

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

*Our Ref* LW  
*Your Ref* OSC/LW  
*Date* 3 April 2018  
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Legal & Democratic Services  
Division

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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, 11 April 2018
<b>Place:</b>	Council Chamber, 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)

Minutes of the Budget Meeting of the Council, held on 21 February 2018, are attached.

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

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

### **4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** (Pages 11 - 12)

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 13 - 28)

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Cabinet – 31 January 2018	Mayoralty 2018/2019	To note that Councillor Jane Black is proposed as the Mayor of Bury for 2018/2019
HRA Panel – 8 March 2018	Pay Policy Statement	That the Pay Policy Statement for 2018/2019 be approved by Council.

### **6 LEADER' STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME** (Pages 29 - 48)

To receive a Statement from the Leader of the Council on the work of the Cabinet and to answer written questions from Members of the Council to the Leader and Cabinet Members on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties which affect the Borough, provided the necessary written notice has been given.

Verbal questions on the work of the Cabinet since the last Council meeting will be allowed subject to a limit of one question per Councillor.

### **7 MEETINGS TIMETABLE 2018-2019** (Pages 49 - 60)

A report from the Leader of the Council is attached.

8 **JOINT AUTHORITIES - REPORT BY THE COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVE AND QUESTIONS** (Pages 61 - 66)

- (A) A report from the Council's representative on the work of the Greater Manchester Fire Authority, Councillor Grimshaw
- (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:-

**(i) Our Tax, Our Roads: Vehicle Excise Duty Raised In Bury Should Be Spent In Bury**

This Council welcomes the commitment by Bury Labour last year to invest £10m on Bury's highway network, including £1.5m for pothole repairs. Work is now underway in fulfilling that commitment; the first element of the project being in Ramsbottom.

Despite this much needed investment in Bury's roads, the Council also recognises that due to an ageing road asset and chronic underfunding by successive Conservative governments, further significant investment would be needed to maintain and improve our highways network.

**This Council Notes:**

- That the Bury Local Plan Transport Topic Paper published in August 2017, shows that Bury has 660km of road consisting of approximately:
  - 21km Motorway;
  - 55km of A road;
  - 33km of B road;
  - 38km of other classified road;
  - 540km of unclassified road.
- That due to underfunding by successive Conservative governments, the Highway Maintenance Strategy shows the current depreciation of Bury's carriageways and footways stands at around £75m and that over £6m per year would be needed in order to maintain Bury's roads at their current level.
- That Bury has over 110,000 registered vehicles which is steadily increasing (10,000 more cars licensed in the last 5yrs) and that a report published by New Economy estimates that the Government receives over £18,000,000 per year in Vehicle Excise Duty (formally known as Road Tax) from vehicles registered in Bury (Bury Residents).
- That Bury Council only receives around a total of £2m annually from the Department of Transport to maintain transport assets; this includes

Carriageways, Footways, Highways Structures, Lighting Columns and Public Rights of Way.

- That Bury will need to fund the replacement of older, concrete street lights at a cost of £5m.
- That the difference from what the Government receives in Vehicle Excise Duty and what Bury Council receives in funding from the Department for Transport is significantly different and unfair to the residents of this town.

**This Council Resolves to:**

Ask the Interim Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council to write to the Department of Transport to ask the Government to allow Bury Council to spend the Vehicle Excise Duty raises from vehicles registered in Bury on our highway network. This would allow the Council to:

- Spend heavily in bringing the road assets in Bury up to a good standard that residents deserve;
- Invest in new schemes to tackle congestion;
- Invest further in green transport schemes in order to reduce our environmental footprint and in line with the Mayor of Greater Manchester's plan to make Greater Manchester the Greenest City Region in the UK.

**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, J Lewis, 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.**

**(ii) Deaths and Burials in the Borough**

This Council notes that Bury is comprised of diverse communities including faith based communities. Moreover, the Council notes that Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh and all faith Communities play an important role in the life of the Borough.

Furthermore, the Council notes that faith based communities deal with burials in ways that are sensitive to requirements of their specific faith and religion.

The Council notes its role and responsibility in discharging the pre-burial and post-burial processes for faith based communities.

Whilst it is acknowledged that policy documents dealing with religiously sensitive burials exist – tremendous problems still continue to persist: -

1. There is a lack of knowledge and sensitivity about Jewish and Muslim deaths and burials.
2. There is no holistic (multi-agency) approach in dealing with pre and post burial processes for Jewish and Muslim burials.

3. The responsibility of dealing with the entire burial process is placed with members of the deceased's family – at a time when those family members are in the early stages of the grieving process.
4. Time restrictions on providing notification to Bury Council's Registrar Department and Cemetery Services often cause delays in the burial process thus causing immense frustration and animosity about the 'rigid system' which is then perceived as being 'insensitive'.
5. The 99 Year Right of Burial Rule implemented by Bury Council is insensitive to the Religious Beliefs of the Jewish and Muslim Communities in Bury and needs to be reviewed urgently.

In order to resolve these problems, Bury Council will take the following actions with immediate effect: -

1. Create a Multi-agency Advisory Panel consisting of representatives from members of the public, HM Coroner, Bury Police, Bury Council, Bury CCG, Religious Scholars, GP Surgeries, Mortuary Services, Elected Members, and a representative from Jewish, Christian, Muslim and other faith Funeral Service Providers.
2. Review the existing Bury Council policies on Jewish and Muslim Burials by benchmarking its policies and activities with other local authorities that have significant Jewish and Muslim Communities.
3. Training and Development be provided to relevant Bury Council Staff on the 'Religious Sensitivities surrounding Deaths & Burials' including visits to places of worship.
4. Provide a 24/7 One Point of Contact for Dealing with Deaths & Burials in the Borough.
5. An urgent independent review is undertaken of Bury Council's burial costs as compared to other AGMA Authorities, and the issue of water seepage into existing graves.

**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**

### **(iii) Tax Avoidance**

Council notes that:

- 1 Corporate tax evasion and avoidance are having a damaging impact on the world's poorest countries, to such a level that it is costing them far more than they receive in aid.
- 2 This is costing the UK as much as £30bn a year.
- 3 This practice also has a negative effect on small and medium-sized companies who pay more tax proportionately.

Council further notes:

- 1 That the UK Government has taken steps to tackle the issue of tax avoidance and evasion by issuing Procurement Policy Note 03/14, applying to all central government contracts worth more than £5m.
- 2 The availability of independent means of verifying tax compliance, such as the Fair Tax Mark.

Council therefore resolves to play its part in reducing tax avoidance.

Council resolves that the Cabinet will receive a report within the next twelve months:

- 1 Looking how we can reform our procurement procedures and how these can be amended to require all companies bidding for council contracts to self-certify that they are fully tax-compliant in line with central government practice, this to apply to all contracts within practical limits.
- 2 How we can work with local government partners both in Greater Manchester and in our procurement partnerships to use procurement to reduce tax avoidance.

**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 5 (2017/18) published since the last ordinary meeting of the Council, providing four clear working days' notices has been given of the question.