

Mike Kelly FCIOB MCIM
Chief Executive

Our Ref LW
Your Ref OSC/LW
Date 20 January 2015
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Legal & Democratic Services
Division

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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, 28 January 2015
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

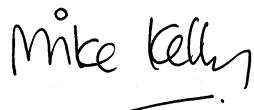
The Agenda for the meeting is attached.

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 10 December 2015

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 - 14)

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 contains the following wording:

" Bury Council is trying to close Butterstile, Toodle Hill, Daisyfield, High Meadow, Moorside, Stepping Stones and Ramsbottom Children's Centres.

We the undersigned implore the Council to keep these crucial centres open. Children's Centres are lifelines for so many. The plans will cut children's centres from the most deprived areas. This will therefore hit the most vulnerable. The plans state the development of a "hub" service, i.e. a few centralised centres of activity which will be inaccessible to most without a car. More families, mums, dads and children will be far more isolated leading to less contact with vital links to family wellbeing. This can only lead to a deterioration in the health and wellbeing of under 5's and their families."

As the petition contains in excess of 2,500 signatures from people who live, work or study in Bury, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People has decided to refer the petition for consideration at

Council.

Under the petitions procedure, the petition organiser will be given 5 minutes to present the petition and then the Council will determine a course of action.

6 **RECOMMENDATION OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

Committee/Date	Subject	Recommendation
Minute CA.481- Cabinet – 26 November 2014	Treasury Management Strategy – Mid Year Review 2014-2015	1. To note the report in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management; 2. To approve the increase in Counterparty investment in Barclays from £10m to £20m to reflect that Barclays will remain the Authority's main banker for

7 **LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME** (Pages 15 - 56)

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 57 - 62)

- (A) A report by the Council's Representative on the work of the Crime and Police Panel, Councillor Connolly.
- (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.

9 **THE GREATER MANCHESTER SPATIAL STRATEGY** (Pages 63 - 84)

10 **NOTICES OF MOTION**

The following Notice of Motions have been received:-

1. Senior Management Structure

"This Council notes the difficult challenges ahead in funding front-

line services with increasing expectations of service delivery.

Therefore, this Council should continue to take every opportunity to streamline its senior management team in order to make significant savings that can be put into improving front-line services, in particular services to the most vulnerable people in Bury.

Once the post of Chief Executive becomes vacant in March 2015, this Council resolves:-

- 1) Not to fill the Chief Executive post in the short term
- 2) To instruct the existing senior management team to jointly take on the duties of the existing Chief Executive, including instructing the Executive Director of Resources and Regulation to act as "Head of Paid Service" for the next 6 months in addition to their existing roles.
- 3) That an all-party Committee be asked to consider the longer term alternatives for the Chief Executive post and report back to Council within 6 months with detailed proposals for one of the following recommendations:

(i) Appoint one of the 3 members of the existing senior management team to become a "Managing Director" with responsibilities for strategic direction of the Council and another to take on the responsibility of "Head of Paid Service";

(ii) Explore the possibility of sharing a Chief Executive and/or other senior management roles with other local authorities where similar posts are currently vacant.

(iii) Appoint a Chief Executive on a part-time basis with revised duties, with other duties shared with the existing senior management team;

(iv) Re-appoint a Chief Executive but with revised levels of remuneration."

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

2. Lowering the Voting Age

"This Council notes that:

1. 16 and 17 year olds who can: consent to medical treatment, work full-time, pay taxes, get married and join the armed forces are currently denied the right to vote in public elections in the UK.

2. Under the current system, 16 and 17 years olds are required to participate in compulsory citizenship education in schools but denied their full rights as citizens in terms of voting.

3. Moreover, in recent years the campaign for votes at 16 has become more prominent, including Bury's Youth Cabinet resolving to support the policy in February 2014 and the Labour Party's manifesto commitment in 2010 and 2015. In addition, the huge turnout of 16-17 year olds in the Scottish Independence Referendum highlights the potential to engage more citizens

in the wider democratic process.

This Council resolves to:-

1. Support the National Labour party's position in relation to introducing votes for 16 and 17-year-olds
2. Write to the relevant Minister outlining the council's position
3. Develop a strategy to engage younger voters to encourage participation in local and national elections following a change in legislation."

In the names of Councillors P Adams, 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.

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

12 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).

13 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 5 (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 5 (2014/15).

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

Date of Meeting: 10 December 2014

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor M Wiseman), in the Chair;
Councillors, P Adams, D Bailey, M Bailey, N Bayley, I Bevan, J Black, S Briggs, P Bury, G Campbell, S Carter, R A Caserta, D M Cassidy, M Connolly, A J Cummings, J Daly, L Fitzwalter, J Frith, 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, N Parnell, T D Pickstone, A Quinn, R Shori, A Simpson, S Smith, J Smith, S Southworth, T Tariq, R E Walker, S Walmsley J F Walton, M Whitby and Y Wright

Apologies for Councillors FitzGerald, O'Brien and Rothwell

Public attendance: 25 members of the public attended the meeting

C.502 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. Councillor Parnell declared a personal interest in Minute C.373(1) 'Notice of Motion – Impact of the TTIP,' as his wife is employed by an NHS Trust.
6. The following Councillors declared personal interests in Minute C.373(1), 'Notice of Motion – Impact of the TTIP,' as they are members of the Unite the Union:-

Councillors Daisy Bailey, Matt Bailey, Bury, Carter, Connolly, Frith, Haroon, Isherwood, Kerrison, Lewis, Mallon, Parnell, Quinn, Shori, Simpson and Tariq.

C.503 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 22 October 2014 be signed by the Mayor as a true and correct record.

The Mayor thanked everyone for their kind words following the theft of the Mayoral Chains and members passed on their best wishes to Mr Jet Vyas.

The Mayor paid tribute to those who showed support for Remembrance Sunday and gave thanks to those who supported the Civic Ball.

Members observed a brief silence in tribute to Joshua "Super Josh" Wilson who passed away recently.

The Mayor wished all present a happy Christmas and Chanukah.

C.505 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Mayor reported the receipt of two written questions as follows:-

No	Issue	Questioner	Answered By
1.	Disabled access to the Public Gallery in the Council Chamber.	Mr A Miller	Councillor Connolly
2.	Issues relating to the area around Openshaw Fold Road, Warth.	Miss S Boyd	Councillor Connolly

On inviting questions from members of the public present, the following issues were raised:-

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered Bt
3.	Discussions with members of the Reinstate Bury Central Library Campaign.	Mr R Abrahamsen	Councillor Connolly
4.	Recycling Policy.	Mr P Husband	Councillor Connolly
5.	Collection of Domestic Waste.	Mr G Keely	Councillor Connolly
6.	Promoting of Radcliffe Market.	Ms N Haydock	Councillor Connolly
7.	Government Grant to support Waste Collection Service.	Ms R Duberry	Councillor Connolly
8.	Special Needs Transport.	Mr V Hagan	Councillor Connolly
9.	Car parking around Gigg Lane on match days and impact on public transport.	Mr M Harling	Councillor Connolly

C.506 RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES

It was reported that there were no recommendations of the Cabinet or Council Committees for consideration.

C.507 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
1.	Employee Sickness	Councillor Gunther	Councillor Holt
2.	Expenditure on Highways	Councillor Parnell	Councillor Isherwood
3.	Household Recycling Rates	Councillor Noel Bayley	Councillor Isherwood
4.	Fair Deal for Bury	Councillor S Smith	Councillor Connolly
5.	Administration Charge for additional grey bins	Councillor Hodgkinson	Councillor Isherwood
6.	Surplus Garage Sites	Councillor Quinn	Councillor Shori
7.	Industrial Action – Fire Brigade Unions	Councillor James	Councillor Connolly
8.	Major road repairs and congestion on M60	Councillor Mallon	Councillor Isherwood
9.	Road Safety in Radcliffe East	Councillor Matt Bailey	Councillor Isherwood
10.	Theft of Mayoral Chains	Councillor Walton	Councillor Connolly
11.	Mental Health Concordat	Councillor Grimshaw	Councillor Tariq
12.	Learning Disability Partnership	Councillor Haroon	Councillor Tariq
13.	Springs Estate – Stock Transfer	Councillor John Smith	Councillor Shori
14.	Broadband Supply – Affetside and Hawkshaw	Councillor Gartside	Councillor Connolly
15.	Garage sites in Ramsbottom	Councillor Bevan	Councillor Shori
16.	Bury's Funding Settlement	Councillor Nuttall	Councillor Connolly
17.	Road Repairs	Councillor Hussain	Councillor Isherwood
18.	Illegal parking outside schools	Councillor Pickstone	Councillor Isherwood

19.	Budget for Children and Young people	Councillor Gartside	Councillor Campbell
20.	Budget Consultation	Councillor Nuttall	Councillor Connolly
21.	Fast food outlets	Councillor Wright	Councillor Walmsley
22.	Radcliffe Town Centre	Councillor Daisy Bailey	Councillor Walmsley
23.	Radcliffe Leisure Centre and Pool	Councillor Matt Bailey	Councillor Shori
24.	Capital Investment Programme	Councillor Pickstone	Councillor Connolly

Due to the lack of time to answer questions 18 to 24 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)

25.	Funding Settlement and representations to Government	Councillor Gartside	Councillor Connolly
26.	Voluntary Groups	Councillor Fitzwalter	Councillor Connolly
27.	Recycling Charging Policy	Councillor Gunther	Councillor Isherwood
28.	Use of technology for information on waste collection days	Councillor Tariq	Councillor Connolly
29.	Recycling Rates and comparative information	Councillor Quinn	Councillor Isherwood
30.	Publication of information on Trade Union Facility Time	Councillor Caserta	Councillor Connolly
31.	Impending budget cuts and impact on Council	Councillor Parnell	Councillor Connolly
32.	Ramsbottom Independent Small Shop Competition	Councillor Bevan	Councillor Connolly
33.	Use of food banks in Bury	Councillor James	Councillor Connolly
34.	Fostering and action taken	Councillor Daly	Councillor Campbell
35.	Domestic Waste Recycling and use of 240cc bins	Councillor Bury	Councillor Isherwood

C.508 JOINT AUTHORITIES – REPORTS BY THE COUNCIL’S REPRESENTATIVE AND QUESTIONS

- (a) Councillor Noel Bayley, the Council’s representative, on the Committee for Greater Manchester Transport, gave a verbal report on the work of the Committee to all Members of the Council.
- (b) The following question had been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.2.

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered by
1.	Homophobic Violent Crime	Councillor Pickstone	Councillor Connolly (Representative on the Police and Crime Panel)
2.	The “Cycling Ambition Cities” Initiative	Councillor Pickstone	Councillor Noel Bayley (Representative on the Greater Manchester Transport)
3.	96 Bus Service	Councillor Heneghan	Councillor Noel Bayley (Representative on the Committee for Greater Manchester Transport)

C.509 DEVOLUTION AND GREATER MANCHESTER MAYOR : IMPLICATIONS FOR BURY

A report of the Leader was submitted which set out the implications for Bury Council of the recent Agreement with Government to devolve functional and fiscal responsibilities, alongside a staged approach to Greater Manchester governance arrangements.

It was moved by Councillor Connolly and seconded by Councillor Shori that the recommendations be approved.

With 32 voting for, 11 against and 4 abstaining it was:

RESOLVED:

1. That the principles which have guided Greater Manchester’s approach to devolution and governance changes be endorsed.
2. That the Devolution Agreement and the significant switch in powers and access to resources it represents, which will have a positive impact on those who live and work within Bury and Greater Manchester, be welcomed.
3. That the proposed changes in governance, including an Appointed Mayor as the eleventh Member of GMCA as a transition to a Directly Elected Mayor for Greater Manchester, be supported.

4. That the balance between new powers to be vested in the GMCA, as well as new powers to be vested in the directly elected Mayor, who will be the Chair of the GMCA and accountable to the Cabinet of Leaders in the exercise of those powers; and the Mayor and the Cabinet being the subject of scrutiny by the GMCA Pool, be noted.
5. That the proposed governance arrangements reflect the circumstances within Greater Manchester, which has a long track record of collaboration amongst the local authorities and with business.
6. That the Government and the range of local stakeholders be reminded that Bury and Greater Manchester will remain fully committed to greater fiscal devolution and to working with other UK City Regions and London in particular to make the case for this over the coming months.
7. That the GMCA be recommended to conclude the statutory review of Governance arrangements as soon as possible, to enable a final scheme to be submitted to the Secretary of State as a pre-requisite to the changes being made to the Statutory Orders to give effect to the transitional arrangements.
8. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader to respond formally to the GMCA consultation on devolution in the terms set out in this report; and to finalise on behalf of Bury Council, the Council's response to the final terms of the Governance arrangements including the terms of the Statutory Order.

C.510 LOCAL SCHEME OF COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT 2015/16

A report of the Leader was submitted which provided an update on the local Council Tax Support Scheme and set out recommendations to continue to deliver a local scheme within the available budget.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the scheme introduced with effect from 1 April 2013 be continued without change from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.
2. That agreement of the specific legal wording of the local regulations enacting the Council Tax Support Scheme set out in the report be delegated to the Executive Director of Resources and Regulation in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

C.511 CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD – ANNUAL REPORT

It was moved by Councillor Heneghan and seconded by Councillor Campbell and it was:-

RESOLVED:

That the Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report be endorsed.

C.512 NOTICE OF MOTION

Two Notices of Motion have been received and set out in the Summons.

1. Impact of the TTIP

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

Councillors P Adams, 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.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.7(a), permission was given for the motion as set out to be altered, and it was moved by Councillor Parnell and seconded by Councillor Simpson:

This Council believes that:

1. the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations are potentially catastrophic for public services as the EU/US representatives are negotiating to hand over the right to regulate in the public interest without transparency or accountability to their electorates.
2. Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanisms would make it hard for any government to reverse liberalisation and privatisation without being sued by foreign investors. So whatever voters actually wanted, the trade treaty would place major barriers in the way of government giving expression to their democratic will.

This Council resolves to:

1. Write to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills raising our serious concerns about the TTIP.
2. Offer support to the campaign by Unite to defend the NHS which is drawing attention to the potential impact of the TTIP.
3. Write to all metropolitan borough/district councils in the North West to urge them to join us in opposing the potential impact of the TTIP.
4. Write to the County Councils Network and Local Government Association to urge them lobby on behalf of all Local Authorities on the potential impact of the TTIP.
5. Do all we can to publicise the dangers arising from this trade agreement for our NHS and other public services and jobs.

On being put, with 34 voting for, 11 against and one abstention, the motion was declared carried.

2. Bury Central Library

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 Walker and seconded by Councillor Gartside:

"This Council commits itself to the principle of reinstating a Central Library worthy of a Metropolitan Borough as soon as practicable so that appropriate provision for a larger Lending Stock, Reference Works, Reading Facilities, Separate Children's Area, Study Space and other facilities are restored in place of the much reduced and very cramped provision currently on offer."

On being put, with 11 voting for, 34 against and one abstention, the motion was declared lost.

C.513 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.514 QUESTIONS ON THE WORK OF OUTSIDE BODIES OR PARTNERSHIPS

There were no questions received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.2.

C.515 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 3 (2014-2015).

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR

(NOTE: The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 10.20 pm)

Council Meeting – 28 January 2015**Questions from Members of the Public****1. Mr S Mahmood**

On 10 October I asked the question what is being done about the congestion with Croft Lane being closed. Cllr Connolly said "we are working on it". Up to now there seems to have been no change. Also, during peak time which finishes about 9:15am and the bus lane stays in until 10:00 so it does not help the traffic flow and there is congestion all the way back to Pilsworth Junction. In the Evening the peak starts at 4:00pm and finishes at 6:00pm, where the bus lane does not end until 7:00pm so the traffic congestion is way after 7:00pm all the way back to Pilsworth junction. So it seems to me that nothing has been done. Can the Council advise what steps they are taking and advise a clear timeframe for action.

A. As Croft Lane is a major route between A56 Manchester Rd and the M66 Junction 3 the impact of the closure on the road network of Bury was discussed in advance with discussions between Council officers and Transport for Greater Manchester.

The road was closed in both directions for United Utilities works starting in 22nd September 2014 until February 2015.

The planned diversion route was via Manchester Rd, Angouleme Way and Rochdale Rd to M66 junction 2 (and vice versa.)

However a high proportion of vehicles are not following the diversion route and, for example, are using Heywood Street as a means to avoid Bury town centre.

TfGM Urban Traffic Control amended the signal timings on the diversion route following the closure and have continued to monitor the operation of the junctions throughout the course of the works – as the traffic patterns have settled down following the closure. Signal timings have been changed throughout the day for Heywood Street/Rochdale Road, Rochdale Rd/Wash Lane and the Heap Bridge Roundabout (J2).

It should be noted that traffic flows on Croft Lane are high, approximately 760 vehicles in the peak hour, and to accommodate this traffic on the rest of the road network in Bury is difficult because of capacity constraints.

2. Mr R Cahill

Can I ask the Leader of the Council what the problem is when it comes to consultation with the people of Bury?

In an article in the Prestwich & Whitefield Guide on 28th August 2014, regarding a review of adult services in the borough and subsequent consultation, Councillor Shori was quoted as follows, 'no centres would be closed if people opposed the idea... the key aspect is to listen to people,' yet when it came to the review of Sure Start centres, the council have, in effect, only listened to part of peoples' concerns. With regard to the three weekly bin collections however, this was rail roaded through without any consultation, despite 75% of people polled for the Bury Times not being happy with this change in their service. Do you agree with Councillor Shori that the key aspect is to listen to people?

A. Thank you for your question Mr Cahill. We have extensive experience of consultation on a whole range of services and actively promote people's views and we listen and act, if appropriate, to suggestions and comments from the public. That is what good consultation is, in fact, because we do actively listen to people we have amended many service proposals through consultation processes. We are a listening Council and will continue to be so throughout the coming years. As we all know, the financial challenges this Council faces will mean continuing engagement with the public and seeking their views on how we provide and commission services with a reducing budget.

3. Ms T Kay

I would like to ask why when a tenant improves the quality of their kitchen with Council permission, Six Town Housing then refuses to undertake any further work on the kitchen of the house that is in a state of disrepair. To be clear, there is no expectation for Six Town Housing to maintain the changes the tenant has made, just keep the infrastructure they are responsible for, that the tenant pays rent for, to be maintained. Is this discrimination regular with Six town Housing against tenants that pay their rent and is it approved by the land lord, Bury Council, or is it another cost savings exercise.

What is next, if I paint my bathroom, Will Six Town Housing tell tenants that they are no longer responsible for boiler repairs and providing hot water to the bathroom ?

A. If a tenant chooses and obtains permission to install their own kitchen, Six Town Housing will continue to maintain the infrastructure of the property.

However, there may be circumstances where the nature or design of the works undertaken by the tenant prevent other capital works being carried out. For example, under the current kitchen replacement programme Six Town Housing will consider the layout and configuration of the dwelling, such as removing walls and incorporating former coal scuttles or external storage rooms into the footprint of the new kitchen. Works done independently by tenants often prevent this tasks being carried. Under these circumstances, this capital work would not be undertaken until the replacement of the kitchen was required.

Painting of bathrooms would not prevent Six Town Housing undertaking boiler repairs or other works to bathrooms.

4. Mr I Henderson

After the Council meeting on 10 December, I reviewed again the recorded events on the debate around Bury Central Library. I noted Councillor Roy Walker advising how he had used reference material with a library to study for his A levels. But then strangely Councillor Campbell responded that most people tend to use IT these days. For reference this can be seen at the 3 hour mark in the recording.

Now, while I realise it could be argued that there may have been a decline in educational standards since I did my A levels some 22 years ago ... I do not believe that you can currently obtain a grade A or B at A level using Wikipedia as a reference source. So perhaps Councillor Campbell can advise me what subjects she checked to ensure that serious academic textbooks were available without charge online suitable to provide the breadth of knowledge required to obtain the higher grades at A level. Obviously she would have not made such a statement without checking so perhaps as I say she could advise which subjects and perhaps the websites where these textbooks are available free of charge?

Having worked in the IT industry for the last 20 years, I like to believe I can use a computer ... but I confess I struggled to find somewhere that didn't require me inputting credit card details when I checked those subjects I got higher grades in some 22 years ago.

A. A Level text book publishers now publish also a wide range of on-line resources which go with the text books and there are also many additional websites that can support A level study rather than just Wikipedia.

5. Mr M Harling

Further to my previous question to you Cllr Connolly, could you please enlighten me as to what steps or progress you have attained with regard to the illegal and inconsiderate parking on Cornwall Drive during home match days at Bury FC. At the last meeting on the 10 December 2014 you did suggest that you were considering instigating permanent parking restrictions at this junction is this your priority or is there another method such as traffic wardens that could be used?

A. Officers have considered this in more detail, and I can inform Mr Harling that at yesterday's meeting of the Traffic Management Unit, which involves Council officers and external agencies, it was agreed to promote some permanent waiting restrictions around the Market Street/Cornwall Drive junction.

6. Mr W Southworth

A number of residents have raised concerns about the risk presented by very large trees on Moyse Avenue, Tottington. Can the council advise if risk has been assessed and what steps have been taken to ensure that high winds will not cause potential damage to property or residents or vehicles?

A. The trees growing within the grassed area on Moyse Avenue are subject to a survey/inspection by the Council's Tree Officer on a 12 monthly basis. The trees were last inspected in Autumn 2014. At the time of the last inspection the trees were in reasonable health and condition and did not require any immediate action. Following the recent enquiry from Mr Southworth we will carry out another inspection and appropriate action will be taken if any irregularities are discovered.

7. Mr B Hagan

PRELIMINARY NOTICE OF VARIATION TO BURY COUNCIL TENANCY AGREEMENT.

WHAT WILL THE LANDLORD DO ABOUT THIS FRIGHENING LETTER TO DECENT TENANTS IN BURY MBC?? facebook.

A. The wording of the response is taken from Section 103 of the Housing Act, which we are legally obliged to comply with and states that all tenants must be notified of any proposed changes. The changes made to the tenancy agreement mostly address the new anti social behaviour powers available to landlords. By amending the tenancy agreement, the Council and Six Town Housing will be better placed to support the good tenants, which represent the majority of tenants, and take action against the minority whose lifestyles adversely affect those people living around them. Other changes also address the impact of the introduction of Universal Credit.

For good tenants, these changes should be seen as a positive thing.

The last twenty years has also seen considerable investment in the Council housing stock, and as a result in December 2010, all Council housing met the national 'Decent Homes Standard'. In 2014, the Labour Cabinet approved an additional £12million investment in the Council's dwelling stock, exceeding the decent homes standard. This investment to the 'Bury Standard' clearly demonstrates the Council's commitment to provide a quality housing stock in the Borough.

8. Mr R Taylor

Will the Council Leader please tell the public now, how much operational expenditure will be cut in the Budget and WHERE?

A. Can I thank Mr Taylor for his question although in his e mail he referred to opx which in my answer I'm assuming means operational expenditure...I hope I'm correct with this but I'm sure he'll tell me if not! As a result of the swinging and unfair cuts in public spending made by this Government since 2011 the Council has had to cut £53.7m out of its budget. This is nearly half of our controllable budget.

Of this, some £15.8m will be cut in the coming year.

The Plan for Change consultation set out in detail where the cuts will be made and all the information is available on the Council's web-site. However to help Mr Taylor I can tell him that included in this figure are cuts of £3.4m from alternative ways of delivering

services, £3.4m from maximising the use of external funding and £3.3m from staff restructuring.

I'm sure that Mr Taylor will agree with me that the best way to bring about a fairer deal for Bury will be to vote Labour in the forthcoming General Election.

9. Mr A Miller

At the last Council meeting on 10 December, I asked the Leader of the Council if the Public Gallery can be made more Disabled Accessible. Can I ask the Leader for an update on what progress has been made?

A. An assessment has been carried out by BADDAC and some proposals put forward. We will now examine those in detail and produce costings with a view to securing some improvements to access.

10. Ms S Smith

Residents in Redvales currently pay £25 for a residents' parking permit. Residents near to Fairfield Hospital have half the cost of their permit supplemented by the NHS.

As the permits in Redvales are required through no fault of the residents' own but largely due to lack of dedicated parking facilities for local students, would the council be willing to look at ways of supplementing the cost of these permits and perhaps consider opening a dialogue with nearby colleges?

A. The supplemented permit scheme in the Rochdale Old Road area formed part of a planning approval condition when the hospital was being extended. The Council is happy to consider the possibility of similar actions on future developments. Unfortunately we do not have any resources available to dedicate to discussions with Colleges regarding schemes that are already in existence. The current charge of £25 per permit equates to just 7p a day and, all residents parking schemes within the borough have been introduced as a result of requests from local residents rather than the Councils imposition.



DECISION OF:	CABINET OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE COUNCIL
DATE:	26 NOVEMBER 2014 9 DECEMBER 2014 28 JANUARY 2015
SUBJECT:	TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY – MID YEAR REVIEW 2014/15
REPORT FROM:	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL & CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE
CONTACT OFFICER:	STEPHEN KENYON, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES (FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY)
TYPE OF DECISION:	COUNCIL
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:	The report is within the public domain
SUMMARY:	<p>This mid-year report has been prepared in compliance with CIPFA's Code of Practice, and covers the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An economic update for the 2014/15 financial year to 30 September 2014 • A review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy • The Council's capital expenditure (prudential indicators) • A review of the Council's investment portfolio for 2014/15 • A review of the Council's borrowing strategy for 2014/15 • A review of any debt rescheduling undertaken during 2014/15 • A review of compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits for 2014/15

OPTIONS & RECOMMENDED OPTION	It is recommended that, in accordance with CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management, the report be noted. That the Counterparty investment limit for Barclays be increased from £10m to £15m to reflect that Barclays will be the Authority's main banker from 2015.
IMPLICATIONS:	
Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:	Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes
Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:	Treasury Management is an integral part of the Council's financial framework and it is essential that the correct strategy is adopted in order to ensure that best value is obtained from the Council's resources and that assets are safeguarded.
Statement by Executive Director of Resources and Regulation:	There are no additional resource implications. Treasury management activities so far have produced a projected underspending for the year of £0.5m. This will help to support other areas of the Council's budget that are under pressure from user demand or economic conditions.
Equality/Diversity implications:	No
Considered by Monitoring Officer:	Yes
Wards Affected:	All
Scrutiny Interest:	Overview & Scrutiny Committee

TRACKING/PROCESS**DIRECTOR: STEVE KENYON**

Chief Executive/ Strategic Leadership Team	Cabinet Member/Chair	Ward Members	Partners
Yes	Yes	N/a	N/a
Scrutiny Commission		Committee	Council
Overview & Scrutiny Committee			

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Council operates a balanced budget, which broadly means that cash raised during the year will meet cash expenditure. Part of the treasury management operations ensure this cash flow is adequately planned, with surplus monies being invested in low risk counterparties, providing adequate liquidity initially before considering optimising investment return.

The second main function of the treasury management service is the funding of the Council's capital plans. These capital plans provide a guide to the borrowing need of the Council, essentially the longer term cash flow planning to ensure that the Council can meet its capital spending obligations. This management of longer term cash may involve arranging long or short term loans, or using longer term cash flow surpluses, and on occasion any debt previously drawn may be restructured to meet Council risk or cost objectives.

As a consequence treasury management is defined as:

"The management of the local authority's investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks".

- 1.2 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (revised 2011) was adopted by this Council on 24 February 2010.

The primary requirements of the Code are as follows:

1. Creation and maintenance of a Treasury Management Policy Statement which sets out the policies and objectives of the Council's treasury management activities.
2. Creation and maintenance of Treasury Management Practices which set out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve those policies and objectives.
3. Receipt by the full council of an annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement - including the Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy - for the year ahead, a **Mid-year Review Report** and an Annual Report (stewardship report) covering activities during the previous year.
4. Delegation by the Council of responsibilities for implementing and monitoring treasury management policies and practices and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions.
5. Delegation by the Council of the role of scrutiny of treasury management strategy and policies to a specific named body. For this Council the delegated body is: Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

- 1.3 This report fulfils the requirement to produce a mid-year review.

2.0 ECONOMIC UP-DATE (from Treasury Advisors)

2.1 Economic Performance to date

- 2.1.1 After UK GDP quarterly growth of 0.7%, 0.8% and 0.7% in quarters 2, 3 and 4 respectively in 2013, (2013 annual rate 2.7%), and 0.7% in Q1, 0.9% in Q2 and a

first estimate of 0.7% in Q3 2014 (annual rate 3.1% in Q3), it appears very likely that growth will continue through 2014 and into 2015. The manufacturing sector has also seen growth though the latest figures indicate a weakening in the future trend rate of growth. For any recovery to become more balanced and sustainable in the longer term, it needs to move away from dependence on consumer expenditure and the housing market to exporting, and particularly of manufactured goods, both of which need to substantially improve on their recent lacklustre performance.

- 2.1.2 Growth has resulted in unemployment falling faster through the initial threshold of 7%, set by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) last August, before it said it would consider any increases in Bank Rate. The MPC has, therefore, subsequently broadened its forward guidance by adopting five qualitative principles and looking at a much wider range of about eighteen indicators in order to form a view on how much slack there is in the economy and how quickly slack is being used up. Most economic forecasters are expecting growth to peak in 2014 and then to ease off a little, though still continue, in 2015 and 2016.
- 2.1.3 There has been a fall in inflation (CPI), reaching 1.5% in May and July, the lowest rate since 2009. Forward indications are that inflation is likely to fall further in 2014 to possibly near to 1%. Overall, markets are expecting that the MPC will be cautious in raising Bank Rate as it will want to protect heavily indebted consumers from too early an increase in Bank Rate at a time when inflationary pressures are also weak. A first increase in Bank Rate is therefore expected in Q1 or Q2 2015 and they expect increases after that to be at a slow pace to lower levels than prevailed before 2008 as increases in Bank Rate will have a much bigger effect on heavily indebted consumers than they did before 2008.
- 2.1.4 Forecasts for the increase in Government debt by £73bn over the next five years, as announced in the 2013 Autumn Statement, and by an additional £24bn, as announced in the March 2014 Budget.
- 2.1.5 First quarter GDP figures for the US were depressed by exceptionally bad winter weather, but growth rebounded in Q2 to 4.6% (annualised). The U.S. faces similar debt problems to those of the UK, but thanks to reasonable growth, cuts in government expenditure and tax rises, the annual government deficit has been halved from its peak without appearing to do too much damage to growth, although the weak labour force participation rate remains a matter of key concern for the Federal Reserve when considering the amount of slack in the economy and monetary policy decisions
- 2.1.6 The Eurozone is facing an increasing threat from weak or negative growth and from deflation. In September, the inflation rate fell further, to reach a low of 0.3%. However, this is an average for all EZ countries and includes some countries with negative rates of inflation. Accordingly, the ECB took some rather limited action in June to loosen monetary policy in order to promote growth. In September it took further action to cut its benchmark rate to only 0.05%, its deposit rate to -0.2% and to start a programme of purchases of corporate debt. However, it has not embarked yet on full quantitative easing (purchase of sovereign debt). Concern in financial markets for the Eurozone subsided considerably during 2013. However, sovereign debt difficulties have not gone away and major issues could return in respect of any countries that do not dynamically address fundamental issues of low growth, international

uncompetitiveness and the need for overdue reforms of the economy, (as Ireland has done). It is, therefore, possible over the next few years that levels of government debt to GDP ratios could continue to rise for some countries. This could mean that sovereign debt concerns have not disappeared but, rather, have only been postponed.

- 2.1.7 Japan is causing considerable concern as the increase in sales tax in April has suppressed consumer expenditure and growth. In Q2 growth was -1.8% q/q and -7.1% over the previous year. The Government is hoping that this is a temporary blip. As for China, Government action in 2014 to stimulate the economy appeared to be putting the target of 7.5% growth within achievable reach but recent data has raised fresh concerns. There are also major concerns as to the creditworthiness of much bank lending to corporates and local government during the post 2008 credit expansion period and whether the bursting of a bubble in housing prices is drawing nearer.

2.2 Interest rate Forecasts and Outlook

- 2.2.1 The Council's treasury advisor, Capita Asset Services, has provided the following forecast:

	Dec-14	Mar-15	Jun-15	Sep-15	Dec-15	Mar-16	Jun-16	Sep-16	Dec-16	Mar-17	Jun-17	Sep-17	Dec-17	Mar-18
Bank rate	0.50%	0.50%	0.75%	0.75%	1.00%	1.00%	1.25%	1.25%	1.50%	1.50%	1.75%	2.00%	2.25%	2.50%
5yr PWLB rate	2.50%	2.70%	2.70%	2.80%	2.90%	3.00%	3.10%	3.20%	3.30%	3.40%	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%
10yr PWLB rate	3.20%	3.40%	3.50%	3.60%	3.70%	3.80%	3.90%	4.00%	4.10%	4.10%	4.20%	4.20%	4.30%	4.30%
25yr PWLB rate	3.90%	4.00%	4.10%	4.30%	4.40%	4.50%	4.60%	4.70%	4.70%	4.80%	4.80%	4.90%	4.90%	5.00%
50yr PWLB rate	3.90%	4.00%	4.10%	4.30%	4.40%	4.50%	4.60%	4.70%	4.70%	4.80%	4.80%	4.90%	4.90%	5.00%

Capita Asset Services undertook a review of its interest rate forecasts on 24th October. During September and October, a further rise in geopolitical concerns, principally over Ukraine but also over the Middle East, plus fears around Ebola, and an accumulation of dismal growth news in most of the ten largest economies of the world and on the growing risk of deflation in the Eurozone, had caused a flight from equities into safe havens like gilts and depressed PWLB rates. However, there is much volatility in rates as news ebbs and flows in negative or positive ways. This latest forecast includes a first increase in Bank Rate in quarter 2 of 2015.

- 2.2.2 PWLB forecasts are based around a balance of risks. However, there are potential upside risks, especially for longer term PWLB rates, as follows: -

- Further investor confidence that robust world economic growth is expected, causing a flow of funds out of bonds and into equities.
- UK inflation being significantly higher than in the wider EU and US, causing an increase in the inflation premium inherent to gilt yields.

- 2.2.3 Downside risks currently include:

- The situation over Ukraine poses a major threat to EZ and world growth if it was to deteriorate into economic warfare between the West and Russia where Russia resorted to using its control over gas supplies to Europe.

- Fears generated by the potential impact of Ebola around the world.
- UK economic growth is currently dependent on consumer spending and the unsustainable boom in the housing market. The boost from these sources is likely to fade after 2014.
- A weak rebalancing of UK growth to exporting and business investment causing a weakening of overall economic growth beyond 2014.
- Weak growth or recession in the UK's main trading partners - the EU and US, inhibiting economic recovery in the UK.
- A return to weak economic growth in the US, UK and China causing major disappointment in investor and market expectations.
- A resurgence of the Eurozone sovereign debt crisis caused by ongoing deterioration in government debt to GDP ratios to the point where financial markets lose confidence in the financial viability of one or more countries and in the ability of the ECB and Eurozone governments to deal with the potential size of the crisis.
- Recapitalising of European banks requiring more government financial support.
- Lack of support by populaces in Eurozone countries for austerity programmes, especially in countries with very high unemployment rates e.g. Greece and Spain, which face huge challenges in engineering economic growth to correct their budget deficits on a sustainable basis.
- Italy: the political situation has improved but it remains to be seen whether the new government is able to deliver the austerity programme required and a programme of overdue reforms. Italy has the third highest government debt mountain in the world.
- France: after being elected on an anti austerity platform, President Hollande has embraced a €50bn programme of public sector cuts over the next three years. However, there could be major obstacles in implementing this programme. Major overdue reforms of employment practices and an increase in competitiveness are also urgently required to lift the economy out of stagnation.
- Monetary policy action failing to stimulate sustainable growth in western economies, especially the Eurozone and Japan.
- Heightened political risks in the Middle East and East Asia could trigger safe haven flows back into bonds.
- There are also increasing concerns that the reluctance of western economies to raise interest rates significantly for some years, plus the huge QE measures which remain in place (and may be added to by the ECB in the near future), has created potentially unstable flows of liquidity searching for yield and therefore heightened the potential for an increase in risks in order to get higher returns. This is a return of the same environment which led to the 2008 financial crisis.

3.0 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY UP-DATE

The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2014/15 was approved by the Council on 19 February 2014.

There are no policy changes to the TMSS; the details in this report update the position in the light of the updated economic position and budgetary changes already approved.

4.0 THE COUNCIL'S CAPITAL POSITION (PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS)

This part of the report is structured to update:

- The Council's capital expenditure plans;
- How these plans are being financed;
- The impact of the changes in the capital expenditure plans on the prudential indicators and the underlying need to borrow; and
- Compliance with the limits in place for borrowing activity.

4.1 Prudential Indicator for Capital Expenditure

This table shows the revised estimates for capital expenditure and the changes since the capital programme was agreed at the Budget

Capital Expenditure	2014/15 Original Estimate £m	2014/15 Revised Estimate £m
Non-HRA	12.270	15.937
HRA	12.014	13.816
Total	24.284	29.753

The increase of the revised estimate over the original estimate is due to slippage from 2013/14 of £16.126m offset by estimated project reprofiling to 2015/16 of £10.655m

4.2 Changes to the Prudential Indicators for the Capital Financing Requirement, External Debt and the Operational Boundary

The table shows the Capital Financing Requirement, which is the underlying external need to incur borrowing for a capital purpose. It also shows the expected debt position over the period. This is termed the Operational Boundary.

	2014/15 Original Estimate £m	2014/15 Revised Estimate £m
Prudential Indicator - Capital Financing Requirement		
CFR – non HRA	125.551	125.104
CFR – HRA existing	40.531	40.531
Housing Reform Settlement	78.253	78.253
Total CFR	244.335	243.888
Prudential Indicator - External Debt / the Operational Boundary		
Borrowing	244.300	243.900
Other long term liabilities	7.000	7.000
Total	251.300	250.900

4.3 Limits to Borrowing Activity

- 4.3.1 The first key control over the treasury activity is a prudential indicator to ensure that over the medium term, net borrowing (borrowings less investments) will only be for a capital purpose. Gross external borrowing should not, except in the short term, exceed the total of CFR in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional CFR for 2014/15 and next two financial years. This allows some flexibility for limited early borrowing for future years. The Council has approved a policy for borrowing in advance of need which will be adhered to if this proves prudent.
- 4.3.2 The Assistant Director of Resources reports that no difficulties are envisaged for the current or future years in complying with this prudential indicator.
- 4.3.3 A further prudential indicator controls the overall level of borrowing. This is the Authorised Limit which represents the limit beyond which borrowing is prohibited, and needs to be set and revised by Members. It reflects the level of borrowing which, while not desired, could be afforded in the short term, but is not sustainable in the longer term. It is the expected maximum borrowing need with some headroom for unexpected movements. This is the statutory limit determined under section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003.

Authorised Limit for External Debt	2014/15 Original Indicator £m	2014/15 Revised Indicator £m
Borrowing	279.300	278.900
Other long term liabilities	7.000	7.000
Total	286.300	285.900

5.0 INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO 2014/15

- 5.1 In accordance with the Code, it is the Council's priority to ensure security of capital and liquidity, and to obtain an appropriate level of return which is consistent with the Council's risk appetite. As set out in Section 2, it is a very difficult investment market in terms of earning the level of interest rates commonly seen in previous decades as rates are very low and in line with the 0.5% Bank Rate. Indeed, the Funding for Lending scheme has reduced market investment rates even further. The potential for a prolonging of the Eurozone

sovereign debt crisis, and its impact on banks, prompts a low risk and short term strategy. Given this risk environment, investment returns are likely to remain low.

- 5.2 The Council held £59.1m of investments as at 30 September 2014 (£45.0m at 31 March 2014) and the investment portfolio yield for the first six months of the year is 0.62% against Capita's suggested investment earnings rate for returns on investments placed, for periods up to three months in 2014/15, of 0.42%.

- 5.3 The investments held as at 30 September were:-

Type of Investment	£ Million
Call Investments (Cash equivalents)	12.8
Fixed Investments (Short term investments)	46.3
Total	59.1

- 5.4 The Assistant Director of Resources confirms that the approved limits within the Annual Investment Strategy were not breached during the first six months of 2014/15.
- 5.5 The Council's budgeted investment return for 2014/15 is £0.5m, and performance for the year to date is in line with the budget.
- 5.6 The current investment counterparty criteria selection approved in the TMSS is meeting the requirement of the treasury management function.
- 5.7 The Council is currently changing its transactional banking from the Co-operative Bank to Barclays Bank. The Council's current counterparty investment limit for Barclays is £10m. It is requested that this be increased to £15m to reflect that Barclays will now be the Authority's main banker. This is purely a precautionary measure, as overnight balances will be cleared as near to nil as possible.
- 5.8 The Cabinet have recently approved a "Property Investment Strategy" which aims to increase investment income by investing in property rather than investing with financial institutions where returns are low at present. Additional borrowing may need to be undertaken to finance property acquisitions; each investment will be subject to a robust business case and also non-financial factors (e.g. ethical stance) will be considered.

6.0 BORROWING

- 6.1 The Council's capital financing requirement (CFR) for 2014/15 is £242.9m. The CFR denotes the Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes. If the CFR is positive the Council may borrow from the PWLB or the market (external borrowing) or from internal balances on a temporary basis (internal borrowing). The balance of external and internal borrowing is generally driven by market conditions. The table below shows the Council has borrowings of £210.9m and has utilised £32m of cash flow funds in lieu of borrowing. This is a prudent and cost effective approach in the current economic climate but will require ongoing monitoring in the event that upside risk to gilt yields prevail.

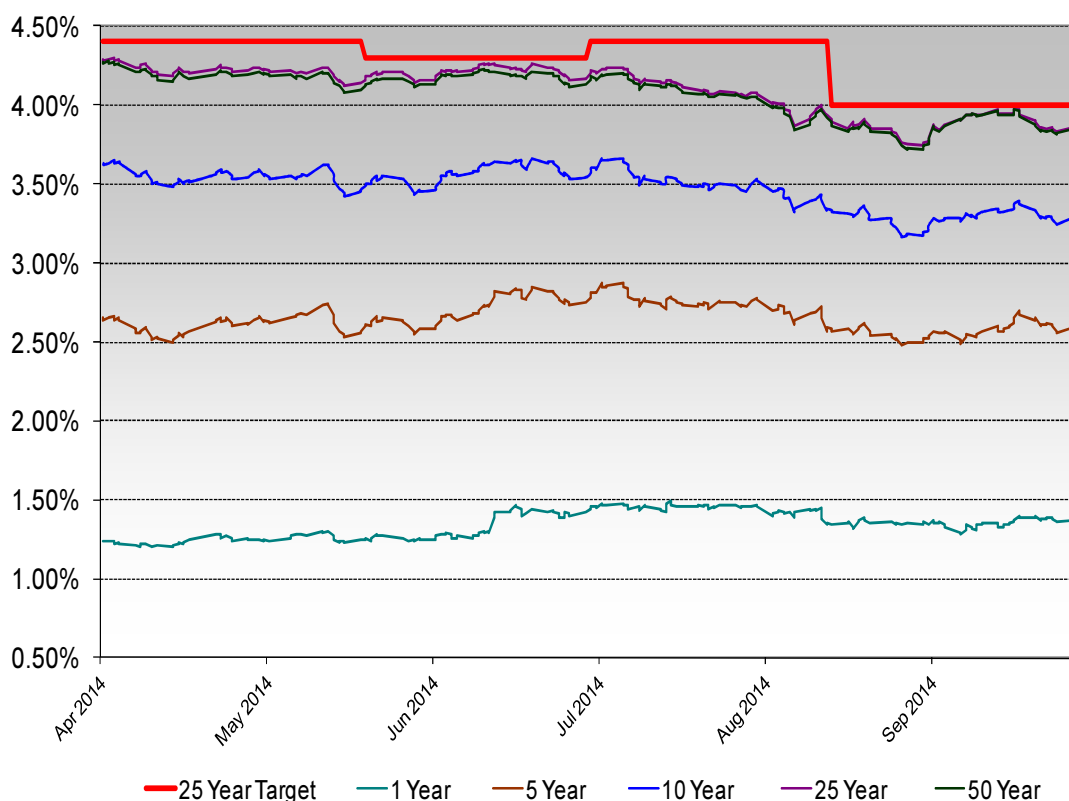
		30th Sept 2014		
		Principal		Avg. Rate
		£000	£000	
Fixed rate funding				
	PWLB Bury	146,362		
	PWLB Airport	4,078		
	Market Bury	57,500	207,940	
Variable rate funding				
	PWLB Bury	0		
	Market Bury	0	0	
Temporary Loans / Bonds		3,003	3,003	
Total Debt			210,943	3.96%
Total Investments			59,100	0.62%

- 6.2 Due to the overall financial position and the underlying need to borrow for capital purposes (the capital financing requirement – CFR), new temporary external borrowing of £3m was undertaken from the market:

Lender	Rate	Amount	Start Date	End Date
Police Authority	0.40	3m	07/07/2014	31/03/2015

It is anticipated that no further borrowing will be undertaken during this financial year.

- 6.3 The graph below shows the movement in PWLB certainty rates for the first six months of the year to 30.09.14:



7.0 DEBT RESCHEDULING

- 7.1 Debt rescheduling opportunities have been limited in the current economic climate and consequent structure of interest rates. No debt rescheduling was undertaken during the first six months of 2014/15.

Councillor Mike Connolly
Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance

List of Background Papers:-

None

Contact Details:-

Stephen Kenyon, Assistant Director of Resources, Tel 0161 253 6922
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COUNCIL MEETING
28 January 2015
LEADER'S STATEMENT

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

Madam Mayor, before I speak about the work of the Cabinet, I would like to refer to recent events in France and try to reassure our Asian Heritage and Jewish communities about the work the Council, Police and partners are doing to ensure those communities feel safe. This is in the context of extensive national media coverage following these unacceptable attacks on law abiding French people, where Muslims and Jews alike were gunned down.

Bury Council and its partners can be rightly proud of the close relationships we enjoy with all our diverse communities, which of course just doesn't happen by accident. It comes from a meaningful and passionate desire to treat all our communities as part of the Bury Family.

Here in Bury, we have a zero tolerance to anyone who promotes hate against any of our communities, and especially where it might be Islamophobic or anti-Semitic in nature. In terms of working with our communities:

- We work with all of our secondary schools through the innovative 'Be Safe Be Cool project' promoting positive messages and dialogue with young people
- We deliver ongoing Prevent training with staff and students and partner agencies
- We will be holding our first ever Hate Crime Conference in February 2015, specifically targeted at all those who work with our young people
- We promote interfaith involvement through our annual Holocaust Memorial event

- The Team Bury Communities Group brings together members from a wide range of communities to discuss and agree priorities relating to community cohesion
- We provide funding to grass roots groups to help them in supporting their local communities and neighbourhoods
- We provide support to the near neighbours fund where members of the community are encouraged to come together to overcome differences and make a difference in communities
- Our Cabinet member for Communities and Culture is continuing work which began last year, to visit a number of leaders from faith groups including Mosques, Churches and Synagogues. This facilitates two-way dialogue and partnership working
- The Community Safety Partnership oversees the work of the Police and other agencies in providing Safer Communities for all residents of the Borough

- We now have a Strategic Interfaith Group that meets to discuss and formulate projects that can be of benefit to the Borough
- We will be holding the third of our Mayor Prayer Breakfast in March with the aim of involving a range of interfaith partners and
- We formulate and review local Township Plans providing opportunities for members of our communities to come together and address local priorities for their area.

This week through Holocaust Memorial commemoration, we remember the sacrifices faith communities made in the past when there is rampant intolerance and persecution of certain communities and we recognise that it is ordinary people who pay the price with their lives and shattered communities.

We must all continue to be vigilant and do all we can to speak out against the perpetrators of hate and intolerance.

The Council will go one step further by making a signed declaration about tackling intolerance and are asking all faith leaders to sign up and promote respect and tolerance for all our communities.

Devolution

Cabinet agreed the first principles for the establishment of a new overarching governance framework for the GMCA to oversee over £2bn of devolved funding transferring to the City Region. My only disappointment was to see the Members opposite failing to grasp this significant historical opportunity to put spending power in the hands of local politicians who are accountable to local communities.

New Tenancy Agreement

The codes of conduct concerning the actions and behaviour of tenants have been overhauled, bringing the new agreement up to date with recent changes in legislation as well as building in best practice.

I am particularly pleased to see that the agreement makes clear what actions will be taken against tenants who are in breach and seeks to speed up action where that is needed. The changes send out two clear messages:

- For those who abuse their tenancy, swift action will be taken. Ultimately if behaviours do not change, there is always the risk of eviction.
- Secondly, the new Agreement has been strengthened in order to give confidence to our good and loyal tenants that we are there to protect you in what, on occasions, can be very distressing situations with bad neighbours.

In line with good practice, we are now in the process of consulting tenants on these changes and hope to have the new agreement in place by the start of the new financial year.

Former GMP Police Station

The Cabinet agreed a contract for the demolition of the former police station. It is expected that work will commence in late February and be completed by mid July. No decision on the future of the site has been discussed.

Radcliffe Temporary Swimming Pool

Cabinet agreed to the proposal to erect a £1m temporary swimming pool in the grounds of the former Riverside High School.

The pool is likely to be open by mid April.

Alternative Services – Under 5s

Members of the Cabinet heard the outcomes from the recent consultation to develop an alternative model for delivery of Childrens Centre and introduction of new Under 2 Provision supported by an increased number of Outreach workers.

All of these changes were needed to secure the future of these important services and make savings of £820,000.

Following consultation, in addition to the 'core' number of hubs a further 3 spoke provisions linked to Bury East, Prestwich and Radcliffe will be added.

Five of the remaining Childrens Centres will be converted to provide 2 year old nursery provision for those most deprived children.

Future Options – Social Care Provider

Members of the Cabinet heard the outcomes from the recent consultation to develop a new social care delivery model which would protect and ultimately enhance the range of services already available to service users. The Member led Task and Finish Group set up to determine the most appropriate model recommended the establishment of a Local Authority Trading Company.

A business plan for this delivery model will now be drawn up and presented to the Cabinet meeting in April.

Health and Safety Annual Report

The importance of Health and Safety for our employees, safe working practices and diligent reporting when things go wrong has always been of paramount importance.

Members of the Cabinet were pleased to receive the Annual Report which showed positive progress in both the reduction of accidents but also improved reporting and investigation of accidents. Prevention initiatives such as installation of Defibrillators in the Town Hall and Leisure Centres ensure that life saving is maximised.

I Will if You Will

Madam Mayor, I am pleased to announce that Sport England have agreed to extend the Bury Pilot Study for a further two years with £2m of funding to carry on the great work underway here in Bury on a high profile national programme.

This significant project has got more than 6,500 women and girls across Bury moving into some form of sport or leisure activity both formal and informal, to test out different ways of engaging women.

Local groups from sports providers, community groups, local businesses and volunteer champions have been mobilised to support the programme's diverse range of initiatives and in the process delivered nearly 25,000 activity sessions and awarded almost £35,000 of funding to local groups. Activities from aqua aerobics, belrobics and piloxing, to jog groups, swimming, netball and Zumba have been offered to women throughout Bury at venues across the Borough.

The latest phase of I Will If You Will comes as Sport England goes live with the new national campaign, 'This Girl Can', to tackle head on the barriers that stop millions of women from being more active.

This is a real vote of confidence for Bury in what it has achieved to date and I look forward to this project delivering even better results over the next couple of years.

I am sure Members will join with me in thanking everyone associated with the pilot scheme for their hard work and dedication in securing this extension.

ENDS

Community Safety Services

We all know about Community Safety but do we all know what an important and vital job they do in protecting our public buildings and schools? Day in and day out either within the control centre watching CCTV monitors or out patrolling they quietly go about their work.

And I was pleased to that recent the service successfully achieved ISO 9001 Certification and Accreditation.

This accreditation was necessary if the service to secure a licence from the Security Industry Authority Business Licensing which comes into force during 2015.

Achieving ISO 9001 acknowledges the work and systems of the service and will hopefully help to retain and attract further business growth as well as new opportunities for further development.

I am sure this Chamber will join me in saying well done to all the team.

Arts & Museums Accreditation

Madam Mayor I am pleased to advise Members that Bury Art Museum & Sculpture Centre has been awarded Full Accreditation status by Arts Council England.

The scheme sets nationally agreed standards for all museums in the UK.

To meet the requirements, museums and galleries have to demonstrate that they comply with standards relating to how they are governed and managed, how they provide services and facilities for users of, and visitors to any museums, and how they care for and manage their collections.

Arts Council Accreditation emphasises that the local community has a remarkable achievement on its doorstep while national and international visitors have an excellent arts venue to visit while staying in Bury.

I am sure all Members in the Chamber will join me in congratulating the Arts & Museums team and the rousing vote of confidence this gives to the way the arts are developing in Bury.

Fair Deal for Bury

Madam Mayor I wanted to finish my statement to Council by advising Members of my two telephone conference meetings with junior government ministers, no not with big Eric, I suspect he wouldn't want to lower himself to hear our pleas for a Fair Deal for Bury and similarly of course the deafening silence from our local Bury North MP who has kept a very low profile on this and other issues when lobbying on behalf of our Bury North residents, but we know that he has form on such matters.

So we prepared our arguments and made very pragmatic proposals to both Ministers, who were clearly 'on message' and after both calls it was clear that Bury would not, any time soon under this Coalition Government, be getting a Fair Deal on future funding formulas. And so the residents of Bury can rightly feel angry to see the leafy suburbs in Surrey and so on far better under the Coalition's formula funding than Authorities like Bury who are significantly and increasingly being marginalised. Never the less we will keep up the fight until we get that Fair Deal for Bury.

Madam Mayor, that concludes my statement.

End

Council Meeting – 28 January 2015

Questions:-

The Leader of the Council

1. Councillor John Smith

Please will the Leader update Council on the Government's response to Bury's fight for improvements to the funding formula so that the people of Bury get a Fair Deal?

A. The short and simple answer to the question is that the Government's response to Bury's plea, and to the practical suggestions that we made for changing the formulae was a resounding and emphatic NO.

I wrote to my friend 'yours ever Eric' last year asking for a meeting to outline our problems and his answer was NO.

A request for a meeting with Kris Hopkins the local government minister was met with a NO.

I took part in a teleconference with Mr Hopkins and asked him if he would review the funding system to help authorities like Bury get a fairer deal and his answer was NO.

And then I had a conference call with the delightful Penny Mordaunt, the junior minister for coastal communities. Despite promising that she was in 'listening mode', when we made a simple observation about the use of benefit claimant numbers within the system and asked that it be reviewed we were told....NO

Bury is faced with crippling and unfair cuts to its funding and if the Conservatives have their way then public services in Bury will be lucky to stay at the level they were in the 1920s let alone the 1930s and the response we have had to our fight for a Fair Deal, and the resounding NOs that we have received, shows that this Government simply doesn't care.

2. Councillor Parnell

Last year the Council committed to invest £1 million to part fund a new bus station in Radcliffe Town Centre. Please will the Leader advise us how the scheme is progressing and what can we expect from this new facility?

A. Members will be aware that the Council is working in partnership with Transport for Greater Manchester to create a new bus station fit for the 21st century in the centre of Radcliffe.

The new development, anticipated to cost in the region of £2 million, is now the subject of a planning application, which has been submitted earlier this month. The scheme provides for a wholly new station, incorporating purpose built bus shelters which will provide live travel

information and CCTV coverage. They will be enclosed by glazed walling to provide both a high degree of weather protection and security for passengers.

Work on the new station is to start in late March and the facility will be completed by November this year.

The new bus station is the second of three major projects to be delivered by the Council in Radcliffe Town Centre. The third phase will see the old bus station site and existing unsurfaced car park being developed as a retail led scheme, designed to 'knit' the town centre together by linking the existing Radcliffe Piazza, the newly refurbished market and the Asda store across Pilkington Way.

3. Councillor O'Brien

Can the leader of the Council provide us with an update on the state of the Local Welfare Assistance Fund?

A. In April 2013 the Government localised down to Councils parts of what was known as the DWP Social Fund whilst shamefully cutting the funding by 50%. Councils were required to design their own schemes and following widespread consultation the Bury Support Fund was established locally which focuses on resettlement assistance and crisis support.

The overarching approach of the Scheme is aimed at not only alleviating immediate need but also providing financial advice to customers in order to maximise their incomes and provide a better solution to debt/financial problems and thereby reduce reliance on such short-term awards.

At the time Bury received an allocation of £571,000 for each of the years 2013/14 and 2014/15 and between April 2013 and December 2014 the Scheme has made 1,309 payments. The Fund has proved to be a valuable safety net for vulnerable and often desperate people and along with other initiatives such as the establishment of the local Credit Union it has helped to prevent people in crisis turning to other measures such as door step lenders.

Even more shamefully the Government announced last year that from April 2015 it was withdrawing all funding for local schemes. This means that the Council has an extremely difficult decision to make regarding the local Scheme. However, as Members would expect, we have planned ahead for this contingency and it is our intention to continue with the Fund for as long as possible. I will be bringing a report to Cabinet on 4 March setting out options for reshaping the Fund so that it can focus it's support in areas where this is most needed.

4. Councillor Walker

Can we be advised of the cost to the taxpayer (whether local expenditure or grant aid) of the displays on television screens situated on the floor next to the broken aeroplane in the Sculpture Centre which has replaced two thirds of Bury Central Library?

A. The TV monitors cost nothing - all donated or loaned to us.

5. Councillor Haroon

Given we are less than 4 months from the next Local and General Elections, can the Leader tell us what the latest figures are for people registered to vote?

A. When the latest register was published on 1st of December 2014 there were 142,689 people registered to vote which is approximately 2,600 less than at the same time in the previous year. The reduction appears to be due to deletions from the register resulting from non-response over the past 2 years to the Individual Electoral Registration process.

I would urge everyone who is eligible to vote to make sure that they are registered. In addition the Council has put a number of proactive measures in place to encourage people to register.

6. Councillor Quinn

The three weekly bin collection scheme has been very well received. However, one of the main complaints that come from the general public is with regard to the amount of excess packaging that we, as consumers, have to buy when we use supermarkets. What can be done to reduce this, and how can we send a strong message out to supermarkets that this is not acceptable?

A. The Council continues to promote the reduction of waste including where waste is generated by buying items with too much packaging. Useful advice is provided on the Councils web site. Examples of avoiding such packaging include buying fruit and vegetables loose, buying concentrated products that use less packaging, using re-usable carrier bags and buying products that are refillable. The Council works in partnership with the GMWDA who in turn work with WRAP to promote reduced packaging with retailers. This has been ongoing since 2005 through voluntary agreement with retailers.

An example is the Cooperative group who have investigated the use of compostable carrier bags with the potential to roll this out across Greater Manchester.

7. Councillor Quinn

In 2010 the Tories promised us that the maternity wing at Fairfield was safe. It is now closed. Does this show that the coalition cannot be trusted with the NHS?

A. Cllr Quinn won't be surprised to hear that my answer is very simple and to the point. No, the coalition cannot be trusted with the NHS and it is most definitely not safe in their hands.

The decision to close the maternity wing at Fairfield Hospital was a monstrous betrayal, a betrayal of patients and voters. We were promised that the maternity wing at Fairfield would be protected and it wasn't. The people of Bury were misled.

And that isn't the only reason why the NHS isn't safe in their hands. We only have to look at the reality of life in the NHS today. Despite the best efforts of the amazing people who work in the NHS nearly half of the patient guarantees in the NHS Constitution have now been broken – from the right to start your cancer treatment within two months to the right to get your operation within 18 weeks.

A&E targets are being broken daily, people are queuing round the block to see a GP, staff are over-worked, services are being privatised, jobs are being lost and moral is at rock bottom..no the coalition cannot be trusted with our wonderful NHS.

8. Councillor Wright

With Dog Waste Bins in demand and costing the Council £550 each, does the Leader agree with me that another less expensive supplier should be found as soon as possible, preferably a local engineering company?

A. When ordering dog bins we will always consider value for money. We use both a local fabricating company within the borough and a national supplier dependent upon design and timeframe. The cost of a dog bin is in the region of £180 plus installation. The cost of £550 provided to Cllr Wright was incorrect and we have not ordered any dog bins at this cost. Over the past 2 years when dog bins have become damaged, the in-house response team have also been carrying out repairs in order to keep the cost to a minimum.

9. Councillor Tim Pickstone

The Leader will be aware of the Ofsted Report: "The sexual exploitation of children: it couldn't happen here, could it?" which raises significant concerns, in the eight authorities inspected, of local government failing to adequately address issues of child sexual exploitation. Have the recommendations been considered at a senior level in Bury and are there actions which need to be undertaken in the light of the report?

A. The Local Authority and its partners have noted the recommendations of the Ofsted report The sexual exploitation of children: it couldn't happen here, could it? and are in the process of revising the action plan that will deliver the outcomes detailed in the updated Bury CSE Strategy.

The strategy is a refresh of the document that has been guiding the work for the past two years in Bury; it has been revised and updated, not only in line with the Ofsted report but also with other work in this area, most notably the report of the Children's Commissioner If only someone had listened and the recent report for the Police & Crime Commissioner by Anne Coffey Real Voices – CSE in Greater Manchester

(to which Bury Safeguarding Children Board made a significant contribution). The approach taken in Bury over the last two years has significantly raised the profile of CSE amongst those working directly with children and young people in Bury and has provided an easily accessible pathway through SEAM (Sexual Exploitation & Missing group) for raising concerns, getting advice and making referrals. The resulting partnership work is strong and from this the Phoenix Team has been developed. This team brings together police, social workers, substance misuse workers and other colleagues in a dedicated CSE team that co-ordinates its work with other Phoenix Teams across Greater Manchester.

10. Councillor Haroon

Can the Leader tell me about the role of ambassadors in adult safeguarding?

A. The development and introduction of Ambassadors will ensure we have a dedicated cohort of volunteers. The Ambassadors will proactively promote awareness of adult abuse within Bury and who will participate in the identification and prevention of adult abuse.

To do this Ambassadors will provide additional eyes and ears; be a single point of contact; increase the knowledge around adult abuse and how to report it within their organisation/community; circulate including directly identifying and reporting abuse.

11. Councillor Carter

Can the Leader explain why there is no longer a cafe provision in Bury Art Gallery?

A. Barney's cafe was being run successfully as a private enterprise and was proving to be increasingly popular. Sadly the cafe became a focus of political attention in the wake of the changes to the library, which placed a huge amount of stress on the cafe operator, and has subsequently had a serious effect on her health. Following a series of unfounded comments made in this chamber, as well as comments online, she decided that she would withdraw from the cafe in January. She felt that her presence was being used to unfairly target her partner, the head of Museums and Galleries, by inferring that the council's tendering process had been undertaken improperly. An accusation strongly denied by both myself and the Director responsible. Not surprisingly I have yet to receive any evidence to support the inference.

We are now looking to rent out the Gallery space to another cafe provider and are in the process of arranging this with the support of the Council's procurement department, as indeed we did last time. In the meantime there is no cafe provision in the Gallery, and won't be for some time,

which is causing its own problems. This week alone we have lost a coach party visit because there is currently no cafe facility, and I anticipate more visits will be lost because of it.

I would like to congratulate the gallery and museum staff on recently being awarded Museum Accreditation from the Arts Council, which is a great achievement, sadly one of the criteria on which that was judged was the provision of cafe facility, which we currently do not have.

12. Councillor O'Brien

In light of the recent cold weather can the leader of the Council provide information on the borough's homeless provisions?

A. Our aim is to ensure that no one has to sleep rough on the streets of Bury. To this end our homeless service operates 24/7, 365 days per year so that anyone identified as a rough sleeper will not spend a second night out on the street. During the winter months when it is cold for three consecutive nights we have additional provision, working in partnership with a local church to provide rough sleepers with shelter and a bed for those nights.

This is part of a suite of services designed to discharge the Council's homeless duty. It includes commissioning Calico – a voluntary sector organisation – to provide a rapid response to rough sleepers to:

- Enable a single offer of support based on each individual's needs**
- Help rough sleepers to access a place of safety, where they can get the support they need**
- Reconnect rough sleepers from outside the area with their community.**

In November, the Council with our partners undertook a rough sleepers' count with staff and volunteers visiting hot spots in the Borough. No rough sleepers (that is people bedded down according to Government guidance) were identified. A street needs audit will be undertaken later this year to identify any rough sleepers in the Borough that do not bed down for the night.

I can assure Members that all homeless people including rough sleepers can access support from the Town Hall. Services in this area have improved significantly in recent years with homeless preventions more than three times the level they were in 2011/12. A number of innovations such as the HEN Project for single homeless are making a

difference to people's lives and helping them on a journey to a stable home life, employment and training. I am delighted to say that:

- Over fifty people have gained employment since the Project started in 2013;
- Former entrenched rough sleepers are now managing tenancies; and
- The structured approach to life skills is rebuilding confidence among these individuals.

These services are a credit to Bury and I am also proud that we have been able to find a way of continuing to fund these services to an extremely vulnerable group for at least another year despite the cuts we are having to make across the board.

13. Councillor Bevan

Can the Leader of the Council update Members on how the Council's Winter Service is coping with the recent winter weather, particularly in the north of the Borough?

A. Bury Council has a well developed Winter Plan, which is published each year identifying how the service works, gritting routes and how the gritting service is activated.

Activation is triggered following scrutiny of weather forecast and ground and air temperatures. All elements of the gritting service were activated as usual and in line with operational protocols. Interruptions to the service are always notified via our Facebook and Twitter feeds. One aspect of this service is proving responses over the week-end and I have asked the Chief Executive to look at a way of ensuring any necessary updates are issued over that period.

Laying down grit will always be dependent on weather conditions, and in the main the service is going according to plan. As far as the north of the Borough is concerned the gritting service has and continues to be activated in the same way as it is for all areas.

14. Councillor FitzGerald

Following the recent announcement that Castle Leisure Centre is to remain in its current location, could the Leader advise us how the demolition of the former Police Headquarters on Irwell Street is progressing?

A. The Council has now completed the procurement process for a contractor to undertake the demolition of the former Police headquarters and has appointed Masterton Demolition to undertake this work. The contract is due to commence within the coming month

and, owing to the complex nature of the buildings concerned, is projected to take up to 20 weeks to complete.

The contractor is very aware of the potential for disturbance to local householders in carrying out the works and the need to minimise the impact of issues such as noise, dust, vibration and traffic. Consequently, a briefing letter was sent to the local residents in early December, advising of the demolition and the measures to be adopted to reduce any disruption. A follow up, containing details of the exact timing of the various works, will be issued shortly, once matters are finalised with the contractor.

The Council remains committed to redeveloping the area between Bolton Street and Jubilee Way and is currently reviewing a number of redevelopment options for the site of the former Police headquarters. Needless to say, we will consult widely on any proposals once their viability has been established.

15. Councillor Holt

Can the Leader explain why the Council is investing in improvements to the Council's website and also update us on the progress with this work?

A. The Council recognises that digital services will be a key element of the transformation that we need to undertake in order to provide good quality services whilst tackling the vicious cuts imposed on us by the Government. We also recognise that local government has a role in allowing people to move with the times and digital services form a big part of a mixed model that will allow us to continue to deliver vital services and at the same time help our citizens to help themselves.

We currently have over 16,000 web transactions a year and we are aiming to double that in the coming year. We know that in order to do this we need to completely revamp the web-site to make it more transactional and also to make it easier to use on mobile devices such as phones and tablets. We have tendered for a redesign of the site and a supplier will be appointed within the coming week. The new site will be live by June 2015.

16. Councillor Gartside

Can the Leader or Cabinet Member responsible, outline what criteria will be used in the allocation of the extra £10,638,000 for Bury which was announced last month from the Government to repair pot-holes over the next 6 years?

A. The first thing I need to do is to correct the inaccuracies in Councillor Gartside's question. Firstly this is not new or extra money at all, it is simply an indication of what the Government currently intends to give to the Council in future years as its share of national capital maintenance funding. Nor is it purely to repair potholes, it is money for all major highways maintenance works.

Bury's share of this indicative funding is £10.638 million over six years.

For 2015/16 our allocation is £2.038 million.

For 2016/17 £1.868 million.

For 2017/18 £1.812 million.

And for the following three years an indicative amount of £1.640 million per annum.

This allocation compares to a figure for the preceding six year period (2009/10 to 2014/15), of £12.419 million for Capital Highways Maintenance funding and so the latest announcement is not good news, it is actually a cut of nearly 15%.

To make matters worse, the Government advised at the same time that the allocations no longer make provision for resilience contingency funding and this will now have to be met from within mainstream allocations.

As in previous years, the initial selection of sites to be dealt with from our funding allocation will primarily be data led, using outputs from UKPMS (UK Pavement Management System) which is the national standard for management systems for the assessment of local road network condition and for the planning of investment and maintenance. This process identifies locations for consideration; actual scheme confirmation and methodology will require a degree of engineering judgment which will be exercised by staff who have considerable experience in this area.

In order to promote economic growth, the primary focus of the investment will be on the major roads, although some element of the Capital funding will be made available for the local road network.

17. Councillor Kerrison

The Government's failed and inequitable economic policies mean that personal debt in the UK has soared to its highest level in six years and more than one in eight people are struggling to make ends meet. Can the Leader say what the Council is doing to help people affected by such debt?

A. The Council is acutely aware of the appalling impact of the coalition's policies on our residents and in fact the Council has established a Welfare Reform Board that has developed a true partnership approach towards mitigating the draconian effects of the Government's welfare cuts and the subsequent debt problems these cuts have caused.

The scale of the issue is so great that the Council has developed a Poverty Strategy to help to coordinate our efforts, and those of our partners, to make sure we can give the best possible help and advice to those that need it. As part of this, the Board has worked proactively with Porch Box and others to help address the issue of Bury residents who are experiencing food poverty.

We have implemented a Corporate Debt Policy which underpins our approach to debt collection, and makes clear that we will be both firm and fair with people struggling with debts whilst ensuring that the various bodies who may be collecting debt from the same customer will work together to ensure individual customers facing more than one debt will have their situation considered as a whole.

Importantly, the Policy is underpinned by pro-active signposting to debt agencies including CAB and Stepchange and between them the Council and Six Town Housing fund two dedicated CAB workers to assist customers with more advanced needs.

We are now working on a debt strategy that will provide information to all staff employed by the Council, Six Town Housing and schools who have any contact with customers on how to recognise customers who they may find have debt problems and how to actively assist them to get help. This information will also shortly be issued to Members.

18. Councillor Daisy Bailey

Can The Leader provide reassurances that Council will be working with Ainsworth nursing home to ensure quality and safety of care following CQC concerns?

A. Bury council has already been working closely with Ainsworth nursing home to improve standards following concerns identified by the Council and CQC.

The provider is working to a Quality Assurance action plan that is being monitored regularly by Council staff, who are visiting the home regularly to check on the welfare of residents. Council staff are providing ongoing support to the manager and owner of the home. A recent visit by a Quality Assurance Officer on 14th January identified that progress was being made. Admissions to the home have been suspended to enable the home to focus on improving standards. This is in line with Council procedures. Safeguarding alerts have been raised and the Council is investigating these. The Council are satisfied that the home is providing safe care but will continue to monitor them closely.

19. Councillor Jones

Despite the Government's promise to reduce red tape, the Council has been forced to wrestle with new rules governing electronic communication with Whitehall. Can the Leader therefore tell us whether we have complied with the new rules satisfactorily?

A. The simple answer is yes we have.

Despite the fact that the Cabinet Office unilaterally increased the security requirements, despite the unhelpful threats that were made to local authorities whilst they attempted to comply with the new rules and despite the fact that the Government refused to provide any financial support I can assure members that Bury has fully complied with the Code.

In fact we were one of the first authorities to be subjected to the new requirements and the superb work that our ICT team has done has been of great assistance to other Councils.

20. Councillor Frith

Can the Leader update me and parents of children with special needs on the issues of home to school travel escorts please and what more can be done to ensure no child has to stay off school simply because of their disability and a lack of transport for them?

A. There will be, on some occasions, an impact on the service. In those circumstances staff monitor which schedules have been cancelled previously and ensuring the same children and young people are not always affected. Where there are occasions that for one journey in the day there is no escort available staff will arrange transport for the other journey if parents are able to take or collect their child for the cancelled journey. However, we are working hard to improve the situation. This includes:

- **An active recruitment campaign;**
- **Speeding up the DBS checks by using the on-line DBS checking facility**
- **Vehicle contractors are providing drivers who are DBS checked to act as escorts where they have availability to do so**
- **Elms Bank Specialist Arts College have provided staff to act as escorts, other schools have been also requested to assist**

21. Councillor Bury

Following the recent major investment in Radcliffe Market, what benefits have been brought to Radcliffe and how will the regeneration programme be sustained?

A. The refurbishment of the market is a key element of the development of Radcliffe Town centre and is an indication of this administrations ongoing commitment to invest in Radcliffe. The successful launch of the revamped market brought an immediate lift to Radcliffe and coincided with the Christmas Light Switch on which attracted fantastic support from local residents.

The market itself has a fresh feel brought about by a prominent feature window overlooking the river, better lighting, inviting new entrances and a new public toilet block. A tender for a new cafe is currently ongoing, and more prominent signage will be fitted shortly. The market has been well received by customers and traders alike with the latter reporting a vast improvement in repeat customer business.

22. Councillor Caserta

Can the Leader advise us of the general situation of our home to school transport for our SEN children within the Borough?

A. The Council is working towards a more varied offer of assistance with travel for children and young people in response to the Children and Families Act and the local SEND review.

Travel Pass

All children and young people in Bury who have an Education Health and Care Plan or a Statement of Special Educational Needs can apply for a Transport for Greater Manchester travel pass. This provides free travel within Greater Manchester 24 hours a day 7 days per week on buses, trains and trams.

Independent Travel training -there are three programmes on offer

- **The Visually Impaired team are delivering specialised training to pupils attending mainstream schools**
- **Elms Bank Specialist Arts College have developed a team within their staff to deliver independent travel training to their pupils**
- **Pure Innovations – the Council have a contract in place with Pure until February 2016 to train young people to travel independently.**

Reimbursements

We are able to offer parents reimbursements for their mileage if their child meets criteria for assistance with travel and they chose to take them to school themselves

Dedicated home to school and college transport

Currently we are providing transport to

- **375 Pupils to school**
- **24 Students to college**

Independent schools

We currently have four independent schools providing transport to 55 pupils as part of the educational package.

Transport Contract

The current contract will be renewed for September 2015. Retendering the contract will provide an opportunity to reroute the schedules ensuring that pupils located within the same area are taken to school on the same vehicle to provide efficiency savings. Tendering will also provide an opportunity for new contractors to be accepted onto the framework and increase competition which could result in savings in the cost of transport.

Tripartite working

Using an external organisation to facilitate we will be working with Rochdale and Oldham Councils over the next twelve months to explore efficiencies of working across three local authorities.

23. Councillor Mallon

Will the Leader give this Council an update on the recent Peer Review that was undertaken on the workings of the Planning Control Committee?

A. I am delighted, but not surprised, that the peer reviewers found that the Committee, and the Development Control service as a whole, works extremely well and is something that the Council can be proud of.

This is demonstrated by a quote from the reviewer which says 'Our observations are that the PCC in Bury is working very well and members and officers should be proud of what they have done to establish a system so well regarded by customers and colleagues. Members go to great lengths to be aware of the importance of planning procedures and are served by officers who are trusted and who are supportive. The planning papers are read carefully by members who are forthright but reasonable in expressing their views.'

Planning is an extremely emotive subject and I hope that all members of the Council will join me in thanking, and congratulating, the members and staff who do such a great job on our behalf.

24. Councillor Whitby

Can the Leader inform this Council what has been achieved across the Borough to help reduce Youth Unemployment?

A. We all understand and agree that high levels of youth unemployment can have a detrimental effect on the economy but, more importantly, it can damage a young person's future life chances.

This administration has no intention of letting this Government's economic policies cause our young people to become a lost generation

whose aspirations are thwarted by a lack of opportunity to move forward in their working lives.

This is why we launched our nationally acclaimed Backing Young Bury campaign in January 2012 and since then we have been working tirelessly as a Council and with our partners to tackle youth unemployment. Within the Council we have adapted our own recruitment practices to ensure that we are not excluding those young people who may need a helping hand to get their working lives started.

As a result of these efforts I am proud that we have seen an annual decrease of 57.7% in the number of 16 – 24 year olds claiming Job Seekers Allowance and the even better news is that youth unemployment rate is reducing across all our townships.

We have also secured City Deal funds which have allowed us to develop a comprehensive menu of activity to our family of secondary schools and this has resulted in unprecedented engagement, with all our schools engaging in one activity or more.

25. Councillor Walker

Given the proposed axing of popular late night weekend bus services returning to Bury from Manchester's "night time economy", the continuing loss of tram services stopping at Manchester Victoria and Piccadilly, the 98 buses from Manchester taking several hours to get through to Bury, the road works undertaken in parallel on several major roads in Bury causing long traffic jams reminiscent of "The Italian Job" meaning it can take almost an hour to travel just over 2 miles to access the Motorway - can we be assured that Bury will be part of the "Northern Powerhouse"

A. In overall terms Cllr Walker makes a strong case for Devolution, even though at a previous Council meeting Cllr Walker and Members of the Conservative Group voted against Devolution thus ignoring the chance to develop a 'Northern Powerhouse' from which all Districts including Bury would benefit from.

As far as buses are concerned the Combined Authority, under devolution plans, will see the control of buses transfer to this body which brings to an end the shambolic deregulation of buses, so loved by the Conservatives. Once that process has been achieved the bus and road network will benefit from regional and sub regional strategies that knit together to support the CAs growth and reform plans to create levels of inward investment, bringing thousands of new jobs and where people can travel more easily across the City Region.

26. Councillor Bevan

How can Bury Council be committed to recycling when waste placed in recycling bins in our town centres is currently going into landfill?

A. Councillor Bevan's question gives a completely inaccurate impression because the fact is that recyclable material collected from recycling bins in the town centres is always sent for recycling. The Council has installed about 90 recycling bins across the borough, mostly in the town centres. This is to encourage people to recycle on-the-go. These larger recycling bins hold three separate bags for collecting the separate waste streams. The bags will be transported in one electric or cage vehicle with the waste streams being separated before going for recycling or disposal. Councillor Bevan will also be aware that the mini recycling centre in Ramsbottom was recently removed. This was because every household now has access to the full range of kerbside recycling service and most of the problems on site were caused by trades disposing commercial waste.

27. Councillor Matt Bailey

In light of the very welcome decision to reverse the proposed closure of Stepping Stones Children Centre in Radcliffe, will The Leader reassure the hundreds of residents, parents and service users that their excellent campaign has resulted in more than just a short term change to the configuration of these sites?

A. I too was very impressed by the range and quality of ideas that we received during the Children Centre consultation and we were pleased to be able to respond to the proposals that came from the Radcliffe community. I can assure Cllr Matt Bailey that the arrangements we will be making to develop a spoke Children's Centre provision at Stepping Stones will be sustainable with the support of the partners who at present we work with in that community.

28. Councillor Gartside

According to recent statistics from the "Big Brother Watch" campaign, Bury Council employs some 50 staff with powers to enter Bury resident's homes. Can the relevant cabinet member confirm this is the correct and under what acts of parliament they have used these powers over the last few years?

A. The Council does not employ 50 staff to enter people's homes, rather it has authorised that number of existing staff to exercise these powers in respect of services and duties that the Council is required to undertake. The Parliamentary Acts that provide these powers are the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the Building Act 1984. Our officers visit thousands of homes each year and in the vast majority of cases residents allow officers to enter their properties to carry out lawful investigations. Where permission is

refused then before entering properties officers will apply to the Magistrates Court to obtain a warrant which will only be granted where the justices find that the Council has sufficient grounds and evidence. Over the last five years it has been necessary to use these powers to require access to domestic premises on just five occasions. An example of this was where Police officers accompanied Building Control Officers to help them enter a dangerous apartment following fire damage caused by the apartment being used as a cannabis factory, which is why it is assumed that the owner originally refused access.

29. Councillor Pickstone

Could the Leader inform members of the take-up of free lunches for infant children across the Borough? How many children have benefitted from the service and how much money will have been received by Bury schools for free lunches in the current academic year?

A. Based on the October 2014 pupil census the number of infant children 'newly eligible' and taking up a free meal and benefitting under the Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) initiative is over 4,800 infant pupils. The indicative funding for Bury's schools eligible for UIFSM grant for this current Academic year is £2.2million. It should be noted that the final figures for take-up and grant funding will be based on the average of the October 2014 and January 2015 pupil censuses, the data for the January 2015 census is currently being collated and validated. A further update may be provided once the January 2015 pupil census data is available for analysis.

JOINT AUTHORITIES – POLICE AND CRIME PANEL**COUNCIL, 28 January 2015.**

Madam Mayor

I am pleased to give an update from the GM Police and Crime Panel meetings held on 29 August and 28 November 2014.

The meetings have helped shape the refresh of the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Plan 2013 – 2016. A number of adjustments have been made to the Plan following a consultation exercise. This includes contributions from Bury's Community Safety Partnership. There are strong links between the content of the Greater Manchester Plan and our own Community Safety priorities. This puts us in a good position to harness opportunities to work jointly with the Police and Crime Commissioner, as well as maximising potential funding opportunities.

Other items shared at the meetings include the outcome of a recruitment exercise for the position of Chief Executive within the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Adam Allen brings with him over eighteen years experience working in local government, 10 of these as Assistant Executive Director in charge of community services at Tameside.

We also considered an Annual report of business outlining progress towards delivery of the Police and Crime Plan and the activities of his office.

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Council Meeting – 28 January 2015

Joint Authority Questions:-

1. Councillor Pickstone

Could the Authority's spokesperson on the Transport for Greater Manchester Committee outline what consideration could be given to restoring a bus service on Heywood Old Road (Middleton Road to Ellis Lane)? Members will be aware that this area of the Borough is without any scheduled public transport access, despite having very unfavourable geography for walking, and a population which includes many elderly residents.

(To be answered by Councillor Noel Bayley – Committee for Transport for Greater Manchester Transport representative)

A. Due to ongoing budgetary pressures, Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) must reduce its expenditure on supported bus services by £7.1 million up to the end of 2015/16, which equates to approximately 20% of the previous level of expenditure. As a result, significant reductions are being made to our existing network of supported bus services and there is no funding available to provide replacement services when they are withdrawn without affecting existing other bus service provision.

As a result of this, there are no plans to reinstate a bus service to Heywood Old Road between Middleton Road and Ellis Lane to replace the commercial service 167 Norden to Manchester which was withdrawn in 2012.

Heywood local link covers the surrounding areas and operates Monday to Friday 0530 – 2300 hours and Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays between 0900 and 1700 hours which provides a door to door service.

2. Councillor Pickstone

Could the Authority's spokesperson on Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority please inform members what the estimated amount of plastic (all types of plastic) which is in the residual waste stream in the GMWDA area. What is this compared to the amount of plastic that is in the recyclables stream (e.g. Bury's Blue Bin). How have these figures changed in recent years?

(To be answered by Councillor Cummings – Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority representative)

A. GMWDA undertook a Greater Manchester wide waste composition analysis in 2011. This involved analysis of statistically valid samples of the four kerbside collected waste streams ie residual, commingled dry recyclables, pulpables and mixed food and garden waste to determine the % by weight composition of major material categories. This showed that c. 74% of the materials collected across those 4 streams was potentially recyclable or compostable.

In relation to plastics the 2011 waste composition analysis separated out plastic bottles, other dense plastics and plastic films. At a Greater Manchester level, this showed that these materials made up c. 15.4% of the residual waste stream. In 2011, kerbside collected residual waste was c. 514,000 tonnes, thereby giving a total of c. 79,000 tonnes of plastics in the residual waste stream. The analysis for Bury showed that plastics made up c. 12.5% of the residual waste stream at that time, equating to c. 6,100 tonnes of plastics in the Bury residual waste stream.

The analysis also looked the level of plastics in the commingled dry recyclables stream. In 2011, c. 6,855 tonnes of Commingled materials were collected in Bury of which c. 1,500 tonnes were estimated to be plastics based on the composition analysis, the majority being plastic bottles.

Using analysis undertaken on the commingled materials stream at our Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) where the recyclable materials are separated shows an estimated figure of around 1,600 tonnes of plastics being collected for recycling in Bury in 2012 and around 1,250 tonnes in 2013. The overall tonnage of

commingled recyclables collected in both years was around 7,800 tonnes. The variations in the quantity of plastics captured in each year is linked to changes in packaging with a move towards lighter weight plastic products and pouches as well as the economic downturn in this period affecting consumer habits. Therefore despite increased capture of recyclables by the Council, the level of plastic captured does not show a corresponding increase.

Plastic bottles are specifically targeted in the Greater Manchester kerbside collections as there are sustainable markets for these materials. Other dense plastics such as yoghurt pots, tubs and trays do not have sustainable end markets and demand for these materials from reproprocessors is low/non existent. Therefore these materials remain in the residual waste stream and are converted to refuse derived fuel and used for energy and steam generation for industrial use.

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Agenda Item	
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DECISION OF:	COUNCIL
DATE:	28 JANUARY 2015
SUBJECT:	THE GREATER MANCHESTER SPATIAL STRATEGY
REPORT FROM:	COUNCILLOR SANDRA WALMSLEY CABINET MEMBER – RESOURCES AND REGULATION
CONTACT OFFICER:	DAVID WIGGINS – PRINCIPAL OFFICER: DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
TYPE OF DECISION:	COUNCIL
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:	This paper is within the public domain
SUMMARY:	<p>On 29 August 2014, the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) Executive Board agreed to the preparation of a the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) as a statutory joint Development Plan Document (DPD) that would principally seek to identify future housing numbers and employment floorspace requirements and associated infrastructure for each district within Greater Manchester.</p> <p>On 28 November 2014, a joint meeting of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and the AGMA Executive Board agreed to the necessary measures and actions to be undertaken by each GM district in order to formally approve the preparation of the GMSF as a statutory DPD and subsequently take the document forward to adoption.</p>
RECOMMENDED OPTION	<p>That Members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Approve the making of an agreement with the other nine Greater Manchester councils to prepare jointly the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework to cover housing and employment land requirements and associated infrastructure across Greater Manchester as a joint development plan document on terms to

	<p>be approved by the Council;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2) Note that the Council's Cabinet will be asked to delegate the preparation of the GMSF to the AGMA Executive Board; 3) Note that there will be further reports to full Council in respect of matters within the remit of full Council, including the approval of the GMSF; and 4) Approve an amendment to paragraph 13.2 of Schedule 1 to the AGMA Constitution by deleting '(initially in terms of Waste and Minerals planning)' and authorise an update to the AGMA Constitution to reflect this. <p>Members are requested to note that Cabinet will subsequently be asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Note that full Council has approved the making of an agreement to jointly prepare the GMSF as a DPD with the other nine Greater Manchester Councils; 2) Delegate the formulating and preparation of the GMSF to the AGMA Executive Board; 3) Note that there will be further reports to full Council in respect of matters within the remit of the full Council, including the approval of the GMSF; and 4) Approve an amendment to paragraph 13.2 of Schedule 1 to the AGMA Constitution by deleting '(initially in terms of Waste and Minerals planning)' and authorise an update to the AGMA Constitution to reflect this. <p>Reason To ensure that Greater Manchester's aspirations for growth are formally supported by a statutory Development Plan Document and to address the policy void that has arisen from the revocation of the North West Regional Spatial Strategy in providing a framework within which districts can prepare their own Local Plans.</p>
IMPLICATIONS:	
Corporate Framework:	Aims/Policy Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes
Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:	<p>Any costs arising from the production of the Strategy must be met from existing resources.</p> <p>Ultimately, there will be financial implications in that the Strategy will determine land use –</p>

	potentially generating either Council Tax, or Business Rates.
Statement by Executive Director of Resources:	The continuing work involved in progressing the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework will require significant commitment of staff resources from the Strategic Planning and Economic Development Section. These resource implications are particularly significant given that these staff will also be committed to progressing Bury's own Local Plan alongside the Greater Manchester plan.
Equality/Diversity implications:	No An initial screening has been undertaken (see attached assessment) and as there were no negative impacts identified for affected groups, there is no requirement to proceed to a Full Impact Assessment.
Considered by Monitoring Officer:	Yes JH Any subsequent Development Plan will have to be approved by the Council as part of the Policy Framework (unless there is a legislative change).
Wards Affected:	All
Scrutiny Interest:	

TRACKING/PROCESS**DIRECTOR: Mike Owen – Res & Reg**

Chief Executive/ Strategic Leadership Team	Executive Member/Chair	Ward Members	Partners
	15/1/15		
Scrutiny Committee	Committee	Council	
		28/1/15	

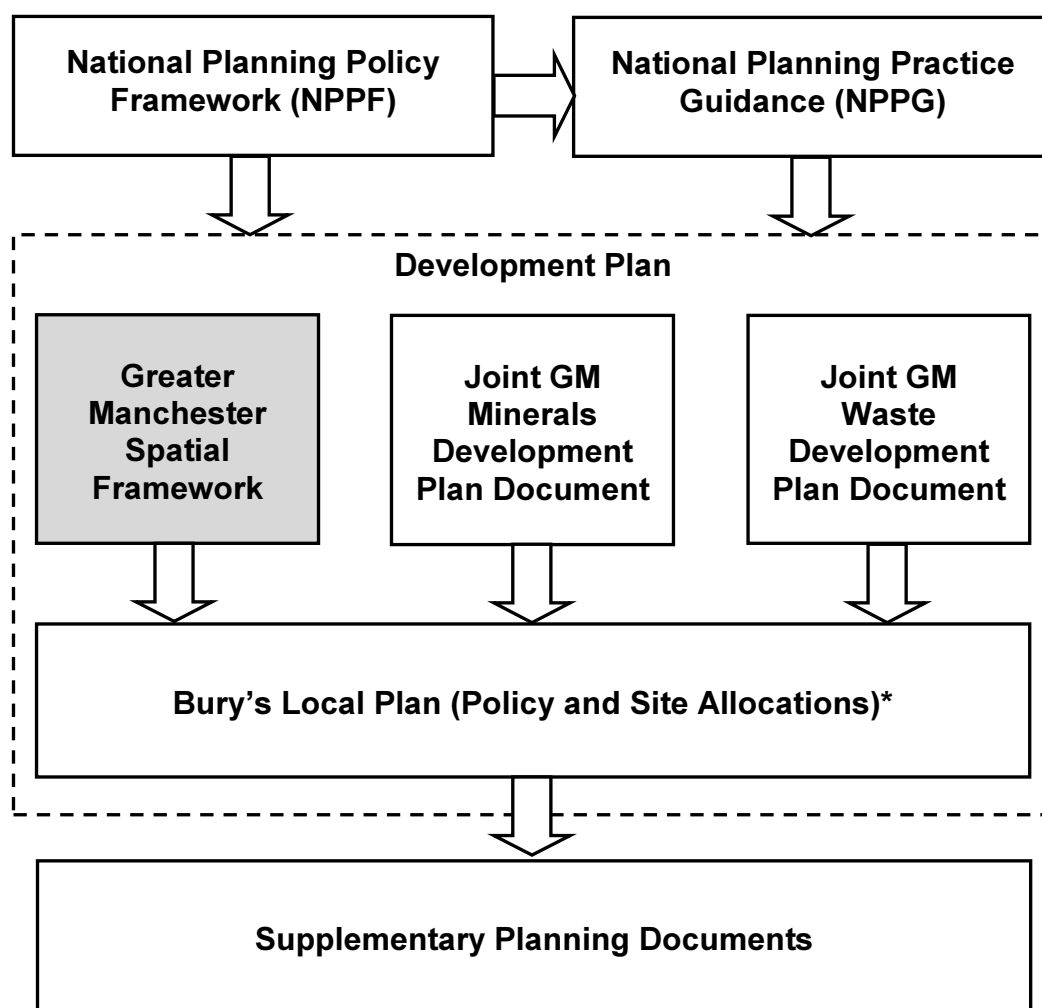
1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Since January 2014, work has been undertaken to gather evidence in support of the preparation of a Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF).

- 1.2 In terms of the scope of the GMSF discussions with district officers, and responses to the recent consultation on the GMSF's technical evidence in September/November 2014, have led to the GMSF being progressed on the basis that it will set out a long term spatial vision for Greater Manchester. Principally, this would identify the housing numbers and employment floorspace needs and associated infrastructure requirements over the next 20 years or so as well as identifying the key broad opportunity areas where this growth should be focused.
- 1.3 In terms of infrastructure, the GMSF would focus on identifying the broad location of strategically significant schemes required to deliver the overall scale and distribution of development, with districts' Local Plans then providing more detail on the delivery of those schemes as well as identifying other, locally important infrastructure requirements.
- 1.4 The original intention was for the GMSF to be an informal, evidence-based document. However, on 29 August 2014, the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) Executive Board agreed that the GMSF should be jointly prepared by the ten districts as a formal Development Plan Document (DPD) in order to maximise its weight in providing a statutory framework to support and strategically manage sub-regional growth aspirations.
- 1.5 On 28 November 2014, a joint meeting of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and the AGMA Executive Board agreed to the necessary measures and actions to be undertaken by each Greater Manchester district in order to formally approve the preparation of the GMSF as a statutory DPD and subsequently take the document forward to adoption. This report on the necessary measures is annexed to this report for information.

Planning Policy Context

- 1.6 Effectively, the preparation of the GMSF as a DPD would, to a large extent, address the policy void that has arisen from the revocation of the North West Regional Spatial Strategy and would, in the same way as the joint Minerals and Waste DPDs, form part of Bury's overall Development Plan. The role of the GMSF within the wider planning policy context can be seen in Figure 1.
- 1.7 The GMSF would provide an overarching statutory framework within which individual GM districts can prepare or update their own, more refined Local Plans **Notwithstanding the fact that the Council will need to approve the GMSF itself at key stages (including adoption), the preparation of a Local Plan will ensure that decisions over planning matters and site allocations within the Borough will be retained locally.**

Figure 1 – Planning Policy Context

* Bury's Local Plan could comprise the Core Strategy and a separate Site Allocations plan or a new single Local Plan covering both policy and site allocations.

2.0 ISSUES

Greater Manchester Agreement

- 2.1 The announcement on the 3 November 2014 of the Greater Manchester Agreement and the move to directly elected leadership for Greater Manchester has implications for both the preparation and content of the GMSF. The GM Agreement provides for a directly elected mayor with powers over strategic planning, including the power to create a statutory spatial framework for GM. This will act as 'the framework for managing planning across Greater Manchester and will need to be approved by unanimous vote of the Mayor's cabinet'. Legislation is required to enable these changes and it is anticipated that the first city region Mayoral election will take place in early 2017.
- 2.2 Until such legislation is in place, however, AGMA and the GMCA will continue to operate under existing constitutional arrangements. If work is to progress on the GMSF prior to the election of a city region mayor,

AGMA's current constitutional arrangements give responsibility for overseeing the preparation of joint DPDs to the Executive Board.

- 2.3 The AGMA constitution currently limits the remit of the Executive Board to the joint waste and minerals DPDs. In order to address this, the Executive Board would need to amend its constitution to enable the GMSF to be prepared as a DPD on behalf of the 10 local planning authorities. The current and proposed amended wording can be found in the joint Greater Manchester Combined Authority and AGMA Executive Board report of 28 November 2014 (see annex) and approval is sought for this proposed amendment.

District Arrangements

- 2.4 In addition, in order for the GMSF to be prepared as a joint DPD, there is a need to seek approval of this approach from each of the ten Council's in Greater Manchester.
- 2.5 Furthermore, there would be a need for districts to subsequently approve the delegation of the formulation and preparation of the GMSF to the AGMA Executive Board and this would, at a later date, be reported to Cabinet seeking such approval. Delegation to the Executive Board will help to ensure timely progress in developing the GMSF, whilst retaining full Council approval at key stages, including approval to submit the document to the Secretary of State for examination and to approve its adoption.

Bury's Core Strategy

- 2.6 On 1 October 2014, a report was taken to Cabinet that updated Members on the suspension of the Core Strategy Examination, highlighting that one of the key reasons for this was the fact that the Core Strategy's approach to the identification of objectively assessed needs for housing was inconsistent with Government guidance that was released following the submission of the Core Strategy.
- 2.7 This guidance specifies that the Government's household projections should be used as the starting point in identifying housing needs. Consequently, Members agreed to consider the implications of the updated household projections for the Core Strategy as well as the outcomes of consultation on the methodology behind the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework before reporting back to Cabinet setting out appropriate options going forward.
- 2.8 At that time, it was anticipated that the Government would be releasing the updated household projections in November 2014. However, this has been delayed and it is understood that these will now be released in February 2015. Once these are released, the Council will be in position whereby they can determine the most appropriate way forward for the Core Strategy.

3.0 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The joint preparation of the GMSF as a statutory Development Plan Document will establish an over-arching planning framework for the growth and development of Greater Manchester over the next 20 years or so.
- 3.2 The GMSF will inform the preparation and update of districts' own Local Plans and, in doing so, will ensure that collectively these Local Plans will follow a joined-up approach to achieving the wider aims and objectives for Greater Manchester.
- 3.3 Consequently, it is recommended that Members approve the preparation of the GMSF as a statutory DPD and approve the subsequent measures set out in the Recommended Option section of this report.

COUNCILLOR SANDRA WALMSLEY CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES & REGULATION

List of Background Papers:

AGMA Executive Board Report – 29 August 2014

Report to the Joint Greater Manchester Combined Authority & AGMA Executive Board Meeting - 28 November 2014.

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**JOINT GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY
& AGMA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

Date: 28 November 2014

Subject: Greater Manchester Spatial Framework

Report of: Eamonn Boylan, Planning & Housing Lead Chief Executive

PURPOSE OF REPORT

AGMA Executive Board agreed to produce the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework as a joint DPD on 29 August and asked officers to report back on the implications of this. The recent announcement of the Greater Manchester Agreement and the move to directly elected leadership for Greater Manchester also has implications for both the preparation and content of the GMSF. In light of these developments, this report provides further information on the proposed scope of the plan as well as the required amendments to the AGMA constitution and decisions by individual Districts to initiate this process.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The AGMA Executive Board is requested to ask:

Each full council to:

1. Approve the making of an agreement with the other 9 Greater Manchester councils to prepare jointly the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework ('GMSF') to cover housing and employment land requirements and associated infrastructure across Greater Manchester (as set out in Appendix 1 to this report) as a joint development plan document on terms to be approved by the Council's Chief Executive.
2. Note that the [Council's Executive / Cabinet/ City Mayor] will be asked to delegate the formulating and preparing of the GMSF to AGMA Executive Board
3. Note that there will be further reports to full Council in respect of, matters, which are within the remit of full Council including approval of the GMSF
4. Approve the amendment of paragraph 13.2 of Schedule 1 to the AGMA constitution by deleting the words ' (initially in terms of Waste and Minerals Planning) ' and authorise the updating of the AGMA Constitution to reflect this

Each Executive / cabinet/ leader/ the City Mayor (*depending on each Council's own arrangements and in the event that the Councils have approved the above recommendations*):

- (a). Note that full Council has approved the making of an agreement with the other 9 Greater Manchester councils to prepare jointly the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework ('GMSF') to cover housing and employment land requirements and associated infrastructure across Greater Manchester (as set out in Appendix 1 to this report) as a joint development plan document
- (b) Delegate to AGMA Executive Board the formulating and preparing of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework ('GMSF') to cover housing and employment land requirements and associated infrastructure across Greater Manchester (as set out in Appendix 1 to this report)] insofar as such matters are executive functions.
- (c) Note that the following are the sole responsibility of full Council:
 - Responsibility for giving of instructions to the executive to reconsider the draft plan submitted by the executive for the authority's consideration.
 - The amendment of the draft GMSF plan document submitted by the executive for the full Council's consideration
 - The approval for the purpose of its submission to the Secretary of State or Minister of the Crown for his approval of the GMSF if required
 - The approval of the GMSF document for the purposes of submission to the Secretary of State for independent examination.
 - The adoption of the GMSF.
- (d). Approve the amendment of paragraph 13.2 of Schedule 1 to the AGMA constitution by deleting the words ' (initially in terms of Waste and Minerals Planning) ' and authorise the updating of the AGMA Constitution to reflect this

In addition, the AGMA Executive Board is asked to:

- (i). Request a further report outlining the implications of the Devolution Agreement for the preparation of the GMSF (as set out in paragraph 1.2) and setting out future steps in the event that the above delegations are approved.
- (ii). Agree an interim approach to budget commitments in 2014/15, as set out in paragraphs 4.4 - 4.5 with Manchester acting as lead authority for the GMSF budget

CONTACT OFFICERS:

Chris Findley (chris.findley@salford.gov.uk)
Anne Morgan (a.morgan@agma.gov.uk)

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

GM Position on Growth - Report to GMCA – January 2014

GM Spatial Framework – consultation on evidence - Report to AGMA Executive Board – August 2014

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 GMCA/ the AGMA Executive Board agreed on the 29 August 2014 that the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) should be progressed as a joint Development Plan Document (DPD). This would focus on future housing and employment land requirements and provide the basis for an informed and integrated approach to spatial planning across the city region, through a clear understanding of the role of our places and the relationships and connections between them.
- 1.2 The announcement on the 3 November 2014 of the Greater Manchester Agreement and the move to directly elected leadership for Greater Manchester has implications for both the preparation and content of the GMSF. The GM Agreement provides for a directly elected mayor with powers over strategic planning, including the power to create a statutory spatial framework for GM. This will act as “the framework for managing planning across Greater Manchester and will need to be approved by unanimous vote of the Mayor’s cabinet.” Legislation is required to enable these changes and it is anticipated that the first city region Mayoral election will take place in early 2017. We need to obtain further legal advice on how to design GM’s constitutional arrangements to allow a seamless transition from the preparation of a joint Development Plan document by AGMA Executive Board to the GMSF produced by GM Mayor, otherwise we run the risk of having to begin the process again.
- 1.3 Until this time however AGMA and the GMCA will continue to operate under existing constitutional arrangements. If we are to progress work on the GMSF prior to the election of a city region mayor, it is the AGMA Executive Board (rather than the GMCA itself) which will need to oversee its development.
- 1.4 The AGMA Executive Board was established, separate from the GMCA, as a Joint Arrangements Committee (known as the AGMA Executive Board) under Section 101(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 as well as section 20 of the LGA 2000 and regulations 4, 11 and 12 of the Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012. The Constitution of the AGMA Executive Board as amended, with effect from 1 April 2011 sets out the functions in Schedule 1. These include, under the heading, “Planning & Housing”, the following:
 - 13.1 *Developing and coordinating the operation of a Greater Manchester Spatial Strategy as a framework for underpinning and linking partners Local Development Frameworks and Core Spatial Strategies*

- 13.2 *To coordinate and manage joint Local Development Framework activity across the combined administrative area on behalf of the 10 local planning authorities, in circumstance where this is agreed as appropriate (initially in terms of Waste and Minerals Planning)*
 - 13.3 *To develop and coordinate the operation of a Greater Manchester Housing Strategy*
 - 13.4 *To determine the future allocation of any pooled public sector housing resources across the combined administrative area and provide a sub-regional context for managing the scale, distribution and mix of new housing development.*
- 1.5 The remit of the AGMA Executive Board (para 13.2 above) is currently limited to the preparation of joint waste and minerals DPDs only. In order to address this, the AGMA Executive Board will need to amend its constitution so that the a plan covering housing and employment can be prepared jointly by the 10 local planning authorities.
- 1.6 It is proposed that Schedule 1, paragraph 13.2 of the AGMA constitution is amended as follows (changes shown in italics):

“13.2 To coordinate and manage joint *Development Plan* activity across the combined administrative area on behalf of the 10 local planning authorities, in circumstance where this is agreed as appropriate *(initially in terms of Waste and Minerals Planning)* “

2 DISTRICT ARRANGEMENTS

- 2.1 In addition, each Local Authority is required to obtain full council approval to prepare a new joint development plan as well as the approval of its executive (whether that is the Cabinet, Leader or City Mayor) to delegate the preparation of the GMSF as a joint DPD to AGMA Executive Board. Full council approval by all 10 will also be required prior to submission of the draft plan to the secretary of state and to adopt the final plan once it has been through the examination in public.
- 2.2 The preparation of the GMSF as a DPD will need to be reflected in each District's Local Development Scheme (LDS), which sets out the three-year project plan identifying which local development documents will be produced, in what order, and when. A report will be brought back to AGMA Executive Board outlining a proposed approach to this.
- 2.3 Further work is required to ensure that individual district Statements of Community Involvement (SCI) reference the joint DPD appropriately. This will ensure that relevant planning regulations are adhered to and help to provide a consistent approach to consultation and engagement across GM. A consultation strategy has been prepared which sets out our approach (Appendix 2).

3 SCOPE OF THE GMSF

- 3.1 The GMSF will express the long term spatial vision for Greater Manchester and be a pro-active tool for managing growth, providing the 'roadmap' for the type of place(s) we want to create. There is a balance between what is needed at the Greater Manchester scale to support our growth and reform objectives and those matters that require a finer granularity and are best addressed at the individual district scale.
- 3.2 The scope of the document may now be set by legislation rather than agreement between the ten local authorities. The Greater London Act 1999 sets out the powers of the London Mayor, with sections 334-350 covering planning. Section 334(5) states that the Mayor's spatial development strategy (i.e. The London Plan) "must deal only with matters which are of strategic importance to Greater London". The use of the word "only" is important and it is reasonable to expect something similar in the legislation devolving powers to Greater Manchester so as to ensure that the existing powers of local authorities are protected. The devolution agreement is clear that the planning powers are "new" and the agreement is not about taking existing powers from local authorities.
- 3.3 Notwithstanding the above, following discussion with senior officers in each district and a recent consultation on the GMSF initial evidence base, it is proposed that the GMSF should focus on the overall spatial strategy, that is, the amount of housing and employment floorspace development that should be provided in each district, and the key locations for delivering this (opportunity areas).
- 3.4 Distribution within districts would be set out in district Local Plans, but would clearly be informed by the opportunity areas identified in the GMSF. Comprehensive site allocations, including the boundaries of the opportunity areas and the requirements for individual sites, would be included in district Local Plans. In terms of infrastructure, the GMSF would focus on identifying the broad location of strategically significant schemes required to deliver the overall scale and distribution of development, with district Local Plans then providing more detail on the delivery of those schemes as well as identifying other, locally important infrastructure requirements.
- 3.5 This approach means that the scope of the GMSF would be reasonably broad, but not fully comprehensive. Further detail is set out in (Appendix 1).
- 3.6 The consultation exercise which has recently ended has generated discussion around the scope. Once the responses have been fully considered a more detailed report will be brought back to the AGMA Executive Board for further consideration.

4. RESOURCES

- 4.1 Budget estimates for developing the GMSF were originally prepared on the basis that it would be a non statutory plan and work could be completed within

two years. A Sustainability Appraisal ('SA') was commissioned and work was begun on that basis in order to meet the tight timescales originally envisaged.

- 4.2 When AGMA Executive Board made the decision in August to progress the GMSF as a statutory development plan, officers were requested to report back on the full implications of the decision, factoring in the additional tasks and extended timescales required to deliver the GMSF as a statutory plan. Work to clarify the scope of the GMSF is set out in more detail in section 4 of this report. Ongoing discussions are underway between districts around their own capacity and workload demand. The aim is to identify which tasks can be delivered 'in-house' by officers within districts and which would need to be procured externally, based on capacity or skills required.
- 4.3 Initial scoping work on the sustainability appraisal has continued, but it is likely that the range of the Sustainability Appraisal will need to extend to reflect the full scope of the GMSF and that costs will therefore increase. The timescales for production of the SA have also increased, in line with the extended process for producing the GMSF as a statutory plan.
- 4.4 Whilst a budget for the GMSF has not been approved by AGMA Executive Board, some expenditure for independent legal advice (£8.5k), project assurance (£1.2k) and scoping the sustainability appraisal (£13.8k) has been incurred. As such, it is requested that this expenditure (23.5k) with an additional budget of £10k (for the further legal advice referred to in paragraph 1.2 above), amounting to £33.5k in total, be approved by AGMA Executive Board, subject to a more detailed report on the overall GMSF budget to AGMA Executive Board at a later date.
- 4.5 As AGMA is not an incorporated body in its own right it is unable to commission (or pay for) external work in support of the GMSF. As such, and whilst the plan comes under the auspices of AGMA, contracts or payments would need to be agreed and carried out on AGMA's behalf through one of the ten GM authorities. Given the role of Manchester City Council in providing financial management and legal advice to AGMA and the GMCA, it is recommended that Manchester could act as lead authority for the GMSF budget during the current phase of work.

5. TIMETABLE

- 5.1 The timetable will partly depend on the scope of the document and the resources available for its production. The initial stage of consultation on the 'objectively assessed GM housing / employment land need' is relatively narrow and so it is considered advisable to consult on a more comprehensive evidence base and options around key issues before publishing a full draft GMSF. A further report will be prepared setting out the proposed timetable once there is more clarity around the implications of the devolution agreement.

Issue	GMSF	Local Plan
Vision and Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A spatial vision for Greater Manchester's (GM) development • The role of different places and their contribution to this overall vision • Any large opportunity areas (based on an agreed size threshold) that will deliver major levels of development and their general location (not precise boundaries) • A general description of the key infrastructure that opportunity areas will require 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implications of the GMSF vision, how the district will contribute to the achievement of the GM vision • Likely to cover a range of issues outside of the GMSF scope • Detail on the delivery of the GMSF opportunity areas • Any other key opportunities important for the district
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gross floorspace requirement for GM and each District in terms of offices, industry and warehousing district informed by overall spatial strategy • Any key locations (not boundaries) for office, industry and warehousing development, including an approximate level of provision • Any key locations for tourism development • Potential to identify a small number of existing areas that are strategically significant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of floorspace within the district • Allocate sites for development, including any key locations identified in the GMSF • Sites for tourism development, including in key locations identified in the GMSF • The approach to existing employment areas, including protection and redevelopment
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall GM requirement to meet demographic/economic demands • Net figure for each district informed by overall spatial strategy • General phasing for GM as a whole, taking sub-regional delivery issues into account • Broad mix of housing required to meet GM requirement • Spatial implications of demographic/economic drivers • Number of gypsy and traveller pitches required in each district and travelling showpeople plots • Proportion of household growth that will be in the 65+ age group • Very broad locations that could meet particular types of demand, such as 'aspirational' housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of housing within the district and site allocations • Detailed phasing for the district, potentially including the role of strategic sites • Mix of housing in different parts of the district and mix on allocated sites • Appropriate densities in different areas and suitable densities on site allocations • Proportion of new housing that should be affordable, including the tenure split – may vary by area and site allocations • Details of how the needs of older age groups will be accommodated

Issue	GMSF	Local Plan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criteria for new Gypsy, traveller sites and site allocations • More detailed identification of any market segments that could be met, including through site allocations • Any other issues not covered in the GMSF (eg student housing, housing for people with disabilities, service families, etc)
Town Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hierarchy of larger town centres and a brief explanation of the role and opportunities • Role of the key out of town centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boundaries of centres in the GMSF hierarchy (including boundaries of shopping areas and frontages, etc), and investment proposals • Identification of smaller centres • Scale and distribution of retail and leisure developments, etc and site allocations
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad location of strategic schemes required to deliver the proposed scale and distribution of development • Explain essential role of key transport infrastructure such as Manchester Airport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More detail on the delivery of GMSF strategic schemes • Identify other, more local transport schemes • Protection of existing transport routes • Other issues not covered in GMSF eg Parking and accessibility standards, etc
Other infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad location of strategic schemes for water, waste water, gas and electricity to deliver the proposed scale and distribution of development • Overall strategy for delivering low carbon energy and any GM wide significant opportunities • Overall strategy for managing flood risk and broad location of any strategic infrastructure required • Role of social infrastructure and implications of 'opportunity areas' on current infrastructure (eg health or education). • Strategically or internationally important facilities, eg for sports and leisure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detail on the delivery of any GMSF strategic schemes • Local infrastructure schemes • Opportunities for renewable and decentralised energy • Policies on managing flood risk and site allocations • Site allocations for social infrastructure and criteria for new facilities or redevelopment of existing sites • Local standards for recreation provision and

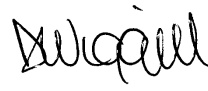
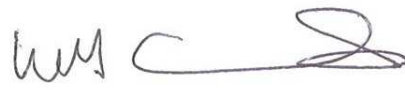
Issue	GMSF	Local Plan
		site allocations as well as protection of existing facilities.
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change will be part of the overall spatial strategy, and a consistent theme through the GMSF, with a broad approach to maximising economic opportunities whilst reducing emissions and enhancing resilience/adaptation • Overall strategy for GMs green and blue assets and the role of a quality environment in meeting the vision for GM • The strategic green and blue infrastructure network in GM and any key gaps in it that need to be addressed (broad locations) • Overall strategy for addressing poor air quality and reducing air quality management areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local policies on climate change mitigation and adaptation • Identify precise boundaries of both the strategic and local green infrastructure network • Set out how gaps in the strategic and local networks will be addressed • Identify local green infrastructure standards • Local Green Space designations • Local policies on reducing, and mitigating the impacts of, air pollution • Protection and enhancement of heritage assets
Development management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any strategic development management policies required to clarify how key aspects of the GMSF are delivered, eg on high quality of places 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive suite of local development management policies covering many of the issues above as well as others beyond the remit of GMSF • Each district may also provide further guidance in supplementary planning documents as required



Equality Analysis Form

The following questions will document the effect of your service or proposed policy, procedure, working practice, strategy or decision (hereafter referred to as 'policy') on equality, and demonstrate that you have paid due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty.

1. RESPONSIBILITY

Department	Resources and Regulation	
Service	Planning Policy and Projects	
Proposed policy	The Greater Manchester Spatial Strategy	
Date	28 January 2015	
Officer responsible for the 'policy' and for completing the equality analysis	Name	David Wiggins
	Post Title	Principal Officer: Development Planning
	Contact Number	0161 253 5282
	Signature	
	Date	11 December 2014
Equality officer consulted	Name	John Cummins
	Post Title	Development Manager
	Contact Number	0161 253 6089
	Signature	
	Date	30 th December 2014

2. AIMS

What is the purpose of the policy/service and what is it intended to achieve?	The purpose of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) is, to a large extent, to address the policy void that has arisen from the revocation of the North West Regional Spatial Strategy and, in doing so, would provide an overarching statutory framework within which individual GM districts can prepare or update their own, more refined Local Plans that will deal with locally-specific planning matters and site allocations.
Who are the main stakeholders?	The main stakeholders involved in the GMSF are local residents, developers, land owners, businesses, planning and development consultants, infrastructure providers, interest groups and representative bodies.

3. ESTABLISHING RELEVANCE TO EQUALITY

3a. Using the drop down lists below, please advise whether the policy/service has either a positive or negative effect on any groups of people with protected equality characteristics.
If you answer yes to any question, please also explain why and how that group of people will be affected.

Protected equality characteristic	Positive effect (Yes/No)	Negative effect (Yes/No)	Explanation
Race	Yes	No	The GMSF will establish housing requirements across Greater Manchester, including identifying the number of permanent and transit gypsy and traveller pitches and the number of travelling showpeople plots required in each district.
Disability	No	No	
Gender	No	No	
Gender reassignment	No	No	
Age	Yes	No	In dealing with housing for older people, the GMSF will identify the proportion of household growth that will be in the 65+ age group. This will inform Bury's Local Plan which can provide details of how the needs of older age groups will be accommodated.
Sexual orientation	No	No	
Religion or belief	No	No	
Caring responsibilities	No	No	
Pregnancy or maternity	No	No	
Marriage or civil partnership	No	No	

3b. Using the drop down lists below, please advise whether or not our policy/service has relevance to the Public Sector Equality Duty. If you answer yes to any question, please explain why.

General Public Sector Equality Duties	Relevance (Yes/No)	Reason for the relevance
Need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010	No	
Need to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not (eg. by removing or minimising disadvantages or meeting needs)	Yes	The GMSF will identify needs for affordable housing, the proportion of household growth that will be in the 65+ age group and identify number of permanent and transit gypsy and traveller pitches and the number of travelling showpeople plots required in each district.
Need to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not (eg. by tackling prejudice or promoting understanding)	No	

If you answered 'YES' to any of the questions in 3a and 3b

Go straight to Question 4

If you answered 'NO' to all of the questions in 3a and 3b

Go to Question 3c and do not answer questions 4-6

3c. If you have answered 'No' to all the questions in 3a and 3b please explain why you feel that your policy/service has no relevance to equality.

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4. EQUALITY INFORMATION AND ENGAGEMENT

4a. For a service plan, please list what equality information you currently have available, **OR** for a new/changed policy or practice please list what equality information you considered and engagement you have carried out in relation to it.

Please provide a link if the information is published on the web and advise when it was last updated?

(NB. Equality information can be both qualitative and quantitative. It includes knowledge of service users, satisfaction rates, compliments and complaints, the results of surveys or other engagement activities and should be broken down by equality characteristics where relevant.)

Details of the equality information or engagement	Internet link if published	Date last updated
The initial evidence supporting the GMSF has been subject to a recent consultation exercises and stakeholders will have the opportunity for continued engagement until the GMSF is adopted.		On-going

4b. Are there any information gaps, and if so how do you plan to tackle them?

No

5. CONCLUSIONS OF THE EQUALITY ANALYSIS

What will the likely overall effect of your policy/service plan be on equality?	Positive
If you identified any negative effects (see questions 3a) or discrimination what measures have you put in place to remove or mitigate them?	N/A
Have you identified any further ways that you can advance equality of opportunity and/or foster good relations? If so, please give details.	No
What steps do you intend to take now in respect of the implementation of your policy/service plan?	Once adopted, the GMSF will establish the sub-regional planning context that will inform the development of Bury's Local Plan. The Local Plan will be used to determine planning applications for new development.

6. MONITORING AND REVIEW

If you intend to proceed with your policy/service plan, please detail what monitoring arrangements (if appropriate) you will put in place to monitor the ongoing effects. Please also state when the policy/service plan will be reviewed.

The GMSF will be continually monitored in order to determine the effectiveness of its policies.

COPIES OF THIS EQUALITY ANALYSIS FORM SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO ANY REPORTS/SERVICE PLANS AND ALSO SENT TO THE EQUALITY INBOX (equality@bury.gov.uk) FOR PUBLICATION.

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