add "This Council, therefore, welcomes the invitation by Brandon Lewis, MP and minister for Local Government, to examine all aspects of Bury's funding formula in order to ensure that no technical issues have been detrimental to our funding settlement and that any "Transformation" grant monies have not been overlooked by DCLG.

This Council resolves to send a delegation comprising senior finance officers and Councillors in key positions of responsibility, to join the two Members of Parliament for Bury at a meeting with Mr Lewis in early September 2014.

At the meeting, this Council requests that those present explore ways in which we can absorb any future reductions in funding without affecting the level of the Council Tax or front-line services."

Prior to the vote on the amendment, in excess of the required eight Councillors requested that voting be recorded to show how each Member cast their vote, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17.5.

The result of the vote was as follows:

For the amendment:

Councillors I Bevan, R Caserta, J Daly, I Gartside, D Gunther, R Hodgkinson, K Hussain, S Nuttall, T D Pickstone, R Walker and J Walton.

Against the amendment:

Councillors P Adams, D Bailey, M Bailey, N Bayley, S Briggs, P Bury, G Campbell, S Carter, D M Cassidy, M Connolly, A J Cummings, E FitzGerald, L Fitzwalter, J Grimshaw, P Heneghan, T Holt, A Isherwood, M A James, D Jones, S Kerrison, J S Lewis, J Mallon, A K Matthews, E O'Brien, N A Parnell, A Quinn, K Rothwell, R Shori, A Simpson, S Smith, J Smith, S Southworth, S Walmsley and M Whitby.

Abstaining from the vote:

The Worshipful the Mayor.

The substantive motion was put to the vote. Prior to the vote on the substantive motion, in excess of the required eight Councillors requested that voting be recorded to show how each member cast their vote, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17.5.

The result of the vote was as follows:

For the substantive motion:-

Councillors P Adams, D Bailey, M Bailey, N Bayley, S Briggs, P Bury, G Campbell, S Carter, D M Cassidy, M Connolly, A J Cummings, E FitzGerald, L Fitzwalter, J Grimshaw, P Heneghan, T Holt, A Isherwood, M A James, D Jones, S Kerrison, J S Lewis, J Mallon, A K Matthews, E O'Brien, N A Parnell, A Quinn, K Rothwell, R Shori, A Simpson, S Smith, J Smith, S Southworth, S Walmsley and M Whitby.

Against the substantive motion:-

None.

Abstaining from the vote:-

The Worshipful the Mayor, Councillors I Bevan, R Caserta, J Daly, I Gartside, D Gunther, R Hodgkinson, K Hussain, S Nuttall, T D Pickstone, R Walker and J Walton.

The Mayor declared the substantive motion carried.

C.107 SCRUTINY REPORTS AND SPECIFIC ITEMS "CALLED IN" BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

There were no Scrutiny Review Reports or specific items "called in" by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be considered at this Council meeting.

C.108 QUESTIONS ON THE WORK OF OUTSIDE BODIES OR PARTNERSHIPS

There were no written questions on the work of the outside bodies or partnerships on which the Council is represented, submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.2.

C.109 DELEGATED DECISIONS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

There were no written questions asked on the delegated decisions of the Committees or Scrutiny Committee contained in the Digest of Decisions 9 (2013-2014).

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR

(NOTE: The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 9.45 pm)

COUNCIL**10 SEPTEMBER 2014****QUESTION FROM MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC****Brian Bamford**

Given that in anticipation of what Bury MBC may regard as '*teething problems*' in relation to the proposed change to the collection of '*grey waste*', Waste Management has recently issued an instruction for bin operatives:

- 1) Not to collect side-waste left beside bins.
- 2) To only to remove bins with raised lids if it is deemed safe to do so at the discretion of the operative.
- 3) To only remove over-weight bins at the discretion of the operative.

The question then arises as to who will remove the '*side-waste*' and bins that are left stranded in the streets?

If the answer in the case of '*side-waste*' is that the '*side-waste*' left behind will be removed later by other operatives from the Streets Cleansing Department, doesn't this mean that the whole procedure is simply a conjuring trick that is transferring the collection of the waste from one department (Waste Removal) to another (Street Cleansing)? Thus, the cost of removal of the waste is merely shifted from one department to another by a bureaucratic slight-of-hand.

Please will you also enlighten me as to what happens regarding the over-weight bins and those with raised bin lids, and as how this represents a saving?

A. Mr Bamford is not correct in all of his assumptions.

This is not a recent instruction. It has always been the case that waste operatives should not take side waste left by the grey bins. This message is also consistent on literature that is sent out to residents and information that is on the web-site.

We are asking operatives to take cardboard side waste or occasional blue bin waste that is left by the side of green bins and only when it is safe to do so.

The crews are requested to use their judgement when collecting bins that have the lids slightly raised, and only when safe to do so. The information that is provided to the public is that bin lids should be closed. (which also reduces the risk of odours, vermin and flies).

It has always been the case that the operatives use their judgement not to take bins which are too heavy. In such cases the bin will be stickered to explain why the bin has been left. The crews also receive support from the recycling awareness and enforcement team

Waste management has a team of recycling and enforcement officers who support the waste operatives on a daily basis. Side waste, heavy bins and fly tipping can be reported through the on-board computer which is then followed up by visits to households to provide help and advice to residents.

The back up service provided by the recycling and enforcement team is also to be enhanced by providing each crew with a direct contact to a support offices for improved communication and follow up.

There is no evidence to suggest that there should be an increase in side waste or fly tipping (which is the case in Falkirk). What we are asking residents to do is place all recyclable materials in the blue, green or brown bins.

Therefore the grey bin should only contain the lighter materials such as food containers, yogurt pots and plastic bags. The heavier materials such as food waste should be in the brown bin (which will stay at 2 weekly collection) and blue bin materials such as glass (which will increase to 3 weekly collection)

The Council is already aware of areas where there may be a higher risk of fly tipping such as some of the back streets. These are currently being tackled jointly between waste management, cleansing and Environmental Health

In terms of over full grey bins, where households are recycling everything they can and there is a genuine need for extra space eg larger families, an application can be made for an extra grey bin. Extra green and blue bins can also be provided free of charge.

The Council is fully committed to supporting its in-house workforce. The new waste management system is about increasing recycling and making sure that the right stuff goes in the right bin. A 10% increase in recycling could save going on for £1 million per year and help protect other services.

I am sure Mr Bamford as representative for Unite the Union is aware that the aim of the new system is to achieve efficiency savings through increased recycling and not a cut to the existing workforce. No jobs will be lost in the waste service as a result of these changes.

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REPORT FOR DECISION



MEETINGS:	AUDIT COMMITTEE CABINET COUNCIL
DATE:	15 JULY 2014 16 JULY 2014 10 SEPTEMBER 2014
SUBJECT:	RISK MANAGEMENT ANNUALREPORT 2013/14
REPORT FROM:	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
CONTACT OFFICER:	David Hipkiss, Risk & Governance Manager
TYPE OF DECISION:	COUNCIL - KEY DECISION
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:	This paper is within the public domain
SUMMARY:	The Risk Management Annual Report provides Members with details of risk management activity that has taken place over the past 12 months. It outlines risk management policies and practices now in place and the key issues that will be addressed during the coming financial year.
OPTIONS & RECOMMENDED OPTION	Members are requested to re-affirm their support for the Council's approach to Risk Management, and note progress made throughout 2013/14 and actions planned for 2014/15.
IMPLICATIONS:	
Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:	Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes
Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:	See Executive Director of Resources & Regulation comment below
Statement by Executive Director	There are no direct resource implications

of Resources:	<p>arising from this report.</p> <p>Risk management is an integral part of the Council's approach to Corporate Governance and service and financial planning and it is essential that robust risk management practices are put in place to safeguard the Council's assets and its reputation.</p> <p>Corporate, departmental and operational risk assessments have been undertaken and key elements of the resultant Management Action Plans are incorporated into Departmental Service Plans.</p>
Equality/Diversity implications:	No
Considered by Monitoring Officer:	Yes (Governance Panel)
Are there any legal implications?	No
Staffing/ICT/Property:	There are no direct HR, IT or property implications arising from this report.
Wards Affected:	All
Scrutiny Interest:	Overview & Scrutiny

TRACKING/PROCESS**DIRECTOR:**

Chief Executive/ Strategic Leadership Team	Cabinet Member/Chair	Ward Members	Partners
23 rd June 2014			
Overview & Scrutiny	Committee	Cabinet	Council
	Audit 15 th July 2014	16 th July 2014	10 th September 2014

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Cabinet approved the Council's Risk Management Policy and Strategy in March 2006 which is reviewed annually.
- 1.2 A number of challenges were presented to the Council during 2013/14 where risk management played a significant role in preventing disruption to service continuity.
- 1.3 The Council continued to experience cuts in resources, and responded to this through its "Plan for Change", achieving once again a slight underspend for the year.
- 1.4 Operationally, two of the four main administrative buildings were vacated to deliver savings in accommodation costs and further promote agile working. This was a major project involving staff from all disciplines.
- 1.5 2013/14 also saw the first year of operation of the Public Health function since its transfer from the NHS. This involved the transfer of staff and contracts, and has operated well for 2013/14.
- 1.6 In late 2013/14, the Council announced plans for an Authority restructure which saw the number of Departments to reduce from four to three with effect from April 2014. This will be a focus of risk management activity for the year ahead to ensure the operational transition runs smoothly.

2.0 IMPLEMENTING RISK MANAGEMENT

- 2.1 Risk management forms an integral part of strategic planning in the Council, ensuring early intervention and management of uncertainty in delivering key strategic priorities. The role of risk management in the Council's Financial and Forward Planning Cycle is at **Appendix A**.
- 2.2 Early intervention and assessment of risks ensures that departments are able to fully prepare for existing and emerging priorities, and manage their objectives effectively against financial, reputational and performance risks, whilst meeting the Council's Priorities.
- 2.3 This approach to risk management ensures a continuous and evolving process that runs throughout the council's core functional activities at all levels.

"Good risk management supports accountability, performance measurement and reward, thus promoting operational efficiency at all levels". A Risk Management Standard – Institute of Risk Management.

- 2.4 Risk Assessment Action Plan Registers (RAAP's) are used across departments to record identified risks and opportunities, and actions being taken. RAAP Registers as they are referred to throughout this report are used at all levels throughout the Council to record information and help manage Corporate, Departmental, and Operational risks.

Document Pack Page 16

2.5 RAAP's are an effective tool to identify, evaluate and manage areas of uncertainty and exploit opportunities at corporate, departmental and operational levels and to ensure achievement of the Council's aims and objectives.

2.6 The Council's risk management framework is outlined in summary below;

- An approved Corporate Policy & Strategy for Risk Management that can be read online or downloaded
- Corporate Risk Management Group (Member level)
- Operational Risk Management Group (Officer level)
- Establishment of a "Governance Panel" comprising the Executive Director of Resources & Regulation, Assistant Director for Legal & Democratic Services, Assistant Director of Resources & Head of Internal Audit.
- Comprehensive Intranet Risk Management Website and Toolkit
- Corporate Risk / Opportunity Assessment Action Plan Register
- Departmental Strategic Risk Assessment Action Plan Registers
- Operational Risk Assessment Action Plan Registers – held by service managers and maintained as part of the day to day management of service provision
- A Common Risk Register (General good practice guide)
- Dedicated Risk Management Section – Operating from Strategic Finance alongside but independent from Internal Audit
- "Team Bury" risk management framework Partnership Risk Assessment Model (PRAM)

2.7 Also in place is an effective communication and risk reporting network, with regular reports to:

- Full Council (annual report)
- Audit Committee
- Strategic Leadership Team
- Corporate Risk Management Group (Members)
- Operational Risk Management Group (Officers)
- Business Continuity Management representatives
- All departments and Service Heads

2.8 The diagram at **Appendix B** has been drawn up to help demonstrate Bury Council's risk management processes, illustrating strategic and operational planning across the authority, also the delivery of service and the movement and reporting of risks associated with these two key risk drivers within each of the departments.

3.0 DEPARTMENTAL PROGRESS 2013/14

3.2 Childrens Services

2013/14 managed high risks focused upon;

- Budget constraints following large scale reductions
- Loss of experience
- Capacity to deliver services
- Impact of Academies
- Children & Young People in care

- Safeguarding mechanisms

Despite some success during 2013/14, the department is still highlighting a number concerns reflected by the final quarters result. Individual Departmental Risk Registers are available on request.

3.3 Adult Care Services

2013/14 managed high risks focused upon;

- Competition with other service providers
- Business Continuity Management
- Sickness absence levels
- High cost packages relating to Children's transition cases
- Budgets not meeting demands
- Self Directed Support costs
- Data Protection
- Increase in judicial reviews
- Growing demands from increasing population
- Increasing safeguarding cases
- Market failure/capacity and ability to facilitate new types of social enterprise

Despite some success during 2013/14 with managing these risks, the department is still highlighting a number of concerns reflected by the final quarters risk review. Individual Departmental Risk Registers are available on request.

3.4 Department for Communities & Neighbourhoods

2013/14 focussed on a number of high risks, these include:

- Securing, managing and monitoring town centre, regeneration and other development opportunities or developments
- Approval, publication and adoption of Core Strategy
- Continued need to improve recycling
- Workforce and Succession Planning
- Overspending on the revenue budget
- Ongoing budget pressures
- Successful implementation of the Corporate Asset Strategy
- Successful implementation of the Plan for Change saving options
- Investment in buildings, land, highways infrastructure and street lighting
- Robust health & safety procedures in place
- Partnership working
- Business growth for traded services
- Performance & Income Targets

Despite some success during 2013/14, the department is still highlighting a number concerns reflected by the final quarters result. Individual Departmental Risk Registers are available on request.

3.5 Chief Executive's

2013/14 focussed on a number of high risks, these include:

- Equal Pay and potential liability
- Responding effectively to significant funding reductions
- Effective financial planning to take account of national policy
- Asset management
- Localism Bill and its impact
- NHS Funding to manage Public Health Services
- Resident expectations
- Changes to Council Tax benefit
- Changes resulting from the wider welfare reform agenda and its impact

Owing to the nature and wider impact of these risks on public service they are also reflected within the Corporate Risk Register.

4.0 CORPORATE RISKS

- 4.1 The Corporate Risk Assessment Action Plan records all risks posing the most serious threat to the Council, risks that would impact upon a wider range of services and that are not able to be managed effectively within a directorate. These risks are reviewed continually by the Strategic Leadership Team – both through quarterly reviews, and as agenda items in their own right. The Corporate Risk Register takes account of risk management activity taking place across departments allowing for the transfer of high risk and also of known future risk.
- 4.2 Member input is sought throughout the year via the Corporate Risk Management Group, and quarterly reports to the Audit Committee.
- 4.3 The table overleaf tracks the status of corporate risks throughout 2013/14.
- 4.4 The table at **Appendix C** aligns the Council's most significant risks as at 31st March 14 against the Councils' Priorities and Team Bury Ambitions.

Corporate Risk Register – Year April 2013 – March 2014.

Ref	Risk that.....	Risk Owner	Impact (New)	Likelihood (New)	Quarter 1 Status	Quarter 2 Status	Quarter 3 Status	Quarter 4 Status	Measures
01	The potential liability facing the Council in respect of Equal Pay significantly weakens the Council's financial position	Mike Owen / Guy Berry	1	1	2	2	2	1	Risk further reduced as most cases have now been settled. To remain on register till exercise complete.
02	There is no robust financial strategy or change management strategy to address effectively the significant funding reductions that the Council faces over the next 3 years and beyond in order to ensure there is a sustainable and balanced budget	Steve Kenyon	3	3	6	6	8	9	2014/15 settlement data now confirmed; indicative allocations for 2015/16. Balanced budget is in place for 2014/15. Significant challenge remains for 2015/16 and beyond.
03	The budget strategy fails to address the Council's priorities and emerging issues, e.g. demographic and legislative changes	Mike Owen/Steve Kenyon	3	2	6	6	8	6	Income pressures were largely addressed in 2013/14 budget. Demand pressures remain a risk and will continue to be monitored / managed through Star Chamber process. Month 9 monitor showing £85k overspend

Ref	Risk that.....	Risk Owner	Impact (New)	Likelihood (New)	Quarter 1 Status	Quarter 2 Status	Quarter 3 Status	Quarter 4 Status	Measures
04	The budget strategy does not reflect, or respond to, national policy developments, e.g. Council Tax Support scheme and changes to the Business Rates regime	Mike Owen/Steve Kenyon	4	2	12	12	12	8	Risk reduced as new arrangements have been in place now for 12 months. However, risk remains high given volatility, and influence from factors which are beyond the control of the Council (e.g. appeals).
05	The Council's asset base is not operated to its maximum effect to deliver efficiency savings and ensure priorities are fulfilled. Ineffective use of assets presents both a financial and a performance risk.	Mike Owen	2	1	6	6	4	2	Asset Management Plan now in place; office accommodation moves took place Summer 2013; risk reduced further as new arrangements are working well in practice.
06	The Council needs to be prepared for the impact of the Localism Act; this presents both opportunities, e.g. power of competency & community right to challenge	Jayne Hammond			2	2	Risk Removed	Risk Removed	A process for dealing with applications has been approved by Cabinet; none received to date.
07	The amount of money received from the NHS to manage public health is insufficient to meet the performance outcomes expected by Government	Pat Jones-Greenhalgh	2	1	6	6	4	2	Settlement now received giving greater financial certainty; concerns around contractual performance now lessened as they have been under Council control for 12 months.

Ref	Risk that.....	Risk Owner	Impact (New)	Likelihood (New)	Quarter 1 Status	Quarter 2 Status	Quarter 3 Status	Quarter 4 Status	Measures
08	The Council fails to manage the expectations of residents, service users & other stakeholders in light of funding reductions	Mike Owen	3	2	3	3	6	6	Widespread consultation took place re: Budget / Plan for Change. This will need to continue for the 2015/16 Budget process (and beyond)
09	The Government's changes to Council Tax Benefit impact adversely upon the Public / Vulnerable People. Also budgetary risk to the Council in the event of claimant numbers rise	Mike Owen	3	3	9	9	9	9	Impact on residents being managed through Welfare Reform Board. Budgetary impact continues to be assessed through monthly monitoring / Star Chamber process.
10	Changes resulting from the wider Welfare reform agenda impact adversely upon the public / vulnerable people.	Mike Owen	3	3	9	9	9	9	Welfare Reform Board coordinating action plan with partner organizations (e.g. Six Town, CAB). Whilst impact on individuals can have significant implications, this is being mitigated where possible.

Ref	Risk that.....	Risk Owner	Impact (New)	Likelihood (New)	Quarter 1 Status	Quarter 2 Status	Quarter 3 Status	Quarter 4 Status	Measures
11	That the scale and pace of Public Sector reform impacts adversely upon key Council Services, compounded by the loss of capacity following staff leaving the Council (420+ since 2010)	Mike Kelly	4	2	8	8	8	8	<p>Workforce Development Plan now in place to ensure continuity / succession planning.</p> <p>Risk will be closely monitored as the Council-wide restructure takes effect.</p>

5.0 CHALLENGES FOR 2014/15

5.1 The challenge for the coming year will be to ensure risk and business continuity management form an integral part of the council's response to continued spending reductions, ensuring threats and opportunities to service provision is managed effectively and service resilience is maintained throughout.

5.2 The following areas will be our main priority for 2014/15:

- Ensuring risk and business continuity management forms an integral part of service planning, performance and the delivery of objectives in light of increased agile working and public service reforms.
- Ensuring a smooth and managed transition to the new Authority structure (3 departments)
- Building upon the work started by Strategic Leadership Team where key corporate risks are considered in depth alongside the quarterly review process.
- Continuing to raise Member involvement in risk management and business continuity.
- Maintaining the Business Continuity Planning Database to ensure it maintains good quality information relating to service priorities and their continuity arrangements.
- Continuing to strengthen risk management arrangements in key strategies such as the Medium Term Financial Strategy, the Workforce Development Strategy, the Asset Management Strategy, and the Plan for Change.
- Continuing the development of risk reporting and monitoring processes.
- Strengthening risk management arrangements at operational level and with partnership arrangements.
- Ensure risk management focus is widened to better understand, manage and take advantage of opportunity risk as well as managing potential risk threats
- Benchmarking with other public and private sector organisations
- Strengthen service resilience against disruption through effective risk and business continuity management.
- Establishing a framework for Business Continuity Management across partnership activity
- Aligning the quarterly reporting of risk, performance and the Council's financial position.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

Considerable progress continues to be made in the area of risk management and in embedding the approach to risk management into the authority's processes and culture. However there is no room for complacency and this subject will continue to be given significant attention over the coming twelve months.

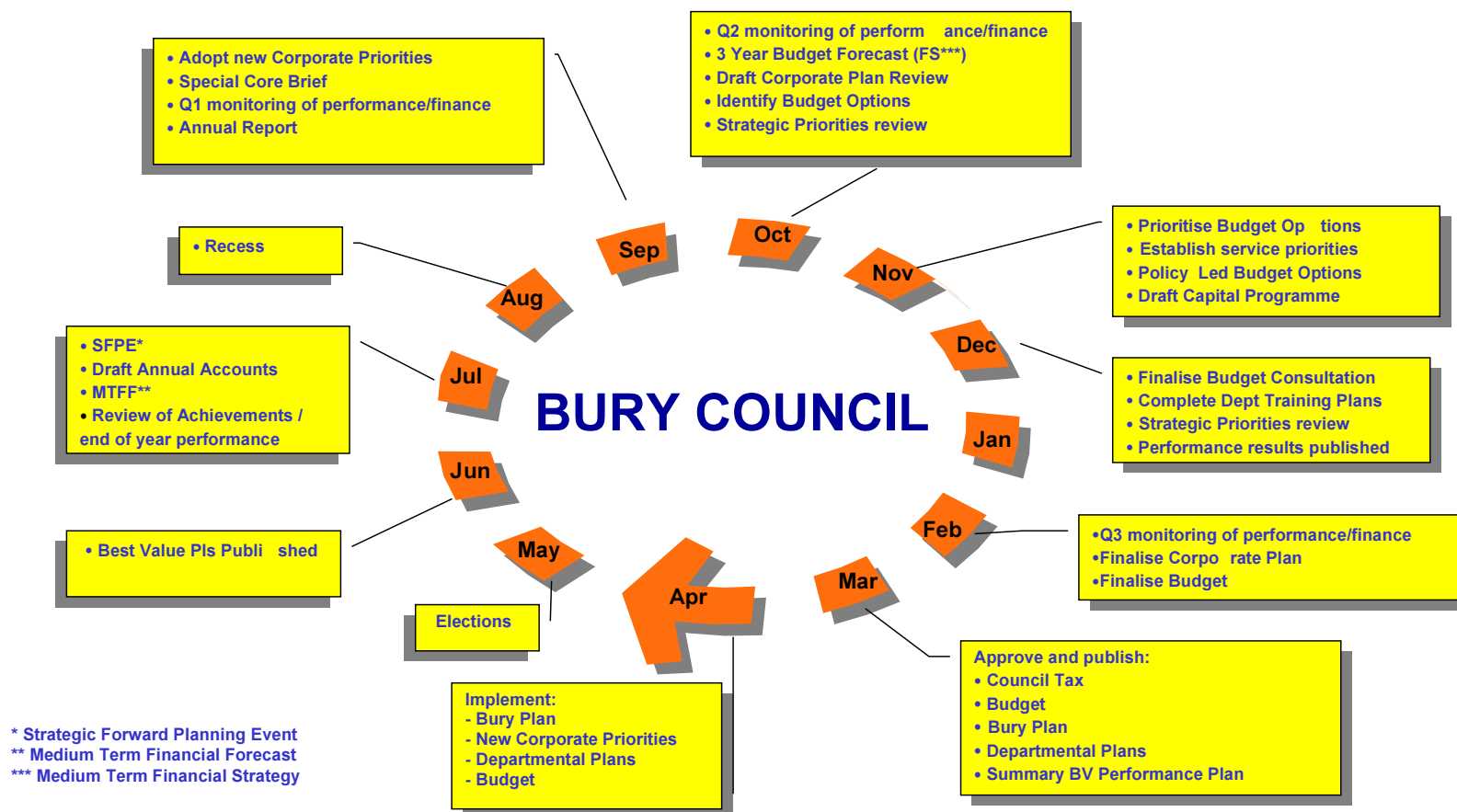
Background documents:

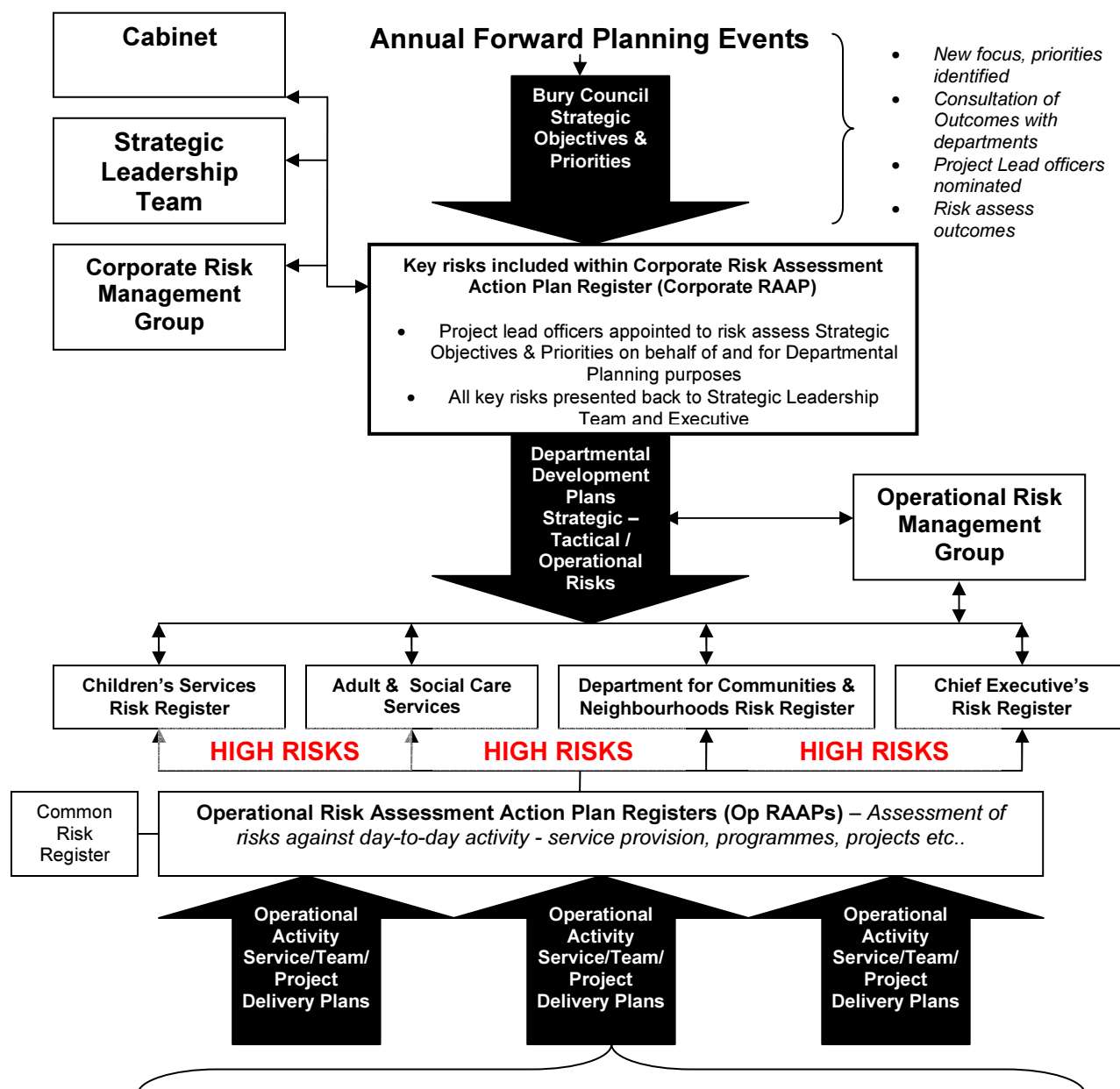
Risk Management Policy, toolkit & risk registers - maintained on Intranet.

For further information on the contents of this report, please contact:

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Tel: 0161 253 6677 e-mail: D.Hipkiss@bury.gov.uk

FINANCIAL AND CORPORATE PLANNING CYCLE



APPENDIX B**Risks Internal & External Environment****External Drivers**

Financial	Strategic	Operational	Hazards
Interest Rates Credit	Competition Customer Change Industry change Customer Demand Political Change	Regulations Culture	Contractual Events Natural events Supply Chains Environmental

Internal Drivers

Liquidity Cash Flow	Research Development	Accounting Information Systems	Employees Public Access Properties Products/Services
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APPENDIX C

The Council's Corporate Risks if not managed effectively will impact upon key strategic objectives of Team Bury and the Council. The table below provides a summary of where corporate risk threats and opportunities are currently impacting:

Corporate Risks	Risk Score	Council Priorities							Team Bury Ambitions								
		Cleaner, Safer, Greener	Choice of Quality Housing	Improved Cultural & Sporting Opportunities	Strengthened Communities	Fit for the Future	Improved Town Centres & Neighbourhoods	Promoting Healthier Living	The Place to Live in Greater Manchester	Area where People feel Safe & Secure	Healthiest Borough in the North West	Popular Visitor Destination	Premier Retail Town	Centre of Excellence for Education & Training	Each Township Thriving	Area with First Class Services	Quality Jobs for Bury People
The <u>potential</u> liability facing the Council in respect of Equal Pay significantly weakens the Council's financial position	1																
There is no robust financial strategy or change management strategy to address effectively the significant funding reductions that the Council faces over the next 3 years and beyond in order to ensure there is a sustainable and balanced budget	9																
The budget strategy fails to address the Council's priorities and emerging issues, e.g. demographic and legislative changes	6																

The budget strategy does not reflect, or respond to, national policy developments, e.g. Council Tax Support scheme and changes to the Business Rates regime	8																
The Council's asset base is not operated to its maximum effect to deliver efficiency savings and ensure priorities are fulfilled. Ineffective use of assets presents both a financial and a performance risk.	2																
The amount of money received from the NHS to manage public health is insufficient to meet the performance outcomes expected by Government	2																
The Council fails to manage the expectations of residents, service users & other stakeholders in light of funding reductions	6																
The Government's changes to Council Tax Benefit impact adversely upon the Public / Vulnerable People. Also budgetary risk to the Council in the event of claimant numbers rise	9																
Changes resulting from the wider Welfare reform agenda impact adversely upon the public / vulnerable people.	9																
That the scale and pace of Public Sector reform impacts adversely upon key Council Services, compounded by the loss of capacity following staff leaving the Council (420+ since 2010)	8																

**DEMOCRATIC ARRANGEMENTS FORUM
TUESDAY, 26 AUGUST 2014**

In attendance: Councillor M Connolly (in the Chair)
The Mayor (Councillor M Wiseman – Chair of
Standards Committee),
Councillor I Gartside

Officers: M Kelly – Chief Executive
J Hammond – Assistant Director of Legal and
Democratic Services
C Shillitto – Head of Democratic Services

**Apologies for
Absence** Councillor S Walmsley

**1. NOTICES OF MOTION – CONSIDERATION PRIOR TO INCLUSION ON
COUNCIL SUMMONS**

It was reported that there was currently no provision in the Council Procedure Rules for a means of determining, prior to the issuing of the Council Summons, whether or not a Notice of Motion was inappropriate or illegal and should therefore be ruled Out of Order. Whilst it was acknowledged that the need for such a measure would be rare, it was considered desirable as a means of protecting Members.

It was agreed:

1. That Council Procedure Rule 12.4, headed “Scope”, be amended by the addition of:

“(2) The Mayor, or in his/her absence the Deputy Mayor, on the advice of the Council Solicitor, may exclude from the agenda any notice of motion which may be out of order, illegal, irregular or improper. In the event of non-acceptance, the Council Solicitor shall so inform the Member giving notice and the Member shall be entitled to submit a further Notice of Motion prior to the issuing of the Council Summons.”

2. That in order to provide sufficient time for Notices of Motion to be properly assessed, Council Procedure Rule 12.1, “Notice,” be amended by the deletion of “at least eight clear working days” and the substitution of “at least ten clear working days”

2. QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER

It was reported that prior to September 2009, questions to the Leader were listed on a “First Come First Serve” basis. Then the current system of questions by political group in rotation was introduced.

Members are asked to consider if these arrangements are appropriate at the current time given that some members are able to ask two questions whilst others will not get an opportunity to ask one.

It was agreed:

1. That questions continue to be asked through political group rotation but the sequence be dictated by political proportionality (resulting currently in 3 Labour questions to one Conservative question);
2. That Council Procedure Rule 11.1 (b) be amended by the deletion of "There will be a 30 minute time limit on this part of the Council proceedings," and the substitution of "There will be a 40 minute time limit on this part of the Council proceedings;"
3. That these arrangements be reviewed after a couple of Council meetings to assess the impact on the efficient management of Council business;
4. That further discussion take place regarding written questions submitted by independent members or single members.

3. THE OPENNESS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES REGULATIONS 2014

It was reported that these Regulations are now in force and affect local authorities in two ways:

- Allow members of the public to report and commentate on open meetings including filming and disseminating proceedings through social media;
- Require written records to be kept of certain decisions taken by officers.

Further consideration would now be given to the practical implications for the Council.

COUNCILLOR M CONNOLLY
Chair

(Note: The meeting started at 5.00 pm and ended at 5.40 pm.)

COUNCIL MEETING
10 September 2014
LEADER'S STATEMENT

Child Sexual Exploitation

Madam Mayor before I brief Members on the work of the Cabinet, I would like to make a statement about the work of the Council and its Partners in tackling Child Sexual Exploitation

First of all I would wish to reassure Members and our Residents that this matter is given the highest priority with the Council

We are all aware of the serious issues so vividly highlighted recently in Rotherham and of course the consequences of not having the right culture in place across key partner agencies.

I wanted to take this opportunity tonight to brief members on the work and levels of activity being undertaken right across the Council and key agencies here in Bury.

It is a statement of the obvious but this Administration takes its responsibility for Safeguarding Children extremely seriously as I am sure each Member in this Chamber does.

The protection of vulnerable children is, as I have said absolute, but requires extensive resource inputs which demand all partners proactively participating within a single operational hub to ensure intelligence, and actions are fully co-ordinated and integrated.

Local Authority boundaries in these cases mean nothing and as such its crucial that local authorities work together to share intelligence and share learning on an ongoing basis. As a result, the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities set up Project Phoenix, which links together the multi agency teams working in each Borough to give a Pan Greater Manchester wide approach to tackling CSE. This approach ensures there is close and coordinated work between police and Children's Social Care and aims to disrupt the activity of perpetrators and safeguard victims

Here in Bury we have been very proactive over the past couple of years in seeking to learn lessons from the experience of tragic examples of exploitation elsewhere across the Country. As a result, we have strengthened our own resources to establish a unique level of partnership working with the setting up of a dedicated multi-agency Child Sexual Exploitation Team alongside the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub, known as the MASH. All of this work is overseen by the Bury Children's Safeguarding Board.

We know that through improved agency working and a single reporting point this has inevitably led to a rise in referrals for CSE to the Hub over the past couple of years. However, with the range of filters we have in place this ensures that the net is cast wide to reach out early when young girls and boys are at risk and positive action can be taken to protect them. At the same time the Police will 'take out' those men involved with such behaviour such as grooming and exploitation.

To address this Bury now has in place the SEAM process - Sexual Exploitation & Missing process, which is a multi-agency response including social care, the police, youth services, schools and the voluntary sector, to which any professional can refer a child about whom they are concerned. The process allows for action plans to be developed and importantly intelligence is gathered.

The levels of activity can vary significantly and doesn't always relate to young girls or perpetrators living in Bury. However there are a small number young girls around 17 we currently regard as medium or high risk.

For security reasons I am not able to tell you how many perpetrators that are known to us and are being targeted or tracked at this time. In addition to the young people we regard as at medium or high risk, we are actively monitoring a larger group to ensure they are, and remain, safe.

Finally Madam Mayor

The work continues night and day 365 days year and I want to place on record our thanks for the diligence and dedication of our staff and our partners in ensuring that the child comes first each and every time before any other considerations and that is the culture we have successfully fostered and invested in here in Bury.

Madam Mayor, Members and Officers of the Council, there have been two meetings of the Cabinet since the last meeting of the Council.

Waste Management

Members of the Cabinet unanimously adopted the new proposals which were subsequently discussed at Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

I would like to thank Councillors Isherwood and Southworth along with a wide range of officers for the sterling work they are doing to preparing the new arrangements for the launch in the first week in October. This includes a number of 'one off' additional collections to ensure households cope with the new collection arrangements.

Alternative Services – Under 5s

The Cabinet considered proposals for a major re-design of the way Children's Centre Services are delivered across Bury. I note the scaremongering has started already via Members opposite, but nothing new there.

Bury Council are seeking to consult, over a 12 week period, on the way the Childrens Centres are to be utilised and managed in the future.

The case for change is clear as we see our resources diminish. In addition, there is a priority for the Council to make sure help is targeted on the most needy under-5s and their families and in particular under 2s. The Council is not seeking to completely close facilities but to create new opportunities for children and families to access a different range of key support services.

The new proposed arrangements seek retain 5 Childrens centres located in and accessible to vulnerable families across Bury and will come under the direct control of the council. **MC you can skip this list if you wish?**

These are:

Woodbank with Elton Children's Centre, covering the reach areas of the children's centres currently operating in Tottington, Ramsbottom, Daisyfield as well as Woodbank with Elton.

Little Oaks Children's Centre, covering the reach area of Moorside as well as Little Oaks.

Coronation Road, Radcliffe, covering the reach areas of High Meadow and Stepping Stones as well as Coronation Road

Besses, Whitefield, covering the existing reach area

Sedgley, covering the reach areas of Toodle Hill, Butterstile as well as Sedgley.

Redvales, is to operate as children's centre under the management of Little Oaks.

Up to 24 additional outreach staff will be deployed to support the new facilities.

The second aim of the proposals is to significantly increase nursery provision for under 2-year-olds. This proposal will see hundreds of under 2s and their families benefit from access to free 15-hour care for 38 weeks of the year.

The council would not directly run the 2-year-old provision, but would aim to tender individually each service to interested providers, such as schools.

Butterstile; Daisyfield; High Meadow; Moorside; Stepping Stones; Ramsbottom; Toodle Hill;

The Estate Strategy

The Cabinet agreed to a new strategy which sets out a revised and more commercial approach to managing the land and property held by Bury Council that is not actually occupied by the Council itself and which is held for non-operational purposes.

The Estates Strategy provides an overview of the existing portfolio and outlines the purposes for which the Council should hold property in the future.

It also provides a transparent framework for assessing property assets and particularly for identifying those that should be retained and those that will be put forward for disposal.

Following an objective evaluation of the let estate, all properties that do not meet the retention criteria will be deemed to be surplus to requirements and will be held on an interim basis pending disposal.

Investment Property Acquisition Strategy

The Cabinet also agreed a new strategy for future acquisitions which is aimed at increasing the financial performance of the commercial portfolio and increase revenue income stream to the Council as a result.

This means that the Council needs to strengthen the revenues it generates from the non-operational 'Let Estate' in order to both rebuild these reductions and also to generate income to help protect vital front-line services from the cuts imposed on us by central Government.

Targeted, ethical, investments will look at 'blue chip' tenants and on relatively long leases where possible these will be in Bury. In this way, the Council will be primarily buying a secure income stream.

The Council will grow its portfolio slowly and incrementally, with a variety of different property assets in order to spread sector risk.

In this respect, the Acquisition Strategy can be seen to be another element of the Council's approach to Treasury Management.

Empty Properties Update

Cabinet were pleased to see real progress being made through a sustained and focussed approach in relation to private sector empty properties, reducing the negative impacts they have on neighbourhoods and bringing about high quality, affordable housing to help meet housing need.

In Radcliffe, the pilot project has brought back into use over half of the 103 targeted properties with more in the pipeline.

Because the Council has been so successful, it has built up an excellent track record of delivery with the Homes and Communities Agency. This has led to the HCA increasing their funding to the Council by 40%, bringing the total funding for empty properties to £1m. This is sufficient to bring 52 empty properties back into use by the end of this financial year.

Adoption

I will finish as I started with talking about children.

I would like to conclude my statement with some positive and encouraging improvements within our Adoption Service.

Whilst we have been focusing in our reducing revenue budgets we have continued to encourage 'Invest to Save' initiatives. One such initiative concerned improving performance in securing increased level of adoptions and thus improving the life chance of Bury's Children in Care

In 2012 the Council responded to an Invest to Save bid by the Adoption Service to assist them to improve their capacity to recruit more adopters and place children with new adopters in a shorter timescale. In the bid they noted that the number of children placed for adoption in 2010 – 2011 was **18** and that only **33%** were placed within the Government's target for how long a child should wait from coming into care to being placed for adoption.

Following this investment the number of children placed for adoption rose in 2013 – 2014 to **26**, with **65%** of these children being placed within the target timescale and the number will improve again this year.

This improvement has been driven by two factors – careful planning for children and a vigorous recruitment drive by the Adoption Service.

Madam Mayor that concludes my statement.

End

Council Meeting – 10 September 2014

Questions:-

The Leader of the Council

1. Councillor Walker

Can the Leader give us information about the tendering process for the provision of catering facilities for members of the public visiting the Bury Art Gallery - this question having been put to me by members of the public who have expressed concerns both anonymously in writing and face to face in the street?

A. The inclusion of a café in the Art Gallery has always been seen as an important additional attraction for visitors. However the lack of kitchen facilities had made that difficult to organize. An opportunity arose in April 2013 to set up a café on a pilot basis with a private business running the operation and providing the necessary capital equipment investment to make it possible. A tendering process was undertaken to award the work which was overseen by the then Assistant Director in the Environment and Development Services Department, with the final decision being made by the Executive Director under delegated powers. Advice was sought from our procurement team to ensure the process was fairly and properly conducted. The activity was subject to Council Audit in June 2014 and no significant issues were identified.

I am satisfied that this decision was made properly and know that Barnie's enhances the offer from the Art Gallery to the people of Bury.

2. Councillor Rothwell

Does the Council's Policy on Shared Spaces conform with the provisions of the document "Access for Blind People to Towns" prepared by the National Federation of the Blind of the United Kingdom and distributed recently to Local Authorities by the Department of Transport as Guidance on Good Practice on such provision and will the Council agree that the views of the Bury Coalition for Independent Living will be sought as a matter of course whenever a proposal involving an element of shared spaces is involved?

A. The policy aims to assist planners, highway engineers and designers to meet the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty and to help ensure that all streetscape layouts are fully inclusive.

It seeks to expand and fill in gaps in previously published guidance, and specifically indicates that it should be read in conjunction with the DfT guidance documents "Manual for Streets" and Local Transport Note 1/11 "Shared Space". Shared spaces are relatively unusual, and each would be designed on an individual basis.

However, the published guidance is clear in emphasising the pivotal role that stakeholder engagement has to play in the development and design process. The views of local access groups are especially important in this, and Councillor Rothwell can be assured that the views of relevant interest groups will be considered as a matter of course in the preparation of any future Shared Space schemes in Bury.

3. Councillor Wright

The CEO of Rotherham Council has stated that, "Grooming" of young girls is happening in every town. Barnados says this is the tip of the iceberg. What is the truth of this shocking issue of abuse to vulnerable young girls in Bury?

A. I would like to thank Cllr Wright for her question and I hope she is reassured about the very positive and proactive work being undertaken in this important area of Child protection.

The reality is that all communities are affected by these issues and here in Bury as the Leader has indicated we have some children at risk. Whilst we can't change society we can remain focused and diligent on sustaining our caring culture for these vulnerable children. We are also determined to go after the perpetrators to get the message across that this behaviour is unacceptable and they will pay a heavy price in continuing with this abhorrent behaviour. Since the creation of the CSE team four months ago, there has been one prosecution and a further prosecution is going to court.

4. Councillor Adams

The main aim of moving to a 3 weekly residual bin collection is to improve recycling rates and save money, but one of the main concerns is the possibility of an increase in flies and vermin attracted to rotting waste food in the grey bin.

What measures are being taken to improve and extend the use of brown bins, and to encourage people to use them more consistently?

A. Food waste should not be placed in the grey bin. It should go into the brown bin which will continue to be emptied every 2 weeks.

Residents are able to request a new brown bin, whether it be a 240 or 140 litre wheeled bin or a 23 litre street caddy free of charge. Residents who currently have a brown street caddy are able to upsize to a free brown wheeled bin if they prefer if, for example they generate small amounts of garden waste. At the same time black kitchen caddies are available free of charge on request. When requesting all such containers residents are also able to ask for a roll of compostable liners which are also free to residents.

5. Councillor Bevan

Can the Leader of the Council join me in expressing his disappointment at the decision by Peel and Tamar Energy to appeal to the Planning Inspector the recent decision of this Council to refuse the Anaerobic Digestion Plant in Ramsbottom?

A. I am sure that Councillor Bevan agrees that this Labour administration is committed to protecting both the Green Belt and the amenity of local residents. The Council recently refused permission for the Anaerobic Digestion Plant at Fletcher Bank and although not unexpected it is nonetheless disappointing that Peel and Tamar have decided to appeal to the Secretary of State against this decision. We can only hope that a decision is now made by a Government appointed Inspector that places as much importance on Green Belts and protecting amenity as this administration clearly does.

6. Councillor Fitzwalter

Peel Holdings and Tamar have launched an appeal against the Planning Committee's decision to reject the application for an AD Plant in Ramsbottom. Can the Leader outline what we can expect to happen next, with possible timescales?

A. Peel and Tamar Energy have lodged an appeal with the Planning Inspectorate against the Planning Committee's decision to reject the application for an AD Plant in Ramsbottom. At this stage, the Inspectorate needs to validate the appeal, appoint an inspector and confirm the timetable. The appeal is then formally publicised in accordance with regulations. Until the Planning Inspectorate have validated the appeal and appointed an inspector, we will not know what the actual dates for the inquiry will be. The applicant has indicated in their submission documents, it is likely to be spring 2015.

7. Councillor Gunther

Is the leader aware that the Computer System serving Ramsbottom Library and possibly other Libraries was out of operation for over one week? This forced the reduced staffing numbers to resort to a manual system and that in week beginning 4th August 6 of Bury's Libraries had to be closed for one day due to lack of staff. Would the leader agree with me that these factors suggest the lack of importance placed on the Library Service in this Borough by your Group?

A. The Library Service management system, Millennium, was out of operation from August 11th until August 18th. The breakdown required the building, configuration and programming of 4 new discs by our external supplier. The server has now been repaired and prices/options are being explored to replace it. During this period self issue machines were able to provide a reduced service to the public and staff used either a manual or PC based system to record returns and loans. Millennium is used in 15 of our 17 libraries.

In regard to the week beginning August 4th the closures that week were as follows:

New Kershaw Centre closed Monday 1.30-5.30

Coronation Road and Dumers Lane closed Saturday 10-1pm

In addition Castle Library was self-issue only on Thursday and Friday. It should be noted that this library is designed to be primarily self-service with a member of staff normally only available for 4 hours each day.

8. Councillor Tariq

What positive news for Local Government is the Leader hoping for in the forthcoming Autumn Statement due to be delivered by the Chancellor in December?

A. After 4 years of the swingeing and unfair cuts imposed on local government, and on Bury Council in particular, I'm afraid I'm not actually holding out much hope for any positive news.

The coalition's deficit reduction programme for the coming years goes far beyond what is economically sensible and there is no doubt that not only are the cuts an excuse for a politically motivated attack on public services they are also being used to make room for tax bribes before the General Election. What I really want to hear in the Autumn Statement is that local government is no longer being targeted for the highest level of cuts and also that the formula for distributing central grant is being changed so that at long last we see a Fair Deal for Bury. I want to hear that the Chancellor at long last recognises that taking the most from those that have least is unfair and unjustifiable.

I also want to hear that there will be more devolution of money and power to local government and to local areas in England; I want to hear that local government will be able to keep 100% of the business rates; I want to hear that there will be a move towards a single commissioning budget across all of health and social care so that we can take the money and staff we have and put them to work together to provide better care; I want to hear that there will be multi-year settlements so that local government can plan for the future; and I want to hear that there will be a new deal for England.

Madam Mayor I know that I probably won't get my wish but in fact these are the very things that a Labour Government will deliver and so the most important thing I want to hear is that this will be the last Autumn Statement delivered by this Government.

9. Councillor Gartside

Can the Leader / Cabinet Member responsible please explain why the newly formed Resources & Regulation Department is projected to overspend by 1.334 million pounds, which is almost a third of its net budget of 4.554 million in 2014/15?

A. All of the overspending is due to income not meeting historic budget targets and the main reason for this is the effect that the coalition's economic policies have had on the country's economy. For instance, even if the whole of the Council's non-operation property portfolio was let, rent levels are now so depressed that we still wouldn't achieve the income target.

Cllr Gartside can be assured that in this Department, as in all Departments, budgets are managed very carefully and he will be able to see from the recent Cabinet report that staffing and running costs within Resources and Regulation are actually underspent by £99,000.

He can also be assured that despite the Government's best efforts we are working hard to recover the income position. For instance, at the last meeting of the Cabinet we approved a new Strategy to deal with our Let Estate and also a Strategy designed to increase income from property investments.

Finally I must remind him that this is also the Department that has delivered many millions of pounds of income from successful Treasury management activities and this work has helped support vital front-line services from the ravages of the cuts. The forecast for 2014/15 is that Treasury Management will deliver another £500,000 underspending.

10. Councillor Southworth

Can the Leader give an update on how many children have been taken into care in Bury in the last twelve months and how our local Fostering Services are coping with this?

A. In the 12 months up to the end of August 2014, 122 children became looked after by Bury council most of whom needed foster care placements or their relatives needed to be approved as temporary foster carers so that the children could live with them during Court proceedings. In addition to this the Fostering Service received referrals to find long term placements for children who needed to remain in the care system, either by arrangement with their parents or as a result of a Court order.

In total in this 12 month period the Fostering Service placed 92 children either in temporary or long term placements. with an additional 24 children placed with relatives approved as short term carers and a further 7 children with relatives approved as long term care. In total 124 new in-house foster placements. In the same period 34 new placements were made with Independent Fostering providers.

As well as providing an excellent standard of care for our children, the use of in-house foster carers is much more cost effective than using independent placements, saving several hundred pounds per placement per week. The work of the team in increasing the number of in-house foster carers has contributed significantly to the reduction of spend on our agency budget of £1.1million between the 2012/13 financial year and 2013/14 financial year. The service continues to perform well in response to the demands placed upon it but it is essential to recruit more carers particularly for teenagers and sibling groups. As members may know there is a high profile recruitment campaign due to run in the Autumn and I invite all members to give it maximum support.

11. Councillor Walker

Is the Leader prepared to apologise to the member of the public who posed a question at the last Council Meeting with regard to the numbers visiting the new Sculpture Centre and was misinformed? Could he also apologise to Councillors for the misleading figures which were based on a system of counting which was inaccurate and could be open to abuse?

A. I understand that the figure I presented at the last Council meeting was a miscalculation – the figure should have been nearer 7000 rather than 8000. Apparently a new member of staff collated the figures and made a miscalculation. While it's an unfortunate and honest mistake that I have no problem acknowledging, it's gratifying that our systems were able to correct it. I am grateful to the councillor for raising the question of inaccuracy and abuse, because we are equally concerned that the visitor figure is being distorted.

As he is probably aware we currently don't have a counter recording visitors who enter the Sculpture Centre from the Library – so, as you suspect, there are visitors who we are missing. I'm pleased to say that there are people who use the library and enjoy art, so there is a flow between the two services. A more worrying phenomenon comes from individuals who have taken to turning off the electronic counter on the front door. We are investigating to find the culprits and will be making technical changes so sabotage is not possible in future.

In addition, we've had examples of members of the protest campaign trying to get in to the Sculpture Centre without being counted – presumably trying to prove inaccuracy by not being counted. So the councillor is right, there are inaccuracies in the current way of counting, but these are as much to do with individuals trying to undermine a service that brings great value to the people of Bury, and I am sure that Councillor Walker will join me in condemning such behaviour.

12. Councillor Stella Smith

One of the public's main concerns about the move to 3 weekly bin collections is that it might lead to an increase in fly tipping across the Borough. What measures are being put in place to deal with this?

A. The area based Street Cleaning teams are in place to deal with any reports of fly tipping received. The Waste Enforcement team will be out on the ground in back streets where excess waste left next to bins could potentially be found. Where this is the case Officers will knock on doors and speak to residents and provide helpful advice on recycling and the correct use of bins. Excess waste is often a product of insufficient recycling. Environmental Health will be working alongside the Waste Enforcement team and the Street Cleaning service in dealing with fly tipping of waste.

13. Councillor Daly

Having been approached by one of the volunteer rangers, can the leader or cabinet member responsible please confirm if there is any truth in the rumours that the two remaining park rangers posts in the council will shortly be removed?

A. At this point, no decisions have been taken regarding any of the future cuts within the Council or within Parks & Countryside. We are committed to sustaining our green spaces within available resource and working closely with the volunteer rangers.

14. Councillor O'Brien

Can the Leader please tell me if there are any plans to introduce improvements to Bury Council's website so that residents will be able to access more Council Services online?

A. We recognise the importance of the traditional ways many residents access Council services and information about services. But we also accept that many people want a choice, and that the 'high street' experience of 'self service' using smart technology is becoming more mainstream.

So Bury Council has been looking at ways to widen access options for the public.

Whilst there have been developments with the Council's website to move to become a 24/7 Council, many people still contact us primarily face to face and by phone. People can and do email, but we could do much more to develop more online transactions, and to promote their usage.

We aim that this would save peoples' time and be more convenient, but we also face the reality of shrinking resources, which means that traditional access options will have to steadily reduce over time.

The Council is in the process of redesigning our website to make it easier to use and more transactional. We want to improve the customer experience, whilst at the same time looking to deliver efficiency savings by not only making services available digitally but also by redesigning services.

This work aims to improve three things:

- the way the web-site looks and feels to users;**
- the way we manage the content of the website; and**
- improvements to the digital delivery of services.**

The quality of the customer experience will remain paramount, and we will be working hard to make sure that this work leads to better contact with the council and improved satisfaction.

15. Councillor Gunther

A growing number of Bury residents are becoming disturbed about the increasing number of banners and other notices often advertising private businesses and functions which are attached to railings and other street furniture including traffic bollards. This type of advertising is rarely sympathetic to their surroundings and an look unprofessional. Does the Council have any policy and is there a charging mechanism?

A. In terms of Highways, the Council does not allow advertising banners on highway barriers. The highway inspectors or enforcement officers will remove banners from highway railings and where necessary follow up with the relevant businesses.

We do support banners on parks and open space railings for community projects and initiatives that are managed and controlled by the Council.

Businesses are encouraged to use formal sponsored signs such as the township hoop signs or signs on roundabouts where there is a negotiated charge made to the business.

16. Councillor Tariq

I understand that the Council has achieved very good results from the recent data matching exercise undertaken as part of the Individual Electoral Registration. However, given the importance of the Council's engagement with specific groups, particularly young people, would the Leader advise us what steps are being taken to carry out such crucial engagement?

A. I am very happy to confirm that the results from the data matching exercise were extremely good and we achieved an 82% match which equates to 124,000 electors.

We have already taken steps to engage with young people through the Council's "Offer to Schools" menu. Our "Local Democracy in Bury" package has been taken up by Tottington High School and six sessions will be delivered there between now and June 2015. We will be asking Councillors and LEA representatives on the governing bodies of other secondary schools to encourage their schools to follow Tottington's lead.

We are looking to work in partnership with the People's History Museum in Manchester who are launching an exhibition in February next year called "Election", and we will be working with them on a range of engagement and events programmes.

Finally, a member of the Election Team, who also happens to be a young person, will be drawing up a targeted strategy towards engaging young people and other marginalised groups in the build up to the next General Election.

17. Councillor Noel Bayley

Is the current cost of processing residual waste likely to rise in future years?

A. The cost of disposing of waste from the grey residual waste bin has more than doubled in the last 5 years, partly as a result of increases in landfill tax, from £124.69 per tonne in 2010/11 to the current year's cost of £283.72 per tonne.

Estimates from GMWDA are that costs will rise further, reaching over £300 per tonne by 2016/17.

18. Councillor Simpson

Can the Leader tell this Council what the financial impact has been to the Council of offering free school meals to all four to seven year olds under the Universal Infant Free School Meals Policy and if there have been any schools who have struggled to provide this within the school?

A. The provision of Universal Infant Free School Meals has been successfully implemented in Bury Schools and all infant children have had access to a hot free meal from the start of this term.

Bury schools were given a capital allocation £524958 from the DfE which has been prioritised across the schools to pay for items of equipment and other kitchen upgrades.

Voluntary Aided schools were required to contribute 10% towards their allocated spend however, for or the majority of schools the sums involved are quite small.

The Council has not had to allocate any of its own capital resources to meet the duty to provide the additional free school meals.

19. Councillor Kerrison

Weed spraying was completed very late this year; the resulting tall weeds looked unsightly and formed trip hazards. What steps are in place to ensure that the autumn spraying happens on target and that the 2015 programme is completed on time?

A. The external contractor responsible for undertaking the weed spraying programme is to carryout the Autumn weed spraying programme from 22 September with completion around mid to late October.

The weed spraying contract is carried out twice a year in spring and autumn. The contract has to have a degree of flexibility built into the contract given the reduced potency of the weed spraying material to meet strict environmental requirements. To secure maximum effectiveness the contractor will seek to spray on relatively dry days, which can result, extended spraying period.

20. Councillor James

Could the Leader confirm the number of car parking spaces provided in Bury Town Centre by the Council and by private providers and if any of them are provided with a free period?

A. Bury Council Town Centre car parks have 1,582 spaces over 13 car parks. The Millgate car park has 560 spaces, the Rock has 1250 and Q parks has 406. In addition there are other privately operated car parks such as Argos, Asda, Tesco etc. for which we don't have details.

Council car parks are free between the hours of 6pm and 8am as is the Rock car park. Millgate charge 24 hours a day and the Argos retail park offers the first hour free with a rolling charge after that.

21. Councillor Cummings

Now that Radcliffe Riverside is no longer being used as a Secondary School, can the Leader explain what the building will be used for in the future?

A. Radcliffe Riverside School closed for the final time at the end of the summer term. The Council has developed plans to retain part of the building for use by its Pupil Referral Unit that currently operates out of a number of locations across the borough. Additionally, the sports hall will be retained for ongoing community use and will be available to community groups in the same way as when the school was open. The Council is still exploring potential uses for the balance of the building and site.

22. Councillor Mallon

Over recent years the residents of Nuttall Avenue in Whitefield have suffered with car parking problems caused by the customers of the businesses in Whitefield parking in their road, often preventing residents being able to access their own driveways. The previous attempts to curtail customers and visitors to Whitefield parking in Nuttall Avenue are not proving to be effective.

In support of local businesses and residents, can Council please consider the introduction of a residents parking scheme in Nuttall Avenue?

A. Nuttall Avenue has previously been assessed for residents parking in June 2013. At the time it did not meet the criteria due to the fact that the majority of properties have their own off street parking. If there is an issue with access to that off street parking (in particular vehicles blocking dropped crossings) then NSL can issue PCN's if the property owners contact them.

23. Councillor Simpson

Following the recent news of the shocking increase in benefits sanctions, will the Leader join with me to demand that Iain Duncan Smith stop using sanctions as part of the Government's Welfare Policy. This Government again shows its complete disregard for the most vulnerable in society.

A. I would be absolutely delighted to join Councillor Simpson in asking the Government to stop using sanctions.

The sanctions regime should be scrapped entirely, it serves no purpose other than to demonise and punish people for being out of work. It also punishes those most in need of the welfare system and it discriminates against those least able to navigate through the system.

In 2013 nearly 60% of ESA claimants who were hit by sanctions were vulnerable people with a mental health condition or learning difficulties which is morally reprehensible and little short of disgusting.

Even worse, there is clear evidence that sanctions are being used as a way of saving money despite the devastating social implications. A recent survey of Job Centre staff found that almost two-thirds said they had experienced pressure to refer claimants for a sanction inappropriately.

This regime leaves people in distress and simply passes the buck, and the cost, back onto other agencies such as Councils and police forces who are left to pick up the pieces.

I'm just very pleased Madam Mayor to see that last week Labour MPs were able to vote through a bill that will begin the process of scrapping the Bedroom Tax, another vicious and vindictive element of the Government's welfare policy.

24. Councillor Pickstone

Could the Leader inform members how many households have opted to take smaller 'grey' bins? What has been the cost to the Authority to purchase these bins?

A. Between 01 January 2013 and the end of the promotional offer in August 2014, x5320 FOC grey 140 litre bins were issued to residents. The initiative was aimed at encouraging residents to think about and support recycling.

Each 140 litre bin costs £13.95 (as opposed to £17.84 for a 240 litre bin).

Some residents have requested that the 140 litre bin they acquired through the above promotion be exchanged for a standard 240 litre. In such a case the 140 litre bin retrieved is washed out and then re-issued, usually as an authorised second bin issued to a larger family.

25. Councillor Pickstone

Could the Leader inform members what specific actions the Council is taking to support the voluntary sector in picking up demand from its proposed mass closure of Children's Centres?

A. Councillor Pickstone is running ahead of the consultation.

As he is well aware, the savings we are proposing in Children's Centres are directly a result of the cuts being imposed on the Borough by the government his party is currently a member of. The Deputy Prime Minister's vanity scheme for universal free school meals is costing about £2M a year in Bury. If we had that we could increase spending on children's centres by 40% rather than cutting it by 30%.

We will of course consult very closely with the voluntary sector as part of our exercise to see what gaps they might be able to fill and what support we might offer them to do it, particularly in terms of universal activities. It is, however, very unlikely that they will be able to replace everything we have offered historically and there will, inevitably, be some reduction in provision.

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Briefing note for Cllr Tony Cummings, Bury Council meeting

8th September 2014

GMWDA Update

At the Annual General Meeting of the Authority on 7th July 2014 Councillor Catherine Piddington, Labour Member for Tameside Council, was unanimously appointed as the new Chair. Councillor Piddington took over the reins from Councillor Neil Swannick who stepped down earlier this year after 13 years in charge. Bury Council is represented on the Authority by myself and Councillor Alan Quinn. At the meeting I was appointed as Vice-Chair to the Authority and Chair of the Performance, Policy & Resources Committee and Councillor Quinn was appointed to Audit Committee.

At the meeting, Members considered the Authority's Annual Review for 2013/14 and in summary, it was reported that the 2013/14 Municipal Year had been a year of consolidation in working towards delivering the Authority's sustainable solution to the management of the conurbation's municipal waste. The Authority is recognised as a centre of excellence and continues to be invited to share its experience (nationally and internationally) and participate in shaping policy. The challenge for 2014/15 is to continue to deliver the Contract to specification, and at the same time maximising the value of the Contract by delivering efficiency savings, and ensuring that we use our influence to ensure our excellent solution is promoted more widely; hence resources are secured to shape future 'green' growth in the City Region.

The Authority approved its' Statement of Accounts for 2013/14 at its' Audit Committee on 30th May 2014, which Councillor Quinn attended. The Authority's External Auditors said that the Accounts were of good quality and praised the Authority for the plain English Explanatory Foreword contained within the Accounts and for completing them a month early. The Accounts have now been audited and were published on 30th July 2014.

Bury's recycling and composting combined figure, from WasteDataFlow (National Indicator 192) in 2010/11 was 24.3% and for 2013/14 is 43.0%. Currently Stockport and Trafford lead the nine Authorities, with recycling rates over the same period of 61% and 57% respectively. While we are not doing quite as well as Stockport and Trafford, improving our performance is good for the environment and has financial rewards.

The Thermal Power Station at Runcorn continues through its commissioning phase and it is anticipated that take over will take place in the autumn, which will boost landfill diversion to 75%.

Sales of Revive compost; a valuable resource made from green and food waste collected by Greater Manchester residents, continue to rise and 6,668 bags have been sold across Greater Manchester since it was launched last summer.

The LIFE+ Team successfully completed Phase 1 of the European Union funded Project with Phase 2 being launched following the Purdah period. The Getting Wasted app/game was launched on 27th February 2014 at the Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU). The purpose of the game is to educate students about what they can recycle. The game was in the list of top ten educational apps, which was considered as a huge success.

In summary, by using our sustainable waste management facilities to their maximum potential and fully engaging the public in recycling, it is expected that Greater Manchester can achieve 50% recycling and 90% landfill diversion, which would be an achievement that everyone in Greater Manchester could be proud of. My message to Council is to get behind recycling and let's lead our community to do even better, so we can and become one of the best performing Local Authorities in Greater Manchester.

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COUNCIL

10 SEPTEMBER 2014

JOINT AUTHORITY QUESTION

1. Councillor Walker

Transport for Greater Manchester

Can the public of Bury be given a firm assurance that, when normal Metrolink tram services resume in the next four (?) months, we will once again be able to enjoy a direct service to and from the Manchester Piccadilly Rail Station?

(Councillor Noel Bayley to respond)

A. The current disruption to the Metrolink network is due to improvement work being undertaken at Victoria Station. The reopening of Victoria from single line to twin track working will be a significant step for Metrolink and its users. This will enable the connectivity with a gateway to the city centre and a radically improved station for passenger use. This is scheduled to be completed by winter.

Other scheduled improvement works include the introduction of a second city crossing, in order to increase the reliability of the network and increase the potential capacity of units travelling through Manchester City Centre.

Connecting Bury with Piccadilly Station directly remains a priority in the service patterns of the Metrolink network.

Metrolink and TfGM are committed to reducing and limiting the impact of disruption to passengers through this period of improvements. Other passenger experience improvements include the Greater Manchester Growth Deal increasing the double units on the Bury Metrolink line in the coming years.

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