

Mike Owen CPFA
Chief Executive

Our Ref LW
Your Ref OSC/LW
Date 26 January 2016
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TO: All Members of Council

Councillors : Adams, D Bailey, N Bayley, I Bevan, J Black, S Briggs, R Caserta, D Cassidy, M C Connolly, D'Albert, J Daly, E Fitzgerald, L Fitzwalter, I Gartside, J Grimshaw, D Gunther, M Hankey, S Haroon, Harris, P Heneghan, R Hodgkinson, T Holt, K Hussain, T Isherwood, M James, D Jones, Keeley, Kelly, Kerrison, J Lewis, Mallon, A Matthews, S Nuttall, O'Brien, N Parnell, T Pickstone, Preston, A Quinn, R Shori, A Simpson, Skillen, S Smith, Southworth, S Southworth, T Tariq, Walker, 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, 3 February 2016
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

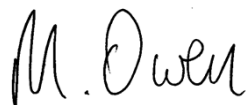
The Agenda for the meeting is attached.

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'.

Chief Executive

AGENDA

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

2 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL (Pages 1 - 8)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the last meeting of the Council held on 9 December 2015

3 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

Committee/Date	Subject	Recommendation
Minute CA.626 Cabinet 13 January 2016	Mayoralty 2016/17	That Councillor Mike Conr be proposed as the Mayo Bury 2016/2017.

6 LEADER' STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME (Pages 9 - 48)

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 49 - 58)

(A) A report from the Council's representative on the work of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, 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

The following Notices of Motion have been received:-

(i) Flooding

"This Council pays tribute to all the Council Officers, emergency services and volunteers for their heroic and selfless work in helping those devastated by the Boxing Day floods which hit our borough.

It calls on the Government to reverse the savage cuts to all these services especially to this Council, the fire and police service and the Environment Agency which threaten the maintenance of infrastructure and the ability to help those in need in a crisis, and to recognise the need to act now to mitigate the effects of climate change.

It also calls on the Government to apply immediately for the £125 million available for flood relief from the EU solidarity Fund which incredibly it has so far failed to do."

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

(ii) Fair Deal for Private Renters

Council notes

- 1 The important contribution private-rental property makes to our housing market in Bury (nearly 14% at the last survey);
- 2 That some private rented homes fall beneath a decent standard and there is a continuing problem with rogue landlords in a minority of cases;
- 3 That private renters spend a higher proportion of their income on housing than in with other tenures, and that moving costs can be prohibitively expensive, with high letting fees and large deposit requirements.

Council calls on the Government

1. To carry on work started in the last Parliament to tackle rogue landlords, revenge evictions.
2. To move towards a system where letting of homes in the private rented sector to be professionalised through the licensing of landlords;
3. To provide proper funding for local authorities to enable them to

support tenants through improved housing and legal advice.

Council Resolves

1. To look to significantly increase the take-up and awareness of the Landlord Accreditation Scheme (currently less than 1.5% of rented properties).
2. To consider the business case for extending the Paperless Bond facility to a wider group of potential tenants in financial need.
3. To continue to work, together with Six Town Housing, to look at how the Council can help bring empty properties into use through assisting with private sector renting, in return for nomination rights.
4. To write to the Borough's MPs to inform them of this motion and ask to support this issue in their work.

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

(iii) Rail Franchises

This Council Meeting welcomes the Government's announcement on 9 December, 2015 that the new Northern and TransPennine Express Franchises have been awarded, in a massive boost to rail services bringing the Northern Powerhouse to life.

As Bury is one of the most outward commuting places in Greater Manchester this will bring benefits and make a real difference to our local community, across our region and beyond including:

- The introduction of 500 brand new carriages
- Removal of the outdated and unpopular Pacer trains across the North
- Space for over 40,000 more passengers at the busiest of times
- Thousands of extra services a week
- Roll out of free Wi-Fi on trains and at stations
- Over £55 million invested in station improvements, including new ticket machines and the introduction of staffing at 45 currently unstaffed stations
- Improving compensation arrangements, including automatic compensation for delays for registered season and advanced purchase tickets.

This Council Meeting further welcomes the decision that the franchises will be jointly managed in the North, from Leeds, by the DfT and Rail North Ltd - which represents 29 Local Authorities across the North. This shows the Government's continued commitment to devolution and to closing the economic gap between the North and South. The new franchises are expected to create jobs, opportunity and growth and – coupled with

electrifying the vital trans-Pennine route – will help our region realize its full economic potential by ensuring it has a modern, 21st Century transport system.

This Council Meeting notes that the award of the new rail franchises has been roundly welcomed by business organisations and others including the CBI, Manchester Airport and UKTI as well as by the IPPR North.

This Council Meeting therefore welcomes the award of the rail franchises and resolves to support the provision of a world class rail service across the North and the contribution this can make to rebalancing the UK economy, with Bury at the heart of a Northern Powerhouse.

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

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 Digest of Decision 5 (2015/16) published since the last ordinary meeting of the Council, providing four clear working days' notices has been given of the question.

Members are asked to bring to the meeting their copy of Digest 5 (2015/16)

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

Date of Meeting: 9 December 2015

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor S Smith), in the Chair; Councillors P Adams, N Bayley, I Bevan, J Black, R A Caserta, D M Cassidy, M Connolly, 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, K Hussain, A Isherwood, M A James, D Jones, G Keeley, S Kerrison, J Lewis, J Mallon, E O'Brien, N Parnell, T D Pickstone, C Preston, A Quinn, R Shori, A Simpson, R Skillen, Sarah Southworth, Susan Southworth, T Tariq, J Walker, R E Walker, S Walmsley, M Whitby, M Wiseman and Y Wright.

Apologies from: Councillors D Bailey, K S Briggs, J Kelly, A K Matthews, S Nuttall

Public attendance: 9 members of the public attended the meeting

C.541 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. Councillor Connolly declared a personal interest in any item which related to staffing as his partner is an employee of the Local Authority Trading Company, Persona.
2. Councillor Jones declared a personal interest in any item which related to staffing as his wife is an employee of Bury Council.
3. Councillor Bevan declared a personal interest in any item which related to staffing as his wife is an employee within a Bury School.
4. Councillor Mallon declared a personal interest in any item which related to staffing as his wife is an employee within a Bury High School. Councillor Mallon also declared a personal interest in respect of the EU Referendum Notice of Motion as an employee of a company involved in Joint European Projects
5. Councillor R E Walker declared a personal interest in respect of Question 19 to the Leader as a member of the Restore Bury Central Library Group.
6. Councillor Preston declared a personal interest in respect of the EU Referendum Notice of Motion as her daughter is employed in a research position funded by the European Union.

C.542 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 21 October 2015 be signed by the Mayor as a true and correct record.

C. MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

1. The Mayor welcomed Councillor Keeley to his first Council meeting following his election to serve as a Member for the Tottington Ward.
2. The Mayor paid tribute to all those who showed their support for Remembrance Sunday.
3. Thanks were extended to all those who supported the Mayor's Ball on Friday 4th December.
4. As this was the last Council meeting of the calendar year, the Mayor wished all Members a happy Christmas and Hanukah.
5. The Mayor informed Members of the recent death of ex- Council Director, Mr Ian Cheetham. Members of the Council stood in silent tribute to Mr Cheetham.

C.543 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Mayor reported that no questions had been received in advance of the meeting.

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

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered By
1.	Parking/Traffic Issues Walmsley Road	Ms A McKay	Councillor Connolly
2.	Allocation of Resources to Whitefield and Parking Restrictions	Ms D Green	Councillor Connolly
3.	Policing at Synagogues and Religious Centres following Paris attacks	Mr O Kersh	Councillor Connolly
4.	Outstanding Responses to Safeguarding Questions	Mr I Henderson	Councillor Connolly

C.544 RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES**1. Minute CA. CA.510 of the meeting of the Cabinet on 25 November 2015
Treasury Management Mid Year Review**

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

RESOLVED:

That approval be given to amend the 2015/16 Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement to enable the Council to provide for Minimum Revenue Provision on previously supported General Fund borrowing at 2% in equal annual instalments over a 50 year period commencing 1 April 2015, subject to confirmation with the Council's External Auditors.

**2. Minute LSP.528 of the meeting of the Licensing and Safety Panel on 3
December 2015 – Gambling Act Policy Review**

It was moved by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor Holt and it was:-

RESOLVED:

That the amended Statement of Principles, as set out in the report, be approved without amendment.

C.545 LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME**(a) Written question (Notice given)**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Connolly, made a statement on the work undertaken by him since the date of the last Council meeting.

The Leader and the relevant Cabinet Members answered questions raised by Councillors on the following issues:

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered by
1.	Highway Works Bolton Rd West	Councillor Bevan	Councillor Isherwood
2.	Comprehensive Spending Review	Councillor Mallon	Councillor Shori
3.	Anaerobic Digestion Plant	Councillor Fitzwalter	Councillor Walmsley
4.	GM Spatial Framework	Councillor Susan Southworth	Councillor Walmsley
5.	Bus Lane Fines	Councillor R Walker	Councillor Walmsley
6.	Social Care Precept	Councillor Sarah Southworth	Councillor Shori

7.	Apprentice Levy	Councillor Holt	Councillor Walmsley
8.	Joint Commissioning	Councillor Bayley	Councillor Black
9.	Homophobic Bullying	Councillor Pickstone	Councillor Heneghan
10.	Christmas Parking	Councillor Gartside	Councillor Walmsley
11.	Living Wage	Councillor Quinn	Councillor Simpson
12.	Made in Bury Business Awards	Councillor Sarah Southworth	Councillor Connolly
13.	Purple Flag Status	Councillor Jones	Councillor Connolly
14.	Leaf Clearance by Volunteers	Councillor Wright	Councillor Isherwood
15.	Education Services Grant	Councillor O'Brien	Councillor Shori
16.	Children's Rights Service	Councillor Parnell	Councillor Heneghan
17.	Road Markings in Ramsbottom	Councillor Hodgkinson	Councillor Isherwood
18.	Unsafe Parking outside Schools	Councillor D'Albert	Councillor Isherwood
19.	International Arts Festival	Councillor R Walker	Councillor Heneghan

Due to the lack of time to answer questions 20 to 22 inclusive, the Leader gave an undertaking that copies of those questions and responses will be circulated to all Councillors. The Leader also gave an undertaking to make these available on the Council Web Site.

(b) Oral questions on Leader's Speech and the work of the Cabinet since the last Council meeting (without Notice)

1.	Unfair Criticism of Staff	Councillor Holt	Councillor Connolly
2.	Adolescent Support Unit	Councillor Susan Southworth	Councillor Heneghan
3.	Leisure Facilities	Councillor Daly	Councillor Shori

C.546 JOINT AUTHORITIES – REPORTS BY THE COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVE AND QUESTIONS

- (a) Councillor Quinn, the Council's representative on the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority gave a verbal report on the work of the Authority to all Members of the Council.

Council, 9 December 2015

(b) The following questions had been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.2.

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered by
1.	Night time Bus Services	Councillor D'Albert	Councillor Bayley (Representative on Transport for Greater Manchester)
2.	Merging of Greater Manchester Pension Fund into Investment Funds	Councillor Pickstone	Councillor Grimshaw (Representative on the Greater Manchester Pension Fund Advisory Committee)

C.547 CORPORATE PARENTING ANNUAL REPORT

It was moved by Councillor Heneghan and seconded by Councillor O'Brien and it was:-

RESOLVED:

That the Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report be endorsed.

C.548 LOCAL SCHEME OF COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT 2016/17

A report of the Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Finance and the Cabinet Member for Resource and Regulation was submitted which provided an update on the Local Council Tax Support Scheme and set out recommendations to continue to deliver a local scheme within the available budget.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the scheme introduced with effect from 1 April 2013 be continued without change from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017.
2. That agreement of the specific legal wording of the local regulations enacting the Council Tax Support Scheme set out in the report be delegated to the Executive Director of Resources and Regulation in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Housing and the Leaders of the two other political parties represented on the Council.

Council, 9 December 2015

Three Notices of Motion had been received and set out in the Summons.

(i) Additional Residual Waste Collections

A motion had been received and set out in the summons in the names of Councillors I Bevan, R Caserta, J Daly, I Gartside, D Gunther, M Hankey, J Harris, R Hodgkinson, K Hussain, G Keeley, S Nuttall, R Walker, and Y Wright

It was moved by Councillor Gartside and seconded by Councillor Gunther that :-

This Council notes that the Corporate Financial Monitoring Report, approved by Cabinet on 25th November, refers to reducing Brown Bin collections in the winter months. In doing this, the report indicates a moderate saving of £35,000 which is to be used to offset the current projected overspend on refuse collection.

This Council notes that projected overspends are usually over cautious and are brought under control by the end of the financial year.

Therefore, this Council resolves to utilise the extra capacity to allow additional collections of the grey residual waste bins, where necessary, over the Christmas period when many households will be dealing with extra non-recyclable packaging.

The motion on being put with 15 voting for and 30 against was declared lost.

(ii) The EU Referendum

A motion had been received and set out in the summons 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.

It was moved by Councillor Whitby and seconded by Councillor Preston that :-

Council welcomes the upcoming referendum on Britain's membership of the European Union, planned to take place before the end of 2017, and the opportunity it provides for a debate on this issue with the people of Bury. Council notes that the EU has many benefits for Bury.

Council also acknowledges the major role of the European Union in advancing many of the social and employment rights we now take for granted - the guarantee of four weeks paid annual leave, strong health and safety protection in the workplace, statutory maternity rights and paid parental leave and protection from discrimination, to name just a few.

Council, 9 December 2015

Council notes with concern the many risks involved in leaving the European Union and the impact leaving the EU would have not only on jobs and investment in Bury

but also on the employment, social and consumer rights and protections our residents enjoy as a result of EU membership.

Council believes that the UK should remain a member of the EU and endorses this as a policy position of Bury Council.

Council requests the Chief Executive table a report at a future meeting of Full Council quantifying the social and economic benefits to residents of Bury of the UK remaining a member of the EU, to include grants, investment, and jobs dependent on the single market, and the social and economic costs to Bury of the UK leaving the EU.

Council also requests that the Chief Executive explores ways in which the Council, working with partners, could better promote European investment in local projects, organisations and businesses and report the findings to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Council further recommends to the Cabinet that the council hosts a summit bringing together representatives from trade unions, local businesses, universities and civil society organisations to discuss the referendum campaign and the impact possible outcomes would have on the borough of Bury.

On being put, with 31 voting for, 10 against and 3 abstentions, the motion was declared carried.

(iii) Access to Life Saving Education and Equipment

A motion had been received and set out in the summons in the names of Councillors M D'Albert and T Pickstone

It was moved by Councillor D'Albert and seconded by Councillor Pickstone:-

Council notes:

- 1 That there are more than 30,000 out of hospital cardiac arrests in the UK each year.
- 2 That the overall survival rate is less than 1 in 10.
- 3 That every minute without cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillation reduces the chance of survival by up to 10 per cent.
- 4 Performing CPR can double or triple a person's chance of survival in some cases.
- 5 Compulsory life saving education for every school child has been shown to work in other countries by significantly increasing survival rates.
- 6 That deaths from heart disease and stroke in Bury are higher than the national average.

Council resolves:

- 1 To continue to highlight and promote good heart health through its public health function.
- 2 To work with and to encourage all schools in Bury to introduce life saving education as a part of the curriculum, at an appropriate age.
- 3 To investigate offering live saving education to council employees.
- 4 To use our communication networks to make local communities aware of publicly accessible emergency defibrillators available in their areas

5 To achieve an increase in the number of publicly accessible defibrillators in the Borough, both in Council owned buildings, and by working with major retailers, sports and fitness providers and large employers.

On being put, with no-one voting against and no abstentions, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

C.550 SCRUTINY REPORTS AND SPECIFIC ITEMS "CALLED IN" BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

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

C.551 QUESTIONS ON THE WORK OF OUTSIDE BODIES OR PARTNERSHIPS

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

C.552 DELEGATED DECISIONS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

There were no written questions asked on the delegated decisions of the Committees or Scrutiny Committee contained in the Digest of Decisions 4 (2015/16).

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR

(NOTE: The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 9.40 pm)

COUNCIL 3 FEBRUARY 2016 – 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 December meeting of Council.

Before I do I’d like to take a moment to echo your sentiments regarding the floods that we experienced on Boxing Day. As I’ve already said in an earlier answer, the floods brought by Storm Eva were little short of catastrophic and all our hearts go out to residents who were affected.

I would just like to take the chance to say, yet again, a huge thanks to everyone involved in the rescue and recovery effort. The community spirit that was shown across the borough was humbling and shows what an incredible place we live in.

As I promised right from the outset, a drop-in session and public meeting has been arranged for 11 February at Radcliffe Civic Hall which will include representatives from the Environment Agency, Bury Council and other partners.

I can also assure residents that since 2013 the Council has been working with the Environment Agency and encouraging them to investigate the viability of several options to reduce the risk of flooding to residents and businesses in Radcliffe.

In December 2015, a matter of days before the floods, the Agency provided us with details of a £9m scheme and indicated that this had been given an indicative allocation in their 6 year Capital Programme. However they also made it clear that for the scheme to go ahead they would need a multi-million pound contribution from the Council.

Sadly the floods that actually happened showed that even had this scheme been in place the unprecedented amount of rain that fell on Christmas night, and the impact on river levels, was such that there would still have been severe flooding and I can assure people that we are now working with the Agency to urgently re-design the scheme and develop a robust funding package.

Madam Mayor I would also like to say a brief, and personal, thank you to Council for electing me and my partner Ian as Mayor and Consort for the coming municipal year. We are truly honoured.

Moving now to the work of the Cabinet since Council last met.

Madam Mayor, on 28 January the Queen gave her assent to the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016. This piece of legislation heralds a landmark moment for the future of local government and especially for the provision of devolved services in Greater Manchester.

It means that crucial decisions can now be taken in GM, about GM and for GM.

For our part, Cabinet has put in place various delegations that will allow the Chief Executive, in consultation with myself, to consent to the various orders that will bring the Act to life, including the establishment of an elected Mayor and the devolution of health related functions.

These really are exciting times which is why Greater Manchester is officially the most exciting place in the UK....well according to the Guardian it is!

Madam Mayor the Cabinet also considered and approved the Annual Health and Safety Report.

This is a crucially important document that provides a formal mechanism for monitoring and assessing organisational performance; recognising significant concerns and issues that impact on health and safety management and performance; reviewing organisational arrangements and adopting organisational and departmental work plans and targets.

The Annual report is also a forward looking document that considers new legislation, national and local health and safety priorities and current areas of development. I certainly commend the report to all members of Council.

Finally Madam Mayor Cabinet approved the development of a groundbreaking Adolescent Support Unit which will not only provide much needed help to families but will also deliver considerable efficiency savings.

Madam Mayor, I would also like to take a moment to celebrate some recent Council successes.

I am particularly proud of the work we are driving forward to support the recently launched Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy.

We have attracted additional £100,000 of funding from DCLG to strengthen accommodation based support for victims along with an additional £110,000 of innovation funding through the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner which will help to develop the STRIVE initiative.

This initiative aims to reduce repeat incidents through a focus on intervention and early prevention, including funding to test new ways of working with perpetrators.

Not only is this vital for the safety and well-being of victims but it is also a classic example of public service reform in action.

Madam Mayor, our so called back office services have faced massive pressure over the past few years and yet they truly are the engine room of the Council.

For this reason I was thrilled to hear that our Legal team have been awarded accreditation under the Law Society's Lexcel scheme.

This is the national quality mark for excellence in legal practice management and excellence in client care and it demonstrates our Legal team's commitment and ability to consistently deliver services that meet client expectations, improve overall satisfaction and assist regulatory compliance.

Well done to all concerned!

In terms of quality marks, the good news just keeps rolling in.

Ramsbottom Pool & Fitness Centre and Castle Leisure Centre have been awarded Good in their recent Quest inspections.

Quest is the UK quality scheme for sport and leisure and this achievement shows very clearly the Council's continued commitment to improve the design and management of our leisure facilities.

We have also just been informed that we now have ASA 'Learn to Swim' Accreditation.

Madam Mayor, a number of our schools have been formally assessed for Green Flag awards for work involving recycling, food waste recycling and sustainability.

For example, Mersey Drive Primary got their 3rd Green Flag last year which is an amazing feat! St Marie's Primary got their second Green Flag running up to Christmas and Chesham Primary got their first Green flag just before Christmas.

Well done to all of them!

Talking of Flags...the Council itself has been reaccredited for Purple Flag status which means that we can once again demonstrate excellence in the way that our evening economy is managed showing that Bury town centre is a wonderful place to visit.

We have also had the great news that we have moved up the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index showing that Bury Council is a wonderful place to work.

I know that these last two issues are the subject of written questions so I won't say any more other than to offer congratulations to everyone who has helped to deliver all of these outstanding outcomes.

Talking of congratulations I would like to congratulate Sharon Beattie who has been appointed as new Chair of the Children's Safeguarding Board replacing Gill Rigg who was chair for 7 years.

We are delighted to have appointed someone of Sharon's calibre and we also owe Gill a huge debt of gratitude for the work that she's done during her time in office.

Madam Mayor, I'm sorry to labour these good news stories...well actually I'm not sorry at all.

We all know that local government, and Bury in particular, is being battered by the Government's spending cuts just so that the Chancellor can reward his friends at places like Google by letting them off the hook when it comes to paying tax.

And yet here in Bury we have done what we promised the people of our borough we would do.

We have shown enormous resilience by not only protecting front-line services and finding more efficient ways of working but by holding our heads up and focussing on delivering the best possible outcomes for our residents and businesses.

Madam Mayor, this borough of ours is a wonderful place to live, work and learn and I will repeat what I said at the last Council meeting...this Labour led administration will fight tooth and nail to keep it that way.

Thank you.

END

Leader's Question Time – 3 February 2016
Questions/Responses

Q1. Could the Leader advise me of the estimated number of students who go into higher education each year from Bury?

A. In 2015 from a Year 14 leaver total cohort of 2241, 780 are recorded as entering higher education. This equates to 34.8%.

Q2. The Government claims that schools funding is being protected for the next financial year. Given what we know about the cost pressures facing schools, does this claim stack up?

A. I'm afraid that the Government's claim really doesn't stack up.

The Government is trying to say that by maintaining school funding at the same amount for each pupil in our schools and yet it is clear that they have failed to recognise the substantial unavoidable increases all schools will have to meet over the forthcoming months.

Last year the Chancellor triumphantly announced that the National Living Wage for the over-25's would increase well above inflation and would be £9 per hour by the time of the next General Election. We welcome the pay rise for the lowest paid members of society but would welcome even more the additional money for us and our schools to be able to pay people without having to make even more reductions.

In addition to this there is no provision made for the pay award for staff and for big increases in National Insurance which will drive up costs still further.

If people really want to know the reality of the Government's claim then they need only ask our

Secondary Headteachers who have made clear to us that they are facing a huge hole in their funding. In some cases this could lead to savings of over £1 million per school having to be made by the time of the next General Election to plug the gap.

Whilst we will work hard with all of our schools to ensure they have a viable budget for future years the Chancellor's claims do not reflect the reality for schools in Bury who are facing real terms cuts in their budgets.

Q3. Now that we have received the draft settlement figures, could the Leader outline the impact for Bury both in terms of 2016/17 and future years?

A. We received the draft settlement on 17th December 2015.

The figures highlight a cut of 10.75% in our "Settlement Funding Assessment" for 2016/17 on top of the huge cuts already made since 2010.

In addition to this, the settlement also outlines significant reductions to a number of specific grants e.g. Education Services Grant, and the Benefit Admin subsidy. Further reductions are expected in other areas including the Public health grant, however these have not yet been announced.

Is Bury now getting a "fair deal" ?

I'm afraid the answer is "no"; in 2016/17 - Bury residents will receive £294.45 per head in Government support, compared to a national average of £342.46.

If we were funded at this level we would have an extra £9 million.

The settlement sets out indicative figures for the next 4 years, which will see funding reduce in total by 32.22%, and ultimately disappear by 2020 – leaving the Council reliant solely on locally raised taxes – Council Tax and Business Rates.

Finally I would add that we still await the final settlement figures – which is totally unacceptable when we are only 3 weeks away from setting our budget

Q4. While noting that all our Labour Councillors now welcome giving the public a Referendum on continuing EU membership, could I ask the Leader how Bury Council is informing Bury residents that the Council, as their elected body, has voted to represent them as being in favour of staying in the EU - and what level of expenditure is being used to (a) organise Summit meetings with trade unions, business leaders and universities and (b) to publicise the Council's support for EU membership ? Can it be made clear in such literature that individual residents are not bound by their Council's decision but are free to vote to leave if they so wish ?

A. **Can I thank Cllr Walker for his question? It's particularly timely because after Mr Cameron's pathetic performance during this week's negotiations it seems ever more likely that a referendum is on it's way.**

However, as always, Councillor Walker totally misrepresents what the Council decided at its last meeting. We have no intention of representing the Bury people in this matter but what we do want to do is show civic leadership and help to ensure our residents and businesses have all the facts they need to come to a balanced and informed view on this vitally important matter.

In answer to his first question, we will be exploring a wide variety of options to minimize the costs of this exercise.

As far as his second question is concerned, I am sure that residents fully understand that on this matter or any other they are free to vote as they wish and I really think he needs to apologise to the people of Bury for insulting their intelligence in this way.

Q5. Can the Leader tell us the main themes of Bury's Locality Plan and how this will affect the people of Bury?

A. There are 5 key themes to the Bury Locality Plan, which closely link with the 3 main themes of the Greater Manchester Health & Social Care Devolution plans.

As a reminder, the 3 Greater Manchester themes are:

- 1. Commissioner Reform / Sharing Back Office**
- 2. Better Care**
- 3. Prevention**

Bury's 5 key themes are:

**Commissioner Alignment
Redesigning & improving Services
Moving Services Closer to the Community
Enabling People to Self-Care and
Investing in Early Intervention & Prevention**

We are still working through some of the detail around the implementation of the Locality Plan; however, our overriding aims are:

- For the people of Bury to be treated for the minimal amount of time in the most appropriate place**
- A reduction of inappropriate time spent in hospitals**
- For people to be supported to stay at home for as long as possible and for as long as is appropriate**
- For more of our services to be provided in the community (where feasible and financially viable)**
- For services to be built around people and the issues they face, rather than the symptoms of their illnesses**
- For advice, guidance and support to be provided as early as possible so that people can care for themselves**

- **For people to be active participants in their own health & wellbeing**

Q6. We understand that the Council was recently successful in a bid for funding to support victims of domestic violence and abuse? Please can the Leader outline the objectives of this project?

A. The Council has worked closely with partners to make a successful bid for £100k of national funding to transform accommodation based support for victims and families.

Through the SET Project (Support, Empower, Turnaround), we aim to reduce homelessness caused by domestic violence and abuse (DVA) by increasing and strengthening accommodation based support for female and male victims.

Specially adapted dispersed properties will provide everything a family needs who are fleeing DVA. Over £64K of the funding will be used to commission the voluntary sector to strengthen a range of support services for victims and families and help them move forward with their lives.

The project supports the objectives of Bury's recently launched, hard hitting Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy.

Q7. Can the Leader estimate the number of rented houses unfit for human habitation in the Borough and agree with me that the voting down of the measure to enforce human habitation rules recently in Parliament is a disgrace?

A. I am acutely aware that the private rented sector, which is home to some of our poorest and most vulnerable residents, has some of the worst housing standards.

Dominated by small scale landlords, including accidental landlords who may not fully understand their requirements, problems can be difficult to identify until tenants report problems. The most recent evidence of stock condition comes from a national survey in 2013

which indicated that 30% of the private rented sector stock could be non-decent.

I am aware of an amendment to the Housing and Planning Bill tabled by the opposition, to which you refer. This would have required residential rented accommodation to be fit for human habitation and I share your disappointment that this was voted down. However, this would require tenants, some of whom are among the poorest and most vulnerable, to take action whereas I believe it would have been much better if powers were given to local authorities.

Q8. Considering this Council has repeatedly said there is no increase in the amount of Fly Tipping since the introduction of the three weekly bin collection would the Leader be interested in commenting on some pictures of Fly Tipping in my possession and inform this Council what steps he intends to take to try to trace the offenders and will he repudiate any comments made by his fellow colleagues not to prosecute offenders when discovered.

A. The 3 weekly waste collection service was introduced in October 2014 and has saved the Council £860,000 in avoided waste disposal costs, through an increase in the recycling rate of about 10%.

It would have been helpful to see the photos because it is a fact that a lot of fly tipping is commercial or bulky waste such as furniture and not household bin waste.

The frequency of bin collections has no correlation with the number of incidences of fly tipping of commercial or bulky waste. When fly tipped household waste is found there is very often a high proportion of recyclables that should of course be placed in blue, green or brown bins and not the grey bins.

The Council will always investigate incidents of fly tipping and formal action will continue to be taken against any perpetrator where sufficient evidence is found to prosecute.

Q9. The two most recent 'snapshots' provided by NHS England (October and November 2015) show that Bury has a significantly higher number of days lost to 'delayed discharges' than our immediate comparable neighbours (Rochdale, Oldham, Bolton, Blackburn) - highest in October, second highest in November. Could the Leader please inform members what we are doing to address this?

A. The pressures mentioned by Cllr Pickstone are not just evident in Bury, they are replicated the length and breadth of the country and the main reason for these pressures are the huge cuts in funding made by this Government.

Thanks to the work of local authorities and CCGs the number of people being supported with complex needs at home has actually increased and whilst being a very welcome development this has undoubtedly put additional pressure on existing re-ablement and homecare services.

In Bury we have recently piloted a 'discharge to assess' model which has started to reduce delayed transfers of care, and we have sought additional capacity through funding from the CCG.

Some problems are also caused by delays in access to acute and NHS services, for which the CCG has a recovery plan, which is monitored through the urgent care group and the local Health Scrutiny Committee.

We are proud of the commitment our staff have shown over this winter period, not only to managing the demand, but ensuring good quality safe services are provided.

Q10. Could the Leader outline the impact of the 1% annual rent reductions proposed under the Welfare Reform and Work Bill.

A **This Council has always sought to deliver value for money to tenants in its Housing Stock and in the levels of rent charged.**

However the arbitrary imposition of a 1% pa reduction for the next 4 years totally undermines the principles of "Localism" and "Self Financing" which were introduced by the last Labour Government.

We need to be clear about the motives behind this move. On the face of it rent reductions are to be welcomed but by far the biggest winner from this will be the Chancellor of the Exchequer as it will lead to a huge cut in the level of housing benefit he has to pay out.

The losers will be our tenants because this move will lead to a cumulative cut of £3 million in the amount that will be available to manage and repair and invest in their properties.

Q11. Could the Leader provide a summary of the Council's input following the recent flood damage to business and domestic premises in the Borough?

A. The Boxing Day floods brought devastation to parts of the borough for residents and businesses.

I am extremely proud of employees of this Council who rallied to help affected businesses and residents and I'm equally as proud of the voluntary efforts of the borough's magnificent community.

Once the rescue phase was over our priority was to help with the clean up by providing skips, additional refuse collection rounds and free access to refuse disposal facilities. We also helped to restore power supplies, protected vulnerable residents, set in train urgent

repairs to highways, bridges and parks and then began to get financial aid to affected residents and businesses.

All affected properties are entitled to an immediate payment of £500 and we have done our best to get this into people's bank accounts as fast as possible.

We are also administering Council Tax and Business rate relief for people who have had to leave their properties.

Officers have been out in the community talking to affected people and we have also established a wider business support scheme which has been drawn up by our officers and by the Greater Manchester Business Growth Hub. This will make available additional grants to businesses enabling them to recover and trade successfully as quickly as possible.

We are also very keen to learn lessons and to put pressure on the Environment Agency to implement improved flood defences.

On 11 February the Council will be hosting a community drop in event where residents and businesses can access information from the Environment Agency and a range of Council services and external agencies. This will be followed by a public meeting.

There is much work to do but I can assure this council that supporting our business community is and will continue to be a priority.

Q12. Would the Leader join me in congratulating the Council in achieving 60th in the Stonewall Top 100 Employers 2016?

A. Absolutely!

I am delighted to confirm that the Council has again been recognised by Stonewall as a top employer for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans staff.

We are proud to have held a place in the 'Top 100' of Stonewall's Workplace Equality Index since 2009. This

year we improved our position slightly moving up from 62nd to 60th.

We are also the only Council in the North West to feature in the list, and 6th best local authority in the UK.

Furthermore, Stonewall have previously recognised the Council's LGBT Employee Group as a Star Performer Network Group. This acknowledges the role of individual employees who participate in the network group, often in their own time, to help make sure the Council is on the right track.

I'm proud of our employees, and think it is fantastic that we are being formally recognised as an inclusive employer. Our employees are our greatest asset, and it is vital that we continue to support them all, regardless of their background or circumstances.

Q13. The Labour Group is informing the residents of our borough that the Council is having to make cuts to services. Does the leader think it wise to spend money, albeit match funding, on refurbishing the members' room. Does he not think it sends out the wrong message to residents.

A. Thank you for your question Cllr Harris. I absolutely think that this is the perfect time to be drawing in funding from the trade unions to spend money on refurbishing the Members' Room, which was an under-utilised room and, quite frankly, a waste of space in a prime building.

The total cost of the fit out was £5,000, half of this being funded by the trade unions. I am more than comfortable with the contribution the Council has made to the refit on the basis that:

- It reinforces our strong commitment to officer and member level training

- **It creates a venue for training - at a time when the number of meeting rooms has been reduced as part of our rationalisation of office accommodation**
- **It means we won't have to hire external venues for training. In fact we may even be able to generate some income if we make the facility available to others.**

The message that I will be sending out to residents is that we care about our employees and want to upskill them to make sure that they can do the best job possible in these times of austerity. I will also be sending out a message that this room will, in fact, save us money on room hire from elsewhere and will potentially bring money in through hiring out the room.

Q14.What plans does this Council have in place to raise awareness of hate crime during national hate crime awareness week in February?

- A. Bury is a place where I am very proud to live, work and enjoy my free time. Community Cohesion lies at the heart of what makes us a strong, vibrant and safe community and is central to all we do.**

I am pleased to say that partners in our borough continue to work together to raise awareness of hate crime.

Tied in with Greater Manchester Hate Crime Awareness Week (08 to 14 February 2016):

- **GMP will be disseminating media messages to the general public and via the press;**
- **the borough's Hate Crime Forum will be meeting to allow partners and third party hate crime reporting centres to discuss how they continue to meet the needs of their communities and the support they are able to provide to victims of hate crime;**
- **we will be delivering a Disability Awareness Day to Year 7 students at Tottington High School, where there is**

specific emphasis on raising awareness of Hate Crime relating to disability and learning disability;

- **and there will be a Jewish Forum meeting where partners will be engaging with each of the local Jewish Synagogues and schools from Prestwich and Whitefield.**

As we have been raising awareness in high schools, with both staff and pupils, regarding hate crime for a significant time now, we will be launching Bury's Interschool Youth Hate Crime Forum in March 2016.

Students will be developing resources for their peers which will be used to add to the messages in school about bullying and hate crime incidents.

We continue to be committed to ensuring that the Council's contribution to this agenda through the Team Bury Cohesion Plan for 2013-2016 will build on the good work already undertaken in Bury and ensure the Council's valuable role in this vital area of work will continue.

- Q15 Can the Leader give us reassurance that Council will do everything possible to protect local pharmacies in Bury from closure following Government plans to cut pharmacy budget by £170 million. This will result in an overall reduction of around 15% in pharmacy provision. If someone has mobility difficulties it is critical that they have access to a local pharmacy.

The Council considers community pharmacies to be a key public health resource.

We recognise that in addition to the core services pharmacies offer there are opportunities to promote health and wellbeing, including healthy lifestyle advice, self care support, advice on medicines and long term conditions, screening, prevention, signposting and treatment of minor ailments. Pharmacies have the advantage of being easily accessible and open at convenient times.

NHS England (NHSE) commission pharmacy services and has responsibility for ensuring adequate provision of pharmaceutical services in local Health & Well-being Board areas.

For their part, Health and Wellbeing Boards have responsibility for assessing pharmaceutical needs in their locality, identifying any gaps and publishing their findings.

You will be aware that Bury Health & Wellbeing Board produced a Pharmacy Needs Assessment (PNA) in 2015 to look at pharmacy provision and whether it meets the needs of the population. In general it concluded that there was adequate pharmacy provision across Bury, with the exception of Besses. Since then NHSE has granted an application for a new pharmacy in Besses which is expected to commence services in the near future.

With regard to future cuts to budgets for pharmacy services, NHSE report that efficiencies can be made without compromising the quality of services or public access to them. The full details of how this will be achieved are not yet available, however you can be assured that the council will work closely with NHSE to understand how cuts to pharmacy contractual funding may impact on pharmacy provision in Bury and to minimise the impact on Bury residents.

Q16.Can the Leader give us details of why there is an increase in delays in discharges and what we are doing to improve this?

A. I have already provided details of the reasons behind the increase in delayed discharges in an earlier answer.

It should be noted that Bury is consistently performing well. The pressures which are felt in Bury are being felt across the country and we continue to identify ways in which people can be supported home safely. We are proud of the commitment our staff has shown over this

winter period, not only to managing the demand, but ensuring good quality safe services are provided.

Q17.What are Bury Council doing to address the problem of unlawful and inconsiderate parking together with related anti-social behaviour outside schools in the Borough at drop-off and pick-up times?

A. Parking Services is aware of the problem around parking at schools in the Borough. Schools are visited regularly on a rota system as there are not the resources to attend every school on a daily basis. Unfortunately whilst the parking situation may improve when the Civil Enforcement Officers are present the problem soon recurs .

There is an option to utilise the CCTV vehicle for school enforcement however this would not alleviate the problem as parents would revert to parking on the restrictions in the absence of the car and this would not be the best use of this resource.

Whilst we are doing all we can to assist with this problem the responsibility for the problem parking around schools ultimately lies with the parents themselves.

Q18.How many apprenticeships were taken up by Bury residents so far this year and in each of the last three years? How does this compare to neighbours in Greater Manchester?

A. Councillor D'Albert may remember that back in October 2015 Bury was included in the Apprenticeship Careers List as one of the top 50 apprenticeship employers in the country. We were listed as one of the top 10 employers within the 'Public Sector and Charity' category of the list and are very proud of our achievement.

We are the only Council within Greater Manchester and indeed within the North West that has been recognised

for its commitment to providing apprenticeship opportunities.

This year's figures have been published up to the end of October 2015 and show a total of 620 apprentices starting in Bury.

In 2014/15 the full year figure was 1,980

In 2013/14 there were 1,730

In 2012/13 we had 2,120

These figures compare extremely well with our neighbours given that we are the smallest borough within Greater Manchester.

Within our own Council, even with the austerity measures we face, we currently have 53 apprentices.

Q19. Would the Leader comment on the successful renewal of Bury Town Centre's Purple Flag status?

A. Certainly. For those that have yet to hear, Bury has been successful in securing renewal of our Purple Flag accreditation for a second year following a recent assessment.

The Purple Flag is the equivalent of the Green Flag for parks or Blue Flag for beaches and is only given to those towns and cities that have quality and vibrant town centres and that are able to demonstrate excellence in the way their evening economies are managed.

This is great news for Bury town centre and confirms that Bury continues to be 'on the up' with an ever expanding offer for both day and night time visitors.

Purple Flag towns and cities generally benefit from a higher quality environment, more visitors and lower crime and anti social behaviour.

Bury remains the only town centre across Greater Manchester to achieve this prestigious accreditation and we aim to continue working with our partners and town centre venues to maintain that status.

In particular, we will be working hard to build on our evening offer to provide what is already a safe and enjoyable night out.

I am therefore pleased to assure you that Purple Flags will continue to fly proudly in Bury!

Q20. What action has the Council taken to assist businesses affected by the recent floods?

A. I am happy to refer Councillor Fitzwalter to my earlier response given to Councillor Preston.

Q21. Can the Leader tell us how many empty houses and retail properties there are in Bury and what work is being done to bring these properties back into use?

A. Within the borough there are just under 3000 empty properties, of which approximately 1600 have been empty for 6 months or more and approximately 1000 have been empty for a year or more.

Tackling empty properties and in particular bringing them back into use can be a challenge. Successful action can be lengthy and complex and we only have so many resources to deal with the issue. However we are very much committed to tackling the problem, using a range of tools including advice and negotiation, access to external funding and various forms of enforcement action.

We concentrate our efforts on properties that have been empty for 6 months or month as they are less likely to become occupied as result as normal housing market activity and we take a targeted approach to particular properties and areas of the borough.

We have had some good success in our commitment to tackle the empty property problem over the last few years. For instance taking an area wide approach in Radcliffe, we brought over 60% of 185 targeted empty properties back into use.

We have also recently been successful in compulsory purchasing four properties and last week commenced demolition of two other properties. These six properties have been empty for many years, are in very poor condition and have created a severe negative impact on the surrounding area. These cases have been extremely complex to deal with but we have persevered with the multiple action to obtain a permanent solution, thus demonstrating that we will not shy away from tackling these types of cases.

A multi- disciplinary and partnership approach is taken to both targeting and finding solutions to empty properties. For instance targeting empty properties with large council tax arrears has outcomes around bringing properties back into use and also recovering revenue for the council.

Over the last few years we have also been successful in obtaining over £1m of funding from the Homes and Communities Agency and have allocated over £600k of commuted sums funding for empty properties. This has enabled us, together with Six Town Housing, to so far purchase, improve and bring back into use over 30 empty properties. We have a significant programme going forward through this funding. As these properties are being provided for affordable rent, this approach also helps us meet housing need.

Members can be assured that we are committed to targeting and taking action to deal with empty properties to tackle what we all agree is an issue which requires our continued attention.

Q22. Will the Leader of the Council join me in thanking those residents and Council Officers and Consultants involved in the planning process in relation to the Anaerobic Digestion Waste Plant at Fletcher Bank in Ramsbottom?

A. I have said in the past in relation to questions on this particular matter that it is important for all concerned to be guarded in making public statements.

Applicants and developers have the right to apply for planning permission and therefore, whilst appreciating and respecting the efforts of those involved in the planning process, we need to always be mindful of what could happen in the future.

I shall hope that this is a close to questions on this matter and that my cautious response is a reflection of consistency and pragmatism. The Council will always exercise caution and I once again find myself encouraging Members of all persuasions to do the same.

Q23. Can the Leader outline the current position with regard to fuel poverty in the Borough?

A. The Council is dedicated to tackling fuel poverty and helping our most vulnerable residents, especially through the winter months.

In Bury 8,047 households are said to be living in fuel poverty, approximately 10% of all homes, resulting in an estimated 100 extra deaths in winter each year in Bury. I find it incredible in a modern, civilised society that people are still dying of cold.

It is therefore no surprise that I am committed to helping bring these households out of fuel poverty by doing what we can to improve the quality of housing, cut the cost paid for fuel and increase people's income. For instance last year as well as giving advice and promoting a range of energy efficiency measures to thousands of households, we arranged for 216 improvements for vulnerable and low income households, bringing

investment of £280,000 into the Borough and saving those households £45,000 on annual energy bills.

Changes have also been made to council owned properties. The last five years have seen 6000 energy efficiency measures being implemented for the benefit of tenants – many of whom are on low incomes.

But I know there is still work to be done. Thousands of private properties remain in need of improvement and we can assume that energy costs will rise in the years to come.

That is why we are in the process of drafting a new Fuel Poverty Action Plan.

Discussions with stakeholders, such as the event held last week, show that there is a lot of support for reducing the impact of fuel poverty on health and I am convinced that this level of commitment, coupled with our strong partnership approach, will continue to make a difference in the years to come.

Q24. Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour always features as a priority for local people across the Borough. How are we working with partners to make the best use of our shared resources, particularly in a climate of public sector budget cuts?

A. Bury's Joint Engagement Team (JET) was formed in July 2014. It aims to provide a cohesive and joined up multi-agency response to anti-social behaviour. Through the JET, partners - including Greater Manchester Police, Six Town Housing and Bury Council - work together to make the best use of shared resources.

The JET work to an agreed set of operating principles including:

- **Early and consistent identification of risk and social harm**
- **Intelligence led, multi-agency responses, based on collaboration and co-operation and**

- **Real time information and intelligence sharing.**

The Community Safety Partnership has commissioned New Economy to undertake an evaluation of the JET, including cost benefit analysis (CBA). An interim report shared in December 2015 demonstrates overall positive results in relation to work on ASB - including cashable savings through this way of working.

Q25. Members of the Council heard last year about the work the local authority was undertaking to promote World Mental Health Day on 10 October – an international day to raise awareness of mental health. What is Bury Council doing to build on this, to further promote the good mental health and wellbeing?

A. In February, the council will be supporting Time to Talk Day. This is a national day of awareness raising, organised by Time to Change, encouraging everyone to talk about their mental health and share their experiences. The aim behind this national campaign is to help break the silence and end the stigma around mental health.

Mental health problems affect 1 in 4 people every year, yet too often people are afraid to talk about their experiences. By supporting Time to Talk Day, Bury Council can play a part in trying to break the silence that often surrounds mental health, and show that talking about it doesn't need to be difficult.

Members of staff will be encouraged to think about, and talk about, their mental health and emotional wellbeing at work.

We'll be promoting the same message to all Bury residents too , with tweets leading up to the day, and on the day itself. The Bury Directory feature a special banner message to raise awareness of the campaign amongst the wider public, to try and bring positive mental health messages into the mainstream.

However, this is a very challenging agenda and building awareness and understanding of mental health is an on-going task. The authority will continue to link into national campaigns to promote positive mental health and challenge stigma.

Q26. During the Boxing Day floods Ramsbottom Town Centre suffered flood waters from one of the 2 lodges at Carr Bank and Springwood Street. Water from the lodges would normally flow through the culvert but because the weir/spillway was blocked the water breached the banks and flooded down the roads. Can the leader advise who is responsible for ensuring the weir/spillway on both lodges are maintained and kept free of any blockages?

A. There are two lodges on Springwood Street. The upper one is the responsibility of the Council and the lower one is privately owned and maintained.

The culvert to the upper lodge is on a weekly inspection and clear throughout the year. In addition it has further periodic inspections by the Council, especially when heavy rain is forecast and in the Autumn when the leaves are falling.

Flooding in the area was due to the sheer and unprecedented volume of rain and certainly not through lack of council maintenance.

Q27. Congratulations on once again being one of the small minority of Local Authorities to feature on Stonewall's top 100 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans friendly employers. What work is the council doing, or could we do more, to share this good practice with other employers in the Bury area, both public sector colleagues and larger private employers in the Borough.

A. Thank you very much for your congratulations. The Council did have a great result, yet again, in the

Stonewall Workplace Equality Index. In terms of sharing our good practice with other organisations, we do a number of things. For example:

Our LGBT Employee Group is open to employees of Six Town Housing and Persona

We regularly support officers and other network groups on an informal basis – for example in the last couple of months alone we have met with Bolton Council to support them with their LGBT work, and also worked with representatives from UNISON at Pennine Care to assist with setting up their own network groups

We always fly the rainbow flag for IDAHO day at various locations across the Borough to increase awareness and to show our determination for tackling homophobia, biphobia and transphobia

We regularly attend equality meetings with colleagues from across AGMA and share best practice

We support the Proud Of Gayness Youth Group (commonly known as POG) in organising the Rainbow Walk each year in Bury, and work to encourage other organisations to join in with the event. A variety of organisations have already been involved, for example the police and The Samaritans.

We are proud to be recognised by Stonewall as one of Britain's best employers for our outstanding efforts to create an inclusive workplace for our LGBT employees, and support other organisations wherever possible.

Q28. Members will have heard about the work taking place at a Greater Manchester level, on the Transformation Fast Track, to bring people with learning disabilities, who are in health placements outside the Borough, back into the community. What is the Council doing locally to support people with learning disabilities in Bury?

- A. We are working closely with the CCG in planning for the nine people we currently have who live outside of the borough. Some people have expressed a desire a return to Bury, which we are supporting. Two people require a specialist placement which will be out of the borough. A further two people have stated they do not wish to move from their current care provision.**

Through the joint reviews with Health staff we are ensuring that individual needs can be met and that the services are of a good quality.

Q29. Can the Leader tell me how we are engaging with under-represented groups to get involved in exercise?

- A. The I Will If You Will (IWIYW) project commenced in Bury in 2013 to address the growing gap in respect of the number of women and girls that participate in physical activity and sport compared to men.**

As part of the IWIYW project, and via the Council's Sport and Physical Activity Service, a number of initiatives are in place to engage under-represented groups in Bury: -

- 1. Bury's Exercise and Therapy Scheme (BEATS) has been actively engaging with Midwives across Bury to establish a maternity pathway for mothers (including those identified troubled families). The up-skilling of Exercise Referral Officers, and having a dedicated female Referral Officer funded by IWIYW has ensured women who are contemplating exercise both ante-natal and post-natal have a dedicated gateway to access safe effective physical activity to support a healthy delivery.**
- 2. IWIYW have been working with Persona and their learning disabled and physically disabled customers to engage in Physical Activity. Following receipt of activity equipment from IWIYW, customers from across the Learning Disability Day Service have been supported to engage in a range of new activities to help stimulate and improve their physical and mental well-being. The**

IWIYW equipment given to Day Services has been utilised in 2 main ways: -

- a. Persona have been able to use some of the resources to run regular group sessions which customers take part in as part of their timetable**
- b. Resources are also used on a one to one basis with customers as and when it is appropriate to them or when they choose to use them.**
- 3. IWIYW have commissioned various Mental Health pilots across the borough for varying levels of the condition, ranging from mild to severe through Services such as Healthy Minds, Wellbeing and Recovery, and both Secure Units at Prestwich Hospital and Fairfield General Hospital. Mindfulness sessions are currently running at Castle Leisure centre and participants are engaging in Yoga. Depression and anxiety levels are being measured to gauge the success of the scheme.**
- 4. IWIYW has just received a proposal to work with a Somali women's group at Bury Employment Support and Training site (Welly Cafe). The women have expressed an interest in self defence classes and have been supported by staff at the site to create a robust proposal for IWIYW which we are confident will commence asap. Additionally the IWIYW project team has worked with Bury Asians Centre to increase opportunities for BME Communities.**
- 5. The Active Travel Officer is currently working with Bury Blind Society to train walk leader volunteers thus ensuring a walking group for local residents to support Blind/partially sighted walkers. Macmillan also support an IWIYW walk offer for those living with and Beyond Cancer, this group established in the summer 2015 now has a regular 8-10 walkers and a volunteer walk leader.**
- 6. One of the Locality Officers from IWIYW is actively involved with the BME community in Bury East. A number of initiatives have been trailed and implemented with this group. Sessions have included piloxing, Zumba, walking and Yoga. Key Asian leaders and Counsellors are signed up to these initiatives and actively promote and**

support the IWIYW programme. As a township, Bury East has the highest level of participation within the IWIYW programme in Bury. Hundreds of BME women and girls have participated in physical activity and sport via IWIYW since the project commenced, and continue to do so.

7. The IWIYW Project Team met recently with JCOM a not for profit Employment Agency and Careers Guidance based in Prestwich to ensure there is additional consultation to engage the orthodox Jewish community in Physical Activity and Sport.

8. Bury Sport & Physical Activity Service secured some external funding in late 2015 from Sport England to deliver a programme focussed around increasing opportunities for disabled people to participate in activities. Total project costs £243,727 to enhance local opportunities.

Q30. What does the Leader think about the current proposals by the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority to reduce the number of fire engines in use in the evening in Bury down to 1? Does he agree with their proposals to raise the Fire precept in 2016/17?

A. Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service are valued partners of the Council, and we think that it is appalling that the Government that Cllr Gartside supports should have slashed funding to the point that the service has had to impose these cuts.

We will continue to work closely with the service to ensure that their response to Government funding cuts is as safe and sustainable for Bury residents as possible.

In terms of the precept for 2016/17, that will be a democratic decision taken by the Fire and Rescue

Q31. Could we be given a brief update on Bury Council's "Twinning" relationship with Datong in China in the last three

years and how much expenditure has been incurred in that time ?

- A. When this administration came to power in 2011 it was made clear that there would be no further formal relationship with Datong.**

There has therefore been no expenditure incurred since then.

Q32. Would the Leader confirm that Bury Central Library could have been retained in it's original form if it had benefited from the £102,500 spent so far by Bury Council installing the sculpture centre and subsidising exhibitions?

- A. I will assume that Cllr Daly is referring to figures provided in the January Scrutiny Committee report on the Sculpture Centre, which identified £110,000 capital spend on the Centre's fit-out plus an exhibition spend of £28,100 minus the income from exhibition grants of £26,400.**

Having subtracted the income from the expenditure, we have spent less than £2000 on 'subsidising' exhibitions. Neither the Council's capital spend nor the £26,000 capital grant from the Arts Council would be available in any form to 'benefit' Bury Library.

With the capital figure excluded as it must be in relation to Library spend, it is difficult to see how the net spend of £2000 on exhibitions could in any way have contributed any benefit to library services.

- Q.33** What is the average waiting time between a pothole being reported to it being repaired? How does this compare to the previous three years?

- A. Data on the average waiting time between a pothole being reported and being repaired is not readily available.**

The Council's Highway Inspection Team inspect the entire adopted highway network in accordance with the Code of Practice for Highway Maintenance Management, "Well Maintained Highways". Streets are inspected dependant on their hierarchy at varying frequencies and are inspected on either a monthly, quarterly, biannual or annual basis.

Response times for the treatment of highway defects are determined on a risk basis. The Council's current response time categories are 2hrs, 7 days, 28 days, 60 days and next available maintenance programme.

We are also investing in new machinery and more efficient ways of working as budgets have been cut.

- Q.34** Will the Leader confirm that Bury Council will accept the offer by the Conservative Government to raise the Council Tax by 2% to help pay for more adult social care?

A. Firstly I wish to clarify the wording of this question – this certainly isn't an "offer" by the Conservative Government.

They have recognised the significant pressures faced in Adult Social Care, but have actually "offered" nothing.

They have dodged the issue, and simply passed the liability on to local Council Tax payers.

A 2% precept would raise approximately £1.3m in Bury, but frankly that is a drop in the ocean compared to the overall pressures faced.

In terms of whether we introduce the precept, well Councillor Gartside should know by now that any decisions about the level of Council Tax are taken by Full Council at the budget setting meeting – 24th February.

Q35. The Council has come in for criticism from residents during the recent floods in Ramsbottom and other areas of the Borough due to the lack of gully cleaning to allow surface water run-off. As this Council has responsibility for highway drainage under the Highways Act 1980 and as a Lead Local Flood Authority under the Flood and Water Management Act (FaWMA) 2010, can the Leader confirm how often the Council clean the gullies to prevent blockages to the drainage system?

A. The Council currently operates a cyclic gully cleansing regime where all gullies within the adopted highway network are checked annually. In addition to this we attended to gullies either reported, or identified through our routine highway inspections, as being blocked on an ad-hoc basis. Sometimes this work can be problematic due to the presence of parked vehicles.

The recent unprecedented flooding events in the Borough were primarily due to the river and other natural water course flooding. Maintenance of the existing highway drainage network had no effect on this as the majority of this network discharges into those flooded rivers and water courses.

I have received many compliments from residents of the Borough for the work carried out by Council Officers during the recent floods.

Q36. Given that we have seen a net increase of 1,929 firms set up in Bury in 2015, most of which are located in some of the most deprived parts of the Borough, will the Leader acknowledge that this is another example of the successful Long-Term Economic Plan by the Government?

A. It is indeed good news that Bury has seen an increase in new start ups across the Borough. The greatest increase was in Moorside, followed by Bury East. The success of the Town Centre has had a positive impact on the number of new business start ups in these wards.

In 2015, I can confirm a total of 1,929 new businesses were registered in Bury. However unfortunately a total of 1,259 were dissolved giving a Bury a net increase of 670, and highlighting the continued fragile state of the economy.

The Council have consistently demonstrated our commitment and support to our business community. This year we funded a dedicated Business Growth Advisor who I know from feedback has been positively received.

I and the Chief Executive of Bury Council continue to visit businesses on a weekly basis. We are in awe of the struggles and achievements of business right across the borough.

The Council is once again supporting our own Made in Bury Business Fair on the 13th and 14th May. This two day event will bring together businesses large and small in the town centre with an expected footfall of over 2000 visitors.

In addition the Made in Bury Business Awards go from strength to strength.

As Leader of the Council I am delighted to attend the many network events throughout the year.

The Council facilitates Business Breakfast Events alongside our colleagues from the Greater Manchester Business Growth Hub.

Our Procurement Team have delivered Procurement Master Classes to 30 businesses with another session due this month as a result of demand and positive feedback.

In addition we have a dedicated Business Engagement Team who acts as first point of contact for businesses engaging with Council departments or seeking advice and guidance.

Supporting business start ups and business growth will continue to be a Council priority as we prove that "Bury Means Business"

BURY BOROUGH OUTTURN REPORT – QUARTER 3 FOR 2015-16**Performance**

Please see attached PDF document which relates to performance in the Borough. For this reporting period your focus is drawn to 'Q3' 2015/16.

Areas of ConcernAccidental Dwelling fires (ADFs)

There has been an increase of 11% on comparison with 2014/15 figures.

There are areas within the Borough that present most of the incidents for these types of fire. They are Radcliffe, Prestwich and St Mary's.

Up to the introduction of Safe & Well visits (S&W) Whitefield and Ramsbottom's crews focussed all of their home safety checks in these areas as they accounted for 50% of all of these incidents.

Cooking incidents make up 60% of ADFs and these are generally caused as a result of cooking being left unattended due to occupants forgetting or falling asleep and items being placed on electric hobs e.g. towels, boxes. Post incident leaflet drops and campaigns continue to be carried out. A number of PAIROF referrals have been made, and articles have appeared in the local press.

A point to note is the introduction of the new safe and well (S&W) visits. As a result of S&W being much more targeted interventions and having a much longer duration, it may mean that we do not undertake as many visits to other vulnerable people in their homes. There is then a potential for a rise in low level fires.

One important aspect here is that we have met our target in terms of number of people injured by fire. So, an increase in low level fires is more acceptable so long as people aren't getting injured.

We have recently been successful in becoming members of the Safe & Wellbeing Board. This has enabled us to further convey the services of GMFRS, the sharing of data and facilitated our involvement on a working group aimed at supporting 'troubled' families in the Radcliffe and Bury East areas. This will hopefully show future reductions in statistics.

Special Service Calls (SSCs)

There has been a sharp increase in SSCs. The increase in SSCs is largely attributable to the medical response.

A slight rise in the last Quarter was seen for responses associated with weather related issues. These included strong winds and the responses seen as a result of the flooding over the Christmas period.

Mark Doggett from OBR Area has been seconded onto a Focus Improvement Group which will look at SSC increases across the Service and what opportunity exists to reduce calls. The Area has also been heavily involved in Road/Drive Safety campaigns.

Non Domestic Fires

Non domestic fires have risen by around 11% compare to last year's figures. In Quarter 3 we finished 2 incidents over target.

There has been a lot of effort by the Prevention teams aligned to the OBR Area in context of providing business continuity advice (fire safety related). They have also worked hard to mitigate fires in void properties brought about by the current financial climate forcing businesses to close thereby resulting in an increase in the number of void properties.

Deliberate Primary Fires

Again, unfortunately, a slight increase in statistics across Q3. The 'hotspot' areas are Radcliffe and Prestwich.

A lot of work is ongoing in these two areas principally led by the Bury Wider Leadership Group as part of their Safer, Stronger Community work. Also, we are looking to support a ROC initiative involving youths receiving football coaching, Radcliffe is a priority ward for Public Service reform.

False Alarm Due to Apparatus (FADA)

Quarter 3 has been impacted by an issue at Prestwich Hospital resulting in a number of repeat false alarms. A new unit is being built which is nearing completion and as a result of this the alarm system is being installed/tested/commissioned which has generated a number of unwanted actuations. Additionally the hospital have taken the opportunity to carry out further works on existing systems throughout the site, again leading to unwanted actuations. The hospital Fire Safety Manager has been informed of the situation and is working with the FSEO to reduce and manage the impacts of the building work.

Areas of good performance

The Borough is performing well virtually across the board in all other KPI's and making good inroads to reducing statistics in 'problem' areas.

Good inroads are being made to reduce the number of Deliberate Fires and we have seen significant reductions in Deliberate Secondary Fires in the Borough.

The continued good working relationship with Bury MBC (Wider Leadership Group and Health & Wellbeing Board), GMP at senior level and GMFRS officers on the ground is testimony to these figures.

We continue to perform well with the percentage of accidental dwelling fires that have a fitted smoke alarm. The corporate target is 80% and Bury Borough has met, and exceeded, this target across all three Quarter reporting periods throughout 2015/15. Again, testimony to the focus of the wider Area Team.

Risk Reduction Work

The Community Safety Manager Jax Effiong continues to work closely with partners across the Borough and is realising significant successes with new partnerships and information sharing agreements.

Other activity across the Borough:

Fire Safety in the Home Presentations

Mind Space FSITH talk to people with mental health problems in the Bury Area

Presentations regards Prevention Priorities to Senior Staff / Managers in the following agencies have taken place:

Assistant Director of Operations ASC- Linda Jackson-Winter Warm Project
Six Town Housing

Head of Public Health- Diane Halton-Winter Warm Project

Health Minds Managers-Referral Pathway for Safe& Well

David Hanley-Adult Safeguarding members review

Maxine Lomax-NHS CCG- Peer Assessment, Safeguarding

Lisa Ince-Falls Manager & Paula Breeze- Falls review

Events and Campaigns:

Safe drive event at The Rock Bury. Event delivered alongside GMP and utilising the driving simulator.

Treacle Campaign:

Worked alongside the police and ASBO team from the council treacle covered over 2000 students from 11 different schools.

Older Persons Day:

Bury team attended an event at Textile Hall Bury. This was a drop in centre which was frequented by the local community. Partner agencies also present were age UK, Warm homes, Bury adult care. This turned out as a one stop shop where the public could go for various issues.

Volunteers – Bury, Oldham & Rochdale

October

Hours generated – 785

Within those hours we completed 68 hours on the bikes for treacle, 170 hours training and supporting the crew and 46 hours out in the community.

From the feedback that our volunteers left we completed 73 HSC's.

November

Hours generated – 547

54 hours completed on recruitment, going out and about in Bury advertising for future roles. 38 Posters were distributed.

202 hours completed working within the community.

71 hours on training our volunteers on Safe and Well.

55 HSC's completed.

We are currently at 43 volunteers with 9 of those being inactive.

Recruitment

16 people have applied for BOR from our recent campaign.

Training

Safe and well Training has taken place for all CSA's apprentice and sessional workers.

Each member of the team has had 8 days each safe and well training.

CSTL Kearney to attend a three day training event in January for First aid at work.

Other events

Mayor thanks GMFRS staff

Greater Manchester's interim mayor Tony Lloyd contacted us to thank fire service staff for the sterling work done during the Boxing Day floods. Crews from Bury, Whitefield and Ramsbottom were at the heart of the response on Boxing Day responding to more than 30 calls for help.

Here is his letter:

Dear all

The last twenty four hours have been both unexpected and unprecedented in the way Greater Manchester suffered at the impact of the flooding and the way in which our public services, utilities and individual volunteers, working together, responded to the challenge. Fortunately there has been no loss of life or recorded serious injury which is hard to believe but is a measure of the response provided by all those involved.

All our thoughts are with those whose Christmas was destroyed when they were driven from the homes or are now trying to put those homes and lives back together.

But I want to offer my special thanks to all those in our Fire and Rescue Service who were there to help those in need when that need was at its greatest. The public are rightly grateful to each and every one for little acts of kindness through to the response needed that made people feel safe and helped them know that things would be alright.

I know both David Acton, Chair of GMFRS, and Peter O'Reilly, Chief Fire Officer, join me in our gratitude. There are simply too many great stories and too many people to thank individually. So on behalf of the people of Greater Manchester many thanks to you all.

Tony Lloyd
Greater Manchester Mayor



Bury Q3 Report.pdf

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Council Meeting – 3 February 2016

ITEM 7 - Joint Authority Questions:-

Transport for Greater Manchester

1. What consideration has been given by T4GM to working with bus operators to introduce a 'CycleAlert' or similar system in Greater Manchester? Cycle Alert has been used by Transdev buses in York since 2013 in an important effort to reduce the amount of cycle deaths as a caused by large vehicles. Such a system could reduce cycling deaths in the city region.

(Councillor D'Albert)

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

Transport for Greater Manchester has a keen interest in cycling, and are playing a pivotal role in increasing the number of cycle trips across the conurbation, as well as providing improved infrastructure and complementary measures to benefit cyclists.

Greater Manchester is continuing to improve cycle infrastructure across the city region, to increase the opportunities to cycle traffic free for those who prefer.

Cycle safety is an extremely important issue in Greater Manchester, and TfGM are continuing to educate cyclists and drivers.

- **Over 2000 cyclists have received bespoke one to one on-road training since our training programme started in 2012.**
- **Safe Urban Driver Training, accredited training for HGV and bus drivers has been rolled out to almost 500 drivers, and this will continue to educate HGV drivers.**
- **TfGM have worked with bus drivers to allow them to experience riding a bike, and educating them from a cyclists point of view, at bus depots across Greater Manchester.**

Cycle Alert presented at a recent Bus Operators meeting and TfGM are considering options around this. However, Cycle Alert are one of a growing number of commercial products that can help manage a safe interface between cyclists and motor vehicles.

2. Could I ask about Radcliffe Bus Station and the investment around the bus station. How much was spent on the bus station and do you agree this make a significant investment in Radcliffe.

(Councillor Parnell – TfGM)

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

The new Radcliffe Bus Station became operational on 13 December 2015.

The £2 million Bus Station project has been developed in partnership with Bury Council and involved the relocation of the existing bus station to a new site on Dale Street / Pilkington Way. The former bus station site will now be released for future redevelopment as part of Bury Council's regeneration strategy for Radcliffe town centre.

The new bus station provides high quality, fully enclosed, passenger waiting shelters set in an attractive area of public realm. The site is monitored by an extensive CCTV system, which provides enhanced safety and security to the public when using or passing through the bus station.

Greater Manchester Waste Authority

What consideration, if any, has been given to moving to a single stream of recyclables, making use of improved sorting technology? Single recycling streams are used in some areas of the country, and this could be a way of both increasing recycling and reducing the number of bins needed in the household waste system. What is the estimated financial impact of mixed recyclable streams and has any work been done to look at whether a simpler system would increase resident recycling rates?

Councillor Tim Pickstone

(To be answered by Councillor Quinn– GMWDA representative)

Recycling collections in Greater Manchester are based on a dry recyclable stream (glass, cans, plastic bottles) and a pulvable stream (newspapers, cardboard, tetrapak) which are collected separately. The dry recyclables are separated into their constituent elements at a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and the pulpables are bulked up and sent direct to market. When GMWDA was investigating what materials to collect together, a number of visits were undertaken to neighbouring authorities, including those that collect dry recyclables/pulvable materials together. In these authorities, the materials were also being separated at a MRF facility. The presence of paper and card in the MRF causes issues with masking of other materials that affect the effectiveness of the sorting equipment. In all MRFs visited that processed paper, the first stage of the process was a sorting cabin

involving 20 plus staff manually spreading the material out to improve the efficiency of separation later in the process. This sorting stage requires elbow length ballistic gloves to be worn to prevent needle stick injuries and was not a process/quality employment that GMWDA members wanted to replicate. The other issues with paper processing in MRFs is the high levels of dust produced which has issues for occupational health exposure and fire control. In addition the paper reprocessing industry has imposed strict contamination limits on recovered paper in particular for glass and food residues which make are extremely difficult to meet using paper recovered at a MRF that also processes dry recyclables. For these reasons, GMWDA did not promote a system that co-collected all recyclables together.

Since the signing of the GMWDA contract, the Waste Framework Directive has also introduced a requirement for separate collection of the 4 main recyclables ie paper/card, glass, cans and metals unless it is technically, economically and environmentally practicable (the TEEP assessment) to do so. GMWDA has conducted a TEEP assessment on the collections and the fact that paper/card is collected separately means that the system is automatically compliant for that waste stream. The glass, cans, plastics have also been assessed and deemed compliant as a kerbside sort system would be expected to reduce material capture. This means that the current collection system is compliant with the legislation and reverting to a single stream collection would be at risk of legal challenge by the Environment Agency.

From an economic perspective, collecting all dry recyclables and pulpables as a single stream will have an impact on collection costs. It is likely that bin capacity would be exceeded on the current collection frequency thereby necessitating more frequent collections at additional cost. Changes to rounds and potentially additional vehicles would be required to accommodate the additional volume of material collected at the same time. Bury officers would therefore need to model this to determine the economic impact on collection costs.

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