Mike Owen CPFA Chief Executive

Our Ref LW Your Ref OSC/LW

Date 22 November 2016

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Legal & Democratic Services
Division

Jayne Hammond LLB (Hons) Solicitor Assistant Director of Legal & Democratic Services

TO: All Members of Council

Councillors: P Adams, N Bayley, I Bevan, J Black, S Briggs, R Caserta, R.Cathcart, M C Connolly, T Cummings, M D'Albert, J Daly, E Fitzgerald, I Gartside, J Grimshaw, D Gunther, M Hankey, S Haroon, J Harris, R Hodkinson, T Holt, K Hussain, M James, D Jones, G Keeley, J Kelly, Kerrison, O Kersh, J Lewis, J Mallon, A Matthews, A McKay, S Nuttall, E O'Brien, N Parnell, T Pickstone, C Preston, A Quinn, Schofield, R Shori, D Silbiger, R Skillen, S Smith, Sarah Southworth, Susan Southworth, T Tariq, J Walker, R Walker, S Walmsley, Whitby, S Wright and Y Wright

Dear Member/Colleague

Council

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held as follows:-

Date:	Wednesday, 30 November 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.



Electronic service of legal documents accepted only at: E-mail: legal.services@bury.gov.uk Fax: 0161 253 5119

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

M. 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** (Pages 1 - 10)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the last Meeting of the Council held on 14 September 2016 (Copy attached)

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

6 **LEADER' STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME** (Pages 11 - 70)

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 71 - 76)

- (A)A report from the Council's representative on the work of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority, Councillor Matthews
- (B)Questions (if any) on the work of the Joint Authorities to be asked by Members of the Council for which the necessary notice has been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.2

8 LOCAL SCHEME OF COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT (Pages 77 - 90)

A report from the Cabinet Member for Strategic Housing and Support Services and Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and HR is attached.

9 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD (Pages 91 - 92)

A report from the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing is attached.

10 **NOTICES OF MOTION**

The following Notices of Motion have been received:-

(i) Funding for Community Pharmacies

This Council notes:

The £170million reduction in NHS funding for community pharmacies announced on December 17th 2015 which could put many out of business

The announcement made by the Government on September 5th 2016 of the delay to the cuts which were originally due to be introduced in October 2016

The scrapping of plans to introduce a "hub and spoke" model for community pharmacies

This Council believes that:

The Government's plans threaten patient access to pharmacies and pharmacy services in the Metropolitan Borough of Bury and that the recent announcements are causing uncertainty about future investment in pharmacy services

Our local pharmacies are at risk of closure or being forced to cut services such as free delivery of prescription drugs, family planning advice and advice on medicines

This will put more pressure on GPs and hospitals and impact social services and is at odds with the local Clinical Commissioning Group's desire to increase the use of pharmacists to ease pressure on GPs.

This Council resolves to:

Request that the Chief Executive writes to the Secretary of State responsible calling for the Government to abandon these cuts, rather than just simply to postpone them, and to make a commitment to maintaining a fully-funded community pharmacy service

Request that the Chief Executive also writes to the Borough's two Members of Parliament and to the Chair of the NHS Bury Clinical Commissioning Group asking them to make similar representations on this matter to the Secretary of State

In the names of Councillors M D'Albert, T Pickstone and S Wright.

(ii) Protecting children from alcohol advertising

This Council notes:

- That alcohol can be enjoyed in a responsible way by adults.
- That alcohol can cause serious and fatal diseases, including several types of cancers; that the UK Chief Medical Officers' Alcohol Guidelines advise both men and women that it is safest not to drink regularly more than 14 units per week, to keep health risks from drinking alcohol to a low level
- The UK Chief Medical Officer advises not to drink on consecutive days and to have at least THREE Alcohol Free days in a week
- The UK Chief Medical Officer Advises that no child under the age of 15 should consume alcohol
- That there are 4,120 alcohol-related hospital admissions every year in Bury.
- That alcohol can only be legally purchased by adults over 18 years old.
- That the advertising of alcohol is designed to make products more appealing and in turn can appeal to children and young people.
- That the Science Committee of the European Alcohol and Health Forum concluded in 2009 that "alcohol marketing increases the likelihood that adolescents will start to use alcohol, and to drink more if they are already using alcohol".
- That underage drinkers are more likely to be a victim of crime and those who get drunk at least once a month are twice as likely to commit a criminal offence as those who don't.
- That the recent Healthier Futures/Alcohol Health Alliance public opinion survey found 73% support in Greater Manchester for a 9pm watershed for alcohol adverts on TV.
- That the recent public engagement campaign 'See What Sam Sees' by Healthier Futures, talked with over 200 people across Greater Manchester and received overwhelming support for a 9pm watershed from the Greater Manchester public.

This Council believes:

• That it is the responsibility of all levels of government to try to ensure good public health in the population.

This Council resolves:

- To request the Leader of the Council to write the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, expressing these views and asking her to bring forward legislation to introduce a 9pm watershed for the advertising of alcohol products on TV to protect children and young people from the influence of alcohol advertising.
- To continue to promote good health in our borough, to support the UK Chief Medical Officers' Alcohol Guidelines, and to protect

children and adults from alcohol-related harm.

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

(iii) Domestic Violence Victims

This Council notes that a £20 million fund to support domestic abuse victims is being launched by the Government. The money will help to provide accommodation, employment and skills training for women fleeing violence.

Local authorities will be able to bid for a share of the money, which is the first part of an overall £40 million investment package. Communities Secretary Sajid Javid said the boost will mean "no victim is turned away" from essential support.

This Council requests that officers should immediately place a bid that will help us give more support to victims of domestic violence in Bury.

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

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

12 QUESTIONS ON THE WORK OF OUTSIDE BODIES OR PARTNERSHIPS

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

13 DELEGATED DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Questions on the delegated decisions made by the Regulatory Committees and Scrutiny Committees contained in the Digest of Decision 3 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 3

Agenda Item 2

Minutes of: AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 14 September 2016

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor M Connolly), in the

Chair; Councillors P Adams, N Bayley, I Bevan, K S Briggs, R A Caserta, R Cathcart, A J Cummings, M D'Albert, J Daly, E Fitzgerald, I B Gartside, J Grimshaw, D L Gunther, M Hankey, S Haroon, J Harris, R Hodkinson, T Holt, K Hussain, M A James, D Jones, G Keeley, J Kelly, S Kerrison, O Kersh, J Lewis, J Mallon, A K Matthews, E O'Brien, N Parnell T D Pickstone, C Preston, A Quinn, I Schofield, R Shori, D Silbiger, R Skillen, S Smith, Sarah Southworth, Susan Southworth, T Tariq, J Walker, R E Walker, S Walmsley,

M Whitby, S Wright and Y Wright.

Apologies from: Councillors J Black, A McKay and S Nuttall

Public attendance: 18 members of the public attended the meeting

(Prior to the consideration of the items listed within the Council Summons, Chris Foote Wood addressed the Council to provide an update on plans for a statue of his sister Victoria, which is to be sited in Bury Town Centre)

C.261 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 1. Councillor Jones declared a personal interest in any item which related to staffing as his wife is an employee of Bury Council.
- 2. Councillor Bevan declared a personal interest in any item which related to staffing as his wife is an employee within a Bury School.
- 3. Councillor Mallon declared a personal interest in any item which related to staffing as his wife is an employee within a Bury High School.
- 4. Councillor S Wright declared a personal interest in any item which related to staffing as his wife is an employee within a Bury School.
- 5. Councillor Quinn declared a personal interest in respect of item 8, Notices of Motion (Walk in Centres) as his son is employed by the NHS.
- 6. Councillor Shori declared a personal interest in any item which related to staffing as his partner is an employee of Bury Council.

C.262 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 13 July 2016 be signed by the Mayor as a true and correct record.

C.263 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor congratulated the East Lancashire Railway, The Fed and Bury Speakeasy who had been awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

The Mayor congratulated Adam Yates on claiming the White Jersey in this year's Tour De France and paid tribute to the Borough's Olympians and Paralympians.

C.264 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Mayor reported the receipt of two written questions as set out below:

No	Issue	Questioner	Answered By
1.	Road Safety Kingfisher Drive	Ms A Cook (not Present)	Councillor Shori (written response to be provided)
2.	Six Town Housing	Mr V Hagan	Councillor Shori

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

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered By
1.	Holy Trinity Church	Ms Mahmood	Councillor Shori

C.265 RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations of Cabinet or Council Committees.

C.266 LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(a) Written question (Notice given)

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Shori, 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.	Single Hospital Service	Councillor R E Walker	Councillor Holt
2.	Obesity	Councillor Pickstone	Councillor Holt
3.	Libraries Consultation	Councillor Fitzgerald	Councillor Walmsley
4.	Bury Commission on Life Chances	Councillor Preston	Councillor Shori

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5.	Waste Disposal Levy	Councillor Gartside	Councillor Lewis
6.	Fibre Broadband	Councillor Sarah Southworth	Councillor Walmsley
7.	Flood Grants	Councillor Skillen	Councillor Lewis
8.	Tudor Grange Estate	Councillor Harris	Councillor Walmsley
9.	Sport Participation	Councillor D'Albert	Councillor Holt
10.	Bury Light Night	Councillor Kerrison	Councillor Parnell
11.	Radcliffe Tower Project	Councillor Cathcart	Councillor Parnell
12.	GM Spatial Strategy	Councillor Hankey	Councillor Walmsley
13.	Public Health Grant	Councillor Susan Southworth	Councillor Holt
14.	Teenage Pregnancy	Councillor Haroon	Councillor Holt
15.	Bridge Street	Councillor Hodkinson	Councillor Quinn
16.	Employment Wages	Councillor S Wright	Councillor Lewis
17.	National Obesity Plan	Councillor Sarah Southworth	Councillor Holt

Due to the lack of time to answer questions 18 to 38 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.	Budget Revenue Monitoring	Councillor Gartside	Councillor Lewis
2.	Whitefield Police Station	Councillor Mallon	Councillor Shori
3.	Bury 10k run cost and consultations	Councillor R E Walker	Councillor Shori
4.	Victoria Wood Statue unveiling	Councillor Daly	Councillor Shori

Council, 14 September 2016

Document Pack Page 4 C.267 JOINT AUTHORITIES - REPORT 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.
- (b) The following questions had been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.2.

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered by
1.	Tasers	Councillor D'Albert	Councillor Shori (Representative on Greater Manchester Police and Crime Panel)
2.	Police Self Defence Training	Councillor S Wright	Councillor Shori (Representative on Greater Manchester Police and Crime Panel)

C.268 NOTICES OF MOTION

Walk in Centres

An Urgent Motion was submitted in the names of:

Councillors P Adams, N Bayley, J Black, S Briggs, R Cathcart, A Cummings, E FitzGerald, J Grimshaw, S Haroon, T Holt, M James, D Jones, J Kelly, S Kerrison, J Lewis, A Mckay, J Mallon, A Matthews, E O'Brien, N Parnell, C Preston, A Quinn, R Shori, R Skillen, S Smith, Sarah Southworth, Susan Southworth, T Tariq, J Walker, S Walmsley and M Whitby.

It was moved by Councillor Shori and seconded by Councillor Holt that:-

This Council notes the engagement process currently being undertaken by Bury CCG with regard to the proposed closure of Walk In Centres in Prestwich and Bury.

This Council acknowledges the valuable role that Walk In Centres play as part of the local health care system in providing much needed and additional access to healthcare, and diverting pressures away from already overburdened A&E units and GPs practices. In the last year, 67,000 people utilised the Walk In Centres in Bury and Prestwich.

Council, 14 September 2016

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This Council welcomes the fact that over 5000 people have already signed a petition instigated by Bury Labour Group, thereby demonstrating their opposition

Whilst this Council recognises the current funding crisis being experienced by the NHS in England and Wales where £22 billion of efficiencies are required by 2021, we also note with grave concern that Bury's own Clinical Commissioning Group is currently the sixth most underfunded in the North of England, being underfunded by £11.3 million per annum by reference to NHS England's target formula. Coupled with the continuing under funding of Bury Council, the residents of Bury are subject to a significantly disproportionate funding gap for local services.

This Council resolves to:

to the closures.

- a) Call for an immediate withdrawal of the proposal by Bury CCG to cease the provision of Walk In Centres, in their current format, in Bury and Prestwich.
- b) Write to the Secretary of State for Health Jeremy Hunt requesting an urgent meeting to discuss the under funding issues relating to Bury CCG and Bury Council whose role in the provision of social care services is vital in ensuring the sustainability of health and social care system.

On being put, with 32 voting for, 14 against and the Mayor abstaining the Motion was declared carried.

(Note- the above Motion, which was not included in the Council Summons was allowed by the Mayor to be considered as a matter of urgency by virtue of the need to allow the Council to consider the matter within the consultation timescale).

Three further Notices of Motion had been received and set out in the Summons:-

1. Smoking

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

Councillors P Adams, N Bayley, J Black, S Briggs, R Cathcart, A Cummings, M Connolly, E FitzGerald, J Grimshaw, S Haroon, T Holt, M James, D Jones, J Kelly, S Kerrison, J Lewis, A Mckay, J Mallon, A Matthews, E O'Brien, N Parnell, C Preston, A Quinn, R Shori, R Skillen, S Smith, Sarah Southworth, Susan Southworth, T Tariq, J Walker, S Walmsley and M Whitby.

It was moved by Councillor Sarah Southworth and seconded by Councillor Holt that :-

This Council recognises that tobacco related disease remains the single greatest cause of preventable deaths in England, killing 80,000 people every year, more people each year than obesity, alcohol, road accidents and illegal drug use put together. It is also the single biggest preventable cause of cancer. Tackling tobacco would play a significant part in reducing health inequalities. Thousands of children also suffer harm as a result of smoking.

Council, 14 September 2016

Document Pack Page 6 In the borough of Bury, 19.5 per cent of people smoke. Each year, in Bury, smoking costs an estimated £54.5M. Rates of smoking related deaths and lung

This Council resolves to commit to signing the Local Government Declaration on Tobacco Control. This is a declaration which commits Bury Council to tackle the

- Reduce smoking prevalence and health inequalities
- Develop tobacco control plans with partners and local communities

harm smoking causes our communities by committing the Council to:

- Participate in local and regional networks
- Support Government action at national level

cancer in Bury are worse than the UK average.

- Protect tobacco control work from the commercial and vested interests of the tobacco industry
- Monitor progress of our plans
- Join the Smokefree Action Coalition

Signing the declaration will send out a clear signal to the people of Bury that we remain ambitious in our efforts to reduce the harm caused by tobacco. We have been working with partners at Cancer Research UK and the Bury Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to boost local action on the issue; later this month the CCG are looking to support us by signing the sister pledge, the NHS Statement of Support for Tobacco Control. These commitments underpin the work already underway to tackle smoking within the borough, including:

- Multi-agency work to continue to reduce smoking in pregnancy
- Utilizing the Healthy Workplace Charter & Working Well Bury scheme to address smoking in targeted populations e.g. Routine & Manual Workers
- Joint work with Bury CCG to systematically target populations, using GP registers
- Link with the Healthy Schools program to deliver focused educational work to break the intergenerational cycle of tobacco use and stop young people from starting a tobacco habit.
- Amplify national campaigns locally e.g. National No Smoking Day & Stoptober
- Continue to undertake work with the Trading Standards team to tackle the accessibility of tobacco products for young people, particularly in relation to illegal and illicit tobacco and underage sales.

This council therefore agrees to commit to the Local Government Declaration on Tobacco Control in order to protect successive generations of young people from the harm done by tobacco, save lives and reduce health inequalities.

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

Council, 14 September 2016

2. Green Belt

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

Councillors T Pickstone, M D'Albert and S Wright

Council notes:

- 1 The Green Belt process, introduced from 1955, as a planning policy to protect countryside around the countries largest urban areas.
- 2 The aims of Green Belt (as stated in the 2012 National Policy Planning Framework) are:
- To check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas
- To prevent neighbouring towns from merging into one another
- To assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment
- To preserve the setting and special character of historic towns
- To assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land
- 3 And the stated opportunities and benefits being:
- Providing opportunities for access to the open countryside for the urban population
- Providing opportunities for outdoor sport and outdoor recreation near urban areas
- The retention of attractive landscapes and the enhancement of landscapes, near to where people live
- Improvement of damaged and derelict land around towns
- The securing of nature conservation interests
- The retention of land in agricultural, forestry and related uses.
- 4 That significant parts of Bury (60%) have been designated as Green Belt land which makes a very significant positive contribution to the character of the area, as well as providing opportunities for leisure and recreation.
- 5 That Green Belt also plays an important part in providing a rural barrier between the different towns and village communities that make up Bury.
- The Greater Manchester Spatial Framework is currently being developed by Greater Manchester Councils to identify land for homes and jobs to 2035, including a stated aim to enhance and protect the quality of the natural environment, conserve wildlife and tackle low carbon and flood risk issues, so that we can accommodate growth sustainably.
- 7 That the GMSF process includes a strategic review of Green Belt land, the first strategic review for over 30 years.

Council, 14 September 2016

8 The significant amount of 'brownfield land' available in Greater Manchester (2721 hectares in the most recent National Land Use Database), the highest amount in the North West.

This Council supports

- 1 Green Belt as an important Planning Policy which should be retained around our major urban areas going forwards
- 2 The aims, opportunities and benefits of Green Belt as stated in the National Policy Planning Framework remain valid and valid for Bury.
- 3 The stated aims of the GMSF to ensure that both appropriate and affordable housing, and provision for jobs and job creation are provided going forwards, and the aims for this growth to be sustainable.
- 4 The use of brownfield land for housing and jobs as a first priority.

This Council therefore resolves

- To take what steps we can as an Authority, without prejudicing or predetermining any future planning application or consultation, to encourage developers to use existing sites and extant planning applications
- 2 To ask our representatives to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to continue to make a strong case for retaining a strong green belt across Greater Manchester.

It was moved by Councillor Walmsley and seconded by Councillor Shori as an amendment to:-

Delete (Council notes): 7. That the GMSF process includes a strategic review of Green Belt land, the first strategic review for over 30 years.

Add (Council notes): The Council has to take account of national planning guidance in determining the level of house building required. The methodology and baseline figures for this have to be set by the Government.

Add (Council resolves): 3. Lobby Minister of State for Housing and Planning, Gavin Barwell MP, to review the planning regulations so local authorities like Bury have the power to take action against the land owners and/or developers who fail to develop land within a reasonable time-frame.

On being put, with no one voting against, the Mayor declared the amendment carried.

On being put, with no one voting against, the Mayor declared the substantive motion carried.

Council, 14 September 2016

3. Pay Increases

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

Document Pack Page 9 Councillors I Bevan, R Caserta, J Daly, I Gartside, D Gunther, M Hankey, J Harris, R Hodkinson, K Hussain, G Keeley, O Kersh, I Schofield, D Silbiger, S Nuttall, R Walker, and Y Wright

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

This Council thoroughly deplores the recent excessive pay increases, proposed by a recent Personnel Committee report by the Labour controlled Manchester City Council to some of their already highly paid senior Council officials.

We also note that this is in stark contrast to majority of the hard working staff at Manchester City Council who have received the LGA nationally agreed 1% pay increase.

This Council resolves not to follow the example set by the Manchester City Council in giving such an excessive pay increases to our Bury Council senior managerial staff, some of whom are on six figure salaries.

On being put, with 15 voting for, 31 against and the Mayor abstaining the Mayor declared the motion lost.

C.269 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.270 QUESTIONS ON THE WORK OF OUTSIDE BODIES OR PARTNERSHIPS

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

C.271 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 2 (2016/17).

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR

NOTE: The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 10.25 pm

NOTE: Council voted unanimously to suspend Council Procedure Rule 9.1 in order to allow for its business to be concluded.



COUNCIL MEETING 30 NOVEMBER 016 LEADER'S STATEMENT

Mr Mayor, these are incredibly turbulent times, times that are almost unprecedented in terms of uncertainty. The old norms have been cast out and politics and society are heading to places that we never thought possible.

AUTUMN STATEMENT

Mr Mayor I must begin my speech by referring to the recent Autumn Statement, the outcome of which will have huge implications for this Council and our residents.

The only good thing about the Autumn Statement is that it was the last Autumn Statement.

For years now the Conservatives have been talking about jam tomorrow but its the JAMS of today that need our help.

[Just about managing if you don't know the acronym].

The Statement showed in the starkest possible detail that the Government's economic plan has failed.

We have had 6 wasted years, 6 long wasted years.

Austerity has failed the economy, it has failed public services and it has failed the people of this country.

The Statement delivered downgraded economic forecasts, downgraded growth rates, and downgraded living standards.

The only thing that will be going up as a result of the Statement is the national debt!

The percentage of debt as a share of GDP will be 90%. It was 53% under the last Labour Government.

The Chancellor announced that the Government was looking to borrow an additional, an additional £122 bn by 2020 – this Conservative Government has now borrowed more than every Labour Government in history combined.

And they are the party of economic competence – who initially were going to clear the deficit by 2015, and then by 2020 and now they've given up.

The most shocking thing from a Local Government Perspective was the failure to allow for any further funding to the Social Care System – a social care system in crisis.

This isn't a party political point.

Former Health Secretary Andrew Lansley (and there is no love of him on this side of the Chamber) has called the news incredible disappointing whilst the Tory Leader of Suffolk County Council Izzy Seccombe.

Tonight, the length and breadth of this country there will be elderly, frail and lonely people who will remain trapped in their homes or trapped in hospitals, isolated, and lacking the care they deserve because of continuing cuts to social care budgets.

Make no mistake Mr Mayor...social care in this country is in

crisis. Even NHS managers accepted that if there were to be any more funds then they should go to social care because you can't hit social care without hitting the NHS.

And yet there was nothing.

Of course it was good to see a rise in the National Wage but even that wasn't enough. If the Tories were serious about hitting their target for a minimum wage of £9 per hour by 2020 then the rise next year should have taken the level to £7.64 an hour. The fact that it didn't gives us a very big clue about the new Prime Minister's commitment to this policy.

Sadly whilst we welcome any rise, even one as paltry as this, the rise does have a downside for Councils. It represents a significant increase in the potential cost of care contracts and given that we will receive no help towards the costs then it places yet more pressure on social care budgets.

Add to this the increase in insurance tax then once again Councils are left picking up a tab that they simply cannot afford.

Mr Mayor the Autumn Statement was a bonfire of pledges and reputations. Economic promises and economic targets were tossed aside; the JAMs were ignored and vulnerable people were left fearful for their lives.

For the people of Bury this means that they are left facing lower living standards, lower wage growth, higher inflation.

Real wages will, remarkably, still be below their 2008 levels by the time we reach 2021. This means that the Tories have delivered more than a decade without real earnings growth.

And yet despite all this, here in Bury we are showing an astounding level of resilience and will continue to work as hard as we can to protect the most vulnerable in our communities whilst at the same time trying to make all parts of our borough more prosperous.

In that vein I am delighted that we have managed to secure investment in Radcliffe with Lidl having now submitted a planning application for their flagship store in Radcliffe and we look forward to welcoming it as a catalyst for our wider regeneration ambitions.

10k Run

The recent 10K run showcased Bury town centre, and parts of Bury so often unseen, and not only did the run exceed all our expectations, it brought out the very best in our community.

I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone involved in the organisation...it really was superb...and to congratulate all the runners who took part, especially Councillors and Bury officers.

The most often asked question at the end was 'are you doing this again' and I'm delighted to say that we are. The 2017 10K will take place on 17 September and places are up for grabs now...you know you want to!

On the very same day we had the hugely successful Ramsbottom Festival and the Battle of Britain Commemoration and thanks to the efforts of all involved the borough pulled of these events without a hitch.

Linked to this, we recently celebrated the success of the I Will If You Will campaign. Since becoming the national pilot back in 2013 I Will If You Will now holds 300 fitness sessions a week and has helped over xxx women get back into sport and physical exercise.

Not only has this been great for Bury's women it has also boosted local businesses and put Bury in the media spotlight.

I want to say a big thank you to all the Members and staff who had the vision to develop this campaign and who have put Bury at the forefront of the development of national policy for improving women's health and fitness.

Staying on the theme of sport, Bury featured strongly at the recent Greater Manchester Sports Awards and I'm sure that

Council will join with me in congratulating all Bury's finalists...Mark O'Brien, Alex Evans, Thomas Gleaves, Isaac Taylor Green, Ryan Lewis, Karen Nichols and last but definitely not least the YWCA Bury Netball Club. Well done to all of you, we're very proud of you.

Mr Mayor I was also recently privileged to present an award at the recent Pride of Bury Awards where I saw and heard first hand stories of incredible courage and selfless dedication from Bury people of all ages and backgrounds.

Truly Mr Mayor, it made me proud beyond words to be part of this amazing borough of ours.

Finally Mr Mayor, one of the privileges of being Council Leader is the opportunity to work on vital matters at a Greater Manchester wide level. As the lead leader for Police, Crime and Civil Contingencies I was delighted to be involved in the launch of the 'Does it sit right with you' campaign to encourage people to talk about domestic abuse. The big yellow sofa visited Bury

on 19 November and got a brilliant reception with plenty of visitors sitting down to talk.

This week I was also particularly pleased to host a meeting of resilience experts from across the world who met to help plan how to make the best of GM's membership of the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities.

Our bid to join the 100RC will bring a large scale investment that will help to develop GM's resilience, not only in terms of tackling disasters and emergencies but also addressing the long term stresses that affect growing conurbation.

Work of the Cabinet

Moving on to the work of the Cabinet

Turning now to the work of the Cabinet...there has been one meeting of the Cabinet since the last Council and we discussed three key items.

Firstly we considered a report outlining the results of the public consultation exercise around the key principles that should be adopted to guide the Library Service review.

The Council has now concluded two separate initial consultations.

Mr Mayor, let me say right now, this Council remains fully committed to retaining a high quality Library Service in the borough but we all know that there will have to be changes. The Council will continue to provide a service that meets its legal duties and supports the aspirations of residents of all ages.

We also considered a report around the provision of assistance in support of home to school and college travel for children and young people with Special Educational Needs.

Mr Mayor the Children & Families Act 2014 introduced by the Government brought about significant reforms to the way in which services for children and young people with Special

Educational Needs or Disability are provided, commissioned or delivered.

Clearly Home to school transport, or financial assistance to support travel to school by children and young people with Special Educational Needs is an important element of that provision and it was clear that our existing policy framework did not meet the expectations set out in the Act.

Following a very lengthy and detailed consultation process

Cabinet agreed to implement a new policy framework that

meets the requirement of the Act.

I would like to place on record my appreciation of the positive and constructive way that parents contributed to the consultation exercise.

Finally we approved for consultation a draft Growth Plan.

The Plan recognises that Bury's population is growing and that more jobs and homes are needed in the Borough to accommodate this growth. The Plan is a high level strategy

setting out how, through collaborative working, we can achieve

our ambitions for healthy, inclusive, sustainable and managed

growth and increased resilience.

The Growth Plan is not just about physical development

though. It also recognises the need to support social and

economic growth to help create thriving, healthy and equitable

communities and it recognises the need for infrastructure and

public service changes to support growth.

At the same time, the Plan stresses that growth will require

interventions to mitigate against negative environmental

impacts and to support a low carbon economy.

Thank you Mr Mayor

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BURY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING -30 NOVEMBER 2016

NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR WALMSLEY CABINET MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC HOUSING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

ITEM (6) – LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(Note: A printed version of the question has been circulated around the Council Chamber at the back of the Order of Proceedings and therefore **the question should not be read out.)**

Suggested answer to written Question 1 submitted by Councillor Pickstone

- **Q.** Is the Leader of the Council aware of a recent report by Age UK: "Aging in Squalor and Distress" concerning poor private rental sector housing for older people? The report calls for councils to adequately resource environmental health teams to reduce this unacceptable situation. Is this something we can take forward in Bury?
- A. Currently just one in ten of all those living in the private rented sector are currently over 65, but this is expected to rise significantly in future years. Around 200,000 older people have joined the rental market in the last four years alone, and estimates suggest that a third of over-60s could be living in private rented accommodation by 2040.

Although the Age UK report concentrates on older people, we take the view that we need to tackle issues within the private rented sector in Bury for ALL residents.

Our of our fundamental aims in relation to the private rented sector is to improve the standard of properties and their management and we have a statutory duty to ensure rented properties meet the minimum standards required by law. We also take steps to encourage the positive development of the sector and support good landlords to ensure as far as possible a sufficient and good quality supply of privately rented homes in the borough.

Whilst the majority of landlords are diligent and responsible, there are a small minority of landlords who ignore their obligations and knowingly rent out unsafe accommodation. These criminal landlords are exploiting vulnerable tenants, who just want a safe place to call home.

In the current climate, our staffing resources to deal with this area of work are inevitably stretched and whilst there is more risk of this going forward, given the scale of savings required, we will continue to be mindful of our statutory duties and the all too clear impacts of not tackling issues in this area.

Of course we would certainly support Age UKs call for more resources for local environmental health services, better access to aids and adaptations for older people, and much-needed improvements to local housing advice.

BURY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING -30 NOVEMBER 2016

NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR SHORI LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

ITEM (6) – LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(Note: A printed version of the question has been circulated around the Council Chamber at the back of the Order of Proceedings and therefore **the question should not be read out.)**

Suggested answer to written Question 2 submitted by Councillor J Walker

- **Q.** Will the Leader join us in congratulating the ruling group on securing the building of the Country's largest Lidl in Radcliffe?
- A. I am delighted to congratulate Members and officers for the excellent work that they have done to attract such a high quality development into Radcliffe.

Lidl's decision to invest in Radcliffe is a massive vote of confidence for the area and we are determined that this will be a catalyst for wider regeneration of Radcliffe and in particular the town centre.

BURY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING -30 NOVEMBER 2016

NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR WALMSLEY CABINET MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC HOUSING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

ITEM (6) – LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(Note: A printed version of the question has been circulated around the Council Chamber at the back of the Order of Proceedings and therefore **the question should not be read out.)**

Suggested answer to written Question 3 submitted by Councillor Fitzgerald

- **Q.** Can the Leader please help explain the GMSF process? Outlining this is a mandate from the Conservative Government and the financial penalties we would incur if we didn't put a robust plan forward
- A. The Government requires local authorities to produce statutory plans that identify development sites to meet local housing and employment needs. These needs are largely based on population and household projections produced by the current Government.

Recent changes to national planning guidance implemented by the Government have made it difficult to deal with strategic planning issues at the local level so the proposed GMSF is a means by which the ten GM districts can work collectively to deal with cross boundary and strategic planning issues.

The draft GMSF is currently being consulted on until the 23rd December. There will be a further draft GMSF that is expected to be consulted on next year. The GMSF will then be submitted to the Government for Examination.

An Examination in public will be held where all the arguments for and against the GMSF will be heard, before a Government appointed planning Inspector gives their judgement on whether the plan is sound or unsound. If the plan is found sound, then it can be formally adopted by each of the ten Greater Manchester districts as part of their statutory development plan.

It is worth noting that a Government appointed planning inspector recently supported Birmingham Council's proposed release of Green Belt land to meet housing numbers. On 24 November this decision was upheld by Gavin Barwell, the Minister for Housing and Planning, who stated explicitly that the approach taken by Birmingham Council to release Green Belt land to meet development needs accorded with the Government's National Planning Policy Framework.

His letter clearly sets out the Government's position on Green Belt and will have implications for Green Belt right across the country and I am happy to provide a link to the letter to Members.

In terms of sanctions, the Government has previously threatened to put local authorities in 'special measures' if they are not progressing plans and have suggested that they will intervene and write the plans for authorities that are not doing so.

They have also threatened to impose financial penalties on authorities that are not progressing plans by removing New Homes Bonus payments. It is rumoured that the details of these penalties will be contained within an imminent White Paper on Housing that will follow last week's Autumn statement. This would cost Bury over half a million pounds a year.

BURY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING -30 NOVEMBER 2016

NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR QUINN CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

ITEM (6) - LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(Note: A printed version of the question has been circulated around the Council Chamber at the back of the Order of Proceedings and therefore **the question should not be read out.)**

Suggested answer to written Question 4 submitted by Councillor Gunther

- Q. Considering that according to the national and local press some Bury Council Tax Payers are having to resort to paying £25 per month to a private refuse collector to have their general waste collected following the introduction of the three weekly bin collection, would he agree with me that this policy is a disaster and ought to be reviewed. Would he also agree with me that that the removal of domestic waste is the most fundamental function undertaken by a Local Authority?
- A. Bury was the first Council in England to introduce a 3 weekly refuse collection service and its introduction has been a huge success, so much so that 3 other Councils in GM namely Oldham, Salford and Rochdale have replicated this model and many others across the country are actively considering doing the same.

Bury's collected bin waste recycling rate has increased from 47% to 58% and well over £1,000,000 has been saved in avoided waste disposal costs since October 2014, helping to preserve vital front line jobs and services.

Of course any household in the borough, of whatever size, has the opportunity to apply for additional residual waste capacity.

Any application is subject to a home visit and waste audit to determine the level of recycling being undertaken in the household. If it is demonstrated that all waste is being recycled using the range of bins that the Council provides then that household is allowed an additional bin.

Those Bury residents choosing to pay a private contractor to remove their waste are in a tiny minority. Given the assistance available to households it is clear that these residents are choosing to pay for an additional refuse collection rather than helping the environment by recycling.

BURY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING -30 NOVEMBER 2016

NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR QUINN CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

ITEM (6) – LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(Note: A printed version of the question has been circulated around the Council Chamber at the back of the Order of Proceedings and therefore **the question should not be read out.)**

Suggested answer to written Question 5 submitted by Councillor Cummings.

- **Q.** Would the Leader like to congratulate Manchester, City of Trees, and the Forestry Commission for laying down the foundations to create the City Forest Park in the North Manchester area, a People's Park which will be the size of Central Park in New York and as well as being a huge Carbon Sink also a place for families and communities to share and enjoy just 15 minutes from our towns?
- A. Indeed, I would congratulate and thank City of Trees (formerly known as Red Rose Forest) for continuing to remind everyone of the value of the Lower Irwell Valley at Prestwich and encouraging investment in it. The area is a fascinating mix of historic estates, ancient woodland and reclaimed land. It has huge value for recreation, biodiversity and carbon management.

Bury Council has worked to improve the valley since the late 1980s. However, in 2009, City of Trees' helped bring the Forestry Commission to the site and we are now able to announce that the Forestry Commission is funding a dedicated project manager, who was appointed last week. A project advisory group will be established in the new year which will include Bury and Salford Councils, the Environment Agency, United Utilities, City of Trees and the Forestry Commission.

We look forward to working with City of Trees and the other partners in the City Forest Park initiative over the next few years. The Irwell Valley is an important part of the city region's green infrastructure and its improvement will contribute greatly to the aims of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework.

COUNCIL MEETING -30 NOVEMBER 2016

NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR QUINN CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

ITEM (6) – LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(Note: A printed version of the question has been circulated around the Council Chamber at the back of the Order of Proceedings and therefore **the question should not be read out.)**

Suggested answer to written Question 6 submitted by Councillor Bayley

- **Q.** Could the Leader tell us anything about the drainage system to be used on the A56 Prestwich High Street?
- A. Flooding and pollution of our water courses is a major issue in the UK and the situation is no different in Bury. We have had significant flood events in Bury over the last 12 months and nine out of nine stretches of open water in the borough, all parts of the River Irwell, failed to meet the Government's Water Framework Directive in 2015.

Our engineered drainage system frequently fails to cope with the increasing volumes of surface water running off our roads, pavements and car parks and this if further being exacerbated by the loss of open space to new development. When water levels are too high Combined Sewer Overflows discharge into water courses to ensure that we don't get water backing up on our streets. In Prestwich Clough for example the quality of water is very poor and there is CSO that discharges directly in to the brook there.

One of the solutions to the problem of flooding and poor water quality is to use natural measures such as green

space and trees as mechanisms for holding and cleaning water that runs off hard impermeable surfaces.

On Prestwich High Street we will be undertaking an innovative and unique project that will use trees to hold and clean surface water runoff before it eventually returns to the sewer system.

The plan is to plant 30 trees, subject to underground services, where rain water falling onto the road, pavement and adjacent buildings will be diverted into the pavement where the trees will be planted. The trees will utilise this water to help them grow and along with micro-organisms in the soil will be able to contain or transform many of the pollutants contained in the water into harmless inert compounds.

In addition to irrigating the trees and cleaning the water the trees and the soil will reduce the amount of water entering the sewer and delays its entry to reduce peak storm flows. If this approach was replicated at a wider scale it would have the potential to reduce the frequency at which CSO's discharge into neighbouring water courses such as the Brook in Prestwich Clough.

This project will form part of the LIFE IP Natural Courses programme and it has the financial backing of the Environment Agency and United Utilities. The EA and UU are very interested in the results that will be obtained by the University of Manchester who will be monitoring the amount of water entering and leaving the system and the time that this takes. Water samples at the point of entry and the point of exit back into the sewer will also be taken to quantify how water quality has been affected.

We hope that this pioneering project in Prestwich will lead to a mainstreaming of this approach and will provide an important natural solution to flooding and pollution of our water bodies.

COUNCIL MEETING -30 NOVEMBER 2016

NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR QUINN DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

ITEM (6) – LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(Note: A printed version of the question has been circulated around the Council Chamber at the back of the Order of Proceedings and therefore **the question should not be read out.)**

Suggested answer to written Question 7 submitted by Councillor R Walker

- **Q.** Where are we up to with the delayed outcome of the promised Review of the Bus Lane in Bolton Road, Bury?
- A. This bus lane was reviewed at the same time as the other town centre bus lanes and a report was submitted to Council in September last year. It was agreed that once the Lidl development was fully implemented and sufficient time had passed post implementation, we would assess its suitability. We are now at this point and Council Officers will be meeting in the near future to discuss. Once these discussions have taken place an updated report on the lanes suitability will be produced.

COUNCIL MEETING -30 NOVEMBER 2016

NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR HOLT FIRST DEPUTY AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING ITEM (6) – LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(Note: A printed version of the question has been circulated around the Council Chamber at the back of the Order of Proceedings and therefore **the question should not be read out.)**

Suggested answer to written Question 8 submitted by Councillor Mallon

- **Q.** Could the Leader give us an up-date on the progress of the Healthy Eating Voucher Scheme recently initiated by Bury Council?
- A. The Healthy Voucher Scheme was launched in October this year.

The aim of the scheme is to help and encourage families to have a more healthy diet and to achieve the 5 A Day objective.

To take part in the scheme, families are invited to a short session to look at healthy eating options, particularly involving fruit and vegetables. Once the families have attended the session, if they are still interested, they are given £10 worth of vouchers to be exchanged for fruit and vegetables on Bury Market.

Although it is early days, I am very pleased with the uptake from families. They say that they have really enjoyed using the vouchers and that the stall holders have been really helpful. One mum said she had gone to one stall holder and he had encouraged her to buy a selection of vegetables, for example: carrots, parsnips,

sweet potatoes, which really helped all her children try and taste different vegetables.

Overall, in the first few weeks 54 families in Bury East are engaged in the project. And 188 vouchers have been issued. It is very encouraging.

I do want to thank The Revs and Bens team at Whittaker Street, Little Oaks Children's Centre, Bury schools St Pauls, St Johns and St Marks, East Ward and last but by no means last, Bury Markets Manager and all the fruit and vegetable stall holders on Bury Market, without the help and support of all these people the scheme would never have got off the ground.

COUNCIL MEETING -30 NOVEMBER 2016

NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR HOLT FIRST DEPUTY AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

ITEM (6) – LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(Note: A printed version of the question has been circulated around the Council Chamber at the back of the Order of Proceedings and therefore **the question should not be read out.)**

Suggested answer to written Question 9 submitted by Councillor Preston

- **Q.** As with other councils and their NHS partners, Bury has been planning for the winter months, particularly in the area of adult social care. The coming months will be challenging, particularly with a long Bank Holiday weekend over Christmas. Could the leader tell us what arrangements Bury have made and what role does he see for families, friends and neighbours in facing this challenge?
- A. Every year the adult operations team plan cover for essential services over the Christmas period. Adult Operations also compile a list of staff willing to work as a contingency in the event of an unexpected situation such as bad weather.

The Hospital social work team now work over 7 days on the Fairfield site to support timely discharges of patients. We have staff covering the service every day over the Christmas and New Year period with the exception of Christmas Day when it is not good practice to discharge people home.

The Rapid Response Service also work 365 days a year 9am – 8pm with the aim of supporting people in crisis to remain in their own homes and avoid hospital admission. The Emergency Duty Team also provide social work cover our of hours evenings, weekends and overnight over this period

All other essential services are covered by an on call manager out of hours, weekends and bank holidays so that key decisions can be made as appropriate.

For our customers who live at home with Reablement services, an exercise is completed in December with families to ascertain what informal support arrangements can be put in place over the festive period and staffing rota's are planned around this. Where ever possible families are encouraged to work with us to support their elderly relatives.

With bed based service such as Intermediate Care, staff work closely with families in early December and in the run up to Christmas to discharge people home and free up beds so they can be available as needed.

The council has commissioning arrangements in place with local providers of residential care, home care and supported living services. Providers are required to have a business continuity plan in place as part of their contractual obligations to ensure continuity of care for our customers during the winter period. Additional capacity will be commissioned should the need arise during this period to enable timely discharge of customers in hospital.

COUNCIL MEETING -30 NOVEMBER 2016

NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR BRIGGS CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

ITEM (6) – LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(Note: A printed version of the question has been circulated around the Council Chamber at the back of the Order of Proceedings and therefore **the question should not be read out.)**

Suggested answer to written Question 10 submitted by Councillor Daly

- **Q.** Should they be required, who has statutory responsibility for the construction of new schools in the Bury metropolitan area?
- A The local authority no longer has the statutory power to establish a new school. If a new school is required, the LA is required to invite interest from providers, and it would be the successful applicant that would then be responsible for establishing the new school as a Free School.

In terms of actual construction of school buildings, this will largely depend on the source of capital funding, as the LA will still receive capital funding for the provision of additional places, but Free Schools can also secure capital funding directly from the Government.

COUNCIL MEETING -30 NOVEMBER 2016

NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR QUINN CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

ITEM (6) – LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(Note: A printed version of the question has been circulated around the Council Chamber at the back of the Order of Proceedings and therefore **the question should not be read out.)**

Suggested answer to written Question 11 submitted by Councillor S Wright

- **Q.** The Government has recently announced additional funding for road repairs which, according to the LGA, falls well short of the current 'backlog' of work. What is Bury's current 'backlog' of road maintenance and how many multiples of this of our current road repairs budget(s)?
- A. There is currently no official definition of how a 'backlog' should be calculated, which would enable a consistent and comparable figure to be given.

However thanks to constant Government cuts it is very clear that highway maintenance demands far outstrip the money that we have available.

In order to try and address this backlog of repairs Highway Operations employs innovative highway maintenance repair techniques, such as spray injection patching, highway inspector repairs and the use of special planning machines, which have increased the output and efficiency of the service.

However despite our very best efforts we are currently working on 1,725 maintenance jobs as of 25th November 2016.

We also take an innovative approach to defining the extent of works that we need to do on our highways by assessing a level of condition for the highway network that is acceptable and then considering how much investment would be required to keep it at that level i.e. in a steady acceptable state.

The models we are currently evaluating for our carriageway assets only suggest we would require immediate investment of approximately £73m to initially remove those worst parts of the network. Even with this investment we would then need an annual maintenance budget of approximately £8.5M to keep the network at the current standard.

We currently have revenue budgets for structural/cyclical maintenance totalling £1.349 million.

COUNCIL MEETING -30 NOVEMBER 2016

NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR BRIGGS CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

ITEM (6) – LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(Note: A printed version of the question has been circulated around the Council Chamber at the back of the Order of Proceedings and therefore **the question should not be read out.)**

Suggested answer to written Question 12 submitted by Councillor Preston

- **Q.** In 2014, Bury was placed in the lowest 10 LAs in the country for attainment in phonics, judged through the statutory Y1 phonics check and received a warning notice from the DfE in November 2014. How has the Council responded to this and what is the position now?
- A. The Council funded a project through the School Improvement Service aimed at raising standards in phonics which was launched in January 2015. The main target of the project was to improve the percentage of pupils reaching the expected standard in the national Y1 phonics check. In 2014 percentage of pupils reaching the standard was 66%

A target for 2015 was set at 70%, and a target for 2016 was set at 75% with the intention of being broadly in line with national average.

At the end of 2015, 70.3% of pupils reached the expected standard, which was just above the target.

Outcomes of the second year of the project showed that by the end of 2016, 82.6% of pupils reached the expected standard, which constituted a rise of 12%

This means that Bury is the most improved LA in the North West and is 1% above national average.

I would like to congratulate all our staff in primary schools and our LA staff who have supported this work on the outstanding improvement they have delivered.

BURY COUNCIL COUNCIL MEETING -30 NOVEMBER 2016

NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR QUINN CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT ITEM (6) – LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(Note: A printed version of the question has been circulated around the Council Chamber at the back of the Order of Proceedings and therefore **the question should not be read out.)**

Suggested answer to written Question 13 submitted by Councillor Mallon .

- **Q.** As more and more people purchase electric and hybrid cars, would the Leader encourage more of these purchases by letting the owners of these vehicles be allowed to park for free in Bury Town Centre?
- A. As a Council we are keen to promote the use of electric and hybrid cars and as such we already allow these vehicles to park for free whilst parked in an electric charging bay.

COUNCIL MEETING -30 NOVEMBER 2016

NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR LEWIS DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND HR

ITEM (6) – LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(Note: A printed version of the question has been circulated around the Council Chamber at the back of the Order of Proceedings and therefore **the question should not be read out.)**

Suggested answer to written Question 14 submitted by Councillor Gartside

- Q. Can the Cabinet Member responsible for Finance please update Council on what remedial actions have been taken since the last Corporate Financial Monitor Report, which identified a projected budget overspend of 6.395 Million pounds for the end of this financial year?
- A. Firstly, I think it is important to provide some context to this question.

Since 2010, this Council has been forced to make cuts to its budget totalling £65 million a year; all these have been achieved with the Council returning a balanced outturn each year, and maintaining a healthy balance sheet.

Going forward, we anticipate at least a further £32 million of cuts as funding continues to be slashed.

The nature of ongoing cuts is that they get progressively harder to source and deliver.

Our month 3 monitoring process highlighted pressure early in the year; this was possible as we closed our 2015/16 accounts well ahead of the statutory deadline.

The report outlined measures that were put in place to control spend, and ongoing monitoring from month 3 highlights that progress is being made.

We are now reporting a reduced forecast overspend; full details will be presented to cabinet on 14th December.

COUNCIL MEETING -30 NOVEMBER 2016

NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR TARIQ CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES

ITEM (6) – LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(Note: A printed version of the question has been circulated around the Council Chamber at the back of the Order of Proceedings and therefore **the question should not be read out.)**

Suggested answer to written Question 15 submitted by Councillor Cathcart

- **Q.** Please could the Cabinet Member update us on the progress of Neighbourhood working
- A. I am pleased to advise Council that excellent progress has been made on Neighbourhood working. This represents our response to improving the well-being of our residents so that demand on services reduces as we assist families, individuals and communities to become more resilient.

There are a number of elements to neighbourhood working:

- Firstly, the One Commissioning Organisation which sees us bring together commissioning for health and social care under the Council's umbrella in April 2017.
- Secondly, the Local Care Organisation, which will be in place by April 2017, in shadow form, brings together Pennine Acute, Pennine Care, GP Federation, the Council and BARDOC. Discussions are well underway and working is becoming more closely aligned.

 Thirdly, neighbourhood working. I am pleased to advise Council that we have two Township Hubs that are operational and are working on community priorities and casework. In just 6 weeks I am pleased to advise that they are improving outcomes including working with drug users and addressing fly tipping on two of our estates. It's early days but we are seeing progress.

I am sure you will agree our plans for Neighbourhood working involve massive service transformation and, whilst this is work in progress, residents are beginning to see the benefits

BURY COUNCIL COUNCIL MEETING -30 NOVEMBER 2016

NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ITEM (6) – LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(Note: A printed version of the question has been circulated around the Council Chamber at the back of the Order of Proceedings and therefore **the question should not be read out.)**

Suggested answer to written Question 16 submitted by Councillor J Walker

- **Q.** Can the Leader give an update on the number of Looked After Children and Care Leavers who have been recruited this year into the Council's "Backing Young Bury" apprenticeship scheme?
- A. We've recently recruited three looked after children/care leavers to our apprenticeship scheme; two are within Insurance and Admin Buildings and one is within Highways Maintenance.

We're also in the process of establishing a traineeship scheme which will be specifically for looked after children and care leavers. The idea of the traineeship is to provide an opportunity for young people who aren't quite apprenticeship-ready to give them the skills necessary to succeed in one of our apprenticeships. The programme is expected to start in January and we will have places for between 5 and 8 young people.

A session has already been run with young people to promote this scheme and joint work is now being undertaken to ensure that people on the scheme have a smooth transition into preparation for starting and securing a Traineeship with the Council. We are positive that we will utilise all the places available for the start of the scheme in January.

COUNCIL MEETING -30 NOVEMBER 2016

NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR WALMSLEY CABINET MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC HOUSING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

ITEM (6) – LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(Note: A printed version of the question has been circulated around the Council Chamber at the back of the Order of Proceedings and therefore **the question should not be read out.)**

Suggested answer to written Question 17 submitted by Councillor Hussain.

- **Q.** Does this council have a strategy to ensure developers build on brownfield sites before areas presently in the greenbelt?
- A. This Council, along with the other nine Greater Manchester authorities, is seeking to prioritise brownfield land first within the draft Spatial Framework that is currently out for consultation.

The supporting evidence for the GMSF shows that around 72% of the Government's housing target can be accommodated within the existing urban area. Likewise, the vast majority of employment growth is earmarked to be developed on brownfield land within the urban area.

In Bury, there are planning permissions in place for around 2,200 new homes and most of these sites are under construction or have developers that are looking to take them forward in the near future.

However, there are a handful of sites that have stalled, without any signs of these being progressed and the Council is working hard to get these sites developed. Officers are currently updating the Local Brownfield Strategy which was last published in 2010.

However, despite the Council's best intentions, we are restricted in our ability to force landowners and developers to take brownfield sites forward. What we need is new powers from Government that stops developers from land banking sites and extra powers to force landowners to sell their land if they are showing no interest in getting the site developed. We have recently written to Government to this effect and have yet to receive a reply.

We also need a change to national planning guidance. As I stated, the GMSF does seek to prioritise brownfield land first but because of national policy requiring a continuous five year supply of housing land it will be difficult to prevent Green Belt release despite having significant amounts of brownfield land. Whilst we are restricted by the Government's national policy, we will continue to explore if and how the GMSF can force brownfield development and this Council will continue to lobby Government for the changes and extra powers to make this happen.

So, in answer to the question, we do have a strategy in place to get brownfield land developed in the Borough and this has been successful in recent years – over 95% of the homes built in Bury in the past decade has been on brownfield sites.

COUNCIL MEETING -30 NOVEMBER 2016

NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR WALMSLEY CABINET MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC HOUSING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

ITEM (6) – LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(Note: A printed version of the question has been circulated around the Council Chamber at the back of the Order of Proceedings and therefore **the question should not be read out.)**

Suggested answer to written Question 18 submitted by Councillor Adams

- **Q.** This Christmas more than 120,000 children will be homeless, the highest figure for 9 years. Does the Leader think that this is down to incompetence by the Government or the fact that they simply don't care?
- A. The Council will be aware that homelessness is on the rise nationally just over 15,170 households were accepted as homeless between April to June an increase of 3%. However the numbers of households 73,120 in temporary accommodation has gone up by 9% and is 52% higher than 2010 figures. This is driven by a number of factors such as welfare Reform changes, lifestyle choices, landlords and other life pressures.

Children are badly affected by homelessness it can affect their friendships, schooling, emotional well-being and life chances.

The Government is responding to the homeless pressures and a Bill is proceeding through the parliamentary process that will change how we approach homelessness and the allocation of social housing. The Government are responding to a pilot in Wales and I am pleased to report to Council that AGMA are working

together and are submitting a bid to the funding that Government recently announced.

Bury has transformed its homeless services over the last few years and I am proud that we do not place children in hostels or in Bed and Breakfast. Members will remember last year that the press picked up how well our homeless services were doing and I am pleased to report that Homeless preventions are this year are the highest (almost 1000- actual 988) they have ever been. We have beaten last year's figure and we still have 5 months remaining.

Families have a dedicated worker during their staff in our temporary accommodation and this includes supporting children. They are assisted to remain in school. Our focus is to move families on to more permanent accommodation which is in the best inertest of the children

We currently only have 10 households (families) in temporary accommodation and 30 children this includes some large families. The length of stay of households in temporary accommodation is just over 7 weeks compared with some authorities where the stay is over 5 years.

We are currently working on develop a model for care leavers and other young people that are currently unable to return home.

I will report back to Council as the changes in our response to homelessness develop.

BURY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING -30 NOVEMBER 2016

NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR SHORI LEADER OF THE COUNCIL ITEM (6) – LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(Note: A printed version of the question has been circulated around the Council Chamber at the back of the Order of Proceedings and therefore **the question should not be read out.)**

Suggested answer to written Question 19 submitted by Councillor James

- **Q.** Does the Leader think that the UK should have an independent judiciary?
- A. Judicial independence is the vital means which ensures the separation of powers between Government and the Courts. It is of paramount importance in a functioning democracy that Courts are not subject to improper influence from branches of Government or from private partisan interests.

COUNCIL MEETING -30 NOVEMBER 2016

NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR QUINN CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

ITEM (6) - LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(Note: A printed version of the question has been circulated around the Council Chamber at the back of the Order of Proceedings and therefore **the question should not be read out.)**

Suggested answer to written Question 20 submitted by Councillor Keeley.

- **Q.** Throughout the Borough drains and culverts are blocked, many have not been cleaned for many years. What steps are the Council taking to address this situation, especially in areas where there is a high risk of flooding?
- A. Our Highway Operations team operate a cyclic gully cleansing regime where all gullies within the adopted highway network are checked annually. In addition to this gullies are attended to on an ad-hoc basis that have either been reported or identified through our routine inspections as being blocked. However, sometimes this work can be problematic due to the presence of parked vehicles.

As you will no doubt be aware additional monies for gully cleansing were announced at our 2015/16 budget which has enabled us to maintain two operational gully crews. All areas that were affected by last winters floods had an extra gully clean within 2 months of the floods.

Weather forecasts are monitored by Emergency Services as well as by operational teams with response teams put on stand-by as appropriate.

BURY COUNCIL COUNCIL MEETING -30 NOVEMBER 2016

NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR QUINN CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT ITEM (6) – LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(Note: A printed version of the question has been circulated around the Council Chamber at the back of the Order of Proceedings and therefore **the question should not be read out.)**

Suggested answer to written Question 21 submitted by Councillor D'Albert.

- **Q.** With the Christmas holiday approaching could the Leader inform members what measures the council has in place to deal with possible fly tipping after Christmas and the need for additional recycling around Christmas?
- A. There is no disruption to waste collections over the forthcoming festive period, in that all collections will be made on the scheduled day. No residents will therefore go an extended period of time between bin collections.

The service experienced no problems with collections over the two previous Christmases, following the introduction of 3 weekly refuse collections in October 2014. It should be remembered that at the same time, collections of the blue and green bins were increased to 3 weekly, thereby creating more recycling capacity and much of any additional waste generated over the festive period is recyclable.

At any time of the year, bulky and excess household waste (including recycling) can be taken to a local Household Waste Recycling Centre at Cemetery Road in Radcliffe or Every Street, Fernhill. These sites are open every day except Christmas and New Years Day, from 08.00 to 18.00. There is a network of 20 such facilities across Greater Manchester, any of which Bury residents can use.

There is no evidence to suggest that there will be any increase in fly tipping after Christmas. However, the Street Cleansing service will be geared up to respond to any complaints promptly, as they are at any other time of the year.

COUNCIL MEETING -30 NOVEMBER 2016

NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR PARNELL DEPUTY CABINET MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC HOUSING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

ITEM (6) – LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(Note: A printed version of the question has been circulated around the Council Chamber at the back of the Order of Proceedings and therefore **the question should not be read out.)**

Suggested answer to written Question 22 submitted by Councillor Kerrison

- **Q.** Can the Leader report back on the success of the new Transition Festival? Are there any lessons from the new format and how does the Council propose to continue with this event in the financial constraints it faces?
- It is very early days to be drawing firm conclusions as Α. the full evaluation and data gathering will take a few weeks. However, in terms of the format, the expansion from one night to two had the desired effect of making the event less vulnerable to weather disrupting the whole thing. The first day/night was very cold and wet and the audiences were therefore obviously reduced. The event was primarily moved into November to allow staff more time to organise it. Previous Light Nights have taken place in October and therefore have enjoyed a planning period of up to 25 weeks; whereas the Transition event only had around 11 weeks due to pressured timing issues related to budget commitment earlier in the year. In that context, I think the team involved did a remarkable job. The event aimed to be different to Light Night with a focus on family activities in the day and a more scheduled programme of performance and projection in the evening - thus allowing reducing the previous issues of public safety.

Of course with such a short time to organise, there were new issues for the event which will have to be resolved going forward. For instance, it was difficult to get active participation from the range of local organisations which would normally be involved. The overrun of the capital works at the Met meant it couldn't open, and the withdrawal of the Drill Hall, the only indoor option was the Art Museum – which had a full programme.

We haven't got an estimate of visitors yet; and with the Rock and Millgate not participating their digital counting systems won't give us the same level of information. The Friday was really badly effected by the weather – which at one point was thundersnow! There were brave souls on the streets and the feedback despite the weather was positive.

Overall a high quality event was delivered to plan. Levels of marketing and publicity were carried forward building on Light Night practice. There was good media coverage. Social media penetration was high too. In November alone, on Facebook we reached more than 46,000 and on twitter we had more than 28,000 impressions. Social Media tends to be the first place you get a feel for the success or otherwise of an event; the last Light Night had received a volume of criticism online. So it's gratifying that we received absolutely no negative comment and all online response were positive. Even the people in the pouring rain on Friday had a good time. A much more detailed picture will be available when the evaluation is complete.

On the second part of the Member's question, managers are aware of the continuous constraints we face and will start work immediately on building joint commissioning partnership with other regional festivals to reduce costs and prioritise pursuit of external funding sources, with the policy expectation that the event should become self-sustaining financially. The second lesson is definitely return to October! Officers will start working on a development plan and fundraising strategy as soon as the evaluation of this one is complete.

COUNCIL MEETING -30 NOVEMBER 2016 NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR WALMSLEY CABINET MEMBER STRATEGIC HOUSING AND SUPPORT SERVICES ITEM (6) - LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(Note: A printed version of the question has been circulated around the Council Chamber at the back of the Order of Proceedings and therefore **the question should not be read out.)**

Suggested answer to written Question 23 submitted by Councillor Kersh

- **Q.** Can the Leader of the Council or relevant Cabinet Member tell us why residents do not have the right to anonymity when commenting on pending planning applications?
 - A. A planning application is part of a <u>public register</u> under the Planning Act 1990 and these provisions ensure that <u>all</u> material submitted in relation to an application is available so that a decision can be made in accordance with the development plan and <u>all</u> relevant material planning considerations, which includes objections. Opposition to a particular proposal is a common feature of the planning process and under Article 33 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 the local planning authority must also give notice of their decision to every person who has made a representation. Whilst there is flexibility upon how such notice is given, the fact remains that anonymity would not pass this test.

Part VA of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended in part by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, provides that, in addition to agendas and reports, a list of background papers relative to a report for a council committee shall be made available, and that papers so listed may be open for inspection and copied by members of the public.

Access to planning documents is allowed provided the documents do not contain confidential information within the meaning of sec. 100A (3) of the Act, which deals with restricted information furnished by a government department or subject to a court order, nor are exempt by virtue of sec.100, which seeks to protect the identity of informants in cases of the breach of planning control.

COUNCIL MEETING -30 NOVEMBER 2016 NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR QUINN CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

ITEM (6) – LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(Note: A printed version of the question has been circulated around the Council Chamber at the back of the Order of Proceedings and therefore **the question should not be read out.)**

Suggested answer to written Question 24 submitted by Councillor Gunther

- **Q.** Could the Leader or relevant Cabinet member give an update on what work has been undertaken in partnership with the Environment Agency to ensure debris from last year's floods has been cleared from the Irwell at Summerseat and other affected parts of the Borough?
- A. It is understood that the Environment Agency has cleared river bed debris at Ramsbottom and Hardy's Gate, Radcliffe, plus some large obstructions such as motor vehicles, from other places. However, in general the Environment Agency will only remove debris if it's causing a flood risk. Otherwise it's the problem of the owner of the river bank. At Summerseat the Council owns some sections of riverbank but most of it is in private ownership.

BURY COUNCIL COUNCIL MEETING -30 NOVEMBER 2016

NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR WALMSLEY CABINET MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC HOUSING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

ITEM (6) – LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(Note: A printed version of the question has been circulated around the Council Chamber at the back of the Order of Proceedings and therefore **the question should not be read out.)**

Suggested answer to written Question 25 submitted by Councillor Pickstone

- **Q.** Could the Leader of the Council inform members of how many empty properties there are in the Borough at present, how this compares with recent years and what measure we are using to determine these figures?
- A. The total number of empty properties in the borough has been decreasing slightly over the last four years and stands at around 2500. However, the number of long term empty properties (i.e. empty for six months or more) has been more variable and have increased from 2015 to 2016 from just over 900 properties to 1050.

The figures from 2013 to October 2016 can be broken down as follows:

Year (figures as at October)	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total number of empty properties	2854	2639	2552	2457
Number of empty properties over 6 months	991	887	907	1050

These figures are put together through Council Tax data and are based on Council Tax discounts and exemptions for empty properties. The information is submitted to DCLG annually and is the source of the figures stated.

The Urban Renewal section, within Communities and Wellbeing, track the number and distribution of empty properties and have several approaches to tackle the issue and bring empty properties back into use. It should be noted that there are many different factors involved in properties being empty, there are limitations on the influence the Council can have in relation to privately owned empty properties, demands on resources are often high in individual cases and there are inevitable limitations on the resources the Council has to tackle the issue. However, I can assure members that the issue of empty properties are taken seriously and remain a priority and, within the constraints mentioned, resources continue to be provided and used as efficiently and effectively as possible to tackle the issues.

COUNCIL MEETING -30 NOVEMBER 2016

NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR LEWIS DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND HR

ITEM (6) – LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(Note: A printed version of the question has been circulated around the Council Chamber at the back of the Order of Proceedings and therefore **the question should not be read out.)**

Suggested answer to written Question 26 submitted by Councillor Daly .

- **Q.** What services presently provided by Bury MBC does the council consider to be under threat of being reduced or stopped completely to ensure a balanced budget for financial year 2017/18, and what steps are being taken now to investigate other service delivery methods?
- A. Given the continuing reductions to funding; which Bury still seems to suffering to a much greater degree than other neighbouring Authorities the honest answer is that all services are under threat.

Over the last few months, we have been examining all service areas, and our budget proposals for 2017 to 2020 will be launched for public consultation on 8^{th} December.

Part of the work we have been doing has been to examine alternative service delivery models – building on the success of Persona which went live in October last year.

I hope the party opposite engage with our consultation process, and join us in lobbying Government for a fair funding deal for Bury.

COUNCIL MEETING -30 NOVEMBER 2016

NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR SHORI LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

ITEM (6) – LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(Note: A printed version of the question has been circulated around the Council Chamber at the back of the Order of Proceedings and therefore **the question should not be read out.)**

Suggested answer to written Question 27 submitted by Councillor Hussain.

- **Q.** What measures are the Council taking to support business, encourage new business into the Borough and increase footfall in our town centres?
- A. Supporting inward investment, business start up and business growth is a priority for Bury Council.

This Council is committed to ensuring that all our polices and plans support Bury's economy. It is recognised that a strong local economy is good for people, good for communities and good for business.

At the beginning of the recession this Council understood that it was our business leaders from sectors all across the borough that would drive growth and prosperity for the benefit of all.

Over the last 5 years the Chief Executive and the Leader of Bury Council have visited numerous local businesses. These visits broker a good relationship between Council departments and the local business base. By understanding our local economy we are able to ensure that our policies and plan are business friendly.

In addition we have a dedicated Business Engagement Team. These are not new posts; these are officers from

across the Council work streams who oversee our Bury Means Business Strategy.

The annual Made in Bury Business Awards are firmly established. This is Bury's first dedicated business awards recognising and celebrating our diverse business base.

In addition the Council part funds a Bury Business Growth Advisor. Employed by the Greater Manchester Growth Hub this officer has a wealth of knowledge and is totally dedicated to assisting Bury business with growth potential. To date this investment has supported over one hundred businesses bringing access to finance, grant funding, specialist business support, free training and has safe guarded and created new jobs.

Working in partnership with the Growth Hub ensures our businesses large and small are signposting to the right support. The Council hosts business breakfast events throughout the year. This month we hosted an event attracting over 70 business leaders.

Plans are underway to schedule more events for 2017. We kick off in January with the Bury Means Business Meet the Provider Event. This will bring together businesses and the organisations and services that can support them to reduce sickness absence and support the health and well being of their employees. Bury Council is supporting businesses to work towards the national Healthy Workforce Charter; this is part of our wider support offer to businesses.

Supporting our priority of a stronger economy this Council has established a Bury Business Leadership Group. This group is business led and includes members from large, small and medium enterprises. The Chief Executive and myself represent Bury Council on this group, which seeks to support businesses and act as a check and measure for our business friendly policies.

Land availability for large inward investment options has been a barrier. The Council receives multiple enquiries for employment land and expansion options. Feedback from business engagement has demonstrated that

creating new expansion and inward investment opportunities is crucial to this Council's Growth Plan. Our Growth Plan sets out how we intend to grow our borough, ensuring any growth in terms of housing and employment land is carefully considered and inclusive. The Greater Manchester Spatial Framework sets out the collective growth proposals across Greater Manchester.

Recognising that Bury is an integral part of the City region, this Council alongside all the other districts across Greater Manchester supports MIDAS.

MIDAS is our inward investment organisation that projects the Manchester brand across the world, inviting and welcoming worldwide businesses to invest in Greater Manchester.

Bury is a great place to live, work and study. We have a skilled workforce, excellent housing stock, fantastic town centres, a vibrant cultural offer and connectivity into the city and centre and beyond. We need to ensure we look after everything that is great about Bury because our excellent assets, our place and our people will attract inward investment, support start up, entrepreneurialism and innovation.

Our town centres are hugely successful already. Bury Town Centre sits behind only Manchester City Centre and the Trafford Centre as a retail destination. It is also the only Greater Manchester authority with Purple Flag status. We aim to build on this success and will continue to explore development opportunities in and around the Town centre to increase footfall. Likewise, the Council is looking at other town centres in the Borough including Radcliffe, Prestwich and Ramsbottom to explore opportunities to improve the offer of these centres.

BURY COUNCIL COUNCIL MEETING -30 NOVEMBER 2016 NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR WALMSLEY CABINET MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC HOUSING AND SUPPORT SERVICES ITEM (6) - LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(Note: A printed version of the question has been circulated around the Council Chamber at the back of the Order of Proceedings and therefore **the question should not be read out.)**

Suggested answer to written Question 28 submitted by Councillor S Wright.

- **Q.** Could the leader of the Council what proportion of greenbelt land is proposed to reclassified in the current proposals of the Greater Manchester Strategic Framework, by Township Forum area?
- A. It is proposed that the following percentages of Green Belt will be reclassified:
 - 3.6% in Ramsbotton, Tottington and North Manor Township;
 - 23.4% in Bury West Township;
 - 0.7% in Bury East Township;
 - 21% in Radcliffe Township;
 - 49.1% in Whitefield and Unsworth Township; and
 - 46.7% in Prestwich Township.

Across the Borough, it is proposed that 20% of the Green Belt is re-designated to meet the Government's targets.

However, it is important to note that whilst it is proposed to take large areas of land out of the Green Belt, it will not all be developed on. Much of the land will be left untouched as it is not developable and large areas will be protected under other planning policies.

BURY COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING -30 NOVEMBER 2016

NOTE FOR: COUNCILLOR QUINN CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

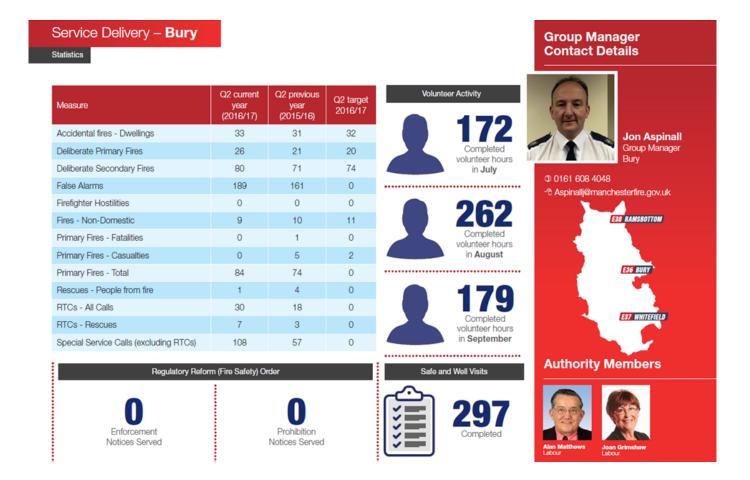
ITEM (6) – LEADER'S STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(Note: A printed version of the question has been circulated around the Council Chamber at the back of the Order of Proceedings and therefore **the question should not be read out.)**

Suggested answer to written Question 29 submitted by Councillor D'Albert

- **Q.** Could the Leader of the Council inform members which of the remaining Street Safe schemes will be completed as consulted with physical speed prevention measures, and which will not?
- A. We are more than happy to make a comprehensive list of schemes available to Cllr D'Albert after the meeting.

BURY BOROUGH OUTTURN REPORT – QUARTER 2 FOR 2016/17



Although the figures show a slight rise in comparison to the previous year's quarter activity remains high to work with partners to mitigate. The overall figures are still extremely low when compared to areas beyond Bury.

Accidental Dwelling Fires:

Within Bury Borough (Bury, Whitefield & Ramsbottom) there has been a 3% increase (1 incidents) against the set target for Accidental Dwelling Fires for the Quarter.

Bury has recorded 11 incidents against the quarterly target of 9, Whitefield has recorded 19 incidents against the quarterly target of 21 and Ramsbottom have recorded 3 incidents against the quarterly target of 2.

The main cause of accidental dwelling fires is cooking related.

Deliberate Primary Fires:

Bury Borough have recorded 26 incidents in total against a target of 20.

Bury has recorded 7 incidents against the quarterly target of 6, Whitefield has recorded 17 incidents against the quarterly target of 9 and Ramsbottom have recorded 2 incidents against the quarterly target of 5.

Of the 26 incidents, 18 involved vehicles which accounts for over 70% of all deliberate Primary Fires for Q2.

Whitefield appear to have had 11 of the 18 involving vehicles occurring in their wards.

Deliberate Secondary Fires:

Bury Borough has recorded 80 incidents in total against a target of 74.

Bury has recorded 31 incidents against the quarterly target of 31, Whitefield has recorded 48 incidents against the quarterly target of 35 and Ramsbottom have recorded 1 incidents against the quarterly target of 8.

Special Service Calls:

Special service calls, for the year to date, have increased by 97% when compared to quarters 1 and 2 of 2015/16. The majority of the volume concerns medical incidents and circa 80% of these are the RED1 (Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrests) incidents we attend alongside North West Ambulance Service (NWAS).

Whilst the increase in the overall SSC volume is driven by the RED1 incidents that we attend alongside NWAS if these are excluded along with other key contributors such as RTCs and flooding incidents we can see that the underlying volume is also trending up.

Council Meeting - 30 November 2016

ITEM 7 - Joint Authority Questions:-

Greater Manchester Police

1. The recent imprisonment of a lorry driver jailed for causing death by driving whilst using his mobile phone has highlighted this dangerous practice? Despite this I witness on a daily basis drivers flaunting the law and driving with their phone to their ear. Can the leader confirm how many Bury residents have been prosecuted for this and what efforts are being undertaken to enforce the law?' (Councillor Adams)

The number of drivers in Bury caught using their mobile phone whilst driving has nearly doubled in the last year. In 2015/16 GMP issued 270 automatic fixed penalty notices to motorists in the borough compared to 150 in the previous year.

The #wrongfortheroad campaign was launched w/c 18th November by GMP, supporting a nationwide week of action. From Monday 14 November officers have been using undercover and marked police vehicles to catch people and the operation will continue throughout the coming weeks and in the run up to Christmas.

From next year, new penalties will be in place seeing drivers get six points on their licence and a £200 spot fine for using a mobile phone while driving.

More than 5,000 drivers in Greater Manchester have been given fixed penalty notices or sent on a mobile phone awareness course in the past two years.

GMP will also be raising awareness of the issue through social media and calling on people to consider what they are doing.

(To be answered by Councillor Shori – Council's Rep on GM Police and Crime Panel)

Transport for Greater Manchester

2. Could the Authority's spokesperson on the Transport for Greater Manchester Committee inform members what further risk assessments have been undertaken following the tragic south London tram crash earlier in the month to ensure such a derailment will not happen on our system. (Councillor D'Albert)

(To be answered by Councillor Bayley)

At TfGMC Metrolink and Rail Committee, members noted with sadness the tragic incident that had recently taken place on the Croydon Tramlink and expressed their condolences to the family and friends of all those involved.

In light of this incident officers provided an update on the operational and monitoring measures in place on the Metrolink network.

Members noted that recent audits by the Office of Rail Regulation underlined that Metrolink is a safe network and that officers were committed to make sure that this remains so.

The full outcome of the investigation to the Croydon incident is awaited and if any changes in operating practices are identified as an outcome of this investigation, members will be updated accordingly.

MRDL, the Metrolink operator, has undertaken a full check of their policies, processes and procedures in light of the initial findings of the Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB) interim report following the incident.

The following categories demonstrate how MRDL minimises risks and manages competency from a safety perspective:

- operations and maintenance;
- human factors;
- competency; and
- investigation of incidents and accidents.

AGMA Health Scrutiny

3. Could the Authority's representative on the AGMA Joint Health Scrutiny please inform members of what scrutiny has or is being undertaken on the Sustainability and Transformation Plan for Greater Manchester to ensure that health services can continue to be delivered within resources going forwards (Cllr Pickstone)

(To be answered by Councillor Mckay)

- The GM STP has been considered at every meeting of the AGMA Health Scrutiny Committee since October 2015 and is in fact a standing agenda item
- Feedback from the STP engagement exercise was considered at the July 2016 meeting as was, the GM Commissioning Strategy, the Transformation Fund and the development of the Implementation Plan

- NHS England have agreed that the GM STP process meets their STP requirements
- The plan is supported by all 37 organisations across the conurbation including councils, CCGs and NHS trusts, as well as wider partners, it also wraps in 10 locality plans for each district within GM
- The GM plan, the locality plans have been subject to significant public engagement
- Jon Rouse Chief Officer, Health and Social Care Partnership met with Council leaders to discuss the STP and a written update was sent to all GM Councillors in October 2016.
- The STP will be considered further at public meetings (which are streamed live) of the Strategic Partnership Board
- The Council's own Locality plan will be considered at December's meeting of the Bury Local Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Transport for Greater Manchester

4. What contingency plans does TFGM have to look after vulnerable people who are travelling on the Metrolink tram system when it breaks down? (Cllr Quinn)

(To be answered by Councillor Bayley)

Transport for Greater Manchester work closely with the Disability Design Reference Group (DDRG) across all facilities in Greater Manchester. The DDRG, which was established in 2008, is a reference group made up of disabled individuals from across Greater Manchester who represent a thorough cross section of impairments. These ongoing regular discussions have been used to inform processes and procedures by the Metrolink operator, such as station design and contrasting colours aiding visually impaired.

TfGM have produced an access guide for vulnerable travellers¹. The guide contains information about what happens during disruption, e.g. during planned disruption low floor accessible buses are utilised.

¹ http://www.metrolink.co.uk/using-the-network/Pages/Accessibility.aspx.

Emergency call points provide instant access to a central control room and the network has comprehensive CCTV coverage throughout, allowing vulnerable people to access help, as required.

Customer Service Representatives (CSRs) have had disability awareness training to help them understand the needs of customers who have particular types of impairments.

The design of infrastructure and rolling stock is as accessible as possible for Metrolink customers and network announcement and passenger information displays provide information about disruption and travel alternatives.

A mobility scooter permit scheme was trialled and then adopted permanently. The scheme provides training to permit holders and advises them what to do if they experience any difficulties.

TfGM continually monitor complaints and comments to help improve the service provided and on occasion, the Metrolink operator authorises the use of private taxis for onward journeys, where a suitable alternative is not possible.

Agenda Item 8



Agenda Item

REPORT FOR DECISION

30 NOVEMBER 2016		
OCAL SCHEME OF COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT		
COUNCILLOR SANDRA WALMSLEY CABINET MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC HOUSING & SUPPORT SERVICES COUNCILLOR JANE LEWIS, DEPUTY LEADER & CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE & HR		
STEVE KENYON , INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES AND REGULATION		
COUNCIL		
The report is for publication.		
The report provides Members with an up-date on the local Council Tax Support scheme and sets out recommendations to continue to deliver a local scheme within the available budget.		
Council is asked to agree that the Scheme introduced with effect from 1st April 2013 is amended from 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 in line with the recommendations set out in the report.		
Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes		

Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:	The financial implications arising from the report are centred around the large cut in Government funding that accompanied the localisation of Council Tax support. The existing scheme was designed to address this gap while providing as much protection as possible for the most vulnerable claimants.
	The performance of the scheme is closely monitored and to date caseload and collection are within anticipated projections. However, given the fixed nature of the government grant to fund the scheme, the risk continues that increased take up or reductions to the income of existing claimants will have a direct impact on local authorities.
	It is now necessary to revise the scheme to reflect future cost forecasts.
	It is strongly recommended that Members do not seek to absorb the loss of Government funding from within existing resources due to pressures on the Council's budget in future years.
Statement by Executive Director of Resources:	In considering the nature of the local scheme, it is important to recognise that collecting increased, or any, Council Tax from people who previously had higher levels of Council Tax Benefit is both challenging and costly. However, the comment by the s151 Officer regarding the lack of available existing resources to cover the funding cut is fully supported.
Equality/Diversity implications:	A comprehensive Equality Impact Assessment on the 2013/14 scheme was completed following consultation. An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed in respect of the proposed changes.
Considered by Monitoring Officer:	It is the duty of the Council to have localised council tax support, in the form of a council tax reduction, in place by 31 January in each year. The enabling provisions are contained in section 10 of the Local Government Finance Act 2012, This allows the Council to use its discretion to design schemes for support for those not of pension age but contains requirements that certain elements must be included in all schemes.

	The detail of the elements which must be included in local council tax reductions schemes are included in The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements Scheme) (England).		
	Regulations 2012. Consultation has been undertaken at a formative stage of the proposals. Members must have "due regard" to any equality issues and these are set out in the Equality Impact Assessment.		
Wards Affected:	AII		
Scrutiny Interest:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee		

TRACKING/PROCESS DIRECTOR: Steve Kenyon

Chief Executive/ Senior Leadership Team	Cabinet Member/Chair	Ward Members	Partners
No	Yes		
Scrutiny Committee	Committee	Council	
No		30/11/16	

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 The report outlines the background, current scheme, context of overall Welfare Reform and recommendations for delivering a local scheme of Council Tax Support with effect from April 2017.

2.0 CHANGES TO THE SCHEME

- 2.1 The current local scheme was introduced in Bury from April 2013. Prior to this, a national scheme was in place: Council Tax Benefit. This was administered by local authorities but prescribed in extensive detail by the Department for Work and Pensions. Council Tax Benefit paid the full liability for Council Tax for the poorest claimants. Local authorities were, to all intents and purposes, fully funded by DWP for their Council Tax benefit expenditure: local authorities therefore did not carry the risk of changing caseloads or changes in the level of deprivation.
- 2.2 The abolition of Council Tax Benefit and introduction of local schemes included the provision that the grant payable to Councils was set at 90% of the estimated spend on Council Tax Benefit in 2012/13. This meant that Councils had to address a 10% cut in the funding they received. Furthermore, the level

of support was fixed for 7 years meaning that Councils will have to bear the risk of cost of increases and any increases in claimant numbers.

- 2.3 Before agreeing a scheme the Council had a duty to consult with major precepting authorities (Police and Fire) and such persons it considers to have an interest in the scheme.
- 2.4 The key issues the Council faced as a result of the introduction of local schemes were:
 - The funding to be provided for the new provision was cut by 10%.
 - The Government's changes did not allow Councils complete freedom in the
 design of their schemes and it was stipulated that the elderly were to be
 protected. This provision remains and meant that as around 45% of Bury's
 benefit caseload were classed as elderly the cuts for working age claimants
 had to be higher. In Bury, protecting pensioner claimants means the
 percentage cuts for working age claimants was estimated to fall within the
 range of 15%-20%.
 - The risk of changing caseloads was transferred to local authorities i.e. funding had to be determined in advance, not based on actual spend.

3.0 LOCALISED COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT

- 3.1 The scheme which was established in Bury in 2013, following consultation, reflected the Council's priority in considering the needs of vulnerable people and aimed to mitigate the detrimental impact it would have on residents who would face increased Council Tax due to restrictions on the amount of Council Tax Support they would be entitled to.
- 3.2 In order to help meet the reduction in Government funding it was necessary for the local scheme to incorporate the following specific changes from the previous Council Tax Benefit scheme:
 - Second Adult Rebate withdrawn
 - Awards capped at Council Tax Band B
 - Awards not paid where the weekly amount was less than £1
 - Back-dated benefit abolished
 - Non-dependent deductions increased by 20%
 - Upper capital limits reduced to £8,000
- 3.3 The following provisions were also incorporated into the scheme:
 - Various groups were defined as 'vulnerable' and therefore protected:

people in receipt of disability benefits carers lone parents with children under 5 war pensioners the bereaved (for a period of 12 months)

 A new nil non-dependent deduction category for the low paid was introduced. This was to avoid the situation where a single person in receipt of a low level of wages finds it cheaper to move out of the family home

because their non-dependent deductions are greater than their contributions to rent and Council Tax if they were to rent their own property. This particularly affected young people on apprenticeships.

- From April 2013, discretionary Housing Payments could no longer be used to support Council Tax and therefore a Discretionary Support Scheme to support vulnerable residents with extreme hardship and support the transition into work for low paid residents. This was funded via the discretionary Bury Support Fund established in April 2013. This will continue in place for 2017/18.
- 3.4 The remaining shortfall was covered by withdrawing the local Council Tax Over-65s discount and by implementing Council Tax charges for empty properties and second homes.

4.0 COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2016/2017

- 4.1 The Council is required to review and amend its scheme annually.
- 4.2 In doing this it is necessary to consider a variety of factors:
 - Performance of the scheme
 - The level, and adequacy, of Government funding for 2016/17
 - The Council's overall financial position
 - Options for changing the scheme if required
 - The outcome of previous consultation
- 4.3 The operation of the scheme appears to be meeting its objectives during the financial year 2016/17 although from a purely financial perspective this can vary and fluctuate throughout the year. However, take-up and Tax collection assumptions are being closely monitored and to date collection overall remains strong.
- 4.4 Government funding for Year 5, 2017/18, remains the same as for Year 1 and reflects a 10% cut in the level of support provided in the last financial year of the national scheme i.e. 2012/13. As funding is fixed consideration has therefore to be given to whether further cuts to the existing scheme need to be made, taking account of how the scheme has performed in relation to that projected. Current forecasts suggest that the scheme will be unsustainable going forward and that amendments to the scheme will have to be made with effect from 2017/18.
- 4.5 CTS spend is very closely monitored to check we are not exceeding our grant. The current projection for 2016/17 is that we will spend up to the full grant, and will need to adapt the scheme for 2017/18 to reflect future cost pressure.

5.0 Proposals to amend the 2017/18 scheme

5.1 Reducing maximum amount of Council Tax Support by a percentage of 20% (top-slicing)

9465 working age households affected.

Case study 1

Single person, aged over 25, with no children, living on their own in a Band A property. Weekly income of £73.10 Employment Support Allowance. Currently paying no Council Tax.

Option	Weekly contribution	Monthly contribution	
20% top slice of liability	£3.13	£13.56	

Case study 2

Couple, with 2 children, living in a Band B property. Weekly income of £362.40 made up of:

Wages	£136.00	Child Tax Credit	£117.00
Child benefit	£34.40	Working Tax Credit	£75.00

Current contribution to Council Tax is £6.98 per week, paid in instalments of £30.25 per month.

Option	Reduction in Council Tax Support	New weekly contribution	New monthly contribution
20% top slice of liability	£5.15	£12.13	£52.56

5.2 Two child restrictions

From April 2017 restrictions will be introduced on the amount of tax credits awarded to families who have a third or subsequent child after this date.

From November 2018 similar restrictions will be placed on Universal Credit claimants. It is proposed to incorporate this change to the CTS scheme from April 2017.

6.0 CONSULTATION

A period of consultation on the outlined options took place from the 5th October 2016 to 15th November 2016 and 23 responses were received. No amendment to the proposals has been made from the responses. Some responses were in favour of the proposals and supported further welfare reforms and cuts, others were concerned about the impact of the proposals in terms of vulnerability.

7.0 WELFARE REFORM CONTEXT AND AGENDA

7.1 The changes to Council Tax Benefit/Support form part of a wider series of changes that make up the Government's welfare reform agenda and reform of local government finance. Bury Council have sought to alleviate the impact of Welfare Reform from this change and others by working with residents and partners where possible.

- 7.2 The Welfare Reform Board oversees all partnership initiatives in relation to Welfare Reform. The Board includes representatives from Bury Council, Six Town Housing, Citizens Advice Bureau, Department for Work and Pensions and various landlord organisations.
- 7.3 A corporate debt strategy is in place which aims to raise awareness of identifying customers in debt to all staff in Bury Council and Six Town Housing and where to signpost them for assistance.
- 7.4 A small Discretionary Council Tax fund is available for customers who may be experiencing significant hardship.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The Council has to review the operation and content of its Council Tax Support scheme on an annual basis.
- 8.2 Given the anticipated shortfall on the scheme for 2017/18, it is recommended that the proposals outlined in Section 5 to introduce a 20% topslice and the two child restrictions above are incorporated into the 2017/18 scheme.
- 8.3 The performance of the scheme continues to be closely monitored and will be reviewed and amended as appropriate on an annual basis.

COUNCILLOR SANDRA WALMSLEY CABINET MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC HOUSING & SUPPORT SERVICES

COUNCILLOR JANE LEWIS DEPUTY LEADER & CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE & HR

List of Background Papers:-

None

Contact Details:-

Steve Kenyon, Interim Executive Director of Resources and Regulation: Tel 0161 253 5002: E-mail s.kenyon@bury.gov.uk

Claire Jenkins, Head of Customer Support and Collections; Tel 0161 253 7050; E-mail claire.jenkins@bury.gov.uk





Equality Analysis Form

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

1. RESPONSIBILITY

Department	Customer Support and Collections				
Service	Resources and Regi	Resources and Regulation			
Proposed policy	Council Tax Support scheme				
Date					
Officer responsible	Name Claire Jenkins				
for the 'policy' and	Post Title Head of Customer Support and				
for completing the	Collections				
equality analysis	Contact Number	0161 253 5050			
	Signature				
	Date				

2. AIMS

What is the purpose of the policy/service and what is it intended to achieve?	Review of current Council Tax Support scheme from April 2017. Provision of a revised scheme to support people on low incomes in paying their Council Tax. The scheme is reviewed annually. From April 2017 it is proposed to change the maximum amount of benefit available for working age households. This means that all working age households will have to make a 20% contribution to their Council Tax.
Who are the main stakeholders?	Council Tax payers Residents claiming Council Tax Support Bury Council Bury Council staff Advice agencies Six Town Housing

3. ESTABLISHING RELEVANCE TO EQUALITY

3a. Using the drop down lists below, please advise whether the policy/service has either a positive or negative effect on any groups of people with protected equality characteristics.

If you answer yes to any question, please also explain why and how that group of people will be affected.

Protected equality characteristic	Positive effect (Yes/No)	Negative effect (Yes/No)	Explanation
Race	No	No	
Disability	Yes	Yes	Some working age disabled claimants will see an increase in the amount of Council Tax they will be asked to pay. We will continue to disregard disability benefits when working out Council Tax Support, and will continue to exempt them from the restrictions to Council Tax band B.
Gender	No	No	
Gender reassignment	No	No	
Age	Yes	No	People of pensionable age who currently claim Council Tax Support will not see a reduction in the amount of support they receive. Their benefit entitlements will be calculated using a scheme prescribed by the Government to ensure they are not affected.
Sexual orientation	No	No	
Religion or belief	No	No	
Caring responsibilities	Yes	Yes	Some working age carers will see an increase in the amount of Council Tax they will be asked to pay, if they claim Council Tax Support. However we will continue to exempt them from the restrictions to Council Tax band B.
Pregnancy or maternity	No	No	
Marriage or civil partnership	No	No	

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

General Public Sector Equality Duties	Relevance (Yes/No)	Reason for the relevance
Need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010	No	
Need to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not (eg. by removing or minimising disadvantages or meeting needs)	Yes	The Council Tax Support scheme will continue to offer more support to pensioners and vulnerable groups.
Need to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not (eg. by tackling prejudice or promoting understanding)	No	

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

Go straight to Question 4

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

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

3c. If you h	ave answered	'No' to all th	ne questions i	n 3a and 3b	please
explain why	y you feel that	your policy,	service has n	no relevance	to equality.

N/A		

4. EQUALITY INFORMATION AND ENGAGEMENT

4a. For a <u>service plan</u>, please list what equality information you currently have available (including a list of all EAs carried out on existing policies/procedures/strategies),

OR for a <u>new/changed policy or practice</u> please list what equality information you considered and engagement you have carried out in relation to it.

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

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

Details of the equality information or engagement	Internet link if published	Date last updated
Analysis of current caseload, and modelling of proposed changes	N/A	N/A
Consultation programme with public/tax payers, advice agencies and interested groups.	www.bury.gov.uk/counciltaxsupport2017	18.11.16

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

N/A		

5. CONCLUSIONS OF THE EQUALITY ANALYSIS

What will the likely overall effect of your policy/service plan be on equality?	The overall effect of the Council Tax Support scheme on equality will continue to be a positive one. It will continue to provide support pensioners and vulnerable groups in Bury.
If you identified any negative effects (see questions 3a) or discrimination what measures have you put in place to remove or mitigate them?	No
Have you identified any further ways that you can advance equality of opportunity and/or foster good relations? If so, please give details.	The Council Tax Support scheme will continue to generate high levels of customer contact. This is an opportunity to identify other services which the council or other service providers can supply. Contacting customers who are identified as being affected by the changes to the Council Tax Support scheme. Working together with other service providers within the council, for example Adult's and Children's Services.
What steps do you intend to take now in respect of the implementation of your policy/service plan?	Obtain elected member endorsement Continue to benchmark against other AGMA Authorities Prepare administrative practices and processes Publicise new scheme

6. MONITORING AND REVIEW

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

Ongoing effects will be monitored through customer contact, and caseload and collection statistics.

COPIES OF THIS EQUALITY ANALYSIS FORM SHOULD BE ATTACHED TO ANY REPORTS/SERVICE PLANS AND ALSO SENT TO YOUR DEPARTMENTAL EQUALITY REPRESENTATIVE FOR RECORDING.

Agenda Item 9

REPORT FOR DECISION



DECISION MAKER:	COUNCIL		
DATE:	30 November 2016		
SUBJECT:	Appointment of Members to the Health and Wellbeing Board		
REPORT FROM:	Cabinet Member – Health and Wellbeing		
CONTACT OFFICER:	Jayne Hammond Assistant Director – Legal and Democratic Services		
TYPE OF DECISION:			
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:	For Publication		
SUMMARY:	The Health and Social Care Act 2012 requires all upper tier local authorities to establish a Health and Wellbeing Board as a statutory local authority committee; to act as a forum for local health and care leaders. This is to improve the health and wellbeing of their local residents and reduce health inequalities. This report proposes additional appointments of providers to the Board.		
OPTIONS & RECOMMENDED OPTION	That the Council: 1. Agree the appointment of provider members to the Health and Wellbeing Board as set out in this report; and 2. Agree that the appointments will be for the current municipal year.		
IMPLICATIONS:			
Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:		Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes	
Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:		There are no finance / risk implications	
Statement by Executive Director of Resources:		There are no wider resource implications	
Equality/Diversity implications:			
Considered by Monitoring Officer:		Yes – the proposals accord with the Health and Social Care Act	
Wards Affected:			
Scrutiny Interest:			

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

Chief Executive/ Strategic Leadership Team	Cabinet Member/Chair	Ward Members	Partners

Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet/Committee	Council	
		✓	

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Health and Social Care Act sets out the minimum membership of the Health and Well Being Board as:
 - One local elected representative
 - A representative of local Healthwatch organisation
 - A representative of each relevant clinical commissioning group
 - The local authority Director for Adult Social Services
 - The local authority Director for Children's Services
 - The Director of Public Health for the local authority
- 1.2 NHS England wrote to all Health and Well Being Boards in Greater Manchester, asking for providers not to be voting members of the Board; preferring instead that they concentrate on Greater Manchester Devolution governance. They are now invited on an ad hoc basis.
- 1.3 As Health and Wellbeing Boards are a formal committee of the local authority there is no ability to impose a formal structure, membership, or terms of reference upon localities other than as set out in the Health and Social Care Act. However, provided the statutory requirements are met, the Council can add to the Boards' membership.
- 2.0 In order to provide for a consistent approach to locality planning across Greater Manchester, it is proposed that each locality agrees that their Helath and Well Being Board has a minimum agreed membership, in addition to the statutory requirements, to ensure that membership is representative of the local health and social care economy.
- 2.1 The Health and Well Being Board (with a membership that reflects the health and care economy) will need to be the essential platform for agreeing submissions (from a locality) into the Transformation Fund; and ensuring that any such submissions meet the agreed criteria to:
 - Deliver the GM vision
 - Enable transformational change
 - Consolidate resources
 - Secure value for money
 - Facilitate learning for others
- 2.2 The Health and Well Being Board will form the basis of agreements between Greater Manchester and localities. It is therefore intended that the membership of a locality Health and Well Being Board will be inclusive of those partners that are party to the Locality Plan.
- **3.0** It is therefore proposed that the membership of the Health and Well-Being Board will include representatives from the following providers:

Pennine Acute NHS Trust
Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust