

Mike Kelly FCIOB MCIM
Chief Executive

Our Ref LW
Your Ref OSC/LW
Date 23 June 2015
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Legal & Democratic Services
Division

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TO: All Members of Council

Councillors : Adams, D Bailey, N Bayley, I Bevan, J Black, S Briggs, S Carter, R Caserta, D Cassidy, M C Connolly, J Daly, E Fitzgerald, L Fitzwalter, I Gartside, J Grimshaw, D Gunther, M Hankey, 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, R Shori, A Simpson, S Smith, S Southworth, T Tariq, R Walker, S Walmsley, Whitby, M Wiseman 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, 1 July 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

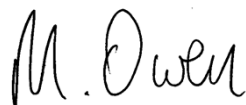
The Agenda for the meeting is attached.

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, appearing to read 'M. Owen'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a distinct 'Owen'.

Interim 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 - 6)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 20 May 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

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 RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES (Pages 7 - 38)

e/Date	Subject	Recommendation
CA.04 - 10 June	Council Vision, Purpose and Values 2015- 2020 (Report attached)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That the Council be recommended to adopt the plan.2. That by adopting the plan the Council amends the Council's Constitution by replacing the previously approved Bury Plan with the plan submitted.3. That the Council agrees the draft indicators (Appendix 1 of the report submitted) as the basis for corporate monitoring and that further work be undertaken to develop and refine the measures to reflect progress on the work programme.4. That a financial Strategy and People Strategy be developed to underpin the direction of travel set out in the Visions, Purpose and Values document.

CA.09 - 10 June	Township Forums	<p>1. That Council be recommended to approve the amendment of the Operating Framework for Township Forums to incorporate the proposals as detailed in the report submitted</p> <p>2. That Council be recommended to reduce the number of meetings of Township Forums from six to four per year.</p> <p>3. That Council be recommended to implement the proposals during the 2015/16 municipal year.</p>
IRA & nel - 15	Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 (Report attached)	The Council is required to put in place the amendment to the Standing Orders. It is therefore recommended that the necessary adjustments are made to the Officer Employment Procedure Rules as set out in the Council Constitution.
. of : nts 5 June	Petitions Procedure	<p>Support the following recommendation of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 24 March 2015:</p> <p>1. The Petition Scheme be included in the Council Constitution;</p> <p>2. Any future changes be promptly notified and explained to organisers of live petitions, with changes not coming into effect until the Council's website is updated.</p>
IRA & nel - 15	Appointment of Chief Executive	Minute to be tabled.

6 **LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME** (Pages 39 - 68)

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.

7 JOINT AUTHORITIES - REPORT BY THE COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVE AND QUESTIONS (Pages 69 - 74)

- (A) A report by the Council's Representative on the work of the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority, Councillor Matthews.
- (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.

8 NOTICES OF MOTION

The following Notice of Motions have been received: -

1 Scout Moor

This Council notes the current planning applications to Rossendale and Rochdale Councils for 16 additional wind turbines on Scout Moor. Most of the cluster will shortly be determined by the Rossendale Planning Committee on July 21st, 2015 (At the time of writing, Rochdale have yet to set a date for the two turbines to be determined within the boundary of their authority).

Therefore, this motion requests Councillors who oppose this new development write to Rossendale and Rochdale's planning departments before the decisions are taken, expressing their opposition (on a personal basis and not on behalf of the Council). This could be for the following reasons :-

- 1) The application contradicts the latest Government guidance regarding on-shore wind turbines which now acknowledges further expansion on these sites should be curtailed.
- 2) The proposed site is largely un-obscured, and many residents in Ramsbottom, Tottington and the villages of Summerseat, Holcombe, Greenmount and Brandlesholme would no longer be able to enjoy the wonderful countryside that currently exists.
- 3) An additional cluster of turbines, in the words of the Government Planning Inspector who approved the current wind farm, "would cause much more serious harm".
- 4) In comparison to the current wind farm, the energy benefits are significantly diminished, meaning that they do not outweigh the visual impact on the landscape.
- 5) The allowable size of up to 115 metres tall is significantly higher

than the existing ones.

- 6) The adverse effect upon leisure and tourism in our borough, for example, the views from the Peel Monument and areas of Holcombe Moor will be adversely affected.

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

2. Benefit Sanctions

"This Council is concerned and appalled at how this government continues to use benefit sanctions against some of our most vulnerable citizens. This regime of sanctions appears to be used more and more. DWP figures [from April 14 to March 15](#) show 918,600 JSA claimants alone were sanctioned a 410% rise on the same period in the previous year.

This council notes that when a pass-ported benefit has been sanctioned for what can be up to four months, other entitlements to benefits stop.

This practice is causing a massive strain on claimants and their families plunging many into poverty and spiralling debt.

This council call for a letter to be sent on behalf of this council and residents to The Rt. Hon Iain Duncan Smith outlining our concerns and demanding he stops this cruel, and arbitrary use of sanctions."

In the names of Councillors P Adams, N Bayley, J Black, S Briggs, D Cassidy, M Connolly, E FitzGerald, L Fitzwalter, J Grimshaw, S Haroon, P Heneghan, T Holt, A Isherwood, M James, D Jones, J Kelly, S Kerrison, J Lewis, J Mallon, A Matthews, E O'Brien, N Parnell, C Preston, A Quinn, R Shori, A Simpson, R Skillen, Sarah Southworth, Susan Southworth, T Tariq, J Walker, S Walmsley and M Whitby

3. Food Waste

"Council notes:

1. That in Britain today households throw away 7 million tonnes of food and drink waste each year, half of which could have been eaten.
2. Bury Council pays to dispose of 15,000 tonnes of brown bin waste in a year, costing nearly £1 million in charges.
3. That 4 million people in the UK are living in food poverty; 900 million people in the world go to bed hungry every day.

Council resolves:

1. That Bury MBC will play its part to encourage a reduction in the amount of food waste generated by the Borough.
2. To include more information about reducing food waste in the information we provide to residents about waste disposal, including online, paper resources and through the work of the waste enforcement teams.
3. To investigate further options for making better local use of food thrown away by retailers, including seeing if a branch of Rotherham's 'Community Shop' would work in Bury.
4. To work with major institutional producers of food waste in the Borough (Schools, colleges, hospitals, other major employers) and encourage strategies to achieve a significant reduction of food waste.
5. Write to all of Bury's MPs and MEPs, encouraging them to support policies which will continue and improve Britain and EU's role tackling food waste and poverty both in this country and worldwide.
6. For the Cabinet Member to report back to the Cabinet on this issue before the end of the 2016-17 Municipal Year. "

In the names of Councillors M D'Albert and T Pickstone

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

10 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).

11 DELEGATED DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Questions on the delegated decisions made by the Regulatory Committees and Scrutiny Committees contained in the Digests of Decisions 8 (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 8 (2014/15).

Minutes of: THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF BURY**Date of Meeting:** 20 May 2014

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (M Wiseman in the Chair);
Councillors P Adams, D Bailey, M Bailey, N Bayley, I Bevan, J Black, S Briggs, R A Caserta, D M Cassidy, M Connolly, A J Cummings, M D'Albert, J Daly, E FitzGerald, L Fitzwalter, I B Gartside, J Grimshaw, D L Gunther, M Hankey, S Haroon, J Harris, P Heneghan, R Hodgkinson, T Holt, A Isherwood, M A James, D Jones, J Kelly, S Kerrison, J S Lewis, J Mallon, A K Matthews, E O'Brien, T D Pickstone, C Preston, A Quinn, R Shori, A Simpson, S Smith, Sarah Southworth, Susan Southworth, J Walker, R E Walker, S Walmsley, M Whitby and Y Wright

Apologies for Absence: Councillors D Bailey, S Carter, K Hussain(CI) and S Nuttall

Public attendance: 10 members of the public attended Part 1 of the meeting.
150 members of the public attended Part 2 of the meeting

PART 1 OF THE MEETING**C.01 ELECTION OF THE CHAIR****RESOLVED:**

That the election of Chair be adjourned to Part 2 of the Proceedings.

C.02 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 items related to staffing as his wife is an employee within a school within the Borough.
3. Councillor Mallon declared a personal interest in any item which related to staffing as his wife is an employee within a high school within the Borough.
4. Councillor Bevan declared a personal interest in any items related to staffing as his wife is employed at Summerseat Methodist Primary School.

C.03 MINUTES**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 1 April 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

C.04 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Council, 20 May 2015

The Mayor referred to the recent passing of former Councillor June Novick and members observed a brief silence in her memory.

The Mayor presented certificates to winners of the “Made in Bury: Council Community Awards” as follows:-

- Outstanding Community Contribution Award – Early Break
- Outstanding contribution to a Township Award – Dr Falmai Binns
- Volunteer of the Year Award – Ann Bebbington
- Good Neighbour Award – Nathan Hickey

The Mayor and Councillors expressed their congratulations to the recipients and their thanks and appreciation to volunteers across Bury who make it a good place to live, work and visit.

C.05 ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS 2015

The Chief Executive reported the election of Councillors on 22 May 2014 as follows:-

Ward	Councillor Elected
Ramsbottom	Rob Hodgkinson
North Manor	Khalid Hussain
Tottington	Yvonne Wright
Elton	Michael Hankey
Moorside	Sarah Southworth
East	Michael Connolly
Church	Jackie Harris
Redvales	Judith Kelly
Unsworth	Joan Grimshaw
Radcliffe East	Catherine Preston
Radcliffe North	Jamie Walker
Radcliffe West	Rachel Skillen
Pilkington Park	Robert Caserta
Besses	Alan Matthews
Holyrood	Mary D’Albert

Ward	Councillor Elected
St Mary's	Noel Bayley
Sedgley	Michael James

C.06 ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS 2015/16

The Leader moved, and Councillor Shori seconded, that the report on the annual appointments for the 2015/16 Municipal Year be approved, and it was:

RESOLVED:

1. That the Strong Leader arrangements adopted by the Council in 2011/12, with a Cabinet of between two and nine Members be confirmed for 2015/2016.
2. That the appointment of the Political Groups' Leaders and Deputy Leaders as set out in Appendix A to this report be received.
3. That the appointment of the Cabinet, Deputy Cabinet Members and Shadow Cabinet for the 2015/2016 Municipal Year, as set out in Appendix B to this report be noted.
4. That the appointment of the Regulatory Committees, Overview and Scrutiny Committees and other bodies covered by the Political Balance Rules, including the appointment of Chairs, where stated, for the 2015/2016 Municipal Year, as set out in Appendix C to this report, be approved.
5. That the appointments of the Audit Committee and other bodies not covered by or exempted from the Political Balance Rules, including the appointment of Chairs, where stated, for the 2015/2016 Municipal Year, as set out in Appendix D to the report, be approved.
6. That the Health and Wellbeing Board be consulted on widening elected member representation on that Body;
7. That the appointments to the Greater Manchester Joint Authorities for the 2015/2016 Municipal Year as set out in Appendix E to the report, be approved.
8. That the appointments to the various other internal bodies, including the appointment of Chairs, where stated, for the 2015/2016 Municipal Year, as set out in Appendix F to the report, be approved.
9. That the appointments to the outside bodies for the 2015/2016 Municipal Year, as set out in Appendix G to the report, be approved.
10. That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leaders of the political groups on the Council, be authorised to determine any appointments to

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bodies which remain to be filled and any changes in appointments or any new appointments to be made during the 2015/2016 Municipal Year.

C.07 STATE OF THE BOROUGH DEBATE

Councillor Connolly, Leader of the Council, made a statement on the State of the Borough describing the main achievements of the Council during 2014/2015 and outlining challenges facing the Council in 2015/2016 and beyond. The Mayor invited members of the public and Members of the Council to ask questions or make comments arising from the Leader's Statement.

Issues were raised as follows:-

Member	Issue
Councillor Gartside	Government policy and implications for Bury
Councillor Shori	Council achievements in the context of Government Expenditure Cuts
Councillor R Walker	Commitment to high school provision in Radcliffe
Councillor Daly	Electoral success for Liberal Democrats in Holyrood
Councillor Mallon	Investment in Mental Health Services
Councillor Quinn	Investment in schools and administering of school budgets

C.08 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2014/2015

Councillor Gartside moved, and Councillor James seconded, and it was:

RESOLVED:

That the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2014/2015 be received.

C.09 TOWNSHIP FORUMS – ANNUAL REPORT

Councillor Lewis moved, and Councillor Gartside seconded, and it was:

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the Annual Report and progress made by Township Forums over the past year be noted.

PART 2 OF THE MEETING

Council, 20 May 2015

C.10 ELECTION OF THE MAYOR 2015/16

Councillor Gartside moved that Councillor Stella Smith be elected to the office of Mayor of the Metropolitan Borough of Bury for the Municipal Year 2015/2016, with Mr John Smith as her Consort.

Councillor Holt seconded the nomination.

The Worshipful the Mayor, after calling for and not receiving any other nominations, declared the nomination carried and it was:-

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Stella Smith be duly elected Mayor of the Metropolitan Borough of Bury for the Municipal Year 2015/2016, with Mr John Smith as her Consort.

The newly-elected Mayor then occupied the Chair, made and signed the Declaration required by the Local Government Act 1972 and thanked the Council for the honour conferred on her in electing her Mayor of the Metropolitan Borough of Bury.

C.11 VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING MAYOR AND MAYORESS AND APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

It was moved by Councillor Shori, seconded by Councillor Pickstone and it was:

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Michelle Wiseman be appointed Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2015/2016 and that this Council hereby expresses its thanks to Councillor Wiseman and Miss Danielle Wiseman for the diligent manner in which they have undertaken the duties of Mayor and Mayoress of the Metropolitan Borough of Bury during the Municipal Year now ending and places on record its appreciation of their devotion and performance of the important duties attaching to their offices and that medallions be presented to them as tokens of appreciation of their services as Mayor and Mayoress.

C.12 VOTE OF THANKS TO OUTGOING DEPUTY MAYOR AND OUTGOING DEPUTY MAYORESSES

It was moved by Councillor J Walker, seconded by Councillor Preston and it was:-

RESOLVED:

That this Council hereby expresses its thanks to Councillor Sharon Briggs and Mrs S Rabbitt, Miss Natalie Wells and Miss Nicole Wells, for the diligent manner in which they have undertaken the duties of Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoresses of the Metropolitan Borough of Bury during the Municipal Year now ending and places on record its appreciation of their devotion and performance of the important duties attaching to their offices.

Council, 20 May 2015

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR

(NOTES: Part 1 of the meeting started at 2.00 pm and ended at 3.15 pm
Part 2 of the meeting started at 4.00 pm and ended at 5.00 pm)

REPORT FOR DECISION



DECISION OF:	CABINET – 10 JUNE 2015 COUNCIL – 1 JULY 2015
SUBJECT:	COUNCIL VISION, PURPOSE AND VALUES 2015-2020
REPORT FROM:	THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
CONTACT OFFICER:	Pat Jones-Greenhalgh, Executive Director of Communities and Well Being
TYPE OF DECISION:	COUNCIL
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:	This paper is within the public domain.
SUMMARY:	<p>Bury faces significant challenges in the years to come. Meeting our obligations, staying within budget and managing the expectations of a growing (and ageing) population will require strong leadership and a clear sense of direction.</p> <p>What this means in practice is set out in the form of a 'plan on a page' (attached to this report). Rather than a long document, this new look plan focuses on the actions needed in each aspect of work to transform, by 2020, the Council's approach to public services.</p>
OPTIONS & RECOMMENDED OPTION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For Cabinet to recommend the Vision, Purpose and Values document to Council – and for Council to adopt the plan. This is the preferred option as it will provide a route map for the organisation over the next 5 years. 2. To not approve the plan. This would leave the Council without a plan to deal with the significant cuts expected to local authority and public service budgets.
IMPLICATIONS:	
Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:	Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? The Plan, if approved will replace plan previously adopted as part of the Policy Framework.
Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:	<p>This report sets out the Council's "Vision and Values" for the next 5 years.</p> <p>The document is key to informing the future budget strategy of the Council, and will form the basis of the "Medium Term Financial Strategy" for this period.</p>

SK

	<p>Going forward, it is intended to combine performance and financial monitoring reports to provide Members and stakeholders with a fuller picture of the overall performance of the council.</p> <p>Risk Management reports will also be structured to reflect the proposed "Vision & Values"</p>	
Health and Safety	There are no health and safety issues arising directly from this plan. Any changes in services or operating practice will be subject to risk assessments and implemented in line with existing policy.	
Statement by Executive Director of Resources:	The report is a key element of the Council's governance framework and will inform the future direction of supporting strategies, e.g. Workforce, IT / Customer Engagement, and Asset Management.	SK
Equality/Diversity implications:	The plan provides a framework for the future and does not directly impact on any specific group. The implications for people with protected characteristics will be assessed when detailed proposals are brought forward to implement the plan.	
Considered by Monitoring Officer:	The Plan, if approved by Council, will amend the Constitution by replacing the previously approved Bury Plan with the one attached to this report.	JH
Wards Affected:	All	
Scrutiny Interest:	Overview and Scrutiny	

TRACKING/PROCESS**DIRECTOR: Executive Director of Communities and Well Being**

Chief Executive/ Strategic Leadership Team	Executive Member/Chair	Ward Members	Partners
18/5/15	19/5/15		
Scrutiny Committee	Committee	Council	
9/6/15			

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Vision, Purpose and Values is a key document for the Council and serves as a corporate plan to take the organisation, and the Borough, forward through the period of austerity.
- 1.2 Unlike previous plans, this document does not follow a traditional format. In keeping with the times, it has been cut back to focus on the key elements that delivers the Council's vision to lead, shape and maintain a prosperous, sustainable Bury that is fit for purpose.
- 1.3 The strong policy led approach is deliberate. All the evidence points to the Council being a smaller organisation with less money to spend whilst expectations and demand for services continues to rise. A clear sense of direction and passion to deliver local priorities are fundamental managing this scenario and making best use of resources.

2. COUNCIL PRIORITIES 2015-2020

Influences on the plan

- 2.1 A number of internal and external factors have been taken into account when producing the plan.
- 2.2 **Team Bury ambitions.** The Council is fully committed to improving outcomes for local people but many of the issues facing our communities extend beyond single agencies. Working with colleagues in the public, private and voluntary sectors, three key areas have been prioritised: the economy; stronger, safer communities; and health and well being. These are the areas that residents consider to be most important and where, collectively, we can make most difference to the lives of local people.
- 2.3 **The Council's Strategic Outcomes.** Arising from public consultation in 2011, the Council adopted three key outcomes – reducing poverty and its effects; supporting our most vulnerable residents and making Bury a better place to live. These outcomes are still relevant – they exemplify our purpose as an organisation and offer a qualitative benchmark for decision making going forward.
- 2.4 **Financial imperative.** The Council has to prepare for further cuts in funding over the next few years. This will impact on the range and scale of our activities. As we aspire to remain a direct provider of services, we need to explore new ways of working, better use of technology and change behaviours / expectations in order to reduce our cost base and target available resources towards priorities.
- 2.5 **Devolution of powers to Greater Manchester.** The growth and reform agenda is a great opportunity to develop the local economy, increase efficiency and strengthen democratic accountability over a range of services to the public. Bury has to be ready for these changes; be able and willing for its voice to be heard when proposals are shaped; and be match fit when bidding for resources.
- 2.6 **Areas for improvement.** Bury is open and willing to learn. External assessments regularly reveal above average performance at below average costs in many services but the challenges ahead require that we find new ways of informing citizens, managing demand and delivering outcomes with less money and fewer employees. We have also been reticent in celebrating success and recognising the positive things we do. This in itself is an area for development going forward.

Corporate Priorities

- 2.7 Based on what we know and what we want to achieve, six priorities have been identified for the next 5 years:
- Drive forward, through effective marketing and information, ***proactive engagement with the people of Bury to take ownership of their own health and well being.***
 - Continue to ***develop business friendly policies to attract inward investment and new jobs*** so that Bury retains its position as a premier destination for retail, leisure, tourism and culture.
 - Ensure ***new and affordable housing is developed*** to support growth in the Bury and Greater Manchester economy.
 - To build on the culture of efficiency and effectiveness through new, progressive and integrated partnership working models to ***drive forward the Council's and City Region Public Service growth and reform agenda.***
 - To ensure ***staff have the right skills to embrace significant organisational change***, through embedding a culture of ownership, empowerment and decision making at all levels of the organisation.
 - Work towards ***reducing reliance on government funding*** by developing new models of delivery that are affordable, add value and based on need.
- 2.8 The first three priorities spell out where we want to have greatest impact in the community. The remaining three are more organisational imperatives to deliver our ambitions and cope with future challenges.
- 2.9 All of this is summarised in the Plan on a Page (attached). This sheet provides a simple guide to our priorities and the actions we intend to follow over the next few years. The format is a departure from the traditional approach but by keeping it short and focused the key messages can be communicated easily and concisely.
- 2.10 Future strategies and plans will focus on these priorities – to take the Council forward and turn the vision and values into reality.

Monitoring

- 2.11 There will be two aspects to monitoring our progress towards a transformed council:
- Corporate monitoring – this will be a check on the state of the Borough and enable the Cabinet / Senior Leadership Team to consider any adjustments needed to the plan in the light of changing local needs or external factors (legislation, devolution, inspections, etc).
 - Programme monitoring – to ensure good governance, the Council needs assurance that the programme of work arising from this plan is being delivered. This will take the form of statistics, performance indicators and project milestones to assess changes in service activity, levels of efficiency and progress on specific tasks.

- 2.12 An initial list of draft indicators is attached (Appendix 1). These will be developed and refined during the life of the plan to provide better insights into local communities, measure the health of the organisation and demonstrate progress over time.
- 2.13 The results will be reported to Cabinet and Scrutiny.

Values

- 2.14 Changing behaviours in both residents and employees will be critical to success. As the cutbacks take effect, people will need to be less dependent on the Council for many of the services they currently take for granted. With those most dependent frequently being the people most in need, efforts will be made to assist in this transition. Actions have been included in the plan to improve access to information, increase prevention/early intervention techniques and encourage approaches that promote self help/self service/self management.
- 2.15 It will also be a significant change for Council employees. A culture shift is required to operate in the new environment and this will be reflected in a revised People Strategy. Based on the Council's expectations of managers and employees, the strategy will ensure that employees are recruited and developed to deliver the Council's intentions. The Bury Behaviours programme supports this approach and its use as part of Employee Reviews and organisational change will continue to be encouraged.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 With Government funding set to reduce, the cost to the Council of running services has to be cut. How this is achieved will be important. Opportunities need to be taken to modernise services/processes, introduce new models of delivery and generate income where this can mitigate impact of cuts, particularly on services to priority groups and jobs.
- 3.2 Greater efficiency however only takes us so far. Some services will be lost. For others, investment will be required to secure improvement. Short term injections of capital or revenue funding is not being ruled out providing there is a business case for 'investing to save' or where investment will deliver significant future gains for the Council or the Borough as a whole.
- 3.3 To achieve best use of resources, the Council will seek to work more closely with providers and other agencies. All public services are under pressure and aligning spending with our partners to get the best outcomes will be essential. There may also be further opportunities to pool resources (as is happening with the Better Care Fund).
- 3.4 To bring this together, a medium term financial strategy is being developed which, together with the updated People Strategy, will underpin the policy led approach.

4. RISKS

- 4.1 The financial climate makes long term planning more difficult. Paradoxically, the need for a plan is never greater than during times of uncertainty as people want to know what the Council will do and where it is heading. The Vision, Purpose and Values plan sets this out – with the actions having been future proofed as much as possible. It is however recognised that spending decisions may affect the pace and scale at which change can be delivered.

- 4.2 Not everybody will be satisfied with the proposed actions and there could be some resistance to change from residents and/or employees. A balance needs to be struck. The Council will endeavour to protect services and jobs (for example through new models of delivery) but people will also need to change their behaviour to adapt to new ways of working. Work to improve information and develop tools to help behaviour change have been included within the plan.
- 4.3 Most people will adapt to change, particularly when they understand the reasons, feel part of the process and/or perceive the new approach to be an improvement. It is accepted that some struggle with change and efforts will be made to help those individuals along – to minimise the risk of exclusion and ensure compliance with the Council's public sector equality duty.
- 4.4 More joint working and shared services are inevitable if the Council is to maintain services and cut costs. This carries certain risks in terms of not being in total control of timescales, resources and priorities. Services must be convinced that the value of joint arrangements outweigh the negatives of any compromise before entering into such ventures.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 5.1 There are no direct equality issues arising from this report. These will be identified and assessed when the more detailed proposals are put forward to implement this plan. The equality assessment however recognises that by signalling its continued support for vulnerable people, the plan is likely to be positive for the community.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The Vision, Purpose and Values document articulates (on one page) the direction of travel for the Council over the next five years.
 - 6.2 The focus will be on growth and reform – reinforcing efforts to make Bury a great place to live, work, study and visit whilst recognising the reality that the Council will be smaller as a result of reduced Government funding. To minimise the adverse effects on the public, new ways of working and new models of delivery will be explored.
 - 6.3 Supporting this work will be a Financial Strategy and People Strategy to ensure that Council resources are used to best effect to achieve the vision and values.
 - 6.4 It is recommended that:
 - (a) The Vision, Purpose and Values document is approved by Cabinet as the basis of the Council's 5 year plan and recommended to full Council for adoption;
 - (b) Council adopts the plan and amends the Constitution by replacing the previously approved Bury Plan with the one attached to this report.
 - (c) The draft indicators (attached at Appendix 1) are agreed as the basis for corporate monitoring and that further work is undertaken to develop/refine the measures to reflect progress on the work programme;
 - (d) A Financial Strategy and People Strategy are developed to underpin the direction of travel set out in the Visions, Purpose and Values document
-

List of Background Papers:-

Our Vision and Values – Bury's Corporate Plan on a page
Equality Assessment

Contact Details:

Pat Jones- Greenhalgh, Executive Director, Communities and Well Being

Tel: 0161 253 5405

Email: p.jones-greenhalgh@bury.gov.uk

DRAFT PERFORMANCE MEASURES


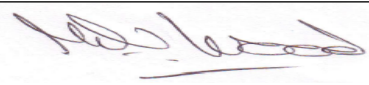
APPENDIX 1

OUR SERVICES	
% household waste sent for re-use, recycling and composting	Higher is better
Residual household waste (kgs per household)	Lower is better
Ave time to process Housing Benefit/Council tax new claims	Lower is better
% of children with 5 GCSEs grade A*-C	Higher is better
% of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET)	Lower is better
No of homeless presentations	Lower is better
No of homeless preventions	Higher is better
Business start ups	Higher is better
PARTNERSHIPS	
Overall employment rate for Bury	Higher is better
Proportion of working age people on out of work benefits	Lower is better
Admissions (aged 65+) to hospital and residential / nursing care	Lower is better
No of serious violent crime per 1000 population	Lower is better
No of anti social behaviour incidents per 1000 population	Lower is better
% rate of repeat incidents of domestic violence	Lower is better
PEOPLE	
Resident perception/satisfaction of the Borough	Higher is better
Employee satisfaction	Higher is better
Sickness absence	Lower is better
PREMISES AND FACILITIES	
No of houses built per annum	Higher is better
No of empty properties	Lower is better
Amount of vacant/under utilised land and buildings held	Lower is better
QUALITY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE / FINANCE AND SYSTEMS	
% Council Tax collected	Higher is better
% business rates collected	Higher is better
Business rates yield	Higher is better
Forecast outturn – revenue	Closeness to budget
Forecast outturn – capital	Closeness to budget

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	Communities and Well Being	
Service	Corporate Policy	
Proposed policy	Council Vision and Values 2015-2020	
Date	May 2015	
Officer responsible for the 'policy' and for completing the equality analysis	Name	Harry Downie
	Post Title	Assistant Director
	Contact Number	0161 253 7570
	Signature	
	Date	29 April 2015
Equality officer consulted	Name	Mary Wood
	Post Title	Principal Officer - Equalities
	Contact Number	0161 253 6795
	Signature	 25/2015
	Date	14 th May 2015

2. AIMS

What is the purpose of the policy/ service and what is it intended to achieve?	<p>The Vision and Values document sets the direction of travel for the Council service for the next five years. It outlines on one page the actions needed to deliver the Council's priorities and shape the organisation to make Bury fit for the future.</p> <p>The financial challenges ahead are expected to require radical change and this plan seeks to manage that process to produce an orderly move towards becoming a smaller, modern local authority.</p>
Who are the main stakeholders?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Council departments and partner agency services ○ Team Bury ○ Elected members ○ All residents in the Borough ○ External regulators and inspectors

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	No	No	<p>The plan provides a framework for future action and has no direct impact on individuals or groups within the community. It does however set the future tone for the Council and reinforces the positive values and behaviours that the Council wants from employees and residents in the future to support vulnerable people.</p> <p>The impact of service changes on people with protected characteristics will be identified when any detailed proposals are considered.</p>
Disability	No	No	
Gender	No	No	
Gender reassignment	No	No	
Age	No	No	
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 plan reinforces the positive values and behaviours that the Council wants from employees and residents. It also maintains a commitment to support vulnerable people as well as reduce poverty and its effects (many BME, disabled and older people being disproportionately represented in income deprivation figures).
Need to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not (eg. by tackling prejudice or promoting understanding)	Yes	The plan reinforces the positive values and behaviours that the Council wants from employees and residents.

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

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
Consultation with Cabinet		
Public consultation on the proposed budget cuts 2015/16		

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

There is uncertainty around the level of future funding from the Government which will only become clearer when the expected Comprehensive Spending Review and subsequent budget announcements are made.

The absence of this data however does not, and cannot, stop the Council planning ahead. Action needs to be taken to address the known pressures and these are outlined in the document. Funding availability will influence the pace and scale of change rather than the direction of travel.

5. CONCLUSIONS OF THE EQUALITY ANALYSIS

<p>What will the likely overall effect of your policy/service plan be on equality?</p>	<p>The Vision and Values document sets out the Council's position as it deals with the funding and demographic changes ahead. The plan brings together on one page the priorities, values and actions that the Council needs to transform services and remain fit for purpose.</p> <p>The document does not in itself change services and therefore has no direct impact on people with protected characteristics. It does however set the tone and values of the organisation and reinforces the positive values expected from employees and residents.</p>
<p>If you identified any negative effects (see questions 3a) or discrimination what measures have you put in place to remove or mitigate them?</p>	<p>No negative impacts have been identified at this stage. There may be service change arising from the actions identified in this plan but any impact on people with protected characteristics will be assessed when detailed proposals are brought forward.</p>
<p>Have you identified any further ways that you can advance equality of opportunity and/or foster good relations? If so, please give details.</p>	<p>It is recognised in the plan that the relationship between the Council and citizens will change. To support this approach, proactive engagement with the people of Bury has been made a priority – to strengthen communities and promote greater self determination by local people.</p>
<p>What steps do you intend to take now in respect of the implementation of your policy/service plan?</p>	<p>Following political approval to the plan, the document will be widely publicised throughout the Council and with partners.</p>

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.

Progress against the plan will be monitored quarterly by the Council's Senior Leadership team with reports also being presented to Cabinet and Scrutiny.

There will be an annual review of the plan and adjustments made if necessary in the light of performance, the financial position or any external influences on the Council.

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.

<h1 style="text-align: center;">REPORT FOR DECISION</h1>
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DECISION OF:	CABINET - 10 JUNE 2015 COUNCIL – 1 JULY 2015
SUBJECT:	TOWNSHIP FORUMS
REPORT FROM:	CABINET MEMBER – COMMUNITIES
CONTACT OFFICER:	Cindy Lowthian - Communities Manager
TYPE OF DECISION:	COUNCIL
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:	This paper is within the public domain
SUMMARY:	<p>This report seeks approval to a number of recommendations to enhance Township Forums. Significant budgetary challenges facing the Council and partners, combined with a changing local partnership landscape and advances in digital technologies provide opportunities to refresh the Forums to make them more efficient, locally focused and effective.</p>
OPTIONS & RECOMMENDED OPTION	<p>Option 1 (recommended)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the proposals outlined in the report. • Recommend to the July meeting of Council that the Operating Framework for Township Forums is amended to incorporate these proposals. • Recommend to the July meeting of Council that these proposals are implemented during the 2015/16 municipal year. <p>Option 2 (not recommended) Reject the proposals.</p> <p>Recommendation Option 1 is the recommended option as this would enhance the effectiveness of Township Forums. The proposals will help to reduce duplication across partners in relation to community engagement and strengthen local focus and accountability.</p>
IMPLICATIONS:	
Corporate Aims/Policy	Do the proposals accord with the Policy

Framework:	Framework? Yes	
Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:	All proposed changes are to be implemented within the existing budget provision for Township Forum activity.	SK
Health and Safety Implications	There are no known health and safety implications arising from this report	
Statement by Executive Director of Resources (including Health and Safety Implications)	Any Community Right to Bid applications will be dealt with in line with the Council's agreed procedures. There are no wider resource implications.	SK
Equality/Diversity implications:	Yes (see paragraph below).	
Considered by Monitoring Officer:	Yes The Operating Framework for Township Forums is part of the Council's Constitution. It is therefore recommended that Council amend the Constitution to reflect the proposed changes.	JH
Wards Affected:	All	
Scrutiny Interest:	Overview and Scrutiny	

TRACKING/PROCESS**DIRECTOR: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
COMMUNITIES AND WELL BEING**

Chief Executive/ Strategic Leadership Team	Cabinet Member/Chair	Ward Members	Partners
26/5/15	22/5/15		
Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet/Committee	Council	
	10/6/15		

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Township Forum Annual progress report presented to Council on 20 May highlighted the achievements of Township Forums over the past year. Township Forums have helped to co-ordinate a number of local projects and initiatives through Township Plans. They have also helped to attract external funding through the Bury East Alcohol Prospectus Scheme and the Radcliffe Our Place project. Whilst overall attendance has decreased slightly throughout the year by 8.66% (compared to the previous year), it still represents an increase of 17.31% compared to 2012/13. The value of the Forums is also recognised in facilitating public consultation exercises.
- 1.2 The report also highlighted a number of opportunities and challenges for the Forums over the coming year. Significant budgetary challenges facing the

Council and partners, combined with a changing local partnership landscape and advances in digital technologies provide opportunities to refresh the Forums and build more efficient, integrated locality working approaches.

2.0 CONSULTATION

2.1 To inform the recommendations, views were sought at the last round of Township Forum meetings on the following proposals:

- a) Reduce the number of generic presentations to help make meetings more locally relevant and purposeful.
- b) Formalise police involvement in the Township Forums.
- c) Reduce the frequency of meetings, at the same time promoting alternative community engagement mechanisms.
- d) Strengthen the role of Township Forums in relation to provisions within the Localism Act, particularly the Community Right to Bid (Assets of Community Value).
- e) Funding – delegate decisions relating to a combined small grants/ community funding pot to Township Forums.

2.2 In total 72 individual responses were received via the Township Forums. Appendix A provides a summary of these. The majority of responses indicate widespread consensus and support for the proposals with one exception; proposals to reduce the frequency of meetings generated a more mixed response, particularly from Whitefield and Unsworth, Prestwich and Radcliffe Township Forums.

3.0 PROPOSALS

(a) Reduce the number of generic presentations

3.1 Township Forums have helped facilitate a number of community consultation exercises with local councillors, community representatives and members of the public. However, too many presentations, particularly if they are not directly related to the local area lead to consultation fatigue, with the Township Forums in danger of losing their local focus and ability to address local priorities.

3.2 To address this, it is proposed that each Township forum provides a 'market place' prior to each meeting. Council Officers and partner representatives will be given the opportunity to attend, erect stands and stalls and provide details of any ongoing consultations and community information. This should reduce the need for generic presentations whilst at the same time still providing members of the public opportunities to ask questions and share their views. The majority of consultation responses received via the Township Forums are in favour of this proposal (72%).

3.3 Where presentations are made, these must address specific concerns to the township or be tailored to meet the particular needs of that area. The intention is not to stop communication or debate – but to improve the focus which is often missing in generic presentations. The Township Forum presentation protocol will be refreshed to reinforce this requirement to those presenting at future meetings.

(b) Formalise Police involvement in the Forums

- 3.4 Throughout the year, police attendance at Township Forums has been mixed. Township Co-ordinators state that where Police do attend, this has been positively received by both Township Forum members and the public who value the opportunity to raise and discuss local community safety concerns. The majority of consultation responses received via the Forums are in favour of this proposal (81%).
- 3.5 The Operating Framework for Township Forums states that Township Forum Advisory Group members “*can be made up of representatives from voluntary and community groups and partner organisations with an interest in the area*”. Discussions held so far with Greater Manchester Police (GMP) indicate willingness for the Police to formalise their membership on Township Forums. Over the coming months, Township Co-ordinators will work with their local police representatives to agree representation on the Township Forums.
- 3.6 Further opportunities to streamline engagement approaches with other partners will also be explored, particularly health colleagues.

(c) Reduce the frequency of meetings & harness wider engagement mechanisms

- 3.7 Township Forums provide an important tool to communicate with and engage local people. However, they are not the only instrument available. There are a wide range of other methods which can be used to share information, engage and empower people. These include tenant and resident groups, Youth Cabinet, Older People Forum, Customer Task Force, Patient Cabinet, Health Watch and councillor surgeries.
- 3.8 Significant advances in digital technology and social media also mean that increasing numbers of people prefer to share their views online rather than attend formal meetings e.g. through Facebook or Twitter. During the next year, we will explore opportunities to harness this technology to test approaches to online meetings in relation to key topic areas.
- 3.9 Other changes such as the refresh of the Council’s website to make it easier to contact and access services – and the Bury Directory providing a wide range of information on local services, groups and assets – are strengthening on-line communication. With the technology making access available 24/7 at times that matter to local people, more people are being nudged towards electronic rather than personal interaction.
- 3.10 In this context, it is proposed that a recommendation is made to Council to amend the Operating Framework for Township Forums which reduces the frequency of meetings from six to four per year from 2015/16 onwards. Although the consultation response from the Forums to this proposal was mixed, attendance figures show that relatively small proportions of the overall public attend the meetings on a regular basis, the business has become routine and there are a wide range of other methods for people to express their views.
- 3.11 Having fewer meetings combined with the other changes recommended in this report should help ensure the Forum meetings are more productive and locally focussed. Other (community led) meetings and events can still be organised by community representatives and/or residents as required. The intention is for the council organised Township Forum meetings to add value to the range of

other community engagement methods and tools available, thereby avoiding duplication and engagement fatigue.

(d) Localism Act 2011

- 3.12 The Localism Act requires local authorities to maintain a list of assets of community value which have been nominated by local community groups. It is designed to give communities more opportunity to take control of land or buildings important to them by giving them time to purchase the asset should it ever be listed.
- 3.13 Since the introduction of the Act, there have been five successful nominations listed by the Council. The current procedure involves seeking the views of local councillors prior to the determination of a nomination. It is proposed that future nominations will be shared through Township Forum members to seek their views prior to the determination of a nomination by the relevant Cabinet member. Most of the consultation responses received via Township Forums are supportive of this proposal.

(e) Community Funds

- 3.14 The Council already has a process for awarding small grants to organisations and it is proposed to delegate these community funding decisions to Township Forums to better align funding to township plan priorities. The intention is to strengthen local transparency and accountability in relation to the allocation of these grants and to develop a new process that increases community involvement in the decisions. The majority of consultation responses received through township forums supported this proposal.
- 3.15 The Council proposes to allocate £8,000 to each Township Forum, supporting the work of voluntary and community groups with applications being determined during the June, September, November and March cycle of meetings. The applications will be considered by a sub group meeting prior to the forum with the decisions being announced during the Township Forum. A maximum of £250 individual grant is available for formally constituted organisations.
- 3.16 Additionally, a borough-wide allocation of £8,000 will be available for "cross-township" applications for activity that takes place across township boundaries. The applications will again be open to constituted community and voluntary organisations in the third sector, with a maximum grant of £500 per application. These applications would be determined by the Council's Small Grants Panel. Funding decisions for both these schemes would be reported to the relevant Township Forum(s) with a follow-up evaluation after 3-6 months.

4.0 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 Consultation has taken place with each of the Township Forums. The results of this exercise (attached) indicate significant levels of support for most of the proposals. The issue which divides the Forums is the frequency of meetings.
- 4.2 It is accepted that decision making in relation to small grants through Township Forums could be slower if the frequency of meetings is reduced. In mitigation, a small contingency pot has been retained centrally to be allocated (through the Small Grants Panel) where more urgent decision making is required.

- 4.3 There is also a counter-risk from not taking action. Attendance levels (as a proportion of resident population) continue to be low. These proposals seek to increase community engagement by giving the Forums new powers, reducing the number of generic presentations and increasing attendance by the Police at meetings.

5.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 5.1 The Equality Analysis (EA) indicates that the changes will have little impact on individuals with protected characteristics. The increasing powers to Township Forums and attempts to increase community engagement are however seen as positive in terms of improving community relations and cohesion.
- 5.2 Subject to approval by Council, the changes will be monitored and their impact reported to Annual Council in 2016.

6.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Township Forums provide a unique opportunity for local councillors, community representatives and residents to work together to address local priorities and improve local outcomes.
- 6.2 This report outlines a number of areas which should help to further enhance the work of the Forums. Cabinet are requested to support the proposals and recommend to Council that:
- (i) The changes outlined in section 3 of this report are approved;
 - (ii) Recommend to the July meeting of Council that the Operational Framework for Township Forums is amended to include the new tasks and reduce the frequency of Township Forum meetings from six to four per year from 2015/16 and onwards.

List of Background Papers:-

Annual Progress Report – Township Forums (Full Council, 20 May 2015).
Township Forum Operating Framework
Localism Act 2011 - Community Right to Bid Guidance.
Equality Assessment

Contact Details:-

Cindy Lowthian, Communities Manager, Communities and Wellbeing.
C.Lowthian@bury.gov.uk, (0161) 2535121.

TOWNSHIP FORUM QUESTIONNAIRE

We are seeking your view on the following proposals to our Township Forums. Your views are important to us so that we may provide a better service delivery to our communities

	RTNM			Bury East			Bury West			Radcliffe			Whitefield/Unsworth			Prestwich			COMBINED			% OF 72		
	Agree	Do n't	N/A	Agree	Do n't	N/A	Agree	Do n't	N/A	Agree	Do n't	N/A	Agree	Don't	N/A	Agree	Do n't	N/A	Agree	Do n't	N/A	Agree	Don't	N/A
Presentations: Review protocols to reduce number of generic presentations at meetings	7			12			4	1		9		2	15	8	4	5	1	4	52	10	10	72 %	14 %	14 %
Pop-up information stands: Introduce a local 'market place' at each meeting. This will involve erection of stands/stalls providing details of any ongoing consultations and relevant community information - reducing need for presentations	6	1		11	1		4	1		8	1	2	21	5	1	8		2	58	9	5	81 %	13 %	7%
GMP Partnership: Explore opportunities to formalise Police involvement in the Township Forums	6	1		12			5			11			25	1	1	9	1		68	3	1	94 %	4%	1%
Frequency of Meetings: Reduce number of meetings from 6 to 4 per year	3	3	1	9	2	1	3	2		2	8	1	9	15	3	2	7	1	28	37	7	39 %	51 %	10 %
Engagement: Promote other engagement mechanisms, including Councillor surgeries, use of social media, Health Watch, Patient Cabinet	4	2	1	11		1	3	2		10	1		16	1	10	9	1		53	7	12	74 %	10 %	17 %

[illegible]

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	Department of Communities & Wellbeing	
Service	Communities Team	
Proposed policy	Enhancing Township Forums – Cabinet Report	
Date	12 May 2015	
Officer responsible for the 'policy' and for completing the equality analysis	Name	Cindy Lowthian
	Post Title	Communities Manager
	Contact Number	0161 253 7455
	Signature	
	Date	12 May 2015
Equality officer consulted	Name	Mary Wood
	Post Title	Principal Officer – Equalities
	Contact Number	0161 253 6795
	Signature	 32/2015
	Date	20 May 2015

2. AIMS

What is the purpose of the policy/service and what is it intended to achieve?	<p>To approve recommendations to enhance the operation of Township Forums.</p> <p>Significant budgetary challenges facing the Council, combined with a changing local partnership landscape and advances in digital technologies provide opportunities to refresh the Forums to make them more efficient, locally focussed and effective.</p> <p>The following proposals are included in the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Reduce the number of generic presentations carried out at meetings. Too many generic presentations pull the forums away from local issues and priorities. Protocols will ensure that where presentations are made, these are locally relevant and address specific concerns to the township. A local market place will run prior to each Forum meeting involving the erection of stalls and stands allowing partner agencies to seek the views of the public on more generic issues. (ii) Formalise Police involvement in the meetings –
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	<p>giving the public opportunities to raise and discuss community safety concerns.</p> <p>(iii) Reduce the frequency of meetings and harness wider engagement mechanisms. The intention is that the Forums will compliment a range of other community engagement methods, avoiding duplication and consultation fatigue.</p> <p>(iv) Localism Act 2011 - Community right to Bid. Ensure the views of Forums are sought on future nominations.</p> <p>(v) Community Funds – strengthen the decision making powers of the Forums in relation to the fund. This should help strengthen local transparency and accountability in relation to their allocation.</p> <p>Feedback on the proposals was sought at the last round of Township Forums; this feedback has helped shape the recommendations outlined in the report.</p>
<p>Who are the main stakeholders?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public • Elected Members • Advisory Group members • Partners, particularly Police and Health organisations • Voluntary, community and faith sector groups • Local businesses • Community Groups and Tenant/Resident Associations • Faith representatives • Bury Council Departments

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	<p>The proposals will ensure more time is given at the Forum meetings to local issues and priorities aimed at reducing disadvantage within and between communities. This includes people from different minority communities and backgrounds.</p> <p>Enhancing the Township Forums and harnessing wider engagement methods should also help strengthen community relations and cohesion.</p> <p>Strengthening decision making powers in relation to grant funding will enhance local accountability and transparency. Forum members have the local knowledge and networks to help ensure funds are allocated to local projects which help reduce disadvantage within and between people from different ethnic backgrounds.</p>
Disability	Yes	No	<p>Enhancing the Township forums and harnessing wider engagement methods should help to ensure that people with disabilities are able to participate and engage using a variety of methods tailored to their needs.</p> <p>Township Forum members have the local knowledge and networks to help ensure Township Forum Grant funding is allocated to local projects which help reduce disadvantage within and between people from different communities, including those with disabilities.</p>
Gender	Yes	No	Enhancing Township forums and

			<p>harnessing wider engagement methods should help to ensure that all individuals are able to participate and engage using a variety of methods tailored to their needs.</p> <p>Township Forum members have the local knowledge and networks to help ensure Township Grant funding is allocated to local projects which help reduce disadvantage within and between people from different communities, including between different gender groups.</p>
Gender reassignment	Yes	No	<p>Enhancing Township forums and harnessing wider engagement methods should help to ensure that all residents, including those who have or are about to undergo gender reassignment, have opportunities to participate and engage using a variety of methods tailored to their needs.</p>
Age	Yes	No	<p>Township Forum members have the local knowledge and networks to ensure grant funds benefit a variety of local groups and projects, including the needs of young and old people within their areas.</p> <p>The report recognises that significant advances in digital technology and social media mean that increasing numbers of people prefer to share their views on line rather than attend meetings, particularly young people.</p> <p>However, a variety of engagement methods, including Township Forums, will continue to be used, providing opportunities for those who prefer to engage in other ways.</p>
Sexual orientation	Yes	No	<p>Enhancing Township forums and harnessing wider engagement methods should help to ensure that all residents are able to participate and engage using a variety of methods tailored to their needs, regardless of sexual orientation.</p> <p>Township Forum members have the</p>

			local knowlege and networks to help ensure Township Grant funding is allocated to local projects which help reduce disadvantage within and between people from different communities, including the local LGBT communtiy.
Religion or belief	Yes	No	Township Forum members have the local knowlege and networks to help ensure Township Grant funding is allocated to local projects which help reduce disadvantage within and between people from different communities, including local faith groups.
Caring responsibilities	Yes	No	Enhancing Township forums and harnessing wider engagement methods should help to ensure that residents are able to participate and engage using a variety of methods tailored to their needs, including caring responsibilities. Township Forum members have the local knowlege and networks to help ensure Township Grant funding is allocated to local projects which help promote overall wellbeing, including for those with caring responsibilities.
Pregnancy or maternity	No	No	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
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 Township Forums will be responsible for decision making in relation to a community grant allocation. These Grants will be distributed to voluntary organisations which provide services in response to local needs, many of these services meeting needs that fall below the threshold for statutory intervention but which, nonetheless, improve an individual's quality of life, enable them to participate more fully in society and may mitigate or delay the need for statutory intervention in the future. Proposals to channel more funding through Township Forums means that decisions will be taken more closely to the communities they serve and enable local people to be involved in the process.
Need to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not (eg. by tackling prejudice or promoting understanding)	Yes	The recommendations outlined in the report will help ensure the Township Forums are more locally focussed and effective. Reducing the number of meetings, promoting other engagement methods and reducing the numbers of generic presentations should encourage more active engagement, strengthen community relations and community cohesion.

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.

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
<p>Feedback on the proposals was sought at the last round of Township Forum meetings.</p> <p>A total of 72 responses were received via the Township Forums.</p> <p>The majority of responses received indicate widespread consensus and support for the proposals with one exception; proposals to reduce the frequency of meetings received more of a mixed response, particularly from Whitefield and Unsworth, Prestwich and Radcliffe Township</p>	<p>See Appendix A of the report.</p>	

<p>Forums.</p> <p>However the report recognises that people prefer to share their views using a variety of methods accessible to them. Having fewer meetings combined with the other changes recommended in the report should help improve overall engagement and ensure the Township Forums are more productive and locally focussed.</p> <p>Feedback received via the Township Co-ordinators indicates that where Police attend meetings, this is positively received by members of the public. The report proposes to formalise police involvement in the Township Forums.</p>		

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

<p>Further opportunities to streamline engagement approaches with partners through township forums will be explored over the coming six months, particularly health colleagues.</p>

5. CONCLUSIONS OF THE EQUALITY ANALYSIS

What will the likely overall effect of your policy/service plan be on equality?	<p>Positive: whilst the changes will have little impact in individuals with protected characteristics and any benefit will be felt by all groups, the proposed changes should help to improve community engagement approaches, thereby improving community relations and community cohesion.</p> <p>Delegating funding decisions through the Township Forums should strengthen local transparency and accountability in relation to the allocation of grants and increase community involvement in decisions.</p>
If you identified any negative effects (see questions 3a) or discrimination what measures have you put in place to remove or mitigate them?	None
Have you identified any further ways that you can advance equality of opportunity and/or foster good relations? If so, please give details.	To continue to promote Township Forums and encourage people to become involved. The work of the Forums will also be complimented through the promotion of other communication and engagement methods which can meet the needs of different communities and groups. This recognises that not everybody wants to attend a formal meeting.
What steps do you intend to take now in respect of the implementation of your policy/service plan?	<p>If approved by Cabinet on 10 June 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A recommendation will be made to the next meeting of Full Council to amend the Operating Framework to reflect the proposals. In particular, to reduce the frequency of Township Forum meetings from six to four per year for 2015/16 onwards. • The decision will be communicated through the next round of Township Forum meetings. • Detailed discussions will take place with groups • The Township Forum 'presentation protocol' will be refreshed to reflect the proposals. • Guidance and governance arrangements will be finalised to facilitate the delegation of grant spending to Township Forums for the new municipal year.

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 Cabinet Member for Communities will receive regular reports on the operation of the Township Forums, particularly in relation to the implementation of the new proposals.

All groups receiving funding from the Communities Fund will be monitored on a quarterly basis to review performance and funding levels.

An annual progress report on the operation of the Township Forums, including grant funding will be submitted to Council at its first meeting of the municipal year 2016.

Guidance will be produced for Township Forums to outline duties and responsibilities in respect of funding local bodies. Control of budgets will be retained centrally (with funding being released according to Forum decisions) whilst governance will be further strengthened by corporate monitoring of spending decisions on a quarterly basis.

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.

COUNCIL 1 JULY 2015 – WORK OF THE CABINET
LEADER’S SPEECH

Thank you Madam Mayor, it gives me great pleasure to up-date Council on the work of the Cabinet since the April meeting of Council.

Madam Mayor before I begin, can I take just a moment to wish you well for your Mayoral year? Many tributes were paid to you at Mayor making, and to your consort John, and like everyone I’m sure you will be a magnificent Mayor and you’ll be a great ambassador for the Borough.

Certainly one thing that everyone agreed was that you would have absolutely no problem controlling Council meetings and I know that the first piece of advice that John gave to you was to make sure that the gavel was out and ready...and I can see that it’s there right now!!

Madam Mayor I know that I speak for all Members when I say that we’ll TRY to be good and I wish you well in all this year’s Council meetings.

Turning now to the two Cabinet meetings...

Each of the meetings has taken on a distinctive theme.

The first meeting, on 8 April, focussed on delivering commitments made as part of my Budget speech.

Firstly we approved the details behind the exciting new Bury Business rates discount scheme. This scheme is aimed at attracting new businesses and employers into the borough by providing reductions in rates on new commercial buildings in our employment generating areas.

We launched the scheme at the recent highly successful Bury Business Fair as part of our 'Bury Means Business' package and it has been very well received by the business community.

Madam Mayor, growing our business base and providing local jobs for local people is a key priority for us and this scheme is yet another part of the fabulous Bury offer.

We also considered a report on the establishment of the ground breaking trading company that will be the vehicle for the delivery of a range of adult social care services.

At Budget time I reiterated the ruling Labour group's determination to do everything possible to avoid cutting services to vulnerable people despite the vicious cuts imposed on us by the Government and the LATCO is evidence of this determination.

It is an innovative way of structuring services that means we can make savings and increase income whilst still maintaining vital services.

We also confirmed the details of another promise made by Labour, to do everything we can to tackle poverty. We did this by approving a report that set out how we would maintain the Bury Support Fund in the face of yet more Government cuts, cuts that this time have been aimed at the poorest members of our society.

The other major issue that we considered on 8 April related to a Memorandum of Understanding between the GM Councils, CCGs and NHS England that created a framework for the devolution of health and social care responsibilities to Greater Manchester.

Madam Mayor, the MoU means that decisions about health care in Greater Manchester can now be made IN Greater Manchester, BY Greater Manchester, FOR Greater Manchester. This is a massive step forward in the fight to improve the health and well-being of our residents.

At the Cabinet meeting on 10 June we moved the emphasis towards planning for the future.

Firstly, we considered what was probably the most important report to come before Cabinet for a very long time. This was a report setting out our Vision, Purpose and Values and there is no doubt that this is THE key document for the Council because it will serve as a corporate plan to take the organisation, and the Borough, forward through the coming period of austerity.

Unlike previous plans, this document does not follow a traditional format. In keeping with the times, it has been cut back to focus on the key elements that deliver the Council's vision to lead, shape and maintain a prosperous, sustainable Bury that is fit for purpose.

Madam Mayor, the strong policy-led approach is deliberate. All the evidence points to the Council becoming a smaller organisation with less money to spend at a time when expectations and demand for services continues to rise. This is truly a perfect storm. A clear sense of direction and passion to deliver local priorities will be absolutely fundamental to managing this scenario and making best use of resources and this is what is reflected in our Vision.

We also considered strategies covering the Adult Learning Service and Burrs Country Park.

For Adult Learning the strategy makes clear that there should be a strong focus on actions that increase basic skill levels and reduce other barriers to employment.

I am particularly pleased that the role of learning in promoting community cohesion and reducing inequalities is also recognised. In these troubled times this is more important than ever.

The Burrs Strategy, and a paper on changes to Supplementary Planning Document 1, reported back the results of consultation exercises and, in the spirit of listening that this Labour administration is renowned for, I am pleased that we have been able to take on board the feedback that we received and that both documents have been amended accordingly.

PAUSE

Madam Mayor, foster carers truly are community heroes. The word "foster" means to help someone grow and develop and it also means to take care of someone's needs and what could be more important than that to a child, especially one who has lacked this kind of love and care in their life.

That is why I was so pleased that Cabinet approved a report that affords Family & Friends carers the opportunity to qualify for the payment of the fostering fee, that promotes training and development for foster carers including a Payment for Skills system which will now be open to all carers and finally puts in place an enhanced fee to underpin the development of a specialist foster care scheme.

Not only are all of these things the right thing to do to adequately reward foster carers and incentivise others to become carers but they will also be cost neutral to the Council. This shows clearly the value of investing in such a critically important service.

Finally Madam Mayor, we considered a report seeking approval to a number of recommendations to enhance Township Forums.

Township Forums continue to provide a unique opportunity for local councillors, community representatives and residents to work together to address local priorities and improve local outcomes.

However in view of the significant budgetary challenges facing the Council and its partners, the changing local partnership landscape and advances in digital technologies, we thought that it was vital that we took the opportunity to refresh the Forums to make them more efficient, effective and locally focussed.

Following consultation, the proposals we approved included reducing the number of generic presentations (and I'm sure we're all in favour of that!), formalising Police involvement in Township Forums, reducing the frequency of meetings, introducing the Localism Act into Township Forums in respect of assets of community value and finally establishing Community Funds of £8000 for each Forum to use to award small grants to community and voluntary groups.

Madam Mayor, I really must stress...all of these proposals are intended to build on, and improve, the already brilliant work that the Forums do.

We did do one other thing at these two meetings and that was to invest in local assets.

We made provision to develop a Secondary Pupil Referral Unit, we approved proposals that will support the establishment of a Greater Manchester Housing Investment Fund as part of Devo Manc, we approved a programme of investment in our highways and bridges and we confirmed our commitment to improve our play areas.

As I said in my budget speech, Bury is Investing in Growth.

Madam Mayor it has been an 'interesting' couple of months since Council last met to do it's 'ordinary' business.

We've had the little matter of local and General elections and I want to say a particular thanks to the elections team for the superb job that they did to make the process run so smoothly. The eyes of the world were on Bury and they did us proud.

We've seen the opening in Radcliffe of Dunelm's very impressive national call centre which will bring vital jobs for local people, building on the regeneration work that the Council is undertaking.

And I've been involved in sod cutting...no that isn't how I control the Labour Group!!...for the Fire Service's magnificent new training centre and for the long awaited improvements to Elton High School.

Madam Mayor, this is yet more evidence that this wonderful borough of ours really is THE place to be!

Thank you.

END

LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

Question 1 submitted by Councillor Mallon

Q. Given that the Council faced cuts totaling over £10 million in the 2014/15 financial year, can the leader outline what the final outturn for the year is?

A. **Councillor Mallon is correct in stating that the Council was forced to make cuts of over £10 million to set a legal and balanced budget for 2014/15.**

This was due to a reduction in Government funding of nearly 10%, and further reductions in Specific and Rolled In grants totalling £585k.

To respond to this, the Council embarked upon a bold budget programme and consulted widely with local residents, on the difficult decisions that had to be made.

The budget was closely monitored throughout the year, including Cabinet Member input at Star Chamber meetings.

I am pleased to report that yet again the Council has delivered on its budget – returning a slight underspend for the year of £95k (subject to audit)

This is testimony to the hard work of Cabinet Members, and the leadership of Councillor Connolly who held the finance portfolio for 2014/15.

Above all it is a credit to all of our staff who's diligence and hard work has been unsurpassed as yet again they have achieved "more with less" against a backdrop of these cruel cuts.

Question 2 submitted by Councillor Parnell

Q. Can the Leader comment on the Council's success in recruiting in-house foster carers and explain the benefits this brings?

A. **The Fostering Service has met the targets set in the 'invest to save' initiative in the past two years. This has meant an overall increase of 22 fostering households providing 40 placements in Bury. This benefits children and young people in a number of way. Firstly there is now a choice of placements for younger children meaning that children can be matched to a family best able to meet their needs. It also means that we are more likely to be able to place brothers and sisters together. Secondly retaining children in Bury means that they can continue to receive local services; this is particularly importance in respect of the continuity provided by remaining in the same school and the services capacity to mobilise specialist services around the child. Thirdly remaining in Bury assists children and young people to remain in contact with family and friends and helps support a return home if**

this is in the child's interest. Finally the service is promoting opportunities for young people to remain with their carers post 18 to secure a safe transition to independence at a later age than has traditionally been the case.

Question 3 submitted by Councillor Noel Bayley

Q. Could the Leader tell us how many additional houses would be built across Bury if developers built homes on all the land they have received planning approval for?

A. At the 1st April this year, there was extant planning permission for 2,250 units across the Borough. Around a third of these were on sites that had commenced development and are expected to come forward in the short term. This is a significant fall from the number of extant planning permissions the previous year, which stood at 3,000. This is largely because there has been a rise in the number of completions this year – up from 260 last year to 550 this year.

It is expected that some of the other sites with planning permission will commence on site over the next few months.

There are, however, a number of large strategic housing sites that remain undeveloped in Bury, as in much of the rest of Greater Manchester and the country, despite having planning permission for a number of years. Council Officers and colleagues from the Homes and Community Agency are currently working together as part of the 'Manchester Place' initiative to identify the constraints that are preventing these from coming forward and to investigate how these constraints can be resolved.

Sometimes the issue can relate to the lack of affordable finance to fund a development and the Manchester Place initiative can help provide loans to developers who are unable to secure loans at a favourable rate elsewhere. Hopefully this work will help to kickstart regeneration, development and investment in the Borough over the coming months and years to help reduce further, the number of sites that have planning permission but development has yet to commence.

Question 4 submitted by Councillor Gunther

- Q.** Why was an email forwarded to Councillors by an officer of Bury Council outlining the proposed increase in the numbers of turbines within the existing Wind Farm on Scout Moor subsequently withdrawn?

A. The email was withdrawn on the advice of the Monitoring Officer. The Council had made a specific response to the relevant Planning Authority (Rossendale Council) as a statutory consultee within the planning process. A consistent approach from the Council is required. Part of the Council's response was to request that any other comments from Bury residents be considered by Rossendale.

Question 5 submitted by Councillor Black

- Q.** Can the Leader please tell me what the affects will be to Bury of the recently announced £200 million in-year cut to public health budgets?

- A.** At this point in time we do not know precisely how the announced cuts to public health grants will affect Bury. We are awaiting details of a consultation exercise on exactly how the cuts will be applied. What should be noted is that we in Bury are already underfunded by £0.5m against the ACRA formula target allocation and further blanket cuts would widen existing inequalities in funding.

What we do know is that public health funding is vital to taking a preventative approach and helping to reduce demand on already over-stretched health and social care services and supporting our devolution plans to achieve the fastest improvements in health and create a sustainable system. Any cut on top of already substantial cuts in local authority budgets will severely hamper our efforts to the improve health and well-being of our communities and overcome our major public health challenges such as obesity and excess alcohol consumption.

This is particularly worrying when we are due to take on extra responsibilities for commissioning public health services for young children from October 2015.

The announcement of the cuts is surprising not only because the budget for 2015-16 was only announced 6 months ago but also because the government promised to protect spending on the NHS and has committed to the NHS Five Year Forward view of which

prevention is a key element. Many of the services commissioned via the public health grant are indeed NHS services for example school nursing, sexual health services, drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services and NHS health checks.

We are extremely concerned about these cuts which are short sighted and will cost us more in the long run.

Question 6 submitted by Councillor O'Brien

Q. Does the Lead member for Community Safety agree that domestic violence and abuse continues to be a national scandal with one in four women and one in six men affected at some point in their lives. Also, two people lose their lives each and every week because of domestic violence and abuse.

A. I certainly agree it is a scandal because its long term effects are devastating for both victims and their families. In Bury, over 4000 incidents are recorded each year and we know that this is just the tip of the iceberg; many more incidents go unreported.

Team Bury partners have agreed that tackling domestic violence and abuse is a priority. It is a top priority for the Community Safety Partnership and for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

This year Bury have piloted innovative work to support standard risk (lower risk) victims of domestic violence and abuse aimed at preventing repeat incidents.

We have also worked with the Police to commission training for a wide range of agencies on domestic violence and abuse; approximately 176 people have attended this training.

We are currently finalising a new Domestic Violence strategy which puts early identification, prevention and victim support at its heart.

Finally, we are delighted to be working with colleagues from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to harness opportunities arising from the Police Innovation Fund. This will support further work with victims and their families at an earlier stage to prevent reoffending and stop violence escalating.

Question 7 submitted by Councillor Black

Q. Can the Leader advise us on recent trends in the numbers of children we have in care and what measures have been taken to lead to this?

A. **At 31 March 2015 the number of children in care stood at 294. This was the first time in recent years that it had dipped below 300, having for several years been consistently at or about 320. The figure has remained below 300 in the first quarter of this year.**

As the number of children coming into care has not significantly changed this reduction has largely been brought about by more effective care planning for children. Children who can be safely returned home are supported to do so and after a period of time sufficient to demonstrate changes in parental behaviour have been sustained care orders are revoked. An increase in the number of children placed with family members during care proceedings has led to more proceedings ending with the making of a Special Guardianship order rather than a care order and improvements in our SGO support service has meant more family carers are confident in applying for Special Guardianship of the children for whom they care.

In 2014/15 Adoption orders increased by 44% as a record number of adoptions of Bury children were secured.

This effective planning has been supported by work undertaken across Children's Social Care teams and with Legal Services and a number of specialist posts and systems that support the planning process.

Question 8 submitted by Councillor Caserta

Q. In view of the latest paper entitled "Healthier Together" issued in June can we be informed what representations Bury MBC have made with regards to Bury Hospice?

A. **Bury Hospice is not part of the Healthier Together consultations, the Healthier Together consultations are looking at the reconfiguration of the acute hospital trusts. The outcome of this will be known in July; the Council have been involved in the Consultation and have submitted views through the previous Chief Executive.**

In relation to the Hospice that is commissioned by the CCG, however we have been in discussions with them about how we may use the hospice to provide step down care from the hospital.

Any changes made to what is delivered at the hospice would be subject to consultation and discussed at Health Scrutiny in the first instance.

Question 9 submitted by Councillor Pickstone

Q. Could the Leader please give an update on the provision of midwifery services and health visitor services in Prestwich's two remaining Children's Centres

A. **Pennine Acute Trust made a decision in May to move their Midwifery Clinics out of the Prestwich Children's Centre hub and spoke and move them into GP surgeries or North Manchester General Hospital. This followed from a request from the Council in April that the Trust should make a small financial contribution to the running costs of the centres that were hosting the clinics.**

The Council is very disappointed with this decision but because it is committed to supporting the health and well-being of our residents in Prestwich it has recently decided to waive these charges in the spirit of partnership. It is now for Pennine Acute NHS Trust to decide when they plan to return to the Prestwich Hub and Spoke Children centres.

In relation to Health Visitors Pennine Care have been undertaking a review of their Health Visitor Service deployment and are looking to reduce the number of clinics they provide across the Borough as many of them were undersubscribed and deploy more of their resource to targeted support and home visits. They will be using either the hub or spoke for a clinic but not both. We will not be charging Pennine Care for use of our Children's Centres for such clinics.

Question 10 submitted by Councillor Grimshaw

Q. Can the Leader please tell us about the recent visit to Bury from Lyn Romeo, the Chief Social Worker at the Department of Health?

A. **Lyn Romeo is the Chief Social Worker employed by the department of Health. Her role is to raise the image of social work and specifically look how the skills of social workers are used what opportunities there are for ongoing professional development.**

Lyn visited Bury on 9th June, and spent time with social Workers of all levels, including managers, Qualified social workers, newly Qualified social workers and students.

The visit was a very informal visit which gave us the opportunity to discuss how the role of the Adult social worker is used and what plans we have in place to ensure we can support ongoing continuing Professional development for staff. Staff spoke openly about their experiences of working and being a student in Communities and Wellbeing department, and also gave Lyn food for thought about how social work training may need to change if we are to equip workers in the future with the different skills now required.

Lyn finished her day meeting the Chief Executive and discussed the opportunities and challenges devolution may bring for social work.

Lyn fed back how impressed she was with our teams approach our infra structure we have developed to ensure quality and standards in social work are maintained and how we attract social work students to the Borough, Bury being seen as a place to train by students. The fact that we have also implemented the professional standards and have a real ethos developing our own.

She is quoted as saying

" its really good that we can see today's social workers taking responsibility for the next generation of Social workers"

Question 11 submitted by Councillor Tariq

- Q.** Can the Leader please tell us about the recent visit by Duncan Selbie, Chief Executive of Public Health England?
- A.** **Duncan Selbie visited Bury on 8th June, 2015 and it was a tremendous success.**

He was met at the Welly Cafe, Manchester Road Park by myself, Cllr Shori, Mike Owen, Pat Jones-Greenhalgh and Lesley Jones where after a brief meeting, he spent time looking round the cafe and surrounding park and learning about the fantastic work done there by Mike Spurr and the BEST team to support people into employment. Duncan was particularly impressed by the way in which the cafe is used as a community asset, no longer at a cost to the Council for maintenance and how over the years over 1000 vulnerable people have been supported into employment.

Duncan also spent time listening directly to a wide range of staff who described the broad array of work that is going on right across the council to improve health and well-being and reduce inequalities. Whilst impressed by all the work, he highlighted our work on the 'Starting well' agenda to improve outcomes for

children, the I Will if you Will programme, our work on maintaining high quality parks and play areas and engagement with junior sports clubs as well as our visionary work to transform our social care provision in order to keep people as well and independent as possible for as long as possible.

In his feedback letter, Duncan described his visit as instructive, energising and inspiring.

He said he had been to many places over the past two years but none more motivating nor where the public health agenda is so obviously understood. Our positive outlook and determination to make things better for local people really stood out for him.

Question 12 submitted by Councillor Fitzwalter

- Q.** Could the Leader of the Council outline where the Planning Inspectorate's Inquiry is up to on the AD plant plans in Ramsbottom and what are the likely timescales for a decision being made?
- A.** **The appeal inquiry has now closed and the Planning Inspector is considering both the case for the appellant and the Council.**

During the Inquiry, the Council and appellant received a letter from Planning Inspectorate -11 March 2015 confirming that the appeal had been recovered by the Secretary of State (i.e. wishes to make the decision himself) on the basis of the development being "significant development in the Green Belt"

It is understood from correspondence that the Inspector's report is to be submitted to the Secretary of State on or before 28 September 2015 and a decision to be issued by Secretary of State on or before 30 November 2015

Question 13 submitted by Councillor Nuttall*

- Q.** Give the anticipated £150,000 short-fall in funding from the skills agency, does the Council plan to raise Adult Learning tuition fees and by how much?
- A.** **There will be a slight increase in general fees as per normal practice with the hourly rate increasing from £3.50 to £3.75 per hour this year for personal and community development learning with people in receipt of benefits paying 50% Of the cost. Targeted provision in areas of disadvantage to widen participation will continue to be free. The savings will be made principally by reducing the volume of some courses leading to accreditation as this is where the cut in funding has been made.(Adult Skills Budget)**

***answer not provided at the meeting due to absence of questioner**

Question 14 submitted by Councillor Holt

Q. The spectre of “Universal Credit” seems to have been hanging over Bury’s most vulnerable residents for some time now. Please could the Leader provide an update on the Government’s proposed roll-out timetable, and what are the longer term prospects for Welfare support in light of the forthcoming Chancellor’s budget ?

A. **The rollout of “Universal Credit” has been very slow nationally, with the Government falling well behind its original schedule.**

In 2013, the National Audit Office concluded that the Department for Work and Pensions had not achieved Value for Money, and was unable to assess the value of systems it spent over £300 million developing.

The NAO went on to outline the project had suffered from weak programme management, over-optimistic timescales, and a lack of openness about progress.

The former Head of the Civil Service Sir Bob Kerslake is quoted as describing the project as “undeliverable”.

In Bury, as at the end of May we had 775 residents on Universal Credit – and at this stage the roll out has been restricted to non-pensioners. More vulnerable clients are not yet in scope.

Regarding the longer term prospects for Welfare Reform, the Chancellor’s proposed £12 billion cut has been widely reported, however is as yet uncoded.

We don’t know what the cut will look like, and I expect the Government don’t know either.

As I speak, I suspect George Osborne is sweating over his calculator trying to get his evil plans to add up.

We’ll have to wait until the Chancellor’s budget next week to see what is proposed, and whether we get the detail we are waiting for, however the axe is likely to fall hard on the vulnerable, the low paid, and honest hard working families.

In Bury, thankfully we have a very pro-active Welfare Reform Board which alongside our Partners has helped mitigate the impact of changes seen so far, and will play a crucial role going forward.

Question 15 submitted by Councillor Tariq

Q. Could the Leader advise us of the assessment of Bury Art Museum undertaken recently by Visit England?

A. The Art Museum was assessed in March as part of the VisitEngland's Accreditation for the "Quality Assured Visitor Attraction" Scheme. The Gallery achieved a 79% score which qualifies it to be formally accredited. The assessment measures eight key areas across all attractions:

- Pre-Arrival
- Arrival and Initial Impressions
- The Attraction
- Cleanliness
- Toilets
- Catering
- Retail
- Staff

The service achieved the required qualification criteria in all categories with the assessor picked out for special mention the impeccable levels of cleanliness, the unique retail offer and the friendly and engaging staff. On the basis of the latter's 'quality and enthusiasm', it was noted that the Museum could reasonably aspire to seek VisitEngland's highest accreditation the Welcome accolade in a future appraisal.

Question 16 submitted by Councillor Whitby

Q. Can the Leader update us on the position with regards to admissions for primary schools for next academic year? Could he identify any particular areas of pressure and outline what measures we are putting in place to try to address the concerns?

A. All Bury residents have received an offer of a primary school place for September 2015, with the exception of a number of extremely late applicants that are waiting for appeals to be heard for places at their preferred schools. There are sufficient places to accommodate these appellants, although these may not be at a school of their preference.

Whilst there is sufficient capacity across the Borough to meet the overall demand for places, there remain some significant "hot-spots" in demand, particularly this year in the

Prestwich/Whitefield/Unsworth/East Bury areas. This has also impacted on places at Radcliffe schools, since they have been offered as alternatives.

Through Basic Need Grant funding the LA is investing in new places at a number of schools, whilst also addressing building condition issues at the schools concerned.

Furthermore, the LA has worked with schools to address the levels of demand, through utilising the flexibilities provided in the Admissions Code. In collaboration with a number of schools, the LA has agreed to admit a small number of children above the published admission number, where this could be achieved without breaching infant class size legislation, and where there is sufficient capacity within the schools to do so.

A large volume of appeals have been received for Reception 2015, which is largely due to the levels of demand in the 'hotspot areas', parents stating unrealistic preferences and parents of children with siblings already at school applying very late (or not at all) leading to the possibility of them having children at different schools.

The LA is working with schools to consider how parental engagement can be improved, and how parental expectations can be managed effectively.

Current forecasts show that primary intakes are set to decrease steadily over the next few years and the LA must balance the need to provide sufficient places, and meet parental preference, whilst ensuring that there is not too much capacity and that all schools are successful and viable.

Forecasting methods are robust and historically have had a high level of accuracy. However, some of the demands being seen nationally are as a result of inward migration in addition to an increased birthrate, and some of the demand pressures on neighbouring authorities are from migration from other parts of the UK because of a South to North shift. Therefore, should these factors begin to impact further in Bury, it will not always be possible to predict the scale and timing of the impact accurately, therefore it is important to have contingency plans if pupil numbers begin to deviate from the LA's forecasts, and the LA is working with schools on this.

Question 17 submitted by Councillor Bevan

- Q.** Bearing in mind that the Council's planning policy detailed in the Unitary Development Plan dates back to 1997, can the Leader of the Council update members on the progress being made towards the publication of a new Bury Local Plan: Core Strategy?

- A. Members will recall that in January of this year Council agreed to the preparation of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework. The framework will principally seek to identify the requirements for housing and employment floor-space and associated infrastructure needs and, once adopted, will form part of the statutory development plan for each of the ten districts.**

There will be a need for consistency between the Spatial Framework and the ten local plans. Districts are therefore committed to advancing the Manchester framework and running the local plan work alongside this. Members will recall that in March of this year Cabinet agreed to adopt this approach for Bury's own Local Plan.

Progress on the Greater Manchester framework is moving at a fast pace and our Planning Officers are currently heavily involved in assisting their AGMA colleagues with the preparation of the evidence required to support the Greater Manchester framework. This evidence will also be used by districts to progress their own local plans.

Once more established objectives and policies begin to emerge in the framework, Officers will then be in a position to progress work on a new Local Plan for Bury, ensuring that it is consistent with the Greater Manchester work.

Question 18 submitted by Councillor D'Albert

- Q. The Leader will be aware of recent national figures showing a reduction in sports participation in the country as a whole. Could members be given comparable figures for Bury and do we have a breakdown between man and women's participation to allow us to assess the effectiveness of "I will if You Will".**
- A. In the latest set of Sport England survey results from the 12 months prior to April 2015 there are 31.2% of women and 40.9% of men in Bury playing sport regularly which is higher than the England average and higher than the baseline measured in Bury in 2013. This means that there are 24,000 women in Bury playing sport at least once a week and 1,600 more women playing sport since the I'I Will if you Will' pilot was announced.**

Previous surveys have showed that the gender gap narrows and whilst we do see the percentage of men playing sport in Bury falling, this is coming back to a norm and remains higher than the England average.

There is a strong focus on engaging partners to support a more sustainable delivery strategy and innovative opportunities are delivered to ensure the 'I Will if You Will' Phase 2 objectives are achieved.

Question 19 submitted by Councillor J Walker

- Q.** I am very proud of the continuing commitment the Council has to investing in Radcliffe and to strengthening our local economy. With this we want to make sure everyone has access to the great things that are happening. In Ainsworth there is only one bus that goes in to the centre of Radcliffe which runs hourly and finishes at 5.00pm. This means that young people and adults that do not drive are unable to access the temporary pool after work or school. Will the Leader commit to working with me and the local TfGM representatives to try and strengthen the transport links between Ainsworth and Radcliffe Town Centre?
- A.** **As the question alludes to, the bus service between Ainsworth and Radcliffe is an hourly one during the day, as part of a route which runs from Bury Interchange via Ainsworth, Bradley Fold and the Turks Road Estate. The final departure is at 1810 from Bury on weekdays, and at 1710 on Saturdays. The last service back is at 1743 from Radcliffe Bus Station.**
Service provision is entirely a matter for TfGM, but I will be happy to raise the matter with them to see what scope there may be for improving public transport links between Ainsworth and Radcliffe Town Centre, particularly in the light of the continuing investments that we are making in Radcliffe which will mean extra potential users of these services.

Question 20 submitted by Councillor Preston

- Q.** The Chancellor is delivering a Budget on 8 July. What does the Leader think this will mean for the Council's finances going forward and does the Leader expect that residents will get the "Fair Deal for Bury" that they deserve?
- A.** **The Chancellor will be delivering a budget in one week's time. We don't know the details of what will be announced; in fact I wonder if he does at this stage.**
We understand there will be announcements in respect of Welfare Reforms – the much publicised (although uncoded) £12 billion cut.
In terms of what will be announced for wider Council budgets, it is unclear.
Will there be details of any "in year" cuts for 2015/16 ? We are aware of a proposed cut of £200m nationally to Public Health Budgets

Will we actually get any details of the 2016/17 Settlement; given that we are legally required to set a budget in little over 6 months time – we desperately need this information.

Ideally we would get a multi-year settlement to allow us to develop clear strategies going forward; rather than a “stop - start” release of information on an annual basis.

What is clear is that Local Government (as an unprotected Government Department) will be hit hard.

A recent report by the Local Government Association indicates that there could be a shortfall in funding of £9.5 billion by 2019/20.

Coincidentally (or not ?) this is the total level of Revenue Support Grant in the current year.

The cynics (or realists) amongst us would suggest that the Government is seeking to pull the plug on Local Authority funding - making Councils totally reliant on Council Tax and Business Rates revenues.

I guess they’ll call that “Localism”.

As for a “Fair Deal” for Bury residents – history suggests that this will not be the case.

Our funding per head for 2015/16 was £331.58

This compares to a national figure of £386.75

A Greater Manchester average of £433.81

And, an average for our CIPFA family of like Authorities of £366.55

Putting it bluntly residents aren’t getting a fair deal.

If we were funded at the family average we would an extra £6 million funding

If we were funded at the national average, we’d have an extra £10 million

And if funded at the Greater Manchester average we’d have an extra £30 million

Now I know Boroughs have different make ups, circumstances and pressures – but are they really that different ?

You will recall that we raised these issues with Eric Pickles when he was Secretary of State, and the best he could do was offer us a telephone conference with the Minister for Coastal Communities.

Well I have written once again to Eric’s successor – Greg Clarke MP.

This Council and residents can rest assured that we will not go away; we will fight tirelessly to get the “Fair Deal” that residents deserve.

Question 21 submitted by Councillor Preston

- Q.** Can the Leader provide an update on the Radcliffe Works initiative and explain how he sees this type of support developing in the future as more vulnerable people are affected by welfare reforms?

- A. ADAB (Asian Development Association of Bury) have been awarded the 2015/2016 Radcliffe Works contract, following an open tender process on the CHEST (procurement system).**

This provides an excellent opportunity to refresh the Radcliffe Works offer, acknowledging that despite some improvement to the national economic position local residents with complex barriers to employment remain out of work.

Complimenting the unemployment support accessible within Whittaker Street, the Radcliffe Works model is proven to meet local needs by offering a holistic approach to supporting people into employment and training.

The service to be delivered will build on the successes of the previous Radcliffe Works contract whereby:

- The annual footfall exceeds 2,300 centre users.**
- 40 people were supported into evidenced employment. A further 13 unverified employment outcomes were identified.**
- A host of training/awareness sessions were hosted by Radcliffe Works. These include:**
 - English certified training**
 - Maths certified training**
 - IT classes (certified and non-certified)**
 - Debt management workshops**
 - Volunteering and work experience workshop**
 - Universal Jobmatch workshops/ 1 to 1 support**
 - Universal Credit awareness sessions**

Continued Welfare Reform will for those residents claiming in-work and out of work benefits, bring profound challenges to some of our more vulnerable communities. Radcliffe Works alongside Prestwich Works will continue to bring together new and existing services that already exist into one easily accessible location.

Question 22 submitted by Councillor Gartside

- Q. Can the Leader of the Council or relevant Cabinet member please explain the plans that the local press have revealed to introduce "On-Line" Council meetings?**
- A. These proposals relate to Township Forum meetings only. They refer to the recommendations made in the Township Forum report. These are aimed at enhancing Township Forum meetings**

by exploring the use of online tools to further engage communities.

It is clear to me that times are changing and that more people prefer to share their views through the use of online platforms including Facebook and Twitter. The proposals outlined in the Township Forum report seek to recognise this.

There will always be a place for township forum meetings as they are an important way we engage our local communities. But I am also committed to building opportunities to engage communities in other meaningful ways. During the next year I have asked officers to explore opportunities to test different approaches to seek community views and engage using electronic solutions.

For example, the Forums have struggled to engage young people. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has recently used Police Innovation funding to commission the development of a unique engagement platform for young people involving a web app produced by young people. This will be used to engage young people across Greater Manchester (including young people in Bury) to raise awareness of the dangers of exploitation and keep them safe. This is an example of the use of modern technology to engage young people.

But there will be other solutions that we can also explore within our existing resources. This includes exploring the potential of having an online community meeting around a specific theme or topic.

Question 23 submitted by Councillor Jones

Q. Central to the work we do is ensuring that we continue to build resilient and cohesive communities across our Borough? How are we responding to new legislation to help protect vulnerable people from being drawn into all forms of extremism?

A. As Councillors, we are united in our appreciation that Bury is a place that we can be proud of, a place where all our communities enjoy living, working, spending free time and participating in community life.

However – our national news is full of stories of terrible human suffering arising from hatred, intolerance and violent extremism in all its ugly forms. We will never be complacent and I am personally committed to doing all that we can to ensure our Borough remains a strong and cohesive place. Part of our strategy involves continuing our work through Bury's third party hate

crime reporting centres to raise awareness and encourage the reporting of hate incidents.

In addition to this, the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 creates a new duty on a range of agencies to prevent people being drawn into terrorism and support people who are vulnerable to violent extremism. We are building on our already existing strong partnership structures to meet this duty. We continue to work with partners to deliver training and awareness raising sessions for a wide range of agencies including schools, colleges, GP's and health professionals and to our staff within the Council.

Question 24 submitted by Councillor Whitby

Q. Can the Leader confirm what impact the Government's approach to small scale development and pooling of S106 monies will have on the Council?

A. On 28 November 2014, the Government issued new advice within the Planning Practice Guidance on Section 106 Planning Obligations which provides that 'tariff style' planning contributions should not be sought from developments of 10 units or less, and which have a maximum combined gross floorspace of no more than 1,000 square metres.

This restriction has prevented us from securing vital recreation contributions for any small scale developments granted planning permission after this date. Since the restrictions came into force 7 months ago, we have lost out on over £120,000 of potential recreation contributions from small schemes that could have contributed to improving parks, play areas and other public open spaces to support the growth in population arising from these new residential developments. Obviously, this figure will grow as time goes by.

The Government has also imposed new restrictions on pooling Section 106 contributions, which came into effect from 6 April 2015.

Previously we were able to collect financial contributions for recreation provision and had the flexibility to generically pool these monies and decide at a later date how the monies would be spent. However, since April, the Council has to identify in the s106 agreement exactly what project each contribution will be spent on, and can then sign up to a maximum of five obligations for each individual project. This presents a number of challenges and additional burdens on staff time and resources.

This approach is considerably less flexible than the previous system and gives no real scope to change which particular project a contribution will be spent on after the s106 Agreement has been signed.

There will be a time lag between identifying projects that we would like to fund through s106 contributions and the receipt of the money to fund them, making it harder to respond to urgent issues. If a development doesn't go ahead then the contribution won't be payable and the project will lose out on expected funding.

Changes to project costs between signing the Agreement and receiving the contribution could lead to under-spend that cannot be transferred to other schemes or overspend which can't be funded from s106 contributions.

These changes brought in by the Government impose additional restrictions on our ability to secure contributions necessary to support new development at a time of increasing pressure on Council resources.

Question 25 submitted by Councillor Gunther

Q. Can the Leader of the Council or relevant Cabinet Member please give an update as to the amount of money spent by the Council on agency staffing in the last financial year?

A. **The total amount of spend on agency workers between April 2014 and March 2015 was £2.8 million. A significant amount of this was due to the national shortage of children's social workers. The council has now greatly reduced its dependency on agency staff by holding a number of recruitment drives and taking on permanent social workers. Bury Council has been recognised across the Greater Manchester directors of children's services as an example of good practice in this area.**

Question 26 submitted by Councillor Gartside

Q. Can the leader of the Council or relevant Cabinet member please give a full update on how "I Will If You Will" funding has been spent and future spending plans?

A. **In the Phase 1 pilot project the total Sport England lottery grant was £2.4m over one year. Further lottery funding for a Phase 2 has been awarded due to the success of Phase 1 of £2,000,000 to run across 2 years up until 31st December 2016, with a budget of £1m pa.**

IWIYW Phase 1 budget was primarily spent on Direct Delivery to influence and engage women and girls within sport and physical activity, supported by a funded marketing and communications campaign to ensure wide awareness across the borough. Budget also covered human resource, community engagement,

monitoring & evaluation and consultancy fees as well as capital investment such as tennis court improvements and outdoor gym.

Phase 2 began in January 2015 with a Sport England grant of £1m pa. Phase 2 of the project has a focus on long term behaviour change to get more women, more active, more often thus bringing wider added value to reduce the demand on public service resource, by engaging with communities, supporting them to take ownership of their locality and ensuring future activities are sustainable and to realise the value of having good physical health and wellbeing.

Question 27 submitted by Councillor Pickstone

Q. Could the Leader inform members what impact the recently announced in-year cuts to Public Health will have on the public health budget in Bury? What expenditure will be reduced, if any?

A. At this point in time we do not know precisely how the announced cuts to public health grants will affect Bury. We are awaiting details of a consultation exercise on exactly how the cuts will be applied. What should be noted is that we in Bury are already underfunded by £0.5m against the ACRA formula target allocation and further blanket cuts would widen existing inequalities in funding.

What we do know is that public health funding is vital to taking a preventative approach and helping to reduce demand on already over-stretched health and social care services and supporting our devolution plans to achieve the fastest improvements in health and create a sustainable system. Any cut on top of already substantial cuts in local authority budgets will severely hamper our efforts to the improve health and well-being of our communities and overcome our major public health challenges such as obesity and excess alcohol consumption. This is particularly worrying when we are due to take on extra responsibilities for commissioning public health services for young children from October 2015.

The announcement of the cuts is surprising not only because the budget for 2015-16 was only announced 6 months ago but also because the government promised to protect spending on the NHS and has committed to the NHS Five Year Forward view of which prevention is a key element. Many of the services commissioned via the public health grant are indeed NHS services for example school nursing, sexual health services, drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services and NHS health checks.

We are extremely concerned about these cuts which are short sighted and will cost us more in the long run.

Question 28 submitted by Councillor Hankey

- Q.** How will Bury LEA cope with the increase in primary school entrances this September
- A.** **I would refer Councillor Hankey to the answer i provided to the same question from Councillor Whitby**

Question 29 submitted by Councillor D'Albert

- Q.** Could the Leader outline how much money has been paid in compensation for claims from poor road or pavement surfaces in the last three years and the amount spent by the Council in legal costs dealing with these claims in the same period?
- A.** **Over the 3 year period in question, the Council has paid out £1.4m in insurance claims. Legal costs relating to the same period total £1.7m.**

In the past 2 years the amount of Capital funding made available by central Government to maintain the highway network has fallen from £2.1m to around £1.6m. However, at a local level, Bury has invested in new machinery that can carry out pothole repairs more efficiently and to a higher quality.

JOINT AUTHORITY REPORT**GM FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY****REPORT FROM: COUNCILLOR ALAN MATTHEWS**

CONSTRUCTION work on the new state-of the-art training and community centre in Bury has begun

The multi-million pound development on Wellington Street will provide the most realistic training for operational crews and an interactive community facility for the public.

On Monday, May 18, 2015, local schoolchildren from Bury Grammar Schools and St Gabriel's High School officially marked the start of the build and were joined by dignitaries from Bury Council and the Fire Authority, plus representatives from GMFRS and Kier Construction Northern who are building the centre.

The development is expected to take around 12 to 18 months and is set to open at the end of summer 2016.

Performance**Areas of Concern**

Accidental Dwelling fires

There has been an increase of 11% on last year (28 to 31)

The 2 most common locations for these types of fire are Radcliffe and Prestwich. Whitefield and Ramsbottom's crews have been instructed to focus all of their home safety checks in these areas as they account for 50% of all of these incidents.

As usual the most common cause of fire is cooking being left unattended and crews advise homeowners on how to avoid becoming distracted whilst cooking.

Areas of good performance

The Borough is performing well virtually across the board in all other KPI's and in particular the number of deliberate fires in the Borough has significantly reduced. The continued good working relationship with GMP at senior level and on the ground officers is testimony to these figures

Risk Reduction Work

The new Community Safety Manager is working with the Healthy Radcliffe scheme to try to generate home safety check referrals from the staff that are working in this area.

The borough continues to build up a pool of trained personnel who can deliver the Heartstart Scheme. This is a scheme which aims to increase the knowledge and understanding of Basic Life Support Skills amongst all areas of the community. A 2 day event took place on the weekend 27th and 28th June to promote this initiative.

The Borough has made a successful internal funding bid for A community focused information day for the Jewish Community where HSC referrals can be taken, home safety advice given, business fire safety advice given, and perceived 'barriers' lowered if not broken down

The event has the support and backing of the Chair of the North West Beth Din, Rabbi Brodie and will be delivered with the support of the Jewish Representative Council of Manchester who represent the Jewish faith from as far afield as South Manchester/Cheshire and up into Lancashire

Council Meeting – 1 July 2015

Joint Authority Questions:-

1. Councillor Pickstone

Could the Council's spokesperson on Transport for Greater Manchester outline what underspend, if any, in Greater Manchester Cycling Grants are at risk of being taken back by Government

A. Greater Manchester has been successful in recent years with gaining funding towards cycling infrastructure from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) and two phases of the Cycle City Ambition Grant (CCAG).

Within the LSTF programme, 4 districts have reported to TfGM that they have delivered all schemes. TfGM is working closely with districts which are yet to complete schemes. Districts have provided completion dates over the summer and progress continues to be made.

Currently all CCAG funding is fully allocated, and if any funding is identified as an underspend, it will be reallocated within the programme to ensure Greater Manchester has a reputation for delivering schemes to budget and within the timescales.

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

2. Councillor Pickstone

Could the Council's spokesperson on Greater Manchester Fire Authority give details of any discussions with North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust about the relocation of ambulances to Whitefield Fire Station, and if there will be any expected loss of coverage from such a move?

A. There are ongoing discussions between GMFRS and NWAS regarding the locating of one or more ambulances at Whitefield Fire Station. This is following a request from NWAS.

This potential move will have no impact whatsoever on service delivery from a GMFRS perspective

(To be answered by Councillor Matthews – Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority representative)

3. Councillor D'Albert

Could the Council's spokesperson on Transport for Greater Manchester give members details of the estimated amount of revenue lost through fare avoidance on Metrolink (and the Bury line specifically if figures exist) and what measures T4GM and Metrolink are undertaking to address the issue.

A Exact details around the revenue lost due to fare avoidance are commercially sensitive, and therefore not released in to the public domain. Fare avoidance is taken very seriously by TfGM and Metrolink. In collaboration, everything possible is done with the resources available to target specific areas based on intelligence and analysis.

There are three elements to the measures taken towards reducing fare avoidance on Metrolink; detection, recovery and persuasion.

Detection

A short term revenue protection strategy is developed by the Operator based on known fare evasion hot spots by location and by time of day, analysis of ticket sales to establish journey patterns, analysis of Standard Fare data and other operational statistics, incident data relating to anti-social behaviour, feedback from customers and intelligence from Customer Service Representatives (CSRs) on the ground. Teams of CSRs patrol the network, along with Constables, Police Community Support Officers and security personnel during operational hours to ensure all passengers are in possession of a valid ticket or pass.

Anyone found without a valid ticket or pass is issued with a £100 Standard Fare; £50 for payments made within 14 days, £100 thereafter. If no payment has been made after 28 days the Operator will commence Court Proceedings at Bury Magistrates Court. This demonstrates a strong stance on dealing with those who fare evade and the serious and costly consequence is designed to be a deterrent.

Recovery

The recovery element of the strategy provides an efficient means of recovering unpaid Standard Fares from fare evaders and also sends out a clear signal to fare evaders that their unpaid Standard Fares will be pursued. During the process of recovery two letters are issued; one after 14 days without receiving payment, the second after 28 days. The second letter includes advice that a £20 administration

charge has been added. The case is then presented on the Court prosecution list and within weeks a Court date is awarded.

Persuasion

A sequence of hard hitting communications campaigns have been developed and installed on Metrolink stops and trams. Information is also contained within the website so passengers are aware of the process and consequences of fare evasion. A number of articles have been publicised on local media including information on the strategy to reduce fare evasion, the launch of the TravelSafe Unit and results from both Youth and Prolific Offenders Courts.

The Travelsafe Partnership also provides a robust Youth Education Programme (YEP) across the county. Uniformed officers have delivered a strong message into schools focused on reducing fare evasion, and crime and anti-social behaviour on Greater Manchester's transport network.

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

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