

**Pat Jones Greenhalgh**  
**Interim Chief Executive**

*Our Ref* LW  
*Your Ref* OSC/LW  
*Date* 9 January 2018  
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Legal & Democratic Services  
Division

Jayne Hammond LLB (Hons) Solicitor  
Assistant Director of Legal &  
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**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 Hodgkinson, T Holt, K Hussain, M James, D Jones, G Keeley, J Kelly, Kerrison, O Kersh, J Lewis, J Mallon, A McKay, S Nuttall, E O'Brien, 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:-

<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday, 17 January 2018
<b>Place:</b>	Bury Town Hall
<b>Time:</b>	7.00 pm
<b>Briefing Facilities:</b>	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.
<b>Notes:</b>	

**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

**Town Hall**  
**Knowsley Street**  
**Bury BL9 0SW**  
www.bury.gov.uk

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](http://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**

Pat Jones Greenhalgh

**Interim Chief Executive**

## **AGENDA**

### **1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### **2 MINUTES** (Pages 1 - 10)

To approve the Minutes of the last meeting, held on 29 November 2017.

### **3 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

### **4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

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

### **5 RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES** (Pages 11 - 24)

<b>Committee /Date</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Cabinet – 13 December 2017	2017/18 Mid-year Review of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy (Report attached).	It is recommended in accordance with CIPFA's Practice on Management, the re noted and forward consideration and th meeting of full Council c held on the 17 <sup>th</sup> January
Human Resources and Appeals Panel	Recruitment of a Chief Executive and Setting of Salary (Report attached).	That the Human Resource Appeals Panel recommend Council approve increasing salary for the Chief Execut that the top of the grade is £175,000 as set out in the

### **6 LEADER' STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME** (Pages 25 - 46)

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 LOCAL SCHEME OF COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT** (Pages 47 - 52)

Report attached.

**8 JOINT AUTHORITIES - REPORT BY THE COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVE AND QUESTIONS** (Pages 53 - 56)

(A) A report from the Council's representative on the work of Transport for Greater Manchester, Councillor Bayley

(B) Questions (if any) on the work of the Joint Authorities to be asked by Members of the Council for which the necessary notice has been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.2

**9 NOTICES OF MOTION**

The following Notices of Motion have been received:

**Reducing Plastic Waste**

This Council notes with concern:

- 1 That 300 million tons of new plastic is made each year, half of which is for single use plastic such as packaging and convenience foods. In many cases, such as plastic straws, takeaway food containers and coffee cups, there are practical alternatives available that are either reusable or sustainable.
- 2 That in 2016, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation estimated that by weight, there could be more plastic in our oceans than fish, as soon as 2050. As plastics are durable and strong they will stay in our environment for up to an estimated 600 years. (Columbia University)
- 3 That marine plastic leads to coastal / offshore dead zones, entanglement, death through ingestion, toxic transfer and, once degraded into micro plastics, contamination of the food chain – including our own. We are quite literally eating the plastic that has ended up in our seas.

Council welcomes:

- 1 The significant increase in recycling achieved in the Borough in the last decade, through improvements to doorstep recycling.

- 2 Policy adopted in 2017 in support of Deposit Return Schemes, and the significant reduction in plastic waste that such schemes could achieve.
- 3 The success of the 'Plastic Bag Levy', introduced by the 2010-15 Coalition Government, which has led to an 85% reduction in disposable plastic bag usage.

This Council therefore commits that Bury will play its full role in helping to reduce plastic waste, specifically:

- 1 That the Council will undertake an audit, within existing resources, of single use plastics used by the Authority seek to replace with sustainable or reusable alternatives where practicable.
- 2 That the Council will play its role in helping to educate members of the public about plastic waste, specifically by including information for members on the public on reducing plastic waste in both online and written materials.
- 3 That the Council will use its membership of the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal and Combined Authorities to work towards increasing the amount of plastic product that can be recycled through doorstep and other recycling.
- 4 To write to both our members of Parliament and the European Parliament, and to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, urging them to consider legislation and regulations which will reduce the amount of single use plastic used by society.

To use the links we have with businesses in Bury to encourage them to reduce the amount of plastic waste produced and specifically to write to each of our major supermarkets asking them to consider introducing a 'plastic free aisle' in their Bury store(s) on a trial basis.

**In the names of Councillors D'Albert, Pickstone and S Wright**

### **Loneliness**

This Council notes that chronic loneliness is unhealthy and leads to many physical and mental health problems. It can affect anyone at any stage of their life. A disconnected society could be costing the UK economy £32 billion a year and also has a massively negative impact on communities across Bury.

Nine million people, across all ages and social groups, in the UK report themselves lonely all or most of the time – including 43% of 17-25 year olds,

24% of parents and 8 out of 10 carers. Up to 50% of disabled people will be lonely on any given day and 3.6 million people aged over 75 say that television is their main form of company.

This Council notes the work of the Jo Cox Commission on Loneliness in tackling this scourge on society. The Commission has, over the course of this year, put a spotlight on a number of sections of society, including older people, refugees, carers and children; not only highlighting the problem, but acting as a call to action. With the message 'Start a Conversation', the Commission is trying to get people talking to one another, whether chatting to a neighbour, visiting an old friend or just making time for the people they meet. It is also targeting businesses and employer organisations to get them to be part of the solution.

The Council also notes the Commission has produced a manifesto of recommendations on how to reduce loneliness, calling for a UK wide strategy for loneliness across all ages led by Government " but built on the insight, expertise and capacity of many others including statutory bodies, the voluntary and community sector and business." However, the Commission believes that this joint national strategy should " be underpinned by equivalent strategies at the local level."

THIS COUNCIL therefore resolves to::

- (1) Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Co-Chairs of the Jo Cox Commission on Loneliness (Seema Kennedy MP and Rachel Reeves MP) to offer the Council's support for their recommendations,
- (2) Instruct the Leader and Chief Executive to develop a strategy document identifying Bury residents who may be particularly affected by loneliness and to set out plans for local action to address these challenges.
- (3) Request that Councillors and officers of the Council work with local voluntary groups, business and Government to reduce loneliness in communities across the Borough of Bury
- (4) Ask Councillors and officers of the Council to 'Start a Conversation' and take the time to do something to make someone feel less lonely

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

## **Young Savers Credit Union Scheme**

This Council Notes:

- 1) That the Chief Executive of the Financial Conduct Authority has warned that a growing number of young people are having to borrow to cover basic living costs.
- 2) That a recent report by the Money Advice Trust found that:
  - a. More than a third of young people have debts of almost £3000.

- b. That just over half of young people said they regularly worried about money, with 32% feeling their debts were a "heavy burden".
- c. That the average debt of £2,989 excludes student loans and mortgages. The average student loan balance is £25,505.
- d. National Debtline, run by Money Advice Trust, state that too few young people are seeking free advice from debt charities when they fall into financial difficulty.

3) That National Debtline have recommended:

- a. earlier and more co-ordinated financial education
- b. timely support for first-time borrowers or credit card holders
- c. a wider role for employers to support money management for young workers
- d. practical reforms to student finance payments

This Council Resolves to:

- 1) Explore the possibility of setting up a Young Savers Credit Union Scheme, through Bury Credit Union, local Secondary Schools and Colleges, which would aim to sign up young people to a Credit Union account and offer advice and guidance around borrowing.
- 2) Launch a trial scheme in the new school year (September 2018), with full roll out in 2019.
- 3) Work with interested parties to support the creation and work of the Young Savers Credit Union Scheme.

Encourage all Governing Bodies to support schools and colleges to deliver additional advice and guidance on money management and borrowing.

**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, K Leach, A Mckay, J Mallon, E O'Brien, C Preston, A Quinn, R Shori, A Simpson, R Skillen, S Smith, Sarah Southworth, Susan Southworth, T Tariq, J Walker, S Walmsley and M Whitby.**

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

**11 QUESTIONS ON THE WORK OF OUTSIDE BODIES OR PARTNERSHIPS**

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

**12 DELEGATED DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

Questions on the delegated decisions made by the Regulatory Committees and Scrutiny Committees contained in the Digest of Decision 4 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 4



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

**Date of Meeting:** 29 November 2017

**Present:** The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor D L Gunther), in the Chair; Councillors P Adams, N Bayley, I Bevan, J Black, K S Briggs, R A Caserta, R Cathcart, A J Cummings, M D'Albert, J Daly, E Fitzgerald, I B Gartside, J Grimshaw, M Hankey, S Haroon, J Harris, R Hodgkinson, T Holt, K Hussain, M A James, G Keeley, J Kelly, O Kersh, J Lewis, A McKay, J Mallon, S Nuttall, E O'Brien, T D Pickstone, C Preston, A Quinn, I Schofield, R Shori, D Silbiger, A Simpson, 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 M Connolly, D Jones, K Leach and S Kerrison

**Public attendance:** 15 members of the public attended the meeting

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**C.xxx DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

1. Councillor Bevan declared a personal interest in any item which related to staffing as his wife is an employee within a Bury School.
2. Councillor Mallon declared a personal interest in any item which related to staffing as his wife is an employee within a Bury High School.
3. Councillor S Wright declared a personal interest in any item which related to staffing as his wife is an employee within a Bury School.
4. Councillors Bayley, Black and Fitzgerald declared a personal interest in respect of the Notice of Motion relating to Public Sector Pay as public sector employees who are also members of a Trade Union campaigning on the issue.
5. Councillor Shori declared a personal interest in respect of the Notice of Motion relating to Public Sector Pay as his partner is employed in the NHS.
6. Councillor Pickstone declared a personal interest in respect of the Notice of Motion relating to Public Sector Pay as his partner is employed in the public sector.
7. Councillor Whitby declared a personal interest in respect of the Notice of Motion relating to Public Sector Pay as a member of a Trade Union campaigning on the issue.
8. Councillor Kelly declared a personal interest in respect of the Notice of Motion relating to Public Sector Pay and Leaders Question Time as an employee of the Care Quality Commission.
9. Councillor Quinn declared a personal interest in respect of the Notice of Motion relating to Public Sector Pay as family members are employed in the public sector

**C.xxx MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the Meetings of Council held on 13 September 2017 and 17 October 2017 be signed by the Mayor as a true and correct record, subject to the inclusion of Councillor Susan Nuttall in the attendance list for the meeting held on 13 September 2017.

**C.xxx MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor reported on the recent Twinning Visit organised by the Twinning Committee to Shorndorf.

The Mayor congratulated the Borough for its Britain in Bloom North West award where Bury, once again for the 14th year, held the title best small large town and reported that special mention was made of Neil Long for his contribution to the contest over the years.

The Mayor placed on record her appreciation and thanks to all who were involved in the arrangements for the Special Council held last month to grant Freedom of the Borough to Lily Reid, Alan Matthews and the 207 Manchester Field Hospital.

**C.xxx PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

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

<b>No.</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Questioner</b>	<b>Answered By</b>
1.	Electric Vehicles	Mr S Turner	Councillor Shori
2.	Prestwich Walk in Centre	Mr T Rafiq	Councillor Shori
3.	Fly Tipping	Ms C Brice	Councillor Shori

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

<b>No.</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Questioner</b>	<b>Answered By</b>
1.	Hand Dryers and Autism	Mr T Pilkington	Councillor Shori
2.	Hate Crime Statistics	Mr B Pinder	Councillor Shori
3.	Bury Growth Plan and Public Transport	Mr A McCall	Councillor Shori

**C.162 RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

**Meeting of the Cabinet held on 18 October 2017 – Risk Management Annual report 2016/17**

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

**RESOLVED:**

That Council re-affirms its support for the Council's approach to risk management, and note progress made throughout 2016/17 and actions planned for 2017/18.

**Meeting of the Cabinet held on 15 November 2017 – Bury Growth Plan**

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

**RESOLVED:**

That Council approve the Bury Growth Plan as a high level strategy setting out the Council's vision and key priorities for embracing future growth in a managed way.

**Meeting of the Cabinet held on 15 November 2017 – GM Waste Disposal levy Allocation Methodology**

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

**RESOLVED:**

- i) That, having considered the proposed revised methodology, the revised Levy Apportionment Methodology Agreement be approved, which is being applied in full from 2019/20 with transitional arrangements in place during 2018/19.
- ii) That authority be delegated to the Assistant Director - Legal and Democratic Services or her nominee to approve and/or make any minor amendments to the final Levy Apportionment Methodology Agreement, a current draft of which is appended to this report; and to enter into and finalise the Agreement, the transitional arrangements, and any associated documentation relating thereto.

**Meeting of the Planning Control Committee held on 21 November 2017 – Development Management Scheme of Delegation**

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

**RESOLVED:**

That the proposals set out in the report be approved.

**C.163 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:

<b>No.</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Questioner</b>	<b>Answered by</b>
1.	Investigation Costs	Councillor Caserta	Councillor Shori
2.	HIV Testing	Councillor Pickstone	Councillor Preston
3.	Flood Defences	Councillor Cathcart	Councillor Quinn
4.	Apprentices	Councillor Skillen	Councillor Shori
5.	Special Education Needs	Councillor Kersh	Councillor Briggs
6.	City Forest Park	Councillor Black	Councillor Quinn
7.	Residents Parking	Councillor Black	Councillor Kelly
8.	Council Assets	Councillor Gartside	Councillor O'Brien
9.	Real Living Wage	Councillor Preston	Councillor O'Brien
10.	Domestic Violence	Councillor Preston	Councillor Tariq
11.	Road Markings in Ramsbottom	Councillor Hodgkinson	Councillor Quinn
12.	Use of Bailiffs	Councillor S Wright	Councillor Kelly
13.	Investment	Councillor Skillen	Councillor O'Brien
14.	Burrs Activity Park	Councillor Hankey	Councillor Quinn
15.	Council tax Exemptions for Care leavers	Councillor Leach	Councillor Briggs
16.	Trading Standards	Councillor Haroon	Councillor Kelly

Due to the lack of time to answer questions 17 to 37 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.	Population Growth Projections	Councillor Harris	Councillor Shori
2.	Walk in Centres	Councillor J Walker	Councillor Shori
3.	Tottington Library	Councillor Gartside	Councillor Briggs
4.	Flooding Ramsbottom	Councillor Bevan	Councillor Quinn
5.	Parking Hawkshaw Village Store	Councillor Hussain	Councillor Shori
6.	Corporate Financial Monitoring	Councillor Pickstone	Councillor O'Brien
7.	Suspension of MP/Councillors	Councillor Silbiger	Councillor Shori
8.	Ramsbottom Library Opening Times	Councillor Hodgkinson	Councillor Briggs
9.	Urgent Care	Councillor R E Walker	Councillor Shori

## **C.xxx JOINT AUTHORITIES – REPORTS BY THE COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVE AND QUESTIONS**

- (a) Councillor Tariq, the Council's representative on the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Panel 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.

<b>No.</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Questioner</b>	<b>Answered by</b>
1.	Metrolink Station Upgrades	Councillor Quinn	Councillor Bayley (Representative on Transport for Greater Manchester)
2.	Bury Bus Depot, Use of GM Powers	Councillor R E Walker	Councillor Bayley (Representative on Transport for Greater Manchester)

3.	Metrolink Fare Evasion	Councillor Pickstone	Councillor Bayley (Representative on Transport for Greater Manchester)
4.	101 Emergency Number	Councillor D'Albert	Councillor Tariq (Representative on Greater Manchester Police and Crime Panel)

**C.xxx APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON**

It was moved by Councillor Pickstone and seconded by Councillor Kelly and it was:-

**RESOLVED:**

1. That full Council appoint Valerie Bracken as Independent Persons for a period of 4 years commencing 30 November 2017 and ending in 2021
2. That full Council approve the allowance paid per annum to the Independent Persons, to be £500.00 each.

**C.XXX NOTICES OF MOTION****(1) Dignity in Social Care - Improving Social Care Services and Jobs**

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

**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, K Leach, A McKay, J Mallon, E O'Brien, C Preston, A Quinn, R Shori, A Simpson, R Skillen, S Smith, Sarah Southworth, Susan Southworth, T Tariq, J Walker, S Walmsley and M Whitby.**

It was moved by Councillor Black and seconded by Councillor Whitby:

This Council notes with alarm the continuing crisis of social care underfunding that makes it hard for local authorities and provider organisations to ensure decent jobs and quality services.

This Council supports in principle the provisions of UNISON's Ethical & Residential care charters. The Council intends to implement the charters at the earliest practicable opportunity, recognising that some aspects of the charters may require additional funding.

This Council welcomes the additional short term funding that the government pledged for social care in the 2017 budget but notes that this does not go far enough and does not represent a sustainable solution.

This Council welcomes UNISON's *Care Workers for Change* campaign initiative which aims to expand union membership within the sector to give care workers the support

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and confidence to lead the public-facing campaign to increase central government funding, improve employee relations and raise standards within the sector.

**This Council undertakes to encourage those care providers that we currently commission or purchase provision from and to require those care providers that we commission or purchase provision from in future to:-**

- 1) Respect the right of care staff to organise a union in their workplace and do nothing to undermine the reasonable efforts of staff to organise a union.
- 2) Allow access to accredited union representatives and officials for membership recruitment activity. Provider organisations should engage positively with union requests for access to staff and, where necessary, agree arrangements that do not disrupt service delivery
- 3) Pursue a partnership approach to employment relations. We would expect the provider to engage constructively with the union including a recognition and facilities agreement to underpin collective working.
- 4) Work with the providers and unions to pursue our shared objective of achieving the provisions of the UNISON Ethical and Residential Care Charters

The Council will write to all current providers of council-commissioned care services at the earliest opportunity to advise them of our expectation that they will comply positively with the above points (1-4). These principles will be enshrined in our future commissioning processes and procedures.

**On being put to the vote, with 31 voting for, 0 voting against and 16 abstentions including the Mayor, the Mayor declared the motion carried.**

## **(2) Public Sector Pay**

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

**Councillors D'Albert, Pickstone and S Wright**

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

Council notes the freeze and then cap on public sector pay rises that meant most staff only received an increase of 4.4% from 2010 to 2016, compared to a cost of living increase of 22%.

This Council Meeting believes that the continuation of the public sector pay cap is having an unreasonable effect on the living standards of many public sector staff, and that it is affecting recruitment and retention across the sector.

This Council Meeting therefore resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to request that:

- the cap is lifted to allow Pay Review Bodies to produce new recommendations and allow fresh negotiations with employers and worker representative bodies to go forward; and
- subsequent pay increases be fully funded via central government settlement.

**On being put to the vote, with 31 voting for, 0 voting against and 16 abstentions including the Mayor, the Mayor declared the motion carried.**

### **(3) Suspension of Bus Lane**

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

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

It was moved by Councillor Nuttall and seconded by Councillor Harris that:

This Council notes that the suspension of the Bus Lane on Rochdale Road, Bury has resulted in quicker and smoother traffic flows and accordingly resolves to suspend the Bus Lane along Bolton Road, Bury by the 15th January 2018.

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

**Add:-**

**The Council notes:**

- **The A58 (Bury Bridge) is a key route in Bury's Road Network**
- **That the Mayor of Greater Manchester is currently consulting on a Greater Manchester Congestion Plan with is due to report in March 2018**
- **That the Council is currently developing an Air Quality Action Plan (as required by Government) to be submitted to the Department for the Environment and Rural Affairs in March 2018**

This Council notes that although the suspension of the Bus Lane on Rochdale Road, Bury has not resulted in quicker journey times, it has facilitated smoother traffic flows as a consequence of removing the need for motorists to merge into one lane when leaving the roundabout at Heap Bridge and accordingly resolves to:

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**Delete:** suspend the Bus Lane along Bolton Road, Bury by the 15th



**Add:** in relation to the Bus Lane along Bolton Road Bury to:

**Replace With:**

- 1.) *Await the completion of the GM Manchester Congestion Plan and the Air Quality Action Plan*
- 2.) *Identify the costs associated with the removal of said Bus Lane and relevant consultation required.*
- 3.) *Review the information contained in points 1 & 2 and delegate the decision as to the future of the Bus Lane on Bury Bridge to the Cabinet Member for the Environment.*

**On being put, with 28 voting for and 15 voting against and 4 abstentions including the Mayor, the Mayor declared the amendment carried.**

**On being put, with 28 voting for and 15 voting against and 4 abstentions including the Mayor, the Mayor declared the substantive motion carried.**

### **C.xxx QUARTERLY REPORT –SPECIAL URGENCY DECISIONS**

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

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

### **C.xxx 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.xxx QUESTIONS ON THE WORK OF OUTSIDE BODIES OR PARTNERSHIPS**

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

### **C.xxx 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 Decision 3 (2017/18).

## **THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR**

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

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# REPORT FOR DECISION

Agenda Item	
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<b>DECISION OF:</b>	<b>CABINET OVERVIEW &amp; SCRUTINY COMMITTEE COUNCIL</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>13 DECEMBER 2017 9 JANUARY 2018 17 JANUARY 2018</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY – MID YEAR REVIEW 2017/18</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE &amp; HOUSING</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>STEPHEN KENYON, INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES AND REGULATION</b>
<b>TYPE OF DECISION:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:</b>	The report is within the public domain
<b>SUMMARY:</b>	<p>This mid year report has been prepared in compliance with CIPFA's Code of Practice, and covers the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An economic update for the 2017/18 financial year to 30 September 2017</li> <li>• A review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy</li> <li>• The Council's capital expenditure (prudential indicators)</li> <li>• A review of the Council's investment portfolio for 2017/18</li> <li>• A review of the Council's borrowing strategy for 2017/18</li> <li>• A review of any debt rescheduling undertaken during 2017/18</li> <li>• A review of compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits for 2017/18</li> </ul>
<b>OPTIONS &amp; RECOMMENDED OPTION</b>	It is recommended that, in accordance with CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management, the report be noted.

<b>IMPLICATIONS:</b>	
<b>Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:</b>	Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework?      Yes
<b>Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:</b>	Treasury Management is an integral part of the Council's financial framework and it is essential that the correct strategy is adopted in order to ensure that best value is obtained from the Council's resources and that assets are safeguarded.
<b>Statement by Interim Executive Director of Resources and Regulation:</b>	There are no wider resource implications
<b>Equality/Diversity implications:</b>	No
<b>Considered by Monitoring Officer:</b>	Yes
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Scrutiny Interest:</b>	Overview & Scrutiny Committee

**TRACKING/PROCESS****DIRECTOR: STEVE KENYON**

Chief Executive/ Strategic Leadership Team	Cabinet Member/Chair	Ward Members	Partners
29 November	13 December	N/a	N/a
Scrutiny		Committee	Council
9 January			17 January

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

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

Accordingly, treasury management is defined as:

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

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

The primary requirements of the Code are as follows:

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

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

**2.1 Economic Performance to date**

2.1.1 UK GDP growth rates in 2017 have weakened since 2016, +0.3% (+1.7% y/y) in quarter 1 and +0.3% (1.5% y/y) in quarter 2, giving the slowest growth in the first half of the year since 2012. The main reason for this has been the sharp increase in inflation, leading to a reduction in consumer disposable income and weak growth in the services sector which accounts for 75% of GDP.

2.1.2 The Bank of England meeting on November 2nd announced an increase in Bank Rate from 0.25% to 0.50%.

2.1.3 The Bank of England Inflation Reports during 2017 have predicted a peak in inflation of just over 3% in 2017, before falling back to near 2% within 2 years.

**2.2 Interest rate Forecasts and Outlook**

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

	Dec-17	Mar-18	Jun-18	Sep-18	Dec-18	Mar-19	Jun-19	Sep-19	Dec-19	Mar-20
<b>Bank rate</b>	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%	0.25%	0.50%	0.50%	0.75%	0.75%
<b>5yr PWLB rate</b>	1.50%	1.60%	1.70%	1.70%	1.80%	1.80%	1.90%	1.90%	2.00%	2.00%
<b>10yr PWLB rate</b>	2.20%	2.30%	2.30%	2.40%	2.40%	2.50%	2.50%	2.60%	2.60%	2.70%
<b>25yr PWLB rate</b>	2.90%	2.90%	3.00%	3.00%	3.10%	3.10%	3.20%	3.20%	3.30%	3.30%
<b>50yr PWLB rate</b>	2.70%	2.70%	2.80%	2.80%	2.90%	2.90%	3.00%	3.00%	3.10%	3.10%

Capita Asset Services undertook its last review of interest rate forecasts on 9<sup>th</sup> August after the quarterly Bank of England inflation Report. The MPC meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> November raised the interest rate to 0.50%. It is uncertain whether the MPC will stop at just withdrawing the emergency bank rate cut of 0.25% in August 2016, after the result of the EU referendum, or whether they will embark on a series of further increases during 2018.

2.2.2 The overall balance of risks to economic recovery in the UK is currently on the downside but there are large variables over the final form of Brexit and when this will happen.

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

3.1 The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2017/18 was approved by the Council on 22 February 2017.

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

**4.0 THE COUNCIL'S CAPITAL POSITION (PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS)**

This part of the report is structured to update:

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

**4.1 Prudential Indicator for Capital Expenditure**

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

<b>Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>2017/18 Original Estimate £m</b>	<b>2017/18 Revised Estimate £m</b>
<b>Non-HRA</b>	6.691	28.716
<b>HRA</b>	9.991	7.839
<b>Total</b>	<b>16.682</b>	<b>36.556</b>

The increase of the revised estimate over the original estimate is due to slippage from 2016/17 of £28.253m offset by estimated project reprofiling to 2018/19 of £15.730m

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

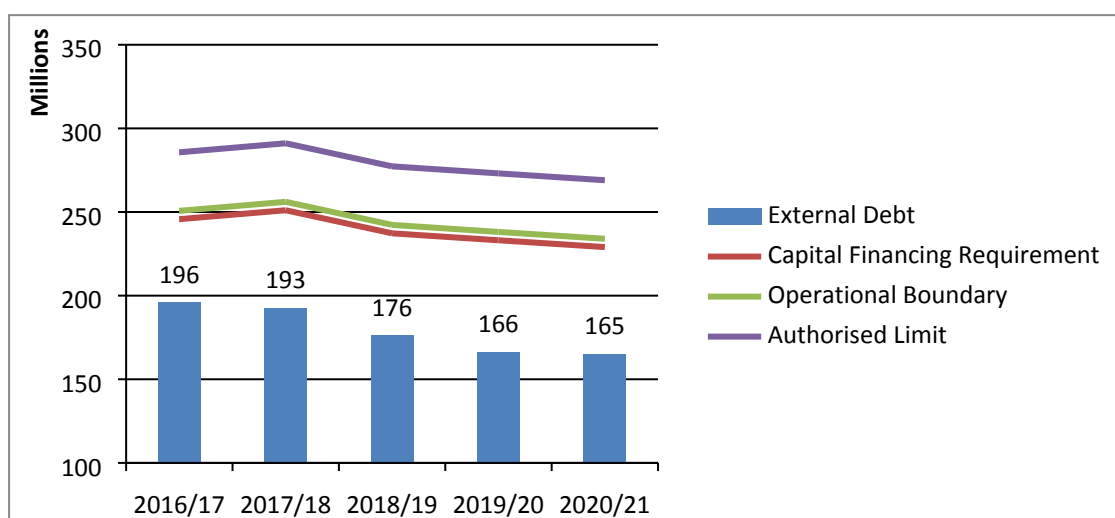
The table shows the Capital Financing Requirement, which is the underlying external need to incur borrowing for a capital purpose. It also shows the expected debt position over the period. This is termed the Operational Boundary.

	<b>2017/18 Original Estimate £m</b>	<b>2017/18 Revised Estimate £m</b>
<b>Prudential Indicator - Capital Financing Requirement</b>		
CFR – non HRA	116.218	118.471
CFR – HRA existing	40.530	40.531
Housing Reform Settlement	78.253	78.253
<b>Total CFR</b>	<b>235.001</b>	<b>237.255</b>
<b>Prudential Indicator - External Debt / the Operational Boundary</b>		
Borrowing	235.000	237.300
Other long term liabilities	5.000	5.000
<b>Total</b>	<b>240.000</b>	<b>242.300</b>

- 4.3.1 The first key control over the treasury activity is a prudential indicator to ensure that over the medium term, net borrowing (borrowings less investments) will only be for a capital purpose. Gross external borrowing should not, except in the short term, exceed the total of CFR in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional CFR for 2017/18 and next two financial years. This allows some flexibility for limited early borrowing for future years. The Council has approved a policy for borrowing in advance of need which will be adhered to if this proves prudent.
- 4.3.2 The Interim Executive Director of Resources reports that no difficulties are envisaged for the current or future years in complying with this prudential indicator.
- 4.3.3 A further prudential indicator controls the overall level of borrowing. This is the Authorised Limit which represents the limit beyond which borrowing is prohibited, and needs to be set and revised by Members. It reflects the level of borrowing which, while not desired, could be afforded in the short term, but is not sustainable in the longer term. It is the expected maximum borrowing need with some headroom for unexpected movements. This is the statutory limit determined under section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003.

<b>Authorised Limit for External Debt</b>	<b>2017/18 Original Indicator £m</b>	<b>2017/18 Revised Indicator £m</b>
Borrowing	235.000	237.300
Other long term liabilities	5.000	5.000
<b>Total</b>	<b>240.000</b>	<b>242.300</b>

- 4.3.4 The chart below shows the projected trend of the Council's Prudential Indicators.





**5.0 INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO 2017/18**

- 5.1 In accordance with the Code, it is the Council's priority to ensure security of capital and liquidity, and to obtain an appropriate level of return which is consistent with the Council's risk appetite. As set out in Section 2, it is a very difficult investment market in terms of earning the level of interest rates commonly seen in previous decades as rates are very low and in line with the 0.25% Bank Rate. The continuing potential for a re-emergence of a Eurozone sovereign debt crisis, together with other risks which could impact on the creditworthiness of banks, prompts a low risk strategy. Given this risk environment, investment returns are likely to remain low.
- 5.2 The Council held £30.5m of investments as at 30 September 2017 (£22.6m at 31 March 2017) and the investment portfolio yield for the first six months of the year is 0.18% against Capita's suggested investment earnings rate for returns on investments placed, for periods up to three months in 2017/18, of 0.18%.
- 5.3 The investments held as at 30 September were:-

Type of Investment	£ Million
Call Investments (Cash equivalents)	29.5
Fixed Investments (Short term investments)	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>30.5</b>

- 5.4 The Interim Executive Director of Resources & Regulation confirms that the approved limits within the Annual Investment Strategy were not breached during the first six months of 2017/18.
- 5.5 The Council's budgeted investment return for 2017/18 is £0.5m, and performance for the year to date is in line with the budget.
- 5.6 The Cabinet have approved a "Property Investment Strategy" which aims to increase investment income by investing in property rather than investing with financial institutions where returns are low at present. Additional borrowing may need to be undertaken to finance property acquisitions; each investment will be subject to a robust business case and also non-financial factors (e.g. ethical stance) will be considered.

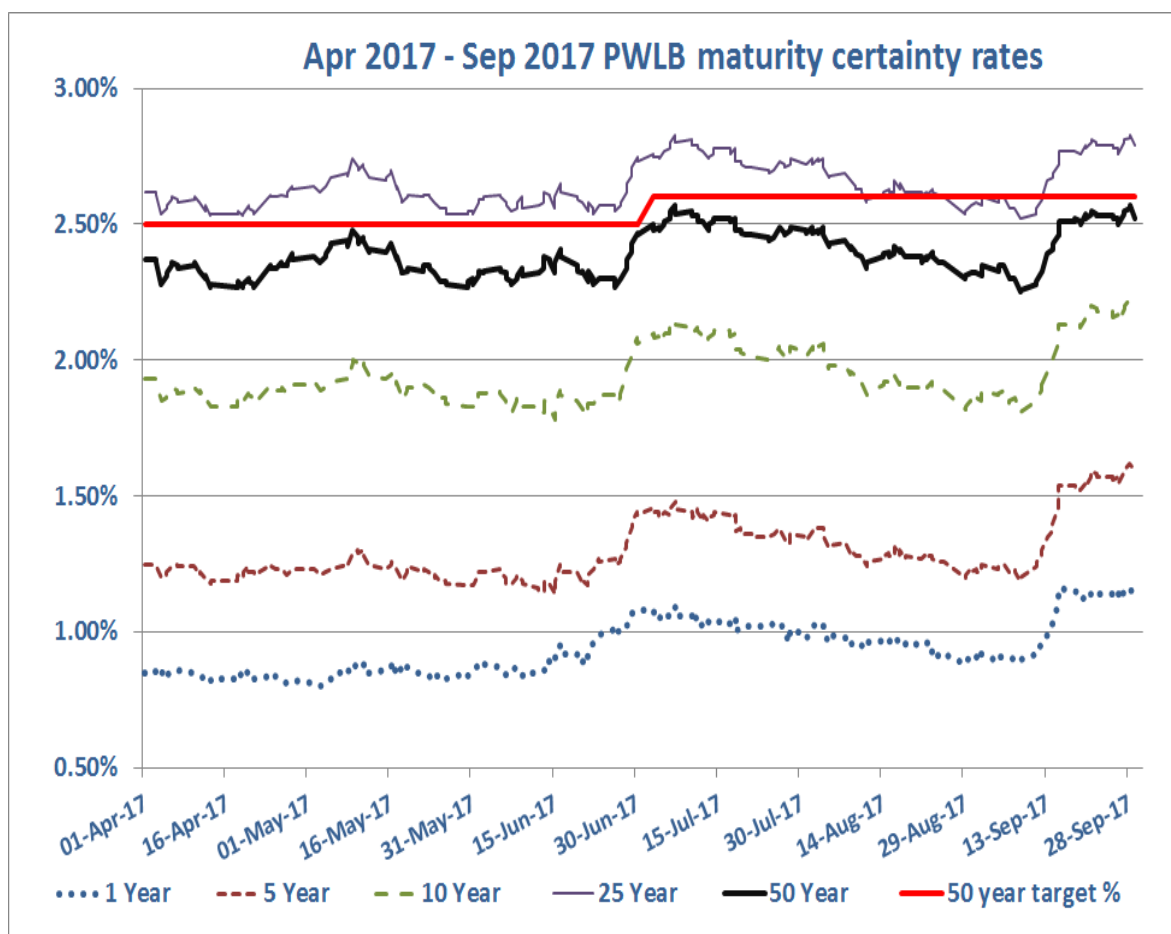
**6.0 BORROWING**

- 6.1 The Council's capital financing requirement (CFR) for 2017/18 is £237.3m. The CFR denotes the Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes. If the CFR is positive the Council may borrow from the PWLB or the market (external borrowing) or from internal balances on a temporary basis (internal borrowing). The balance of external and internal borrowing is generally driven by market conditions. The table below shows the Council has borrowings of £195.5m and has utilised £41.8m of cash flow funds in lieu of borrowing. This is a prudent and cost effective approach in the current economic climate but will require ongoing monitoring in the event that upside risk to gilt yields prevail.

	30 September 2017	
	Principal	Avg.

		£000	£000	Rate
<b>Fixed rate funding</b>				
	PWLB Bury	131,453		
	PWLB Airport	1,587		
	Market Bury	60,500	193,540	
<b>Variable rate funding</b>				
	PWLB Bury	0		
	Market Bury	0	0	
<b>Temporary Loans / Bonds</b>		2,003	2,003	
<b>Total Debt</b>			<b>195,543</b>	<b>3.96%</b>
<b>Total Investments</b>			<b>30,500</b>	<b>0.18%</b>

- 6.2 External borrowing of £2million has been undertaken from the market during the first 6 months of 2017/18. The loan was required to partly replace 3 loans, which matured during the period. A short term temporary loan was taken over 364 days to take advantage of low interest rates. It is anticipated that additional external borrowing may be required during the remainder of this financial year, dependent upon cash flow.
- 6.3 The graph below shows the movement in PWLB maturity certainty rates for the first six months of the year to 30.09.17:



	1 Year	5 Year	10 Year	25 Year	50 Year
Low	0.8	1.14	1.78	2.52	2.25
Date	03/05/2017	15/06/2017	15/06/2017	08/09/2017	08/09/2017

## **7.0 DEBT RESCHEDULING**

- 7.1 Debt rescheduling opportunities have been limited in the current economic climate and consequent structure of interest rates. No debt rescheduling was undertaken during the first six months of 2017/18.

**Councillor Eamonn O'Brien**  
**Cabinet Member for Finance and Housing**

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### **List of Background Papers:-**

None

### **Contact Details:-**

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<h1>REPORT FOR DECISION</h1>
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<b>DECISION OF:</b>	<b>HR &amp; APPEALS PANEL</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>8 January 2018</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Recruitment of a Chief Executive and Setting the Salary</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>Councillor Rishi Shori, Leader of the Council</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>Tracy Murphy, Assistant Director of Resources &amp; Regulation (HR &amp; OD)</b>
<b>SUMMARY:</b>	Members of the HR & Appeals Panel are asked to consider increasing the salary for the Chief Executive role so that the top of the grade is paid at £175,000.
<b>OPTIONS &amp; RECOMMENDED OPTION</b>	This report asks members of the HR & Appeals Panel to review the salary of the Chief Executive post for recommendation to Full Council.
<b>IMPLICATIONS:</b>	
<b>Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:</b>	The post of the Chief Executive is key in terms of the Council meeting its corporate aims. The salary needs to be at an appropriate level to attract a range of candidates of high calibre.
<b>Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:</b>	The Chief Executive post has been reviewed and evaluated in line with the Hay Evaluation Scheme, and will be funded from within existing resources.
<b>Statement by Interim Executive Director of Resources &amp; Regulation (including Health and Safety Implications)</b>	As above
<b>Equality/Diversity implications:</b>	The process of recruitment is built on fairness. The salary has been reviewed in line with the Hay Evaluation Scheme along with comparisons with other Local Authority Chief Executives' pay.

<b>Considered by Monitoring Officer:</b>	The Council is empowered to appoint such officers as it thinks necessary for the proper discharge by the authority of such of their or another authority's functions as falls or is agreed to be discharged by them. (Local Government Act 1972, Section 112). Section 40 of the Localism Act requires openness and accountability in local pay. Every appointment of a person to a paid office or employment by the Council is to be made on merit.
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All

## BACKGROUND

Members of the HR & Appeals Panel will recall a report being presented on the 6 September 2017 entitled 'Recruitment of a Chief Executive'. The Panel agreed that the Council should take time to 'test the market' using a specialist executive search organisation. Group Leaders were also invited to comment on and contribute to the new Job Description of the Chief Executive.

The timeline agreed at the meeting was to place an advert in February 2018 with a view to carrying out the recruitment process and presenting details of the successful candidate at the meeting of the Annual Council on 16 May 2018 for approval.

The Council has now procured Penna as its executive search organisation. Discussions have taken place in terms of the appropriate salary for the Chief Executive of the Council. The last time the salary for the Chief Executive was reviewed was in 2007 when a review of Chief Officer salaries was undertaken. It currently stands at £155,347 to £168,444, with 5 incremental points. It does, of course, rise annually in line with the percentage pay award for the Chief Executive, which is based on that for all employees.

Given that it is over ten years ago since the salary of the Chief Executive was set, it is felt that it is timely to review that salary. There are now many additional responsibilities, for example: the Chief Executive will take a lead role at Greater Manchester level as well as the Council and CCG coming together. The job has therefore been re-evaluated under the Hay Evaluation Scheme.

In order to attract quality candidates with the right mix of skills and experience in a competitive market it is key that the salary is attractive.

Following the evaluation it is proposed that the Chief Executive should be paid within the following increments:

- £168,444
- £171,722
- £175,000

If agreed, HR & Appeals Panel are asked to recommend the proposed salary to Full Council.

## Document Pack Page 23

The Council's Pay Policy Statement will be amended and sent for approval to a future HR & Appeals Panel for recommendation at Full Council.

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### Contact Details:

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TM/LB  
20/12/17

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Q.	Party	Question
1.	<b>Lib Dem</b>	<p>What studies have been done of the impact of 'rat runs' and congestion in the Prestwich area caused by roadworks on the A56, and what plans are there to monitor this once the roadworks have been completed?</p> <p><b>Councillor S Wright</b></p>
	<b>Answer: Councillor Quinn</b>	<p><i>TfGM's Highways Forecasting and Analytical Services (HFAS) were commissioned, during the design phase, to examine the potential impacts of the completed scheme to traffic on Bury New Road. This was undertaken using both modelled and observed journey times.</i></p> <p><i>The statistical analysis of their results concluded that any minor changes in journey times could not be considered to be statistically significant and that the scheme was unlikely to have any detrimental impact on traffic.</i></p> <p><i>Considering the expected 'status quo' in traffic flow, and without any reports of traffic using unsuitable routes to circumvent the works, we do not propose to commission any further traffic monitoring unless contrary information is brought to light.</i></p>
2.	<b>Labour</b>	<p>Following the first township level Neighbourhood Engagement and Pitch events in November, could the Cabinet Member feed back on the impact of the events and next steps in the implementation of the new framework.</p> <p><b>Councillor Leach</b></p>
	<b>Answer: Cllr Tariq</b>	<p>The first round of Neighbourhood Engagement events comprised of 6 evening networking events. The events were open to residents, community groups, businesses and anyone who lives, works or has an interest in each of our neighbourhoods. Each event provided an opportunity to get together and help shape our new approaches to engagement and delivering outcomes on the issues that matter most to our communities. The events were delivered in a 'market place' style with a number of local groups and services on hand to ensure attendees were aware what is available to them locally and also how to go about connecting with other members of their community.</p> <p>The events were attended by 445 people and these extremely encouraging attendance figures show a 120% increase when compared to the final round of Township Forums (203 in March 17). A number of key issues and priorities were identified by attendees across the six events, which will now form the basis for the work at Ward level. This includes themed action groups being established in each Township over the coming weeks and months.</p> <p>The first township level 'Pitch' events were a tremendous success, with over 70 new projects being presented to local residents from a wide range of groups across the borough. The Pitch events, which put the community at the heart of the decision making process, were attended by over 670 residents, with standing room only at many venues. Over £67k of funding was allocated to new projects, which will now be monitored and evaluated</p>

		<p>to ensure that successful outcomes are being delivered for the people of Bury.</p> <p>The Development Team supported each of the evening Neighbourhood Engagement workshops and Pitch events, promoting the Helping Yourself to Wellbeing programme, Street Soccer and The Bury Directory and Quality of Life Wheel. This provided a great opportunity for local people to hear about and test the Bury Directory understanding more about the services available to them. It also enabled the team to recruit new services onto the system and check existing services pages were up to date with relevant information and link any wellbeing projects. This was very successful and routes to work together with local people and organisations in the future were established. The Bury Directory has been nominated for the iNetwork Innovation Awards in the category of Innovative Access to Public Services. Each nominated entry has been through a public vote and stringent judging process in order to select the shortlisted four. The awards ceremony will take place in Manchester on 30th January, where the announcement of the category winners will be announced.</p>
3	Labour	<p>The Greater Manchester Hate Crime Awareness Week commences on the 5 February. Please can you let us know what activities are planned for that week to raise awareness of what is an important topic for everyone?</p> <p><b>Councillor Black</b></p>
	<p><b>Answer:</b> <b>Cllr Tariq</b></p>	<p>Hate Crime Awareness Week commences 5th February. I am pleased to announce that, in conjunction with partners, we will be undertaking the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Running a competition in schools to design a logo and strapline to promote a zero tolerance approach to hate crime. The winning design will be used in future campaigns.</li> <li>• Undertaking some pro-active work with the communities where Hate Crime is most prevalent, engaging directly with the public through door-knocking and displaying messages on a digivan.</li> <li>• Putting stalls up in the Millgate Centre covering each of the main Hate Crime strands, raising awareness and challenging misconceptions</li> <li>• Undertaking Hate Crime training for Senior Management Team</li> <li>• Senior Leaders signing a pledge to oppose Hate Crime</li> </ul> <p>Additionally, following a £10,000 Hate Crime grant from GMCA we have invited bids from community organisations to challenge Hate Crime in the borough. Importantly whilst launching in Hate Crime Awareness Week these projects will stretch beyond that week, continuing to reinforce the message that Bury Council actively opposes Hate Crime.</p>
4	Conservative	<p>While welcoming the decision to maintain and indeed expand the Bury Central Library provision following the recent Libraries Review, could the Leader explain who took the decision to reduce the service hours, including an all day closure on Mondays, and why - since the possibility never featured in the consultation? <b>Cllr. R.Walker</b></p>

	<b>Answer:</b> <b>Cllr Briggs</b>	<p>The Library Review reduced the service's controllable budget from £2M to £1M. The proposals agreed by Cabinet enabled the Authority to retain 4 rather than 3 libraries, despite the funding allocation not increasing.</p> <p>The 10 libraries which have been closed provided 20% of service use – meaning that the 4 libraries which have been retained provided 80% of service use and membership. The reality is that the library service cannot afford to employ enough staff to cover the former opening hours.</p> <p>However, as was indicated in the Cabinet Reports, we are looking to increase significantly the use of library buildings for community activities which will benefit both existing library users and those who have, so far, not seen the service as relevant.</p>
5	<b>Labour</b>	Can the Leader tell us how Bury is performing with winter pressures on our health and social care system? <b>Councillor Black</b>
	<b>Answer:</b> <b>Cllr Simpson</b>	<p>The pressures on the health and social care system are a National issue and Bury is no different in experiencing significant pressures over this winter period. Like other areas Bury has seen a number of pressures in the system, such as the number of patients who are seriously ill and require admission to hospital, a growing frail and elderly population, the demands on our critical beds as well as the wider impact of respiratory illness and an increase in the number of reported cases of the flu.</p> <p>We are working together as a system to try to put in place initiatives which will support Bury people and the wider system. The actions the Council has taken to mitigate those pressures in Bury include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14 beds block booked for use as a 'Discharge to Assess' model. This allows those people who are medically fit for discharge, to move to a Care Home that is more conducive to recuperation than a hospital ward.</li> <li>• Residential and nursing vacancies data is disseminated to the relevant professionals on daily basis.</li> <li>• An incentive payment is in place to encourage our contracted homes to complete same day assessments on receipt of a hospital referral.</li> <li>• The 'Home in a day' project is being utilised and allows people to be assessed and moved off the ward to their home on the same day.</li> <li>• Continued utilisation of both Reablement and the new zoned Care at Home model.</li> <li>• Full utilisation of the Council's Intermediate Care services.</li> </ul>
6	<b>Labour</b>	The 2016/17 Academic year saw an increase in the number of young people permanently excluded from secondary schools. Could the Leader set out what is being done to reduce those numbers in future, securing a

		better outcome for young people who might be at risk of exclusion. <b>Councillor Skillen</b>
	<b>Answer:</b> <b>Cllr Briggs</b>	The Council has been working with secondary schools over the autumn term, as part of its wider review of arrangements and provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs, to look at the causes that often result in exclusion, and the arrangements that can be put in place to support any child that is at risk, to enable that child to remain in his or her mainstream school. This work has been positively embraced by secondary schools and, it is hoped that this will see a significant reduction in the number of young people permanently excluded.
7	<b>Conservative</b>	Following the amendment made to the Notice of Motion put forward by the Conservative Group to suspend the operation of the Bus Lane on Bolton Road, Bury, can the Leader outline what progress has been made to determine the costs associated with the removal of the Lane and the consultation in respect thereof? <b>Cllr. S.Nuttall</b>
	<b>Answer:</b> <b>Cllr Quinn</b>	<p><i>The Notice of Motion presented at the last Council meeting resolved to undertake the following actions ...</i></p> <p><i>1) Await the completion of the GM Manchester Congestion Plan and the Air Quality Action Plan;</i></p> <p><i>2) Identify the costs associated with the removal of said Bus Lane and relevant consultation required;</i></p> <p><i>3) Review the information contained in points 1 &amp; 2 and delegate the decision as to the future of the Bus Lane on Bury Bridge to the Cabinet Member for the Environment.</i></p> <p><i>The work coming out of action point 1) will inform action point 2). Consequently, the Congestion Plan and the Strategic Outline Case for the Air Quality Action Plan (which are still on target for March 2018 reporting) need to be completed. In addition, the extensive traffic modelling currently underway around the A58 will also provide options for potential improvements to the junctions approaching Bury Bridge in order to increase their efficiencies.</i></p> <p><i>Officers from Engineering Services are due to meet with me on 02 February 2018 to discuss the multitude of issues that need to be considered, weighed and balanced before any action is decided upon.</i></p>
8	<b>Labour</b>	Can the Leader confirm how are the Council's Regulatory Services working together with colleagues in Greater Manchester to provide the best bespoke advisory service to local businesses? <b>Councillor Kerrison</b>

	<b>Answer: Councillor Kelly</b>	<p><i>Bury Council is a Partner in the newly created Greater Manchester Regulatory Centre of Excellence .The Better Business for All is a national programme sponsored by Regulatory Delivery of The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy that aims to bring together regulators, business facing organisations and business in a region to reduce regulatory burden and promote growth.</i></p> <p><i>Adopting the status of "Primary Authority" enables a business or business organisation to form a legally recognised partnership with a local authority to access assured advice about how they can comply most efficiently with regulation. This advice must then be taken into account by other local authorities when dealing with that business e.g. when carrying out inspections or addressing issues of non-compliance. Primary Authority ensures consistent interpretation of regulations, regardless of where stores, factories or offices are based or products are sold, thereby reducing costs of compliance.</i></p> <p><b>The Greater Manchester Regulatory Centre of Excellence</b> programme is unique because –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Businesses will have access to expertise across all 10 Local Authorities and the fire service. All partners have committed to a common charging regime based on cost recovery.</i></li> <li><i>• A business will have access to specialist support which might not be available in a single authority</i></li> <li><i>• All regulatory services can be accessed via a single point of contact.</i></li> <li><i>• Services can be accessed via the Growth Hub or any Local authority / fire service in GM</i></li> <li><i>• Primary Authority and other regulatory support will give reassurance about what business needs to do and confidence that it is doing it right.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>This is a proactive service that this Council is proud to be a part of, reinforcing our justifiable claim the Bury Means Business.</i></p>
9	<b>Labour</b>	<p>Can the Leader confirm how the new virtual residents' parking permits being introduced this year will benefit residents? In particular, how will older residents and those without internet access manage? <b>Councillor Smith</b></p>
	<b>Answer: Councillor Kelly</b>	<p><i>Over the last 5 years there has been a considerable increase in the number of claims that residents' parking permits have been lost in transit, the number of permits not being displayed and instances of permit counterfeiting. Furthermore, the number of schemes introduced has continued to grow as more vehicles compete for parking spaces – between 2011 and 2016, the number of licensed cars in Bury has risen by nearly 11,000, the equivalent of around 10 typical multistorey car parks."</i></p> <p><i>The residents parking permit scheme has been upgraded to a virtual system to address these issues and to provide a more efficient permit</i></p>

		<i>system. Without the introduction of this system the cost of permits would have to increase. Computers and scanners have been installed in the Town Hall for customers to use and staff will assist and create permits on their behalf where necessary. Residents can also ring up and have vehicles covered over the phone.</i>
10	Lib Dem	What discussions took place with community or volunteer groups on the use of volunteers in libraries to avoid the drastic reduction in hours for the four remaining libraries? <b>Councillor D'Albert</b>
	<b>Answer: Councillor Briggs</b>	The Library Service has worked with community groups and volunteers for many years and at the end of last year had over 100 volunteers. A good number of these volunteers are now actively engaged on projects connected with the Community Asset Transfer programme. The service will be continuing and expanding the use of volunteers including establishing training programmes, job descriptions and specialised roles such as Digital Support Assistants and Archives Assistants. However it would have been inappropriate (and unacceptable) to draft in volunteers to try and extend hours or replace missing staffing. We consider that the role of the volunteer is not to replace well trained, experienced staff but to add variety and value to what libraries provide - and indeed to the lives of the volunteers.
11	Conservative	Can the Leader give some indication of the proposed schedule for "Grit Bin refilling", as there is still the potential of heavy frost over the next few weeks and many of the bins remain empty? <b>Councillor Schofield</b>
	<b>Answer: Councillor Quinn</b>	<p>There are approx. 350 grit bins in place across the borough, which are filled by staff on the Street Cleaning service.</p> <p>It is a significant time consuming task to fill this many grit bins, from a stockpile at Bradley Fold Depot, and a drain on the time of Street Cleaning staff. These staff are responsible for the emptying of litter and dog waste bins, litter picking and mechanical sweeping of the borough.</p> <p>All grit bins are filled at the start of the winter season and are then replenished when required throughout the season. Bins are not necessarily refilled immediately after use but are filled ahead of any forecast wintry weather.</p> <p>Unfortunately we do suffer with problems of theft of grit for use on private drives and sometimes for resale. It may take time to fill grit bins but it doesn't take long to empty them!</p>
12	Labour	What progress has been made in relation to supporting young people with mental health needs in school? <b>Councillor J Walker</b>
	<b>Answer:</b>	Burys Local Transformation Plan (Future In Mind) is being refreshed



	<b>Councillor Briggs</b>	<p>currently to reflect the December 2017 Green Paper which builds on the 5 Year Forward View and outlines 3 main areas for Schools to take forward SEMH agenda. Bury LA/Bury CCG have continued to develop the Healthy Young Minds Stepped Care Model to ensure the following provision is available to Bury Schools in relation to emotional mental health and wellbeing;</p> <p>Single Point Of Access</p> <p>Every Referral is triaged via an enhanced duty team and directed to the most appropriate service for interventions. School Link Workers have also been assigned to school clusters and this assertive in reach model provides connections for consultations /practical support to schools and staff training in how to initiate conversations.</p> <p>Investment into the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector also includes resource funding for a bereavement service and Mindfulness programme (delivered by Early Break) and First Point to work with parents /carers and young people with SEND/complex needs. Streetwise 2000 also offer a young person's drop in provision.</p> <p>Additional developments will include a schools pilot with 2 Secondary Schools and a Primary school to deliver BEST training and group work to build an evidence base and quality assure impact.</p> <p>Additional Investment into a transition team to ensure that children and young people receive a seamless service is also being established.</p>
13	<b>Labour</b>	<p>Jeremy Hunt has apologised for cancelling thousands of people's operations and outpatient appointments to allow hospitals to deal with winter pressures. Will the Leader join with me in condemning the Secretary for Health and the Government for the lack of investment and planning to protect services for patients nationally and also in Bury?</p> <p><b>Councillor Adams</b></p>
	<b>Answer:</b> <b>Councillor Simpson</b>	<p><u>Increased demand on our services</u></p> <p>Like the rest of the NHS and hospital trusts across the country, our hospital sites and services are experiencing significant pressure and increased demand on our services than in previous years. This is due to a combination of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increased A&amp;E attendances and high acuity patients brought by ambulance;</li> <li>• delays in ambulance handovers;</li> <li>• more patients needing to be admitted;</li> <li>• our hospital bed occupancy giving limited capacity to deal with demand surges</li> <li>• demand on our critical care beds;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• delayed discharge and transfers of care out of hospital;</li> <li>• increasing number of seriously ill patients being admitted with respiratory illness and Flu</li> </ul> <p><u>Winter Plans in place – local response</u></p> <p>We know that this pressure is likely to continue over the coming weeks. The weather has not yet been at its seasonal worst and we are seeing an increase in highly contagious viruses (for example, Influenza Flu A&amp;B and Norovirus).</p> <p>All of our winter plans are being deployed, enabling us to open 100+ additional beds across our group of hospitals. Work continues on a daily basis with our local healthcare partners, including our GP and primary care colleagues, local commissioners (CCGs), and Local Authority social care partners, as well as our community healthcare colleagues, to speed up effective discharge arrangements for patients who are well enough to go home or transferred to a local care home.</p> <p><u>National context – Update from the NHS National Emergency Pressures Panel</u></p> <p>NHS England and NHS Improvement issued national guidance on 2nd January 2018 to help hospitals manage winter pressures. This included a recommendation for Trusts to consider deferring some non-urgent inpatient elective care until 31st January.</p> <p>Each local Trust, including our Care Organisations and hospital sites, are working through the implications of this guidance with local CCGs and drawing up operational plans to free up bed capacity and improve patient flow. A number of non-urgent operations and appointments have been rescheduled – patients have been contacted directly.</p> <p><u>Cancellation and rescheduling of non-urgent operations – notifying patients</u></p> <p>We can confirm that unfortunately like many other Trusts we have had to contact a number of patients who were booked in to have a non-urgent elective procedure/operation to inform them that their operation will have to be rescheduled. This decision has not been taken lightly but part of our plans to deal with the increased demand on our services and to free up our clinical workforce and beds for those sick medical patients who need to be admitted to hospital. All efforts are taken to contact patients directly in advance by letter, mobile and landline telephone to notify them of their appointment or operation having to be cancelled and rescheduled. Every effort is taken to avoid any disruption and cancellation of appointment, particularly operations.</p> <p><u>Impact in Bury</u></p> <p>For the period 1st January 2018 to 10th January 2018 - 253 planned routine operations and 73 Out Patient appointments were cancelled, there</p>
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		<p>was no cancellations of any urgent or two week wait procedures to ensure that clinical care was not compromised.</p> <p>Whilst it is unfortunate to cancel patients whose surgery has been carefully pre planned, this action ensured that we were able to re direct resources to achieve the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff resources and elective bed capacity utilised to open an additional 52 medical beds on the FGH site in the first two weeks in Jan . This enabled the site to safely emergency presentations that have been between 3% &amp; 8.7% higher when compared to the same period in the previous year (Jan 2017) – on some days this equalled 40 more patients per day.</li> <li>• Theatre staff have been re deployed to support the significant critical care demand which has been exacerbated by flu .</li> <li>• Additional consultant and nurse support deployed to the Emergency dept which has helped maintain a good flow in the dept with a significant improvement on the numbers of patients being seen within the 4 Hours standard this year compared to last year.</li> </ul> <p>In addition there have been no 12 hour trolley waits in comparison to 8 patients between 1st and 10th Jan 2017.</p> <p>The site management team are working with the clinical staff in reviewing the pressures position daily and will be working to reinstating the elective work in the coming weeks.</p>
14	<b>Conservative</b>	<p>Can the Leader confirm the criteria for households to qualify for an additional grey bin, the process involved and any charges levied on the household? <b>Cllr. D.Silbiger</b></p>
	<b>Answer: Councillor Quinn</b>	<p>Any household is able to apply for additional grey bin capacity, regardless of size, if they think they have a need.</p> <p>In the first instance they should ring the Council's Contact Centre (CCC) and request an application form which will be sent out in the post. The form asks for details of household size, number of bins in use and recycling activity.</p> <p>Upon receipt of a completed application form a Recycling Officer will contact the resident and arrange to pay a home visit to undertake a waste audit. This will usually take place just before the next scheduled collection of the grey bin. The audit involves looking at exactly which bins are in place and how they are being used by the household – 'Is the right stuff being put in the right bin?'</p> <p>If the household is recycling all the waste it possibly can (including food waste) using the 4 bins provided, but requires additional grey bin capacity then the application will be approved. The resident then has to pay £30 for the additional bin (through the CCC) which will then be delivered by</p>

		<p>Waste Management.</p> <p>All authorised additional grey bins are issued with a red lid, so as to distinguish them.</p>
15	Labour	<p>Can the Leader tell us what the aims are of the Communities In Charge of Alcohol pilot in Radcliffe? <b>Councillor Cathcart</b></p>
	<b>Answer: Cllr Simpson</b>	<p>This new regional initiative aims to create a network of 'alcohol champions', building on the principle that local communities should be empowered to take charge of their own health and people in those communities are best placed to influence their friends, families and colleagues.</p> <p>The aim of the Communities In Charge of Alcohol in Radcliffe is:</p> <p>The Alcohol Health Champions will tackle the harmful effects of alcohol on individuals, families and communities, providing brief advice and support through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informal conversations about alcohol and health with family, friends and colleagues</li> <li>• Support people to reduce drinking through brief advice or guiding them towards specialist services</li> <li>• Attending local community events to speak to people about alcohol and health</li> <li>• Provide support for communities to get involved with licensing decisions by helping them raise issues with the local authority about venues selling alcohol.</li> </ul>
16	Labour	<p>Can the Leader explain where the idea of Bury Friendly Communities came from, what this involves and what benefits this has for the people of the Borough? <b>Councillor Preston</b></p>
	<b>Answer: Councillor Simpson</b>	<p>The idea of a 'Friendly Bury' came about because there was a push to develop dementia friendly communities, age-friendly communities and autism friendly communities as separate workstreams. It was realised very quickly that it was more efficient to develop this approach as one. As a council, we are building up our neighbourhood engagement approach and we thought it was more beneficial to join this work up. There are certain national / GM parameters which need to be met for each condition but a lot of the principles are the same.</p> <p>Each of the workstreams will have a similar business planning approach but will have an individual workplan related to the condition with specific GM or national objectives but where outcomes can be met jointly this will be the agreed approach.</p> <p>At the moment, there are 6 dementia friendly community groups in Bury (one in each township). They are currently looking at how they can raise awareness of dementia across the townships and how they can support local action to improve the lives of people living with dementia, and their</p>

		<p>carers. The groups have already acknowledged that the changes they can make will support people who live with other conditions.</p> <p>A 'Friendly Bury' would mean that a person, regardless of any particular need, will be supported and feel safe in their local community and will continue to live as independently as possible</p>
17	<b>Conservative</b>	<p>Some years ago the allocation of members questions to the leader was changed from being allocated equally between the political groups to a system which allocated questions in proportion to the number of members in each group. Would the Leader agree with me that this system stifles democracy as questions from opposition members are severely curtailed.? Would the Leader also agree to look again at the basis on which questions are allocated to produce a more equitable distribution? <b>Cllr. M.Hankey</b></p>
	<b>Answer: Councillor Shori</b>	<p>This matter was considered by the Democratic Arrangements Forum in August 2014, when the Group Leaders and the Mayor at that time discussed the system of rotation of questions to the Leader.</p> <p>It was agreed that questions would continue to be asked through a political rotation system, but that the sequence would follow political proportionality. As a result of this, the time limit for questions to the Leader was extended so that questions from opposition members would not be curtailed.</p> <p>There has to be some order to the questions and if Members would wish to discuss this issue again, the appropriate place is the Democratic Arrangements Forum, who would then make any recommendation to the Council to amend standing orders.</p>
18	<b>Lib Dem</b>	<p>January is often used to promote a reduction in alcohol consumption. What progress has been made in Bury to reduce alcohol consumption how does this progress compare with the Greater Manchester, North West and England average performance? <b>Cllr Pickstone</b></p>
	<b>Answer: Councillor Simpson</b>	<p>Alcohol consumption is a public health issue which we take very seriously in Bury.</p> <p>Bury promotes and endorses all the national campaigns including dry January aiming to get as many residents as possible having a month off alcohol.</p> <p>In addition both the lifestyle service and our GP's make every contact count by actively opening discussions around alcohol consumption with clients and patients to understand the levels they are drinking at. Then where necessary provide brief interventions giving clients and patient's advice and support on how they can reduce their alcohol consumption to below the recommended levels, in some cases this may mean making referrals to the specialist substance misuse services.</p> <p>On a neighbourhood level we are currently running the Community in Charge of Alcohol (CICA) scheme in Radcliffe. This new initiative aims to</p>

		<p>create a network of 'alcohol champions', building on the principle that local communities should be empowered to take charge of their own health and people in those communities are best placed to influence their friends, families and colleagues.</p> <p>We also provide a raft of information on our Bury directory to help people understand safe levels of drinking and how they can support themselves, friends and family to reduce their alcohol consumption.</p> <p>In regards to reducing overall consumption while there is no one overall definitive measure to say on average how much Bury residents drink there are a number of measures which indicate the levels of alcohol consumption. One of these measures is hospital admission episodes for alcohol related conditions, and we know from the data Bury has been improving on this. There were significant reductions in these admission rates during 2015 and 2016 and we now have lower rates of alcohol related admissions than both the North West and England.</p> <p>At Greater Manchester work is going on to create a high level substance misuse strategy and a set of standards local areas should aim to achieve. Bury staff are very much involved in those conversations and are helping to shape the approach to addressing this issue locally and on a wider level.</p>
19	Labour	<p>Can the Leader explain what the Council can do to address the escalation in the number of takeaways in the Borough? What can the Council do to limit concentrations of takeaway establishments, particularly near to schools, and so help to improve the borough's health. <b>Councillor Preston</b></p>
	<b>Answer: Councillor Simpson</b>	<p>The Council held an 8-week public consultation on the Bury Local Plan from August to October 2017. Comments were invited on a report which set out the key issues for the emerging Local Plan to address and proposed a broad direction that planning policies could follow in order to address these issues.</p> <p>The report covers a range of topics including health and wellbeing and it recognises that key issues for Bury are that it is a high ranking area for the number of fast food outlets per head of population and that Bury has significant and rising obesity levels for both children and adults. In response, the report proposes that the Local Plan could help to address these issues by introducing various policies, including a policy designed to control the development of hot food takeaways.</p> <p>We are aware that a number of other local authorities have introduced planning policies aimed at controlling the concentration and location of hot food takeaways and the Council commit to exploring whether it is possible and necessary to introduce a similar policy through Bury's Local Plan. Planning and Public Health officers are working closely on this issue and this will continue as we aim to ensure that any new policy and supporting</p>

		<p>evidence is fit for purpose.</p> <p>The Draft Local Plan is programmed for public consultation in Summer 2018, with adoption scheduled for 2020. It should be noted, however, that until such time that a policy restricting hot food takeaways is adopted, this approach would not hold weight on current applications to warrant or sustain a refusal of planning permission.</p>
20	<b>Labour</b>	<p>Can the Leader update the Council on the potential impact of the Homelessness Reduction Act, which comes into force in April 2018?</p> <p><b>Councillor Grimshaw</b></p>
	<p><b>Answer:</b></p> <p><b>Councillor O'Brien</b></p>	<p>The Homeless Reduction Act provides us with an opportunity to refresh our approach to helping homeless people. The main parts of the Act come into force on 3rd April and other elements later in the year.</p> <p>Members will be aware that homelessness is on the rise nationally and particularly at this time of year with freezing temperature it is something we all should think about. Homelessness is often a consequence of people's wider circumstances and customers often just need some support to empower them to change their lives. Not all homeless people want support from us.</p> <p>The new Act presents us with a number of new opportunities</p> <p>To help more people earlier. Our help will begin within 56 days of being threatened with homeless, working through an integrated neighbourhood approach to find solutions. We are proud to say that Bury is one of the best performers in GM in terms of preventing homelessness but we must not be complacent.</p> <p>Under the new legislation, customers will be provided with a housing plan that outlines what our responsibilities and what they are expected to do. This has already started in Bury, promoting where appropriate a model of helping people to help themselves.</p> <p>We will need to refresh our Homeless Strategy, Strategic Tenancy and Housing Allocations Policy.</p> <p>We anticipate that there may be a substantial increase in the numbers seeking help and the transitional funding only goes a small way in helping us to work through the challenges.</p> <p>Greater Manchester has received trailblazer funding through GMCA to prepare for the new Act and in particular to work with rough sleepers.</p> <p>Rough sleepers is something we are all aware of and I am pleased to advise that we are taking a proactive approach to the small number we have in Bury we believe our numbers to be around 10. We have a service specifically for rough sleepers and we also have increased the cold weather provision by commissioning a local church. GMCA are also</p>

		<p>undertaking work with new rough sleepers and entrenched rough sleepers through a new commissioned service. I would urge members not to give money but to donate in a different way.</p> <p>Working with entrenched rough sleepers is a long process and engagement takes a long time. Members will aware that work has been done on begging in the Town centre. The Team working with the rough sleepers go out proactively to try and gain their trust and work hard to encourage people to engage with services.</p> <p>We also recognise the contribution of other services and our partners in meeting needs and addressing homelessness, for example, I recently attended a consultation event on homelessness and I was delighted to hear Doctor Chauhan launch the GP friendly homeless scheme in Bury which means all homelessness people will have access to health care.</p> <p>In terms of challenges, where do I begin? Every new initiative faces barriers but there are perhaps some opportunities.</p> <p>One of challenges is the local housing market which is changing and solutions to provide people with warm and safe homes is becoming more of a challenge. There is less social housing available, there is less turnover in our own stock and you will be aware that the private sector properties are difficult to find at reasonable rents.</p> <p>Officers have been tasked to be creative in breaking down of challenges and are working on a number of work streams- looking at the profile of our stock, innovation with private sector landlords and working with partner agencies. We also looking at how we provide services within the community through our neighbourhoods.</p> <p>In summary, we are clearly making a difference to people’s lives and any reduction in the homelessness is welcome. Breaking the cycles of entrenched behaviour which causes homelessness requires longer term measurement and perhaps a rethinking of the way we provide services.</p> <p>I will update members as this work progresses</p>				
21	Conservative	<p>Ramsbottom Councillors are receiving constant complaints from residents regarding missed bin collections, most commonly brown bins. Could the Leader of the Council advise how many missed bin collections there have been in Ramsbottom in the last twelve months ( all bins and by type ) and what measures are being taken to resolve these issues, particularly as regards the rural bin collections? <b>Cllr I.Bevan</b></p>				
	Answer:  Councillor Quinn	<p>The Council does not have data regarding the number of missed bins as a result of mechanical breakdown or inclement weather. The total number of bins reported to the Customer Contact Centre as missed, from any property with a Ramsbottom postal address. Figures are for the 12 months January to December 2017.</p> <table><tr><th>Type of bin</th><th>Missed Collections</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	Type of bin	Missed Collections		
Type of bin	Missed Collections					



		<table><tr><td>Brown</td><td>333 (out of 153,400)</td></tr><tr><td>Blue</td><td>100 (out of 100,300)</td></tr><tr><td>Grey</td><td>210 (out of 100,300)</td></tr><tr><td>Green</td><td>124 (out of 100,300)</td></tr><tr><td><b>Total</b></td><td><b>767 (out of 454,300 collections)</b></td></tr></table> <p>There are a disproportionately large number of brown bin collections reported from the Monday 'Farms' round. This collection serves approx. 1400 predominantly hard to reach and some rural properties utilising the smaller, bespoke 'Farms' vehicle. This vehicle is only available on Mondays for brown bins as it is used every Tuesday to Friday to empty other scheduled bins.</p> <p>Monday to Friday this vehicle travels along some farm lanes that are in a poor state of repair, which puts significant stresses and strains on it, causing multiple ongoing mechanical problems, which often means it has to be taken off the road for repair. When it breaks down later in the week it is usually possible to catch up with the work through the course of the week, or the following Saturday, but when it breaks down on a Monday there is little room for manoeuvre because it is collecting a different waste stream. In that case residents have to be told that unfortunately we cannot return until the next scheduled collection.</p> <p>Given the bespoke smaller size of the 'Farms' vehicle it is almost impossible to hire in a like for like replacement at short notice when it is being repaired.</p>	Brown	333 (out of 153,400)	Blue	100 (out of 100,300)	Grey	210 (out of 100,300)	Green	124 (out of 100,300)	<b>Total</b>	<b>767 (out of 454,300 collections)</b>
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22	<b>Labour</b>	Following the terrible events at Grenfell, what is the position in Bury in respect of the issues highlighted and what action are we taking. <b>Councillor Cummings</b>										
	<b>Answer:</b> <b>Councillor O'Brien</b>	<p>The Grenfell Tower incident brought into sharp focus the issues of fire risks, particularly in high rise residential tower blocks with external cladding.</p> <p>As a result, there has been considerable activity from the government, housing providers, the fire and rescue service and local authorities both nationally and regionally. Locally, we have been looking at this issue with our key partners and stakeholders and are active members of the GM Task Group which was set up in the wake of this tragedy.</p> <p>The position in Bury is that we have no high rise accommodation in the social housing sector, but that we do have a small number of high rise blocks in the private sector.</p>										

		<p>Despite not having any high rise accommodation owned, managed or commissioned by the Council, we have nonetheless put the spotlight on fire safety in some of this accommodation; namely mid- rise and accommodation occupied by vulnerable people.</p> <p>In particular we have made sure that the stock the council own, the majority of which is managed by Six Town Housing, has up to date fire risk assessments, that action is being taken to rectify any issues and that any fire safety procedures are reassessed and reissued to residents.</p> <p>As commissioners of property and services, we have also written to providers to remind them of their responsibilities.</p> <p>Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) have also been involved in providing advice and assistance to the Council and others and will be inspecting some of these properties in the coming weeks.</p> <p>We have also engaged with other housing providers, including Housing Associations, to ensure that they are taking necessary steps in relation to their properties.</p> <p>In relation to the private sector high rises, at The Rock, Bury and Radius at Prestwich, there are some 6 blocks with some cladding. We have worked in partnership with GMFRS, engaging with managing agents and others in relation to these blocks. We will continue to monitor this with GMFRS.</p> <p>Beyond housing, we have also considered other aspects as a result of Grenfell. For instance we have ensured that our schools are taking the appropriate approach in relation to fire safety and have reviewed our emergency planning arrangements, updating some policies and procedures etc.</p> <p>Thus, whilst we do not have the significant issues which some of our neighbouring districts across Greater Manchester and beyond unfortunately have, the Council has nonetheless investigated the issues in the district and taken appropriate and proportionate action following the Grenfell tragedy. Members should be reassured of this and that we will follow through on our response.</p>
23	Labour	<p>Please can the Leader update the council on the ongoing pay negotiating for Local Government staff. <b>Councillor James</b></p>
	<p><b>Answer:</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Holt</b></p>	<p><i>The National Employers made a final pay offer to the trade unions on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017 covering the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2020. The offer is:</i></p> <p><i><u>1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 ('Year One'):</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Bottom-Loading spinal column points 6-19 resulting in a new bottom rate of £8.50 per hour in order to continue to close the significant gap with the National Living Wage (NLW)</i></li> <li><i>• Increase on points 20 and above of 2.0%</i></li> <li><i>• This first year of the pay offer would increase the national</i></li> </ul>



		<p><i>paybill by 2.707%</i></p> <p><u><i>1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 ('Year Two'):</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• A bottom rate of £9 per hour</i></li> <li><i>• Pair off the bottom 12 points into 6 new points 'ironing out' the current random gaps between pay points and having even increments of 2.0% between new Spinal Column Points 1 to 22 (covers approximately 60% of NJC employees)</i></li> <li><i>• From new SCP23 onwards, a flat-rate increase of 2.0% and retention of the current random differentials</i></li> <li><i>• This second year of the pay offer would increase the national paybill by 2.802%</i></li> </ul> <p><i>The total increase to the national paybill over the two-year period would be 5.584%</i></p>
24	<b>Conservative</b>	<p>Could the Leader confirm the projected overspend for the current financial year and the impact this will have on the finances of the Council over the next 3 financial years? <b>Cllr J.Daly</b></p>
	<b>Answer: Councillor O'Brien</b>	<p><i>The month 6 financial monitoring report was presented to Cabinet on 15<sup>th</sup> November, and highlighted a forecast overspend of £3.491m.</i></p> <p><i>Latest figures (month 8) highlight this now stands at £2.641m – demonstrating that control measures are taking effect.</i></p> <p><i>Clearly any overspend is a matter of concern, and we continue to make efforts to reduce it before year end.</i></p> <p><i>The scale is containable within available balances, however this is not something we want to rely upon.</i></p> <p><i>In terms of future years, pressures will remain, in fact they will continue to grow, and it essential that we respond to this through our budget proposals, and joint working with partners e.g. NHS.</i></p> <p><i>Finally, it would be remiss of me not to say that the Council has had to make cuts of £65 million since 2010, and further cuts of £32 million are required by 2020.</i></p>
25	<b>Lib Dem</b>	<p>Could the Leader inform members into what progress the Council has made in procuring energy from renewable sources (e.g. what proportion of energy used)? Has there been any progress on a Bury renewable energy company? <b>Councillor S Wright</b></p>
	<b>Answer: Councillor O'Brien</b>	<p><i>The Council procures energy through a collaborative public sector framework which enables us to take advantage of bulk purchasing power and increased leverage with suppliers. Electricity is currently supplied by Npower on a contract that expires at the end of March 2019. In 2016-17,</i></p>

		<p><i>the latest year for which figures are available, Npower reported that 18% of the electricity supplied by them nationally was derived from renewable sources.</i></p> <p><i>In terms of local activity, the Council continues to support and promote the use of renewable sources of energy. This is demonstrated by projects such as:-</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Installation of photo-voltaic solar array schemes (Bradley fold security lodge, Prestwich arts college, Radcliffe Market, Killelea House, Redbank EPH)</i></li> <li><i>• Installation of micro combined heat and power plants (Millwood SEN School, Killelea House)</i></li> <li><i>• Installation of thermal solar array schemes (Heaton Park Primary School, Millwood SEN School, Elmhurst EPH)</i></li> <li><i>• Installation of ground source heat production (Millwood SEN School)</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Consideration of renewable energies is now embedded in the design stage of all the construction projects undertaken by the Council.</i></p> <p><i>Furthermore the cost of renewable energy has reduced significantly and has become more affordable through schemes such as the Clean Energy Switch scheme championed by the Leader of the Council. Schemes such as this have greatly contributed to tackling fuel poverty.</i></p>
26	<b>Conservative</b>	<p>When is the new draft GMSF published and what input have Bury Council had in respect of it's preparation? <b>Cllr J.Harris</b></p>
	<b>Answer: Councillor O'Brien</b>	<p><i>In response to the first part of the question, the revised draft of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework is currently timetabled for a 12 week period of public consultation in June or July this year.</i></p> <p><i>In terms of the Council's input into its preparation, the GMSF will form part of the statutory development plan of each of the ten districts within Greater Manchester, including Bury. As such, officers from this Council have been heavily involved in the preparation of the GMSF alongside officers from the other nine Greater Manchester districts and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.</i></p>
27	<b>Lib Dem</b>	<p>Could the Leader inform members of reports of illegal fly-tipping within the Borough - so far this financial year, and in the previous three financial years? <b>Councillor D'Albert</b></p>
	<b>Answer: Councillor</b>	<p>Table 1 - Fly tipping cases taken via Contact Centre and online</p>

	<div>Quinn</div> <div>(01/04/2014 – 12/01/2018)</div> <div><table><tr><td>2014/15</td><td>2263</td></tr><tr><td>2015/16</td><td>2713</td></tr><tr><td>2016/17</td><td>3830</td></tr><tr><td>2017/18*</td><td>2790</td></tr><tr><td>* To 12/01/2018</td><td></td></tr></table><div>Table 2 - Number of incidents referred to Environmental Health for enforcement</div><div><table><tr><td>2014/15</td><td>475</td></tr><tr><td>2015/16</td><td>583</td></tr><tr><td>2016/17</td><td>437</td></tr><tr><td>2017/18*</td><td>277</td></tr><tr><td>* To 12/01/2018</td><td></td></tr></table><div>Illegal fly tipping involves the dumping of a wide range of wastes including commercial waste, construction and demolition, bulky waste such as furniture, asbestos and some black bag type household waste at locations as diverse as back streets and rural public rights of way.</div><div>As the cost of waste disposal has increased in recent years unscrupulous traders have sought to undercut legitimate rivals by avoiding the cost of disposal by dumping waste illegally. There has also been a clampdown on illegal deposits of waste at Household Waste Recycling Centres across GM, which has also contributed to the increase in fly tipping across the borough.</div></div></div>	2014/15	2263	2015/16	2713	2016/17	3830	2017/18*	2790	* To 12/01/2018		2014/15	475	2015/16	583	2016/17	437	2017/18*	277	* To 12/01/2018	
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28	<div>Conservative</div> <div>Could the Leader confirm how much money the Council has raised by way of revenue generation over the last financial year, outside of it's statutory</div>																				

		responsibilities? <b>Cllr I.Gartside</b>
	<b>Answer: Councillor O'brien</b>	<p><i>In 2016/17, the Council received income from a number of sources. Outside of government grants, we received income of £280m relating to customer and client receipts, fees and charges and various other income. This also excludes any income relating to Persona, Six Town Housing and the Housing Revenue Account.</i></p> <p><i>Examples of revenue generation outside of our statutory responsibility include income from external payrolls, donations received, income from room hire, sales income, sponsorship income and advertising income. Income from all of these in 2016/17 was £2.9m.</i></p> <p><i>The Council will continue to find ways to generate more income outside of its statutory responsibilities to help protect the services we provide to vulnerable people and to continue to help make Bury a better place to live.</i></p>
29	<b>Conservative</b>	Further to the appointment of a new Chief Executive, could the Council confirm the expected monthly pension contributions to be met by the Bury tax-payer for that position and whether the new Chief Executive will be separately remunerated for the role of Returning Officer on top of basic salary and pension contributions? <b>Cllr I.Schofield</b>
	<b>Answer: Councillor Shori</b>	<p>The employers % pension contribution is 20.5% so the monthly amount would be £2870 - £2989</p> <p>The returning officer payments for local elections are incorporated into the salary of the Chief Executive. Payments for parliamentary elections, European elections, The GM mayoral election and the referendum have separate funding arrangements so are not funded by the Council.</p>
30	<b>Lib Dem</b>	Could the Leader of the Council please inform members how many school crossing patrols are currently not operational, and how many others do not have permanent allocated staff members in place? <b>Councillor Pickstone</b>
	<b>Answer: Councillor Briggs</b>	<p>There are currently have 15 crossing points that are not operational. 12 of these are assisted crossings where there is a puffin/pelican in place and 3 are unassisted. These crossing points do not meet the criteria for a staffed crossing point and are due to be disestablished. The Council has adopted guidance from the School Crossing Patrol Service Guidelines (November 2014) to determine the criteria for the establishment and/or retention of school crossing points</p> <p>There are 20 crossing points that do not have a permanent member of staff allocated to them. However, they remain operational utilising relief staff, and by reallocating members of staff from the assisted crossing</p>

		<p>points referred to above.</p> <p>Council staff continually monitor the crossing points that are left vacant, and prioritises the points requiring cover based on the number of pupils using the crossing and the volume of traffic passing through.</p> <p>The Council faces continued pressure to recruit and retain sufficient staff to cover all points at all times.</p>																				
31	Conservative	Could the Leader itemise all government grants received by Bury Council in the last financial year? <b>Cllr I.Gartside</b>																				
	<b>Answer: Councillor O’Brien</b>	<p><i>In 2016/17 the Council received £260m in respect of government grants. Rather than read the list, I will forward it to you. The biggest grant relates to the DFES General Grant of £146m. This includes the Dedicated Schools Grant of £145m plus grant monies in respect of Leaving Care, Fostering &amp; Adoption, Special Education Needs &amp; Disabilities and a music grant.</i></p> <p><i>It should be noted that alongside reductions in our mainstream Settlement Funding Assessment (-11% in 2017/18) we also saw reductions of £2.2million in grants</i></p> <p><i>The Council will continue, as it has done for many years, to lobby Parliament in order to maximise the amount of grant monies we receive from the government.</i></p> <p><i>(not for reading)</i></p> <table><tr><td><i>Section 31 grants</i></td><td><i>2,239,101</i></td></tr><tr><td><i>Public Health Grant</i></td><td><i>12,241,000</i></td></tr><tr><td><i>DWP - Discretionary Housing Payments</i></td><td><i>310,240</i></td></tr><tr><td><i>DWP – Housing Benefit Subsidy</i></td><td><i>30,998,867</i></td></tr><tr><td><i>DWP- Administration Grant</i></td><td><i>275,019</i></td></tr><tr><td><i>DWP – Home to School Grant</i></td><td><i>54,895</i></td></tr><tr><td><i>European Social Fund Grant</i></td><td><i>255</i></td></tr><tr><td><i>Rent Rebates Subsidy Income</i></td><td><i>19,086,560</i></td></tr><tr><td><i>Probation Service Grant</i></td><td><i>18,687</i></td></tr><tr><td><i>New Home Bonus Grant</i></td><td><i>2,659,596</i></td></tr></table>	<i>Section 31 grants</i>	<i>2,239,101</i>	<i>Public Health Grant</i>	<i>12,241,000</i>	<i>DWP - Discretionary Housing Payments</i>	<i>310,240</i>	<i>DWP – Housing Benefit Subsidy</i>	<i>30,998,867</i>	<i>DWP- Administration Grant</i>	<i>275,019</i>	<i>DWP – Home to School Grant</i>	<i>54,895</i>	<i>European Social Fund Grant</i>	<i>255</i>	<i>Rent Rebates Subsidy Income</i>	<i>19,086,560</i>	<i>Probation Service Grant</i>	<i>18,687</i>	<i>New Home Bonus Grant</i>	<i>2,659,596</i>
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		<i>Youth Justice Board</i> 304,907 <i>Department Of Transport</i> 231,262 <i>Formula Grant – Revenue Support Grant</i> 22,247,627 <i>Education Service Grant</i> 2,601,264 <i>DFES General</i> 146,137,123 <i>Skills Funding Agency</i> 1,512,852 <i>Pupil Premium Grant</i> 16,605,898 <i>Universal Free School Meals</i> 2,096,428 <i>Year 7 Catch Up Grant</i> 156,375 <i>Primary Sports Grant</i> 1,086,687
32	<b>Conservative</b>	<p>Could the Leader confirm Bury's annual wage bill, inclusive of pension contributions over the last financial year and for the previous 3 financial years? Cllr <b>K.Hussain</b></p>
	<b>Answer: Councillor O'Brien</b>	<p><i>The pay bill over the past 4 years inclusive of basic pay, employers national insurance contributions and employers superannuation contributions is as follows:</i></p> <p><i>2013/14: £184.345 million</i></p> <p><i>2014/15: £184.548 million</i></p> <p><i>2015/16: £181.953 million</i></p> <p><i>2016/17: £183.695 million</i></p> <p><i>Additionally, there has been a noticeable reduction in the payments made for additional hours, overtime, holiday pay and payments for sleep ins over the course of the 4 years.</i></p>

# REPORT FOR INFORMATION



<b>Agenda Item</b>	
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<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2018</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>LOCAL SCHEME OF COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>COUNCILLOR EAMONN O'BRIEN CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE &amp; HOUSING</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>STEVE KENYON , INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES AND REGULATION</b>
<b>TYPE OF DECISION:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>
<b>FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:</b>	The report is for publication.
<b>SUMMARY:</b>	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.
<b>OPTIONS &amp; RECOMMENDED OPTION</b>	Council is asked to agree that the Scheme introduced with effect from 1st April 2017 is extended for the year 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2018 to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2019 without amendment.
<b>IMPLICATIONS:</b>	
<b>Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:</b>	Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes
<b>Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:</b>	The financial implications arising from the report are centered on the large cut in Government funding that accompanied the localisation of

	<p>Council Tax support. The existing scheme was designed to provide as much protection as possible for the most vulnerable claimants whilst staying within the fixed budget set by the Government in 2013.</p> <p>The performance of the scheme is closely monitored and to date caseload and expenditure 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 the authority.</p> <p>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.</p>
<b>Statement by Executive Director of Resources:</b>	<p>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 Support is both challenging and costly. However, the comment by the s151 Officer regarding the lack of available existing resources to cover the ongoing funding cut is fully supported.</p>
<b>Equality/Diversity implications:</b>	<p>An Equality Impact Assessment was completed in respect of the changes implemented in April 2017, as no significant changes are proposed for April 2018 this remains valid.</p>
<b>Considered by Monitoring Officer:</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Consultation has been undertaken in each year that the scheme has changed. <i>Members must have "due regard" to any equality issues and these are set out in the Equality Impact</i></p>



	<i>Assessment of last year.</i>
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Scrutiny Interest:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**TRACKING/PROCESS****DIRECTOR:****Steve Kenyon**

Chief Executive/ Senior Leadership Team	Cabinet Member/Chair	Ward Members	Partners
Yes	Yes		
Scrutiny Committee	Committee	Council	
		17/1/18	

**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 2018.

**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 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 The 2013 scheme successfully delivered on the above objectives whilst remaining within the available funding limits. However due to increases in Council Tax during the preceding years by 2017 the fixed budget was no longer capable of covering the schemes costs. In 2017 the scheme was amended so that the maximum amount that any Working age claim could receive was 80% of the liable Council Tax charge.

### **4.0 COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2018/2019**

- 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 2018/19
  - 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 2017/18 although from a purely financial perspective this can vary and fluctuate throughout the year. However, take-up and Council Tax collection assumptions are being closely monitored and to date collection overall remains strong.
- 4.4 Government funding for Year 6, 2018/19, remains the same as for Year 1 reflecting the 10% cut in the level of support provided in 2012/13. As funding is fixed consideration has therefore to be given to whether further cuts to the existing scheme need to be made. Forecasts suggest that expenditure on the scheme is within the budget available and so no changes are required for the year 2018/19.

## **5.0 CONSULTATION**

Consultation was carried out on the two changes required for the scheme to mirror the national Housing Benefit scheme – disregarding of payments to people affected by terrorist attacks and the disregarding of bereavement payments.

## **6.0 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 where possible by working with residents and our local partners.
- 7.2 In July of 2018 Universal Credit Full Service will be rolled out across the whole Bury Council area, learning from other Authorities that have already “gone live” suggests that there will likely be an increased strain on the administration of the Council Tax Support scheme and increased difficulties in residents understanding the lack of interaction between DWP UC and the Council.
- 7.4 A Discretionary Council Tax fund has been available for customers who may be experiencing significant hardship often as a result of multiple changes to the welfare system or complex circumstances, Members are requested to agree a budget of £100k for the year 2018/19.

## **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 It is recommended that the scheme continue unchanged for the year 2018/19.
- 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 EAMONN O'BRIEN**  
**CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE & HOUSING**

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### **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

Ian Davenport, Acting Head of Customer Support and Collections; Tel 0161 253 7087; E-mail i.davenport@bury.gov.uk

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## Joint Authority Questions

1. Can the Authority's representative on the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Panel inform members how many times a 'taser' was used in the Bury Division in the most appropriate reporting period, how many of those resulted in a hospital visit any how does this compare to the rest of Greater Manchester. **Cllr S Wright**

**Answer: Cllr Tariq**

**For 2017 Police in Bury have had 8 Taser firings. Of the eight applications where the Taser was actually fired, 6 of the subjects were hospitalised although one was detained 136 MHA. This is below average for the force as we have had 182 discharges in total.**

**Nationally, GMP runs above average when it comes to the % firing Vs incidents where a Taser is drawn. In other words, we are far more likely to fire once we've committed to drawing the weapon. The College of Policing sets the standard at around 15% In GMP for 2017 we have had 738 uses of the device of which 182 were actual firings. This is around 24% which as you can see is above the national average, that said we have reduced this steadily down from 29% two years ago. Bury runs at less than 1% of total firings to actual deployments**

2. Could the Authority's representative to Transport for Greater Manchester Committee give members an update on how the Authority tracks customer satisfaction with the 'Ring and Ride' service? For example, what is the number of complaints received about Ring and Ride, or what customer satisfaction surveys are undertaken and how do both of these compare to previous years? **Councillor Pickstone**

**Answer: Cllr Bayley**

**Ring & Ride is operated by Greater Manchester Accessible Transport Limited (GMATL). Between April - December 2016, GMATL received 52 complaints; this is in comparison to 26 complaints for the whole of 2017. GMATL record all of their correspondence and have responded to a lot of other queries such as wheelchair assessments, regular bookings and compliments. In 2016 they received 25 queries and 6 compliments, in 2017 they received 27 queries and 11 compliments.**

**The TfGM customer relations team responds to and logs only those complaints received directly by TfGM. TfGM logged 42 complaints in 2016 and 39 in 2017. The number of complaints made to TfGM is relatively stable with no significant increase in complaints from previous years. There is no particular trend in complaints.**

**There are some instances, however, where complainants have issues that take a while to resolve. If they complain on more than one occasion about the same issue, it is logged as new complaint each time rather than rolled into one case.**

**GMATL carry out annual passenger surgery days where service users are invited to come and talk to TfGM officers and GMATL staff to outline any concerns and complaints they have.**

**TfGM officers are working with GMATL to improve the complaints procedure for Ring & Ride, and to improve the logging of complaints and ensure that all complaints addressed.**

- 3. Heaton Park station commuters regularly have to put up with the lifts there being out of action. This is exacerbated by the only other access being via steep steps. Therefore if the lifts are out of action wheelchair users, parents with buggies, the disabled are the ones who suffer the most and often cannot use the station. Can Cllr Bayley inform council of any investment from Metrolink to what is basically still a station from the Victorian era? **Councillor Quinn****

**Answer: Cllr Bayley**

**As part of the Renewals and Enhancements programme, improvements to the Bury line stops are currently being considered. The proposals currently include installing a pedestrian at-grade track crossing at Heaton Park. This will grant step free access to both platforms when at least one lift is in service. Enhancements to current signage, facilities and passenger information are also being considered. On completion of the development of the potential measures outlined above, funding will be sought. Subject to funding approval, it is proposed to develop and implement these type of improvements to the other stops along the Bury Line.**

**In the more immediate term, on 7 January 2018 a performance regime was introduced which measures lift availability. This financially penalises the Metrolink Operator when lifts are not in service. This will incentivise quick repair times to lifts and other customer facing assets. TfGM officers will monitor closely the lift performance in the coming months for improvements to lift availability.**

4. In relation to First's New Year fares' increase, could the council's representative on TfGM advise us how First have performed over the last 12 months, including the number of complaints received and any data on lateness and cancellations? **Councillor Walmsley**

**Answer: Cllr Bayley**

**TfGM is aware of some service delivery issues that became apparent following the closure of the depot in Bury in April 2017, partly relating to driver shortages. Most of the services affected are operated commercially and as such, TfGM does not have detailed data on the level of complaints and the exact impacts on punctuality and service cancellations. These issues continued throughout the summer and TfGM bus station staff have worked with First to try and ensure that as much information as possible was passed to passengers. It is clear that in recent months, the number of cancelled journeys that were passed to TfGM so that passengers could be advised of their non-operation has reduced considerably which suggests that the position has improved and the number of driver available has increased. Regular updates have been provided to TfGM officers regarding mitigating measures and although performance has taken longer to improve than was first suggested (partly due to the industrial action that took place at some First depots), the position seems to have improved in recent weeks.**

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