

Geoff Little
Chief Executive

Our Ref JG
Your Ref C/JG
Date 1 September 2020
Contact Julie Gallagher
Direct Line 01612536640
E-mail Julie.Gallagher@bury.gov.uk
Web Site www.bury.gov.uk

Legal & Democratic Services
Division

TO: All Members of Council

Councillors : J Black, S Briggs, R Caserta, R.Cathcart, P Cropper, T Cummings, C Cummins, J Daly, I Gartside, R Gold, J Grimshaw, D Gunther, S Haroon, J Harris, M Hayes, T Holt, S Hurst, K Hussain, D Jones, N Jones, G Keeley, O Kersh, K Leach, J Mason, G McGill, A McKay, C Morris, B Mortenson, E O'Brien, T Pickstone, M Powell, A Quinn, T Rafiq, I Schofield, D Silbiger, A Simpson, L Smith, M Smith, S Smith, Sarah Southworth, Susan Southworth, T Tariq, C Tegolo, K Thomas, D.Vernon, R Walker, S Walmsley, C Walsh, M Whitby, S Wright and Y Wright

Dear Member/Colleague

Council

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

Date:	Wednesday, 9 September 2020
Place:	Microsoft Teams and Live Streamed on the Council's website
Time:	7.00 pm
Briefing Facilities:	If Opposition Members and Co-opted Members require briefing on any particular item on the Agenda, the appropriate Director/Senior Officer originating the related report should be contacted.
Notes:	

AGENDA

The Agenda for the meeting is attached.

Reports are enclosed only for those attending the meeting and for those without access to the Council's Intranet or Website.

The Agenda and Reports are available on the Council's Intranet for Councillors and Officers and also on the Council's Website at www.bury.gov.uk – click on **Agendas, Minutes and Forward Plan**.

Copies of printed reports can also be obtained on request by contacting the Democratic Services Officer named above.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G P Little".

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)

The minutes of the meeting held on 08th July 2020 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**

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.

5 **RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES** (Pages 11 - 40)

Committee/Date	Subject	Recommendation
Cabinet – 02 September 2020	Treasury Management Report	Approve the Treasury Management Review 2019/20 report; Approve the actual 2019/20 prudential and treasury indicators presented in the report; Commend the report to Full Council on 9 September 2020.
Cabinet – 02 September 2020	Appointments Update	Approve the changes to the Cabinet portfolio

6 **APPOINTMENT OF THE INTERIM SECTION 151 OFFICER** (Pages 41 - 44)

Report attached.

7 **REPORT ON SPECIAL URGENCY** (Pages 45 - 48)

Report attached.

8 **LEADER' STATEMENT AND MEMBER QUESTION TIME** (Pages 49 - 62)

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.

Questions and responses attached.

9 **COMBINED AUTHORITY REPORT AND QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL'S COMBINED AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES** (Pages 63 - 80)

(A) A report on the work of the Combined Authority is attached.

(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

Questions and responses attached.

10 **NOTICES OF MOTION**

(1) protecting the public's say in the planning process

A motion had been received and set out in the Summons in the names of:
Councillors M Powell, C Tegolo and S Wright

This Council notes:

- 1 The publication by Government of the White Paper, 'Planning for the Future' on 6 August 2020, which set out proposals on reforms to the planning process for the future.
- 2 That the vast majority of planning applications are given the go ahead by local authority planning committees, with permission granted to around 9 out of 10 applications.
- 3 That research by the Local Government Association has said that there are existing planning permissions for more than one million homes that have not yet been started.

This Council is concerned that the proposals seek to:

- 1 Reduce or remove the right of residents to object to applications near them.
- 2 Grant automatic rights for developers to build on land identified as 'for growth'.
- 3 Remove section 106 payments for infrastructure and their replacement with a national levy.

This Council Further Notes:

- 1 The Royal Institute for British Architects called the proposals 'shameful and which will do almost nothing to guarantee delivery of affordable, well-designed and sustainable homes'. RIBA also said that proposals could lead to the next generation of slum housing.
- 2 The reforms are opposed by the all-party Local Government Association, currently led by Conservative Councillors.

This Council Believes:

- 1 That existing planning procedures, as currently administered by our own team in Bury, allow for local democratic control over future development, and give local people a say in planning proposals that affect them.
- 2 That proposals for automatic rights to build in 'growth' areas, and increased permitted development rights, risk unregulated growth and unsustainable communities.
- 3 That local communities must be in the driving seat on shaping the future of their communities, and local determination of the planning framework and planning applications play an important part in this process.

This Council resolves to:

- 1 Take part in the consultation in the planning proposals, and to make representations against the proposals as outlined in this motion.
- 2 Write to and lobby both of our Members of Parliament, urging them to oppose these proposals and to circulate their replies to members.
3. Highlight its concerns over these proposals with the public and local residents.

(ii) Thank Our Key Workers Properly and Deliver Fair Funding for Bury Public Services

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

Councillors J Black, S Briggs, R Cathcart, A Cummings, C Cummins, R Gold, J Grimshaw, M Hayes, S Haroon, T Holt, D Jones, K Leach, G McGill, C Morris, B Mortenson, E O'Brien, A Quinn, T Rafiq, A Simpson, L Smith, S Smith, Sarah Southworth, Susan Southworth, T Tariq, K Thomas, S Walmsley, C Walsh and M Whitby

We the undersigned wholeheartedly thank our key workers, NHS staff and council employees for keeping essential services running throughout this pandemic. We thank many of our officers who have moved into different roles to support our communities and thank the trade unions for working with us to enable this.

We commend our care workers, who cared for our most vulnerable residents in the most difficult of circumstances. However, whilst we clapped our carers every

week during lockdown, many are still not fairly paid for the vital work they do. The Resolution Foundation estimates that half of all frontline care workers are not paid the Foundation Living Wage.

Bury Council currently has a projected budget deficit of £7m and this is likely to rise over the next five years to £77m as a direct result of Covid, loss of income to council services and additional cost pressures over the period of the pandemic. After 10 years of austerity and with £100m already cut from our budget, our financial position is extremely challenging.

This means that in Bury, we cannot afford to pay our own employees and our social care providers the real Living Wage. In order to do this, we would need an additional £11.4m over the next five years, with £5.6m needed in the first year.

As the government undertakes its Comprehensive Spending Review, we are calling on all parties to join our campaign to thank our key workers properly, protect their jobs and fight for fair funding so that we can afford to pay the real Living Wage. This would not only enable us to deliver high quality public services and value our staff, but deliver on our priorities for our borough. From creating jobs to improving our environment, investing in our roads and transforming health and social care, we will continue to be hamstrung by significant underfunding by national government if we are not funded fairly.

The Secretary of State promised to fund councils to 'do what it takes' in response to coronavirus, but we need more than just to cover our costs in this crisis. If we really want to build back better and level up, we need a fair settlement for Bury that empowers and enables our council and our communities to reach their potential.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- 1) Put on record our thanks to our key workers, NHS and Council staff
- 2) Thank our trade unions for their support and cooperation during the Coronavirus response
- 3) Write to the Secretary of State calling for all costs from Covid to be covered, as he promised, and fair funding for public services to be guaranteed
- 4) Demand that the costs of paying the real Living Wage be covered in future finance settlements for local authorities

(iii) Shop Safe, Shop Local

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

Councillors R Caserta, P Cropper, J Daly, I Gartside, D Gunther, J Harris, S Hurst, K Hussain, N Jones, G Keeley, O Kersh, I Schofield, D Silbiger, D Vernon, R Walker, and Y Wright

The Councils Notes:

Businesses on our high streets, business parks and markets operating throughout the Borough have suffered greatly as a result of COVID-19. Many of whom shut their doors and found ways to help out in the community during this difficult time. As things slowly return to normal, it's now time for Bury Council to give back to our local businesses to help get them back on their feet.

The Council has received £169,235 in funding from the Government's Reopening High Street Safety Fund. However, there are still too many barriers for people in visiting our high streets, such as parking charges and concerns surrounding the safety of paying a visit to our six townships of Prestwich, Whitefield, Radcliffe, Tottington, Ramsbottom and Bury.

As the restrictions lift slowly and we move back to a sense of normality we need to encourage residents to shop local. We need play our part in protecting Bury's prosperity and safeguarding local jobs. In doing this, we need to kick start our local economy.

The Council Resolves:

Bury Council to introduce the following measures to encourage residents to Shop Safe, Shop Local and support our high streets.

- 2 Hours Free Parking on weekdays and Saturdays, to encourage shoppers to visit our local high streets and help revive our local economy until January 31st, 2021
- The installation of contactless hand sanitization stations, to reassure people that our high streets are safe to visit.
- Support Bury Market day traders with a six month rent cash grant
- All market traders to receive an additional 3 month rent free period
- Multi-channel marketing campaign in promoting our six townships and Bury Market to encourage residents to Shop Safe, Shop Local

11 FOR INFORMATION * COUNCIL MOTION TRACKER (Pages 81 - 84)**

Report attached.

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

13 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).

14 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 ** 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 **

Minutes of: COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 8 July 2020

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor T Pickstone, in the Chair)
Councillors J Black, S Briggs, R Caserta, R.Cathcart, P Cropper, T Cummings, C Cummins, I Gartside, R Gold, J Grimshaw, D Gunther, S Haroon, J Harris, M Hayes, T Holt, S Hurst, K Hussain, D Jones, N Jones, G Keeley, O Kersh, K Leach, J Mason, G McGill, C Morris, B Mortenson, E O'Brien, M Powell, A Quinn, T Rafiq, I Schofield, D Silbiger, A Simpson, L Smith, M Smith, S Smith, Sarah Southworth, Susan Southworth, T Tariq, C Tegolo, K Thomas, D.Vernon, R Walker, S Walmsley, C Walsh, M Whitby, S Wright and Y Wright

Apologies for Absence A McKay

Public Attendance: Due to the Covid 19 pandemic and government guidance in respect of social distancing the meeting was held virtually. One member of the public had requested to join the meeting.

Before the start of the meeting the Mayor's Chaplain Rev Jez Hackett conducted prayers and held a moment of thought with Members of the Council present at the virtual meeting.

C. 1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were made at the meeting in relation to items on the agenda.

1. Councillor Quinn declared a personal interest as relatives worked for the NHS, CAB and he was a member of Unite.
2. Councillors Vernon, Hussain, Rafiq and Susan Southworth declared a personal interest in the Lib Dem motion as they owned rental properties.
3. Councillors L. Smith declared a personal interest in the Lib Dem motion as she owned a rental property and a relative worked for the NHS.
4. Councillor Black declared a personal interest as she was a member of Bury Met Arts Board.
5. Councillor D Jones declared a personal interest for the joint authority policing questions as he received a pension from GMP.
6. Councillor Whitby declared a personal interest in the Lib Dem motion as she owned a rental property and was a Member of a trade union.

Document Pack Page 2

7. Councillor Silberger declared a personal interest in the Lib Dem motion and would not be voting on it.

8. Councillor Simpson declared a personal interest on a motion as she was an NHS employee.

9. Councillor S. Wright declared a personal interest as a relative worked for a school in the Borough.

10. Councillor Leach declared a personal interest on a motion as she was an NHS employee.

11. Councillor Holt declared a personal interest on a motion as he was tenant in the private rented sector.

C. 2 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on the 20th May 2020 be signed by the Mayor as a true and correct record.

C. 3 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor was sad to report on the recent death of former Councillor, Barry Theckston and Mr Mervyn Magnall.

Former Councillor Theckston served as a Conservative Member on the Council in 1992 to 1996 and again in 1999 to 2012.

Mr Magnall was the driving force behind creating links between Bury and Woodbury in the US, a town established by a Bury resident Henry Wood in 1682 and named after the 'Wood family from Bury'. Mervyn's work led to the towns becoming twinned in 2007, for which he was later made an Honorary Life Citizen of Woodbury.

As a mark of respect, Members of Council observed a one minute silence.

The Mayor reported that a Council Officer had been awarded the prestigious Greater Manchester High Sheriff Special Recognition Award. Dominic Press, the Council's Senior Dispute Resolution Officer within Legal Services, had been recognised for his outstanding activity and contribution to the community during the coronavirus pandemic.

The Mayor was also pleased to report that two Bury voluntary groups had received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service: DCaff by Greenmount Village Community, a dementia friendly café, and Eagles Wings, a mutual support group for asylum seekers and local people. The award had also been received by local HIV charity, George House Trust, which the Mayor would be supporting as one of the charities in his Mayoral year.

The Mayor thanked all those Council staff who had been working during the current Covid 19 pandemic and councillors expressed their appreciation with a round applause held virtually.

C. 4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There had been no questions received in advance of the meeting however, one member of the public was in virtual attendance at the meeting and asked a verbal question.

The member of the public asked a question to the Leader of the Council and as this had not been submitted in advance within the required notice period, no supplementary question was permitted

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered By
1.	Concerns with Council finances and justification of transformation by the Leader.	Ms Judi Sheppard	Councillor E O'Brien

C. 5 RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES

No recommendations were reported.

C. 6 LEADER'S STATEMENT AND MEMBER QUESTION TIME

The Leader of the Council, Councillor O'Brien, made a statement on the work undertaken by himself and the Cabinet since the date of the last Council meeting.

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

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered by
1.	Exclude home and mobile based business from the discretionary funding?	Cllr Y Wright	Councillor O'Brien
2.	What support this Council has given to Bury businesses throughout lockdown, including how the discretionary grant fund has been used?	Cllr Richard Gold	Councillor Black
3.	Financial shortfall dealing with Covid 19 and how much will be covered by central government funding.	Cllr Sandra Walmsley	Councillor O'Brien
4.	The Councils plans regarding parking charges both in Bury Town Centre and across the townships.	Cllr N Jones	Councillor O'Brien

Document Pack Page 4

5.	How is the Council monitoring whether Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is available and being used in all care settings, including residential and domiciliary?	Cllr Powell	Councillor Simpson
6.	Support for rough sleepers during the Covid-19 crisis and what support is in place to help end homelessness once and for all?	Cllr Beth Mortenson	Cllr Cummins
7.	Black Lives Matter campaign and how the Council will support our black, Asian and minority ethnic communities across Bury.	Cllr Grimshaw	Cllr Rafiq
8.	Producing a Bury local plan.	Cllr Harris	Councillor O'Brien
9.	Highways Agency public consultation be further extended for the proposed M60 changes.	Cllr Tegolo	Cllr Lucy Smith

Due to the lack of time to answer questions 10 to 26 inclusive, the Chair gave an undertaking that copies of those questions and responses would be made available to all Councillors via the Council meeting page in the website.

The Council Constitution now allows each Councillor to ask one verbal question on the work of the Cabinet since the date of the last Council meeting, or on issues contained in the Leader's Statement.

The Chair asked Members to refrain from asking questions which they have submitted to this evenings meeting as a written question.

No.	Issue	Questioner	Answered by
1.	Agenda item 7 xvii the decision via EPG on the 29 th June- distribution of the remaining 25% infection prevention control grant to care at home (domiciliary care) and supported living providers.	Cllr Caserta	Councillor Simpson
2.	Leader's report Covid data, could this be explained and how it will impact in Bury.	Cllr Walsh	Councillor Simpson

3.	Bury Market discretionary grants and how other LA's in Greater Manchester are helping their markets.	Cllr N. Jones	Councillor Black
4.	Aero space job redundancies in the North West and the union campaign to safeguard these jobs.	Cllr A Quinn	Councillor O'Brien
5.	Shortage of housing stock.	Cllr Kersh	Councillor O'Brien
6.	Arts and culture for Government funding rescue package.	Cllr Thomas	Councillor Black

C. 7 REPORT ON SPECIAL URGENCY

It was moved by Councillor O' Brien and seconded by Councillor Tariq.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council noted the Executive Key Decisions that had been taken as urgent items and which were exempted from call-in.

C. 8 SCB COUNCIL VOTING REPORT

It was moved by Councillor O' Brien and seconded by Councillor Tariq.

RECOMMENDATION

(1)That Council approved the revised membership, voting and quoracy arrangements for the Strategic Commissioning Board as set out in the attached report to the Board on 8 June 2020; and

(2)That Council approved the revised Strategic Commissioning Board Terms of Reference.

C. 9 APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM MONITORING OFFICER

It was moved by Councillor Pickstone and seconded by Councillor O' Brien

RECOMMENDATION

That Janet Witkowski be designated as the Council's Interim Monitoring Officer and Council Solicitor with immediate effect until a new Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services is appointed.

C. 10 NOTICES OF MOTION

(i) COVID-19 Recovery

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

Councillors R Caserta, P Cropper, J Daly, I Gartside, D Gunther, J Harris, S Hurst, K Hussain, N Jones, G Keeley, O Kersh, I Schofield, D Silbiger, D Vernon, R Walker, and Y Wright

It was moved by Councillor N. Jones and seconded by Councillor Caserta that:-

This Council Notes:

COVID-19 has had an adverse effect on the communities here in Bury. This Council needs to place on record its thanks to the key workers, residents, businesses and organisations for going above and beyond. This Borough owes you a debt of gratitude. Now is the time to plan for the recovery phase, to support our residents and local businesses, in the changing need for public services.

Bury Council requires a plan to prepare and kickstart the economic recovery following the impact of COVID-19 and provide our residents and businesses with a strategic vision for the future. The plan should involve all stakeholders in order to develop the best possible forward plan for the council, our residents and businesses.

This Council resolves:

The Council therefore resolves to create "*The Bury MBC COVID-19 Recovery Plan*".

The Bury MBC COVID-19 Recovery Plan will focus on:

- Economic impact, recovery & growth for our high streets, Bury Market and businesses
- Residents - improving the skills-base to lift wages for lower income residents and adapt to the changing needs of local businesses
- Health and Social Care delivery
- Financial resilience and ensuring minimal waste of taxpayers' money to ensure money reaches frontline council services such as bins, highways and tackling flytipping which saw an increase over lockdown.
- Transformation of Bury MBC to ensure that we deliver services efficiently and more accessible to residents.
- A review in to the spatial framework and our environment - with an inevitable economic slowdown, there will be less of a need for housing. Lockdown has made us appreciate the environment we have around us and the council should recognise what we can do to enhance it to deliver health benefits for our residents.

Progress updates should be provided to the Joint Executive team on a weekly basis and the Cabinet as a standing item each month. A report will be presented at the September Full Council Meeting.

A cross-party working group will be established to monitor and track the progress of the recovery. The Group will remain in operation as long as there is a need for a recovery response to COVID-19. The plan will be evidence based and will closely monitor the impacts and the effectiveness of the responsiveness of Bury Council in a post-COVID world.

On being put, with 19 voting for, 28 voting against and with the Mayor abstaining, the Mayor declared the substantive motion lost.

(i) Securing a Fair Deal for Private Renters and Selective Licensing

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

Councillors M Powell, T Pickstone, C Tegolo and S Wright

It was moved by Councillor Tegolo and seconded by Councillor S Wright that:-

This Council notes :-

1. The significant contribution that private-rental property makes to the borough's housing market.
2. That poor housing management and low standards in the sector can lead to the failure of a local housing market. Low demand and antisocial behaviour can result in unsettled communities, along with other social and economic problems.
3. That private renters spend a higher proportion of their income on housing than with other tenures, and that moving costs can be prohibitively expensive, with high letting fees and large deposit requirements.
4. The impact that the Coronavirus pandemic has had on private renters, with recent research finding that 1 in 8 have fallen behind with housing costs due to lost income as a result of the crisis.
5. The potential of 'selective licensing', already successfully used by some of our neighbouring authorities such as Manchester and Oldham, requiring landlords in finite geographical areas to register with the Council enabling certain standards to be enforced.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. To give full consideration to introducing a selective licensing scheme in specific areas, such as in Prestwich, Radcliffe and East Bury, to tackle antisocial behaviour and support wider housing market renewal and regeneration and to help develop more sustainable communities.
2. That by the end of this calendar year, a report be brought to Overview and Scrutiny and then to Cabinet, reporting back on whether a selective licensing approach is appropriate for parts of Bury. The report should include:
 - a comprehensive assessment of privately rented accommodation in Bury
 - an update on criminality and antisocial behaviour and any link between this and the private rented sector
3. To continue to work with Six Town Housing, to address how the Council can help bring empty properties into use through assisting with private sector renting, in return for nomination rights.
4. To call on the Government to provide greater assistance for those private renters who are particularly struggling during the Coronavirus pandemic.

On being put, with 47 voting for, 0 voting against and with the Mayor abstaining, the Mayor declared the substantive motion carried.

(iii) Independent inquiry into the handling of coronavirus

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

Councillors J Black, S Briggs, R Cathcart, A Cummings, C Cummins, R Gold, J Grimshaw, M Hayes, S Haroon, T Holt, D Jones, K Leach, G McGill, C Morris, B Mortenson, E O'Brien, A Quinn, T Rafiq, A Simpson, L Smith, S Smith, Sarah Southworth, Susan Southworth, T Tariq, K Thomas, S Walmsley, C Walsh and M Whitby

It was moved by Councillor Morris and seconded by Councillor Simpson that:-

This Council notes :-

With sadness up to the 12th June 2020 there have been 228 deaths of Bury residents attributed to coronavirus. Our thoughts are with the families and friends of those that we have lost. We also wish to pay tribute to the hard work of our health and care staff, volunteers across Bury, local businesses and council officers. Our community has stepped up and stepped in when this government has abjectly failed to do so. Ten years of Conservative austerity, aided and abetted by the Liberal Democrats for five of those years, have seen the very institutions that have been at the forefront of this effort run down, yet still they responded magnificently.

Our local council, NHS and the voluntary and community sector, as well as local businesses have been at the forefront of the response to this devastating health crisis over the past months. They have supported the creation of community hubs that have brought together hundreds of local volunteers; they have been on the frontline in our hospitals, care homes and other health and care settings; they have donated to the food banks that are supplying much needed essentials to hard working local families; they have worked tirelessly and often with little recognition to keep council services running and got support to where it has been needed in the community; and they have manufactured or sourced PPE to support our frontline staff.

This crisis has brought out the best in community spirit, but while there is much to praise about the community response to COVID-19 this council believes that the Conservative government has systemically failed to manage the crisis from day one and has made vital errors in the handling of this crisis when it comes to national policy decisions.

We note with sadness that the UK has the highest death toll in Europe and these deaths will haunt this country for years. The failure of this Conservative administration to deal with the COVID crisis from day one is nothing short of a national scandal.

Critically, the government has failed to provide the reassurances needed to local government on funding. Local councils up and down the country face serious long-term financial harm as a result of coronavirus due to increased costs, lost revenue and a funding shortfall.

Here in Bury, the council is facing losses of £29 million. After a decade of cuts totalling over £102 million, this council, like many other councils nationwide cannot undertake more austerity without cutting further services and jobs that would push us to the brink of insolvency due to no fault of our own. The Secretary

Document Pack Page 9

of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government promised local councils "whatever it takes" but we are still waiting.

This government has also catastrophically failed our BAME communities. It was clear as the death toll was rising that this crisis was disproportionately affecting those from BAME backgrounds. The British Medical Association and other organisations called for an urgent investigation, but this was ignored and significantly delayed by the government. An investigation was eventually carried out belatedly, but the government then missed its own deadline for publishing the official review into the matter. A version of the report was then leaked, but with the recommendations buried, and now that the final report has been published the government is yet to confirm that it will be implementing all the recommendations.

In Bury, we are proud of our diverse communities, yet we know that those from religious minorities are more likely to be adversely affected by coronavirus. Recent ONS data show that Muslim men have the highest death rates among all religious groups, with Jewish men also recording a higher mortality rate. This council is shocked that in the face of such clear evidence, this government is not prioritising the protection and care of our BAME communities.

More broadly, it is clear that this government made fatal errors in the handling of the health and care response to this crisis. As the crisis was unfolding, the prime minister himself missed five Cobra meetings, missed eight calls with EU leaders, missed two opportunities to bulk buy PPE and ventilators with the EU and went on holiday for two weeks.

The government failed time upon time to recognise the urgent need for PPE, as well as the need to roll out a major testing programme. Tragically this government failed to learn the lessons of Exercise Cygnus in 2016. This was an exercise when a pandemic was simulated. Cygnus predicted the very failings of this government, they were forewarned but took no notice. It allowed mass events to go ahead like race meetings, concerts and football matches. It had the advantage of seeing what was unfolding in Europe but failed to act, failed to prepare, failed to protect its own citizens.

Then there is the scandal of care homes where our senior citizens were discharged from hospitals without being tested.

More recently, we have seen another missed deadline as the Health Secretary has admitted that the NHS contact tracing app will be scrapped in its current form with a new version in development for winter. The original release date was the end of May. On tracing and testing, this was abandoned on March 12th only for the PM to state in May that we would have a "world class" system in place for June 1st. This date now looks to have been pushed back to September.

These grotesque failings have hit public confidence in the government's handling of the crisis, but nothing has raised questions over the prime minister's ability to lead the country through this emergency than his abject failure to deal with his own special adviser who was found to have broken the lockdown rules. Dominic Cummings broke the rules, refused to apologise and yet he remains in a job. People across Bury have made significant personal sacrifices in order to follow the rules to protect themselves and others, but it is clear that there is one rule for us and another for the prime minister and his inner circle. This breaks down trust at

a time when trust in government, public figures and our national institutions is integral to the handling of this crisis.

We must learn from the lessons of COVID-19.

Therefore, this Council proposes that we should:

- 1) Call on the government to commission an independent inquiry into its handling of coronavirus and that;

This council resolves to:

- 1) Write to the prime minister to demand an independent inquiry into the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This inquiry should be wide ranging in scope bringing in evidence from national and international experts and local and community stakeholders. It should report back in a timely manner – we suggest before the end of this year – with clear recommendations on what the government needs to do to make amends for the mistakes made thus far, but importantly to ensure those same mistakes are not made again.

On being put, with 32 voting for, 15 voting against and with the Mayor abstaining, the Mayor declared the motion carried

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

There were no items reported.

C. 12 COMBINED AUTHORITY UPDATE

The Chair reported due to the lack of time this item could not be dealt with.

Councillor Gold who was a Council representative on the combined authority board would circulate copies of those questions raised along with the responses which would also be made available to all Councillors via the Council meeting page on the website.

C. 13 DELEGATED DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL COMMITTEES

No questions were asked on the delegated decisions made by the Regulatory Committees and Scrutiny Committees published since the last ordinary meeting of the Council.

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR

NOTE:

The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 10.16pm

REPORT FOR DECISION



DECISION OF:	The Cabinet/Council
DATE:	2 September 2020 9 September 2020
SUBJECT:	Treasury Management Review 2019/20
REPORT FROM:	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth
CONTACT OFFICER:	Mike Woodhead, Joint Chief Finance Officer
TYPE OF DECISION:	Council
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:	This paper is within the public domain
SUMMARY:	This report outlines the financial position and update on treasury management activity throughout 2019/20. The council is required by legislation to produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators. This report meets both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).
OPTIONS & RECOMMENDED OPTION	Cabinet is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the Treasury Management Review 2019/20 report; • Approve the actual 2019/20 prudential and treasury indicators presented in the report; • Commend the report to Full Council on 9 September 2020.
IMPLICATIONS:	
Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:	The proposals accord with the Policy Framework

Statement by Section 151 Officer:	There are no direct financial implications arising from the report however treasury management activity is a significant strategy within the Council's overall financial framework. The treasury management activity has been reflected and reported in the council's out turn position and also the draft Statement of Accounts.
Equality/Diversity implications:	No
Considered by Monitoring Officer:	Yes The report sets out the Council's statutory obligations under the Local Government Act 2003 to monitor its income and expenditure against its budget and the regulatory requirements to undertake regular reviews. There are no legal implications arising from the report.
Are there any legal implications?	No
Wards Affected:	All
Scrutiny Interest:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council is required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2019/20. This report meets the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management, (the Code), and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, (the Prudential Code).
- 1.2 During 2019/20 the minimum reporting requirements were that the full Council should receive the following reports:
- an annual treasury strategy in advance of the year (approved 20/02/2019);
 - a mid-year, (minimum), treasury update report (approved 22/01/2020);
 - an annual review following the end of the year describing the activity compared to the strategy, (this report).
- 1.3 In addition, this Council has received quarterly treasury management update reports on the following dates:-
- 12th September 2019
 - 21st November 2019
 - 11th February 2020

and which were received by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

- 1.4 The regulatory environment places responsibility on members for the review and scrutiny of treasury management policy and activities. This report is, therefore, important in that respect, as it provides details of the outturn position for treasury activities and highlights compliance with the Council's policies previously approved by members.
- 1.5 This Council confirms that it has complied with the requirement under the Code to give prior scrutiny to all of the above treasury management reports by Cabinet before they were reported to the full Council.

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 During 2019/20, the Council complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements. The key actual prudential and treasury indicators detailing the impact of capital expenditure activities during the year, with comparators, are as follows:

Actual Prudential and Treasury Indicators	2018/19 Actual	2019/20 Original	2019/20 Actual
	£m	£m	£m
Actual Capital Expenditure:			
Non-HRA	24.340	37.254	25.017
HRA	11.008	9.830	7.666
TOTAL	35.348	47.084	32.683
Capital Financing Requirement:			
Non-HRA	131.244	136.099	140.520
HRA	118.784	118.784	118.784
TOTAL	250.028	254.883	259.304
Gross Borrowing			
External Debt	202.856	221.307	216.174
Investments:			
Longer than 1 year	5.000	0.000	0.000
Under 1 year	9.760	7.503	29.410
TOTAL	14.760	7.503	29.410
NET BORROWING	188.096	213.804	186.764

- 2.2 As can be seen from the table above, the actual capital expenditure was less than the budget for 2019/20 that was presented to Cabinet and Full Council in February 2020 and was reflected in the Treasury Management Strategy report. The outturn position was significantly less than the £47.084m original capital budget for 2019/20 as approved by Full Council in February 2019.
- 2.3 During the year the capital programme saw some significant rephasing and budgets for projects that had slipped were carried forward and included in the 2020/21 capital programme. A full review of the capital strategy is planned for 2020/21 to better align capital to new corporate strategies and priorities.
- 2.4 Borrowing of £13.318m was undertaken during the year and was only undertaken for a capital purpose and the Joint Chief Finance Officer confirms that the statutory borrowing limit, (the authorised limit), was not breached.
- 2.5 The financial year 2019/20 continued the challenging investment environment of previous years, namely low investment returns.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Council has adopted the revised Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management 2017. The primary requirements of the code are:

- Creation and maintenance of a Treasury Management Policy Statement which sets out the objectives of the Council's treasury Management activities;
- Creation and maintenance of Treasury Management practices which set out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve those policies and objectives;
- Receipt by 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 covering activities during the previous year;
- 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. In Bury this is the Joint Chief Finance Officer;
- Delegation by the Council of the role of scrutiny of the Treasury Management Strategy and policies to a named specific body. In Bury this is Cabinet.

3.2 Treasury management in this context 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'.

3.3 This report therefore summarises:

- Capital activity during the year;
- Impact of this activity on the Council's underlying indebtedness, (the Capital Financing Requirement);
- The actual prudential and treasury indicators;
- Overall treasury position identifying how the Council has borrowed in relation to this indebtedness, and the impact on investment balances;
- Summary of interest rate movements in the year;
- Detailed debt activity; and
- Detailed investment activity.

4 CURRENT POSITION

The Council's Capital Expenditure and Financing during 2019/20

4.1 The Council undertakes capital expenditure on long-term assets. These activities may either be:

- Financed immediately through the application of capital or revenue resources (capital receipts, capital grants, revenue contributions etc.), which has no resultant impact on the Council's borrowing need; or

- If insufficient financing is available, or a decision is taken not to apply resources, the capital expenditure will give rise to a borrowing need.

4.2 The actual capital expenditure forms one of the required prudential indicators. The table below shows the actual capital expenditure and how this was financed. As can be seen from the table, the actual capital expenditure is less than the revised budget position. The revised budget was based on Quarter 3 monitoring position. Capital expenditure was less in year due to schemes slipping and being carried forward into the next financial year. This includes ICT projects, education schemes and property related schemes. All prudential indicators in the report are based on this revised budget.

	2018/19 Actual	2019/20 Budget	2019/20 Actual
	£M	£M	£M
Capital Expenditure:			
Non-HRA	24.340	37.254	25.017
HRA	11.008	9.830	7.666
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	35.348	47.084	32.683
Resourced By:			
Capital Receipts	1.749	0.783	1.931
Capital Grants	15.949	23.787	11.772
HRA	9.091	11.190	7.136
Revenue	5.608	0.000	2.568
Unfinanced capital expenditure	2.951	11.323	9.276

The Council's Overall Borrowing Need

- 4.3 The Council's underlying need to borrow for capital expenditure is termed the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This figure is a gauge of the Council's indebtedness. The CFR results from the capital activity of the Council and resources used to pay for the capital spend. It represents the 2019/20 unfinanced capital expenditure (see above table), and prior years' net or unfinanced capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for by revenue or other resources.
- 4.4 Part of the Council's treasury activities is to address the funding requirements for this borrowing need. Depending on the capital expenditure programme, the treasury service organises the Council's cash position to ensure that sufficient cash is available to meet the capital plans and cash flow requirements. This may be sourced through borrowing from external bodies, (such as the Government, through the Public Works Loan Board [PWLB], or the money markets), or utilising temporary cash resources within the Council.
- 4.5 **Reducing the CFR** – the Council's (non HRA) underlying borrowing need (CFR) is not allowed to rise indefinitely. Statutory controls are in place to ensure that capital assets are broadly charged to revenue over the life of the asset. The Council is required to make an annual revenue charge, called the Minimum Revenue Provision – MRP, to reduce the CFR. This is effectively a repayment of the non-Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

borrowing need, (there is no statutory requirement to reduce the HRA CFR). This differs from the treasury management arrangements which ensure that cash is available to meet capital commitments. External debt can also be borrowed or repaid at any time, but this does not change the CFR.

- 4.6 The total CFR can also be reduced by:
- the application of additional capital financing resources, (such as unapplied capital receipts); or
 - charging more than the statutory revenue charge (MRP) each year through a Voluntary Revenue Provision (VRP).
- 4.7 The Council’s 2019/20 MRP Policy, (as required by MHCLG Guidance), was approved as part of the Treasury Management Strategy Report for 2019/20 on 20/02/2019 and updated at Full Council on 26 February 2020.
- 4.8 The Council’s CFR for the year is shown below, and represents a key prudential indicator. It includes PFI and leasing schemes on the balance sheet, which increase the Council’s borrowing need. No borrowing is actually required against these schemes as a borrowing facility is included in the contract (if applicable).

Capital Financing Requirement (Non HRA)	31st March 2019 Actual	31st March 2020 Budget	31st March 2020 Actual
	£M	£M	£M
Opening balance	128.293	128.754	131.244
Add unfinanced capital expenditure	6.517	11.323	9.276
Less MRP/VRP*	(2.752)	(3.168)	(0.478)
Less PFI & finance lease repayments	(0.814)	(0.809)	(0.853)
Closing balance	131.244	136.099	139.189

Capital Financing Requirement (HRA)	31st March 2019 Actual	31st March 2020 Budget	31st March 2020 Actual
	£M	£M	£M
Opening balance	118.784	118.784	118.784
Add unfinanced capital expenditure	0	0	0
Less MRP/VRP*	0	0	0
Less PFI & finance lease repayments	0	0	0
Closing balance	118.784	118.784	118.784

* Includes voluntary application of capital receipts

- 4.9 Borrowing activity is constrained by prudential indicators for gross borrowing and the CFR, and by the authorised limit.
- 4.10 **Gross borrowing and the CFR** - in order to ensure that borrowing levels are prudent over the medium term and only for a capital purpose, the Council should ensure that its gross external borrowing does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of the capital financing requirement in the preceding year (2019/20) plus the estimates of any additional capital

financing requirement for the current (2020/21) and next two financial years.

4.11 This essentially means that the Council is not borrowing to support revenue expenditure. This indicator allowed the Council some flexibility to borrow in advance of its immediate capital needs in 2019/20. The table below highlights the Council’s gross borrowing position against the CFR. The Council has complied with this prudential indicator.

	31st March Actual £M	31st March Budget £M	31st March Actual £M
Gross borrowing position	202.856	221.307	216.174
CFR	250.028	254.883	259.304
Under / over funding of CFR	(47.172)	(33.577)	(43.130)

4.12 The above tables shows the position as at 31 March 2020 for the Council’s gross borrowing position. This shows in comparison to the revised budget position:

	31st December 2019 Revised Budget £M
Gross borrowing position	215.203
CFR	259.866
Under / over funding of CFR	(44.663)

4.13 The authorised limit - the authorised limit is the “affordable borrowing limit” required by s3 of the Local Government Act 2003. Once this has been set, the Council does not have the power to borrow above this level. The table below demonstrates that during 2019/20 the Council has maintained gross borrowing within its authorised limit.

4.14 **The operational boundary** – the operational boundary is the expected borrowing position of the Council during the year. Periods where the actual position is either below or over the boundary are acceptable subject to the authorised limit not being breached.

4.15 Actual financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream - this indicator identifies the trend in the cost of capital, (borrowing and other long term obligation costs net of investment income), against the net revenue stream.

	2019/20 £M
Authorised limit	309.300
Maximum gross borrowing position during the year	215.994
Operational boundary	274.300
Average gross borrowing position	196.224

Financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream:-	
Non - HRA	2.93%
HRA	15.92%

4.16 As can be seen from the table above, the gross borrowing position is well within the Authorised limit and the Operational Boundary. The difference between the two reflects the Council's under borrowed position.

The Council's Debt and Investment Position

4.17 The Council's treasury management debt and investment position is organised by the treasury management service in order to ensure adequate liquidity for revenue and capital activities, security for investments and to manage risks within all treasury management activities. Procedures and controls to achieve these objectives are well established both through member reporting detailed in the summary, and through officer activity detailed in the Council's Treasury Management Practices.

4.18 At the end of 2019/20 the Council's treasury, (excluding borrowing by PFI and finance leases), position was as follows:

	31st March 2019			31st March 2020		
	Principal		Avg. Rate	Principal		Avg. Rate
	£M	£M		£M	£M	
Fixed rate funding						
PWLB Bury	139.253			134.071		
PWLB Airport	11.828			11.828		
Market Bury	44.272	195.353		49.272	195.171	
Variable rate funding						
PWLB Bury						
Market Bury		0.000			0.000	
Temporary Loans / Bonds	7.503	7.503		21.003	21.003	
Total Debt		202.856	3.95%		216.174	3.70%
Capital Financing Requirement		250.028			259.304	
Over/ (under) borrowing		(47.172)			(43.130)	
Total Investments		14.760	0.66%		29.410	0.61%
Net Debt		188.096			186.764	

4.19 The maturity structure of the debt portfolio was as follows:

Maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing	2018/19 Actual £M	2018/19 Actual %	2019/20 Actual £M	2019/20 Actual %
Under 12 months	17.680	8.72%	22.187	10.26%
12 months and within 24 months	1.000	0.49%	5.000	2.31%

24 months and within 5 years	8.000	3.94%	8.000	3.70%
5 years and within 10 years	0.550	0.27%	5.550	2.57%
10 years and within 15 years	26.000	12.82%	26.000	12.03%
15 years and over	149.626	73.76%	149.437	69.13%
Total Debt	202.856	1.00	216.174	1.00

	Investment at 31/03/19 £M	Amount Invested in year £M	Investments realised in year £M	Balance at 31/03/20 £M
Fixed Rate Investments				
GMCA	5.000		(5.000)	0.000
Total - Fixed rate	5.000	0.000	(5.000)	0.000
Notice Accounts				
Barclays Bank - 32 day Notice account	1.000			1.000
Barclays Bank - 95 day Notice account	0.250			0.250
Lloyds - 32 day Notice account	0.000	6.000	(3.000)	3.000
Santander - 92 day Notice account	1.100	4.000	(4.100)	1.000
Total - Notice accounts	2.350	10.000	(7.100)	5.250
Call Accounts				
Barclays Bank - Flexible Interest Bearing Current Account	7.060	220.270	(203.170)	24.160
Bank of Scotland - Call Account	0.350	80.700	(81.050)	0.000
Total Investments	14.760	310.970	(296.320)	29.410

4.20 Key features of the debt and investment position are:

- Over the course of the year, investments have increased by £16.650m. The large increase in investments related to borrowing completed during the year in line with Council's Treasury Management strategy, additional government grants received in March 2020 to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic and an upfront payment for grant in lieu of business rates for 2020/21 that was also received in March 2020.
- The average rate of return on investments with financial institutions was 0.60% compared to 0.66% in the previous 2018/19 year.

Investment strategy and control of interest rate risk

4.21 Investment returns remained low during 2019/20. The expectation for interest rates within the treasury management strategy for 2019/20 was that Bank Rate would stay at 0.75% during 2019/20 as it was not expected that the MPC would be able to deliver on an increase in Bank Rate until the Brexit issue was finally settled. However, there was an expectation that Bank Rate would rise after that issue was settled, but would only rise to 1.0% during 2020.

4.22 Rising concerns over the possibility that the UK could leave the EU at the end of October 2019 caused longer term investment rates to be on a falling trend for most of April to September. They then rose after the end of October deadline was rejected by the Commons but fell back again in

January before recovering again after the 31 January departure of the UK from the EU. When the coronavirus outbreak hit the UK in February/March, rates initially plunged but then rose sharply back up again due to a shortage of liquidity in financial markets. As longer term rates were significantly higher than shorter term rates during the year, value was therefore sought by placing longer term investments where cash balances were sufficient to allow this.

4.23 Whilst the Council has taken a cautious approach to investing, it is also fully appreciative of changes to regulatory requirements for financial institutions in terms of additional capital and liquidity that came about in the aftermath of the financial crisis. These requirements have provided a far stronger basis for financial institutions, with annual stress tests by regulators evidencing how institutions are now far more able to cope with extreme stressed market and economic conditions.

4.24 The table below shows the interest rate forecast as at mid-year 2019/20:

Link Asset Services Interest Rate View 11.11.19													
	Mar-20	Jun-20	Sep-20	Dec-20	Mar-21	Jun-21	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23
Bank Rate View	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
3 Month LIBID	0.70	0.70	0.80	0.90	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.10	1.20	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.30
6 Month LIBID	0.80	0.80	0.90	1.00	1.10	1.10	1.20	1.30	1.40	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
12 Month LIBID	1.00	1.00	1.10	1.20	1.30	1.30	1.40	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.70	1.70	1.70
5yr PWLB Rate	2.40	2.40	2.50	2.50	2.60	2.70	2.80	2.90	2.90	3.00	3.10	3.20	3.20
10yr PWLB Rate	2.70	2.70	2.70	2.80	2.90	3.00	3.10	3.20	3.20	3.30	3.30	3.40	3.50
25yr PWLB Rate	3.30	3.40	3.40	3.50	3.60	3.70	3.70	3.80	3.90	4.00	4.00	4.10	4.10
50yr PWLB Rate	3.20	3.30	3.30	3.40	3.50	3.60	3.60	3.70	3.80	3.90	3.90	4.00	4.00

Borrowing strategy and control of interest rate risk

4.25 During 2019-20, the Council maintained an under-borrowed position. This meant that the capital borrowing need, (the Capital Financing Requirement), was not fully funded with loan debt, as cash supporting the Council’s reserves, balances and cash flow was used as an interim measure. This strategy was prudent as investment returns were low and minimising counterparty risk on placing investments also needed to be considered.

4.26 The policy of avoiding new borrowing by running down spare cash balances, has served well over the last few years. However, this was kept under review to avoid incurring higher borrowing costs in the future when this authority may not be able to avoid new borrowing to finance capital expenditure and/or the refinancing of maturing debt.

4.27 Against this background and the risks within the economic forecast, caution was adopted with the treasury operations. The Joint Chief Finance Officer therefore monitored interest rates in financial markets and adopted a pragmatic strategy based upon the following principles to manage interest rate risks (please adapt this outline to what you actually did in the year):

- if it had been felt that there was a significant risk of a sharp FALL in long and short term rates, (e.g. due to a marked increase of risks around relapse into recession or of risks of deflation), then long term borrowings

would have been postponed, and potential rescheduling from fixed rate funding into short term borrowing would have been considered.

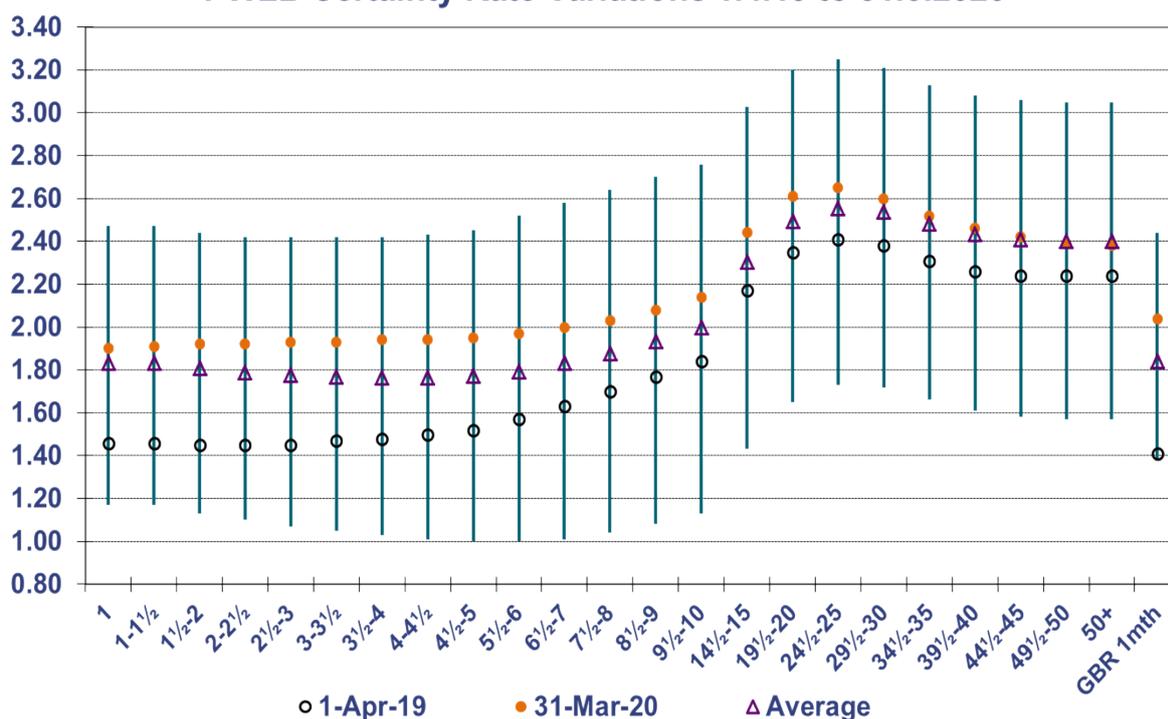
- if it had been felt that there was a significant risk of a much sharper RISE in long and short term rates than initially expected, perhaps arising from an acceleration in the start date and in the rate of increase in central rates in the USA and UK, an increase in world economic activity or a sudden increase in inflation risks, then the portfolio position would have been re-appraised. Most likely, fixed rate funding would have been drawn whilst interest rates were lower than they were projected to be in the next few years.

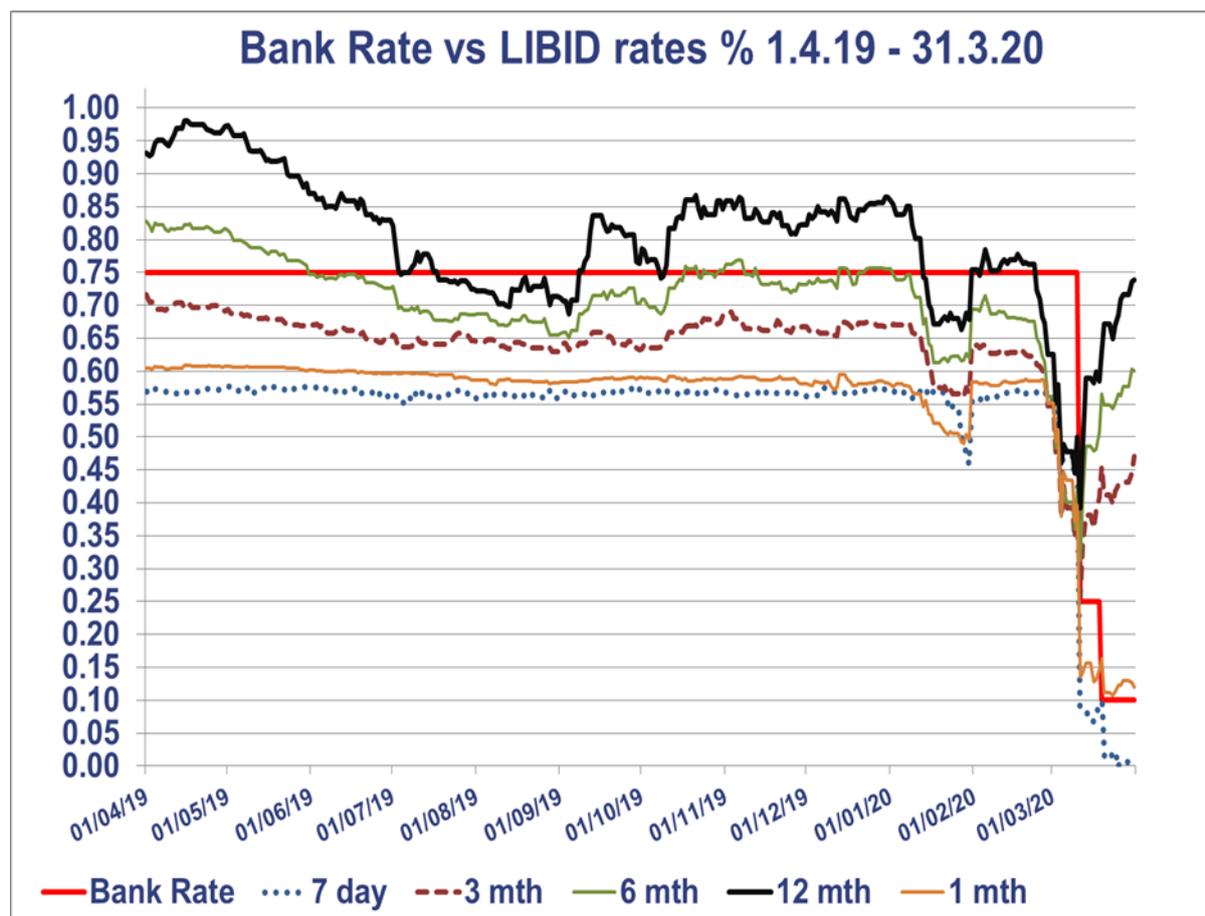
4.28 Interest rate forecasts expected only gradual rises in medium and longer term fixed borrowing rates during 2019/20 and the two subsequent financial years. Variable, or short-term rates, were expected to be the cheaper form of borrowing over the period.

4.29 the information below and in the graphs and Appendices 2 and 3 show PWLB rates for a selection of maturity periods, the average borrowing rates, the high and low points in rates, spreads and individual rates and the end of the financial year.

	1 Year	5 Year	10 Year	25 Year	50 Year
01/04/2019	1.46%	1.52%	1.84%	2.41%	2.24%
31/03/2020	1.90%	1.95%	2.14%	2.65%	2.39%
Low	1.17%	1.00%	1.13%	1.73%	1.57%
Date	03/09/2019	08/10/2019	03/09/2019	03/09/2019	03/09/2019
High	2.47%	2.45%	2.76%	3.25%	3.05%
Date	21/10/2019	19/03/2020	19/03/2020	19/03/2020	31/12/2019
Average	1.83%	1.77%	2.00%	2.56%	2.40%

PWLB Certainty Rate Variations 1.4.19 to 31.3.2020





4.30 PWLB rates are based on, and are determined by, gilt (UK Government bonds) yields through H.M.Treasury determining a specified margin to add to gilt yields. There was much speculation during the second half of 2019 that bond markets were in a bubble which was driving bond prices up and yields down to historically very low levels. The context for that was heightened expectations that the US could have been heading for a recession in 2020, and a general background of a downturn in world economic growth, especially due to fears around the impact of the trade war between the US and China, together with inflation generally at low levels in most countries and expected to remain subdued; these conditions were conducive to very low bond yields.

4.31 While inflation targeting by the major central banks has been successful over the last 30 years in lowering inflation expectations, the real equilibrium rate for central rates has fallen considerably due to the high level of borrowing by consumers: this means that central banks do not need to raise rates as much now to have a major impact on consumer spending, inflation, etc.

4.32 This has pulled down the overall level of interest rates and bond yields in financial markets over the last 30 years. We have therefore seen, over the last year, many bond yields up to 10 years in the Eurozone turn negative. In addition, there has, at times, been an inversion of bond yields in the US

whereby 10 year yields have fallen below shorter term yields. In the past, this has been a precursor of a recession. The other side of this coin is that bond prices are elevated as investors would be expected to be moving out of riskier assets i.e. shares, in anticipation of a downturn in corporate earnings and so selling out of equities.

- 4.33 Gilt yields were on a generally falling trend during the last year up until the coronavirus crisis hit western economies. Since then, gilt yields have fallen sharply to unprecedented lows as investors have panicked in selling shares in anticipation of impending recessions in western economies, and moved cash into safe haven assets i.e. government bonds. However, major western central banks also started quantitative easing purchases of government bonds which will act to maintain downward pressure on government bond yields at a time when there is going to be a huge and quick expansion of government expenditure financed by issuing government bonds; (this would normally cause bond yields to rise). At the close of the day on 31 March, all gilt yields from 1 to 5 years were between 0.12 – 0.20% while even 25-year yields were at only 0.83%.
- 4.34 However, HM Treasury has imposed two changes in the margins over gilt yields for PWLB rates in 2019-20 without any prior warning; the first on 9 October 2019, added an additional 1% margin over gilts to all PWLB rates. That increase was then partially reversed for some forms of borrowing on 11 March 2020, at the same time as the Government announced in the Budget a programme of increased spending on infrastructure expenditure. It also announced that there would be a consultation with local authorities on possibly further amending these margins; this ends on 4 June. It is clear that the Treasury intends to put a stop to local authorities borrowing money from the PWLB to purchase commercial property if the aim is solely to generate an income stream.
- 4.35 Following the changes on 11 March 2020 in margins over gilt yields, the current situation is as follows: -
- PWLB Standard Rate is gilt plus 200 basis points (G+200bps)
 - PWLB Certainty Rate is gilt plus 180 basis points (G+180bps)
 - PWLB HRA Standard Rate is gilt plus 100 basis points (G+100bps)
 - PWLB HRA Certainty Rate is gilt plus 80bps (G+80bps)
 - Local Infrastructure Rate is gilt plus 60bps (G+60bps)
- 4.36 There is likely to be little upward movement in PWLB rates over the next two years as it will take national economies a prolonged period to recover all the momentum they will lose in the sharp recession that will be caused during the coronavirus shut down period. Inflation is also likely to be very low during this period and could even turn negative in some major western economies during 2020-21.

5 BORROWING OUTTURN 2019/20

Treasury Borrowing

- 5.1 The Council borrowed £5m from PWLB in September 2019. The borrowing was undertaken when the market rates reached the Council's internal

trigger points. This ensure borrowing was undertaken at the optimum point to minimise future costs, securing good value for money. In line with the treasury management strategy, short term borrowing was used for further borrowing during the year rather than more expensive longer term loans.

	Balance at 31/03/19 £M	Loans raised £M	Loans repaid £M	Balance at 31/03/20 £M
PWLB	139.253	5.000	(10.182)	134.071
Market	44.272	5.000		49.272
Temporary Loans	7.500	21.000	(7.500)	21.000
Other loans	0.003			0.003
Bury MBC Debt	191.028	31.000	(17.682)	204.346
Airport PWLB Debt	11.828			11.828
Total Debt	202.856	31.000	(17.682)	216.174

Debt Rescheduling

5.2 No rescheduling was done during the year as the average 1% differential between PWLB new borrowing rates and premature repayment rates made rescheduling unviable.

Borrowing in advance of need

5.3 The Council has not borrowed more than, or in advance of its needs, purely in order to profit from the investment of the extra sums borrowed.

Repayment of Debt

5.4 During 2019/20 the Council repaid £17.682m at an average rate of 2.33%.

Summary of debt transactions

5.5 Management of the debt portfolio resulted in a fall in the average interest rate of 0.24%.

6 Investment Outturn

Investment Policy

6.1 The Council's investment policy is governed by MHCLG investment guidance, which has been implemented in the annual investment strategy approved by the Council on 20/02/2019. This policy sets out the approach for choosing investment counterparties, and is based on credit ratings provided by the three main credit rating agencies, supplemented by additional market data, (such as rating outlooks, credit default swaps, bank share prices etc.).

6.2 The investment activity during the year conformed to the approved strategy, and the Council had no liquidity difficulties.

Resources

6.3 The Council's cash balances comprise revenue and capital resources and cash flow monies. The Council's core cash resources comprised as follows:

Balance Sheet Resources	31 March 2019	31 March 2020
-------------------------	------------------	------------------

	£M	£M
Balances General Fund	7.703	6.990
Balances HRA	6.970	8.393
Earmarked reserves	32.551	52.626
Provisions	40.094	13.996
Usable capital receipts	5.415	6.974
Total	92.733	88.979

Investments as at 31 March 2020

6.4 The Council managed all of its investments in house with the institutions listed in the Council's approved lending list. At the end of the financial year the Council had £29.410m of investments as follows:

Type	Institution	Amount	Term	Rate
		£M	Days	%
Call Accounts	Barclays Bank	24.160	0	0.43%
Total Call Accounts		24.160		
Notice Accounts	Barclays Bank	1.000	32	0.72%
	Barclays Bank	0.250	95	0.92%
	Lloyds Bank	3.000	32	0.81%
	Santander	1.000	92	0.75%
Total Notice Accounts		5.250		
Total Investments		29.410		

6.5 The Council maintained an average balance of £16.375m of internally managed funds and earned an average rate of return of 0.60%. The comparable performance indicator is the average 7 day LIBID rate which was 0.63%.

7 THE ECONOMY AND INTEREST RATES

UK. Brexit

7.1 The main issue in 2019 was the repeated battles in the House of Commons to agree on one way forward for the UK over the issue of Brexit. This resulted in the resignation of Theresa May as the leader of the Conservative minority Government and the election of Boris Johnson as the new leader, on a platform of taking the UK out of the EU on 31 October 2019. The House of Commons duly frustrated that renewed effort and so a general election in December settled the matter once and for all by a decisive victory for the Conservative Party: that then enabled the UK to leave the EU on 31 January 2020. However, this still leaves much uncertainty as to whether there will be a reasonable trade deal achieved by the target deadline of the end of 2020. It is also unclear as to whether the coronavirus outbreak may yet

impact on this deadline; however, the second and third rounds of negotiations have already had to be cancelled due to the virus.

Economic growth

- 7.2 in 2019 has been very volatile with quarter 1 unexpectedly strong at 0.5%, quarter 2 dire at -0.2%, quarter 3 bouncing back up to +0.5% and quarter 4 flat at 0.0%, +1.1% y/y. 2020 started with optimistic business surveys pointing to an upswing in growth after the ending of political uncertainty as a result of the decisive result of the general election in December settled the Brexit issue. However, the three monthly GDP statistics in January were disappointing, being stuck at 0.0% growth. Since then, the whole world has changed as a result of the coronavirus outbreak. It now looks likely that the closedown of whole sections of the economy will result in a fall in GDP of at least 15% in quarter two. What is uncertain, however, is the extent of the damage that will be done to businesses by the end of the lock down period, when the end of the lock down will occur, whether there could be a second wave of the outbreak, how soon a vaccine will be created and then how quickly it can be administered to the population. This leaves huge uncertainties as to how quickly the economy will recover.
- 7.3 After the Monetary Policy Committee raised Bank Rate from 0.5% to 0.75% in August 2018, Brexit uncertainty caused the MPC to sit on its hands and to do nothing until March 2020; at this point it was abundantly clear that the coronavirus outbreak posed a huge threat to the economy of the UK. Two emergency cuts in Bank Rate from 0.75% occurred in March, first to 0.25% and then to 0.10%. These cuts were accompanied by an increase in quantitative easing (QE), essentially the purchases of gilts (mainly) by the Bank of England of £200bn. The Government and the Bank were also very concerned to stop people losing their jobs during this lock down period. Accordingly, the Government introduced various schemes to subsidise both employed and self-employed jobs for three months while the country is locked down. It also put in place a raft of other measures to help businesses access loans from their banks, (with the Government providing guarantees to the banks against losses), to tide them over the lock down period when some firms may have little or no income. However, at the time of writing, this leaves open a question as to whether some firms will be solvent, even if they take out such loans, and some may also choose to close as there is, and will be, insufficient demand for their services. At the time of writing, this is a rapidly evolving situation so there may be further measures to come from the Bank and the Government in April and beyond. The measures to support jobs and businesses already taken by the Government will result in a huge increase in the annual budget deficit in 2020/21 from 2%, to nearly 11%. The ratio of debt to GDP is also likely to increase from 80% to around 105%. In the Budget in March, the Government also announced a large increase in spending on infrastructure; this will also help the economy to recover once the lock down is ended. Provided the coronavirus outbreak is brought under control relatively swiftly, and the lock down is eased, then it is hoped that there would be a sharp recovery, but one that would take a prolonged time to fully recover previous lost momentum.

Inflation

- 7.4 Inflation has posed little concern for the MPC during the last year, being mainly between 1.5 – 2.0%. It is also not going to be an issue for the near future as the world economy will be heading into a recession which is already causing a glut in the supply of oil which has fallen sharply in price. Other prices will also be under downward pressure while wage inflation has also been on a downward path over the last half year and is likely to continue that trend in the current environment. While inflation could even turn negative in the Eurozone, this is currently not likely in the UK.

Employment

- 7.5 Employment had been growing healthily through the last year but it is obviously heading for a big hit in March – April 2020. The good news over the last year is that wage inflation has been significantly higher than CPI inflation which means that consumer real spending power had been increasing and so will have provided support to GDP growth. However, while people cannot leave their homes to do non-food shopping, retail sales will also take a big hit.

USA

- 7.6 Growth in quarter 1 of 2019 was strong at 3.1% but growth fell back to 2.0% in quarter 2 and 2.1% in quarters 3 and 4. The slowdown in economic growth resulted in the Fed cutting rates from 2.25-2.50% by 0.25% in each of July, September and October. Once coronavirus started to impact the US in a big way, the Fed took decisive action by cutting rates twice by 0.50%, and then 1.00%, in March, all the way down to 0.00 – 0.25%. Near the end of March, Congress agreed a \$2trn stimulus package (worth about 10% of GDP) and new lending facilities announced by the Fed which could channel up to \$6trn in temporary financing to consumers and firms over the coming months. Nearly half of the first figure is made up of permanent fiscal transfers to households and firms, including cash payments of \$1,200 to individuals.
- 7.7 The loans for small businesses, which convert into grants if firms use them to maintain their payroll, will cost \$367bn and 100% of the cost of lost wages for four months will also be covered. In addition there will be \$500bn of funding from the Treasury's Exchange Stabilization Fund which will provide loans for hard-hit industries, including \$50bn for airlines.
- 7.8 However, all this will not stop the US falling into a sharp recession in quarter 2 of 2020; some estimates are that growth could fall by as much as 40%. The first two weeks in March of initial jobless claims have already hit a total of 10 million and look headed for a total of 15 million by the end of March.

Eurozone

- 7.9 The annual rate of GDP growth has been steadily falling, from 1.8% in 2018 to only 0.9% y/y in quarter 4 in 2019. The European Central Bank (ECB) ended its programme of quantitative easing purchases of debt in December 2018, which meant that the central banks in the US, UK and EU had all ended the phase of post financial crisis expansion of liquidity supporting world financial markets by purchases of debt. However, the downturn in EZ growth, together with inflation falling well under the upper limit of its target range of 0 to 2%, (but it aims to keep it near to 2%), prompted the

ECB to take new measures to stimulate growth. At its March 2019 meeting it announced a third round of TLTROs; this provided banks with cheap two year maturity borrowing every three months from September 2019 until March 2021. However, since then, the downturn in EZ and world growth has gathered momentum so at its meeting in September 2019, it cut its deposit rate further into negative territory, from -0.4% to -0.5% and announced a resumption of quantitative easing purchases of debt to start in November at €20bn per month, a relatively small amount, plus more TLTRO measures. Once coronavirus started having a major impact in Europe, the ECB took action in March 2020 to expand its QE operations and other measures to help promote expansion of credit and economic growth. What is currently missing is a coordinated EU response of fiscal action by all national governments to protect jobs, support businesses directly and promote economic growth by expanding government expenditure on e.g. infrastructure; action is therefore likely to be patchy.

China

- 7.10 Economic growth has been weakening over successive years, despite repeated rounds of central bank stimulus; medium-term risks have also been increasing. The major feature of 2019 was the trade war with the US. However, this has been eclipsed by being the first country to be hit by the coronavirus outbreak; this resulted in a lock down of the country and a major contraction of economic activity in February-March 2020. While it appears that China has put a lid on the virus by the end of March, these are still early days to be confident and it is clear that the economy is going to take some time to recover its previous rate of growth. Ongoing economic issues remain, in needing to make major progress to eliminate excess industrial capacity and to switch investment from property construction and infrastructure to consumer goods production. It also needs to address the level of non-performing loans in the banking and credit systems.

Japan

- 7.11 Japan has been struggling to stimulate consistent significant GDP growth and to get inflation up to its target of 2%, despite huge monetary and fiscal stimulus. It is also making little progress on fundamental reform of the economy. It appears to have missed much of the domestic impact from coronavirus in 2019-20 but the virus is at an early stage there.

World Growth

- 7.12 The trade war between the US and China on tariffs was a major concern to financial markets and was depressing worldwide growth during 2019, as any downturn in China would spill over into impacting countries supplying raw materials to China. Concerns were particularly focused on the synchronised general weakening of growth in the major economies of the world. These concerns resulted in government bond yields in the developed world falling significantly during 2019. In 2020, coronavirus is the big issue which is going to sweep around the world and have a major impact in causing a world recession in growth in 2020.

8 OTHER KEY ISSUES

International Financial reporting Standards (IFRS) 9 – Financial Instruments

- 8.1 Following the consultation undertaken by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, [MHCLG], on IFRS9 the Government has introduced a mandatory statutory override for local authorities to reverse out all unrealised fair value movements resulting from pooled investment funds. This will be effective from 1 April 2018 for 2018/19. The statutory override applies for five years from this date. Local authorities are required to disclose the net impact of the unrealised fair value movements in a separate unusable reserve throughout the duration of the override in order for the Government to keep the override under review and to maintain a form of transparency.

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) 16 - Leases

- 8.2 IFRS 16 should have been introduced for Local Authorities from 1 April 2020 which meant that the annual accounts for 2020/21 were to be the first set of accounts produced in accordance with this standard. The Code Of Practice on Local Authority Accounting requires the Council to disclose information relating to the impact of an accounting change required by a new standard that has been issued but not yet adopted by the 2019/20 Code as a note in the 2019/20 accounts. Therefore, the Treasury team has been looking at the impact of the standard on the Council's treasury indicators that would be included in the Treasury Management Strategy 2020/21.
- 8.3 However, due to Covid-19 and the additional pressure local authorities are facing, on 20 March 2020, the Financial Reporting Advisory Board (FRAB) announced the deferral of International Financial Reporting Standard 16 implementation to 2021/22.

9 CONSULTATION

- 9.1 There has been consultation with Link Asset Services, Treasury Management Advisers.
- 9.2 The presentation of the Treasury Management Review 019/20 to Cabinet for scrutiny is in compliance with the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice. The report will be present to Full Council in September for approval.

10 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The financial implications are set out in the report.

11 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the report.

12 ASSOCIATED RISKS

- 12.1 There are considerable risks to the security of the Authority's resources if appropriate treasury management strategies and policies are not adopted and followed.

Appendix 1

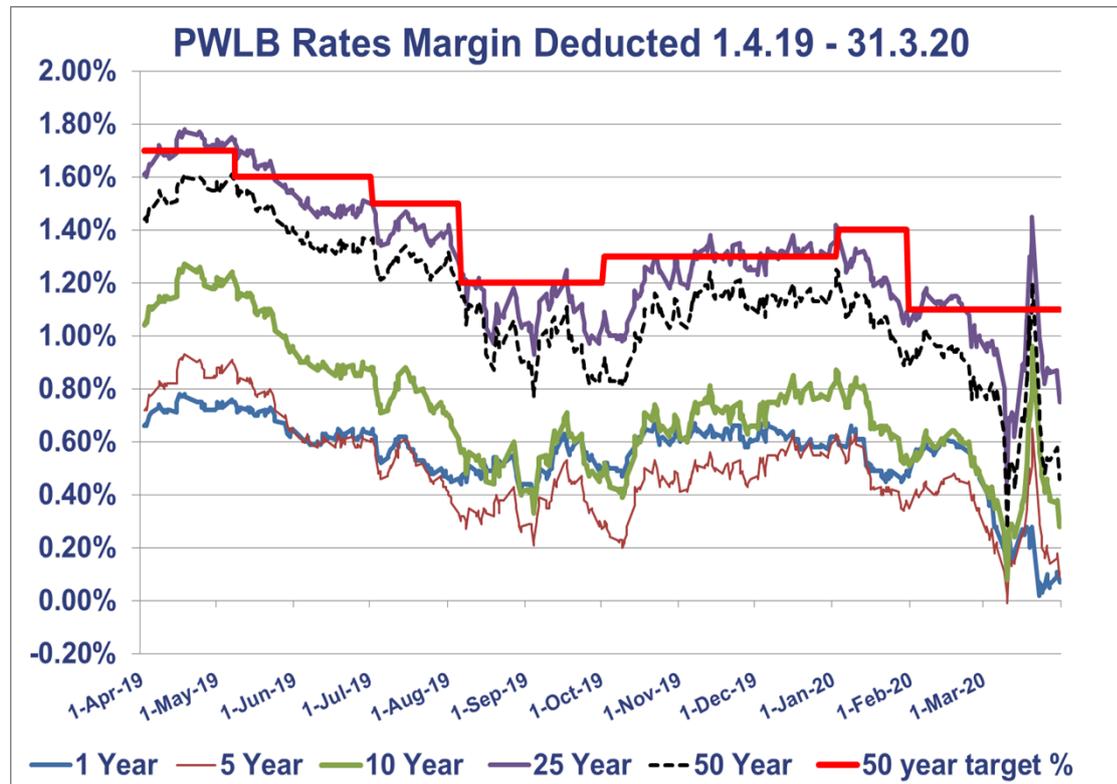
1. PRUDENTIAL AND TREASURY INDICATORS	2018/19 Actual £M	2019/20 Estimate £M	2019/20 Actual £M
Capital Expenditure			
Non - HRA	24.340	37.254	25.017
HRA	11.008	9.830	7.666
TOTAL	35.348	47.084	32.683
Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream			
Non - HRA	2.82%	2.99%	2.93%
HRA	14.74%	14.15%	15.92%
Gross borrowing requirement			
Alternative financing	6.517	11.323	9.276
Replacement Borrowing	8.074	17.680	13.318
in year borrowing requirement	14.591	29.003	22.595
Gross debt	158.628		171.947
CFR			
Non - HRA	131.244	136.099	140.520
HRA	118.784	118.784	118.784
TOTAL	250.028	254.883	259.304
Annual change in Cap. Financing Requirement			
Non - HRA	6.517		9.276
HRA	0.000		0.000
TOTAL	6.517		9.276
Incremental impact of capital investment decisions			
Increase in council tax (band D) per annum	-£2.45	-£1.10	£2.85
Increase in average housing rent per week	£0	£0	£0

2. PRUDENTIAL AND TREASURY INDICATORS	2018/19 Actual £M	2019/20 Estimate £M	2019/20 Actual £M
Authorised Limit for external debt -			
borrowing	295.000	298.200	304.300
other long term liabilities	5.000	5.000	5.000
TOTAL	300.000	303.200	309.300
Operational Boundary for external debt -			
borrowing	260.000	263.200	269.300
other long term liabilities	5.000	5.000	5.000
TOTAL	265.000	268.200	274.300
Actual external debt	158.628		171.947
Upper limit for fixed interest rate exposure			
Net principal re fixed rate borrowing / investments	112%	105%	116%
Upper limit for variable rate exposure			
Net principal re variable rate borrowing / investments	-12%	-5%	-5%
Upper limit for total principal sums invested for over 364 days (per maturity date)	£10 m	£10 m	£10 m

Maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing	Actual 2018/19	Actual 2019/20
under 12 months	9%	10%
12 months and within 24 months	0%	2%
24 months and within 5 years	4%	4%
5 years and within 10 years	0%	3%
10 years and within 15 years	13%	12%
15 years and within 50 years	74%	69%

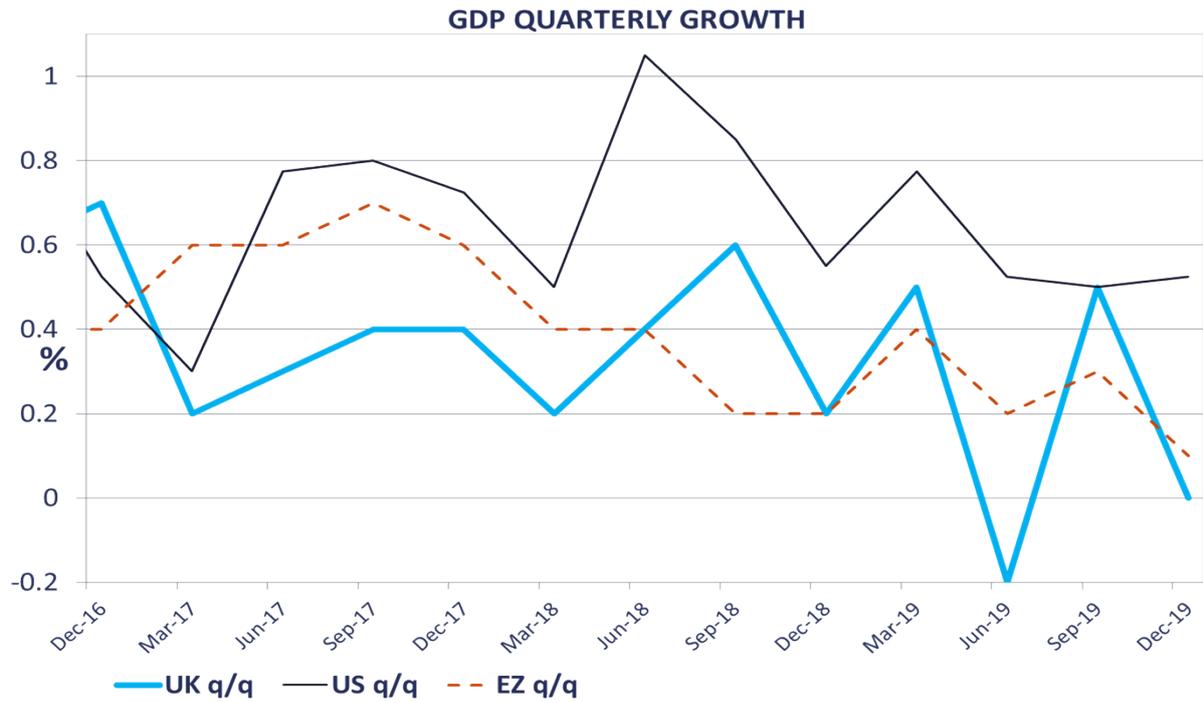
Graphs

On 9.10.19, the margin over gilt yields for PWLB certainty rates was increased from 80 bps to 180 bps. The graph below shows PWLB rates less the margins added over gilt yields. This graph therefore shows more clearly the *actual movements in gilt yields* during the year on which PWLB rates are based.

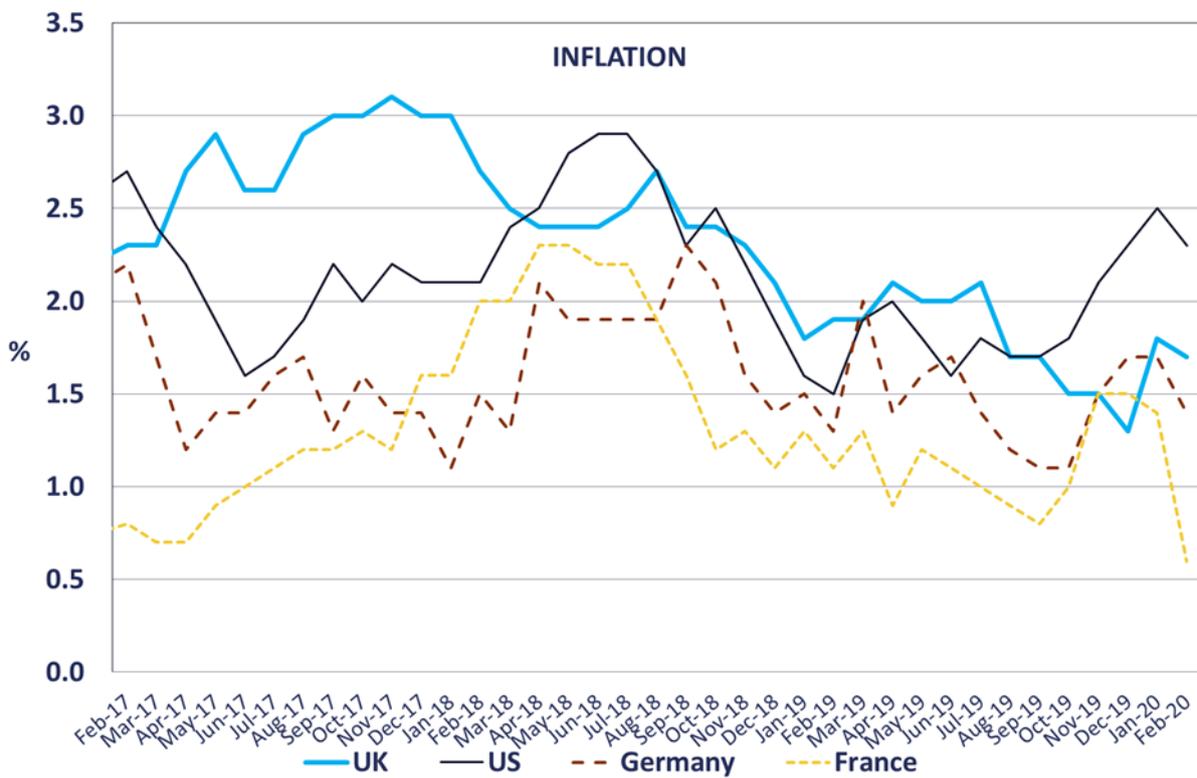


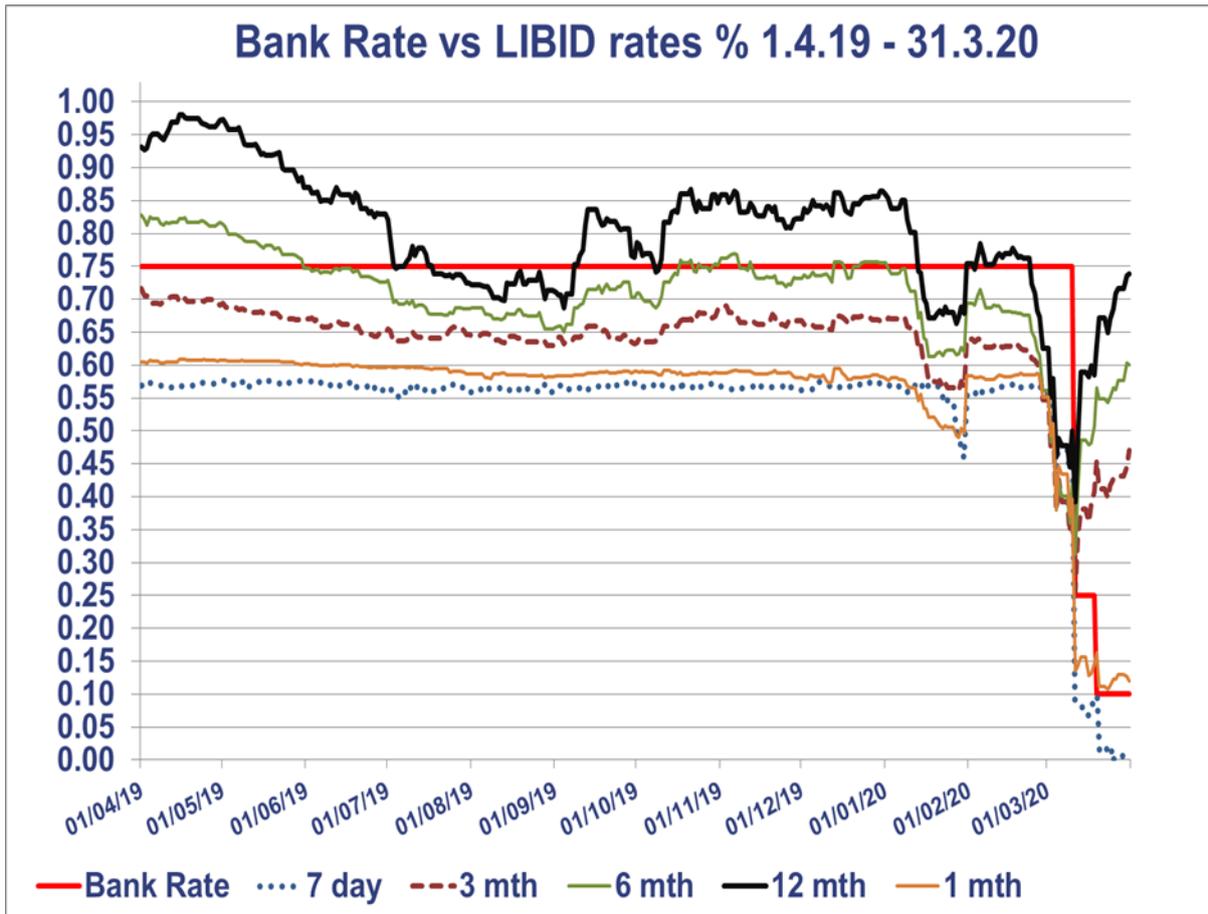
	1 Year	5 Year	10 Year	25 Year	50 Year
01/04/2019	0.66%	0.72%	1.04%	1.61%	1.44%
31/03/2020	0.10%	0.15%	0.34%	0.85%	0.59%
Low	0.02%	-0.01%	0.08%	0.45%	0.27%
Date	20/03/2020	09/03/2020	09/03/2020	09/03/2020	09/03/2020
High	0.78%	0.93%	1.27%	1.78%	1.61%
Date	15/04/2019	17/04/2019	17/04/2019	17/04/2019	17/04/2019
Average	0.55%	0.49%	0.72%	1.28%	1.12%

UK, US and EZ GDP growth

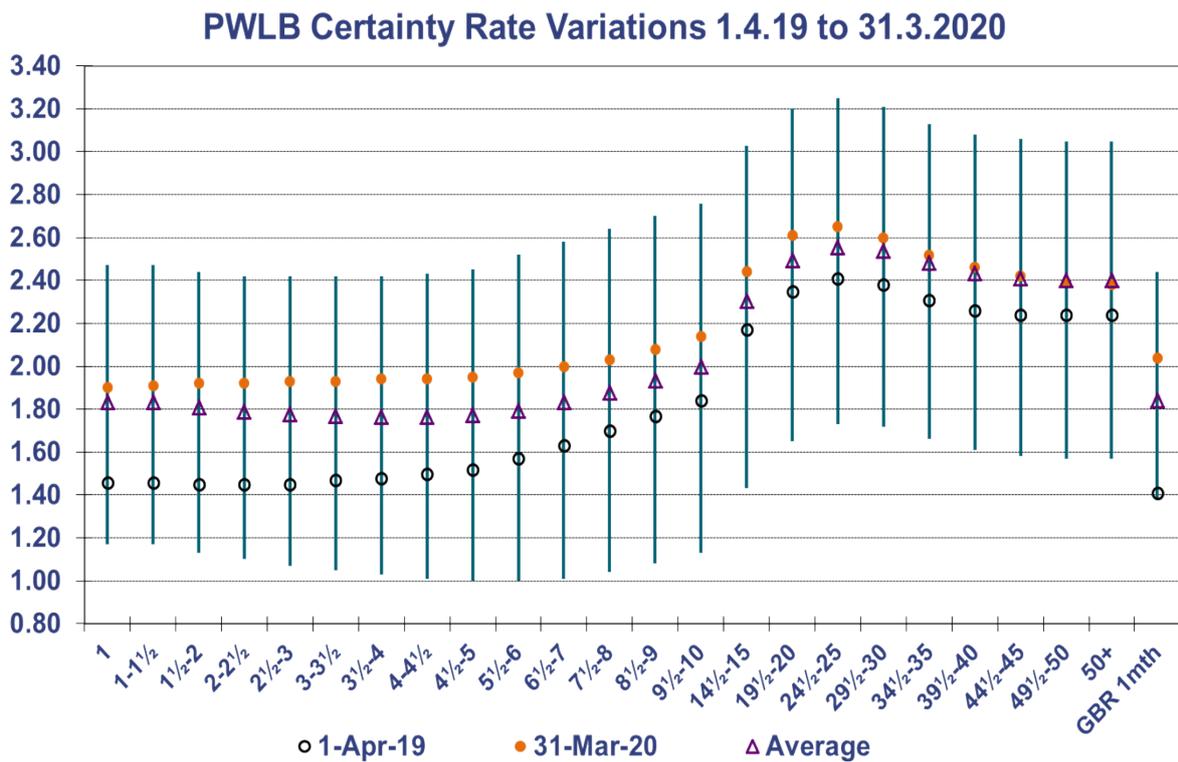
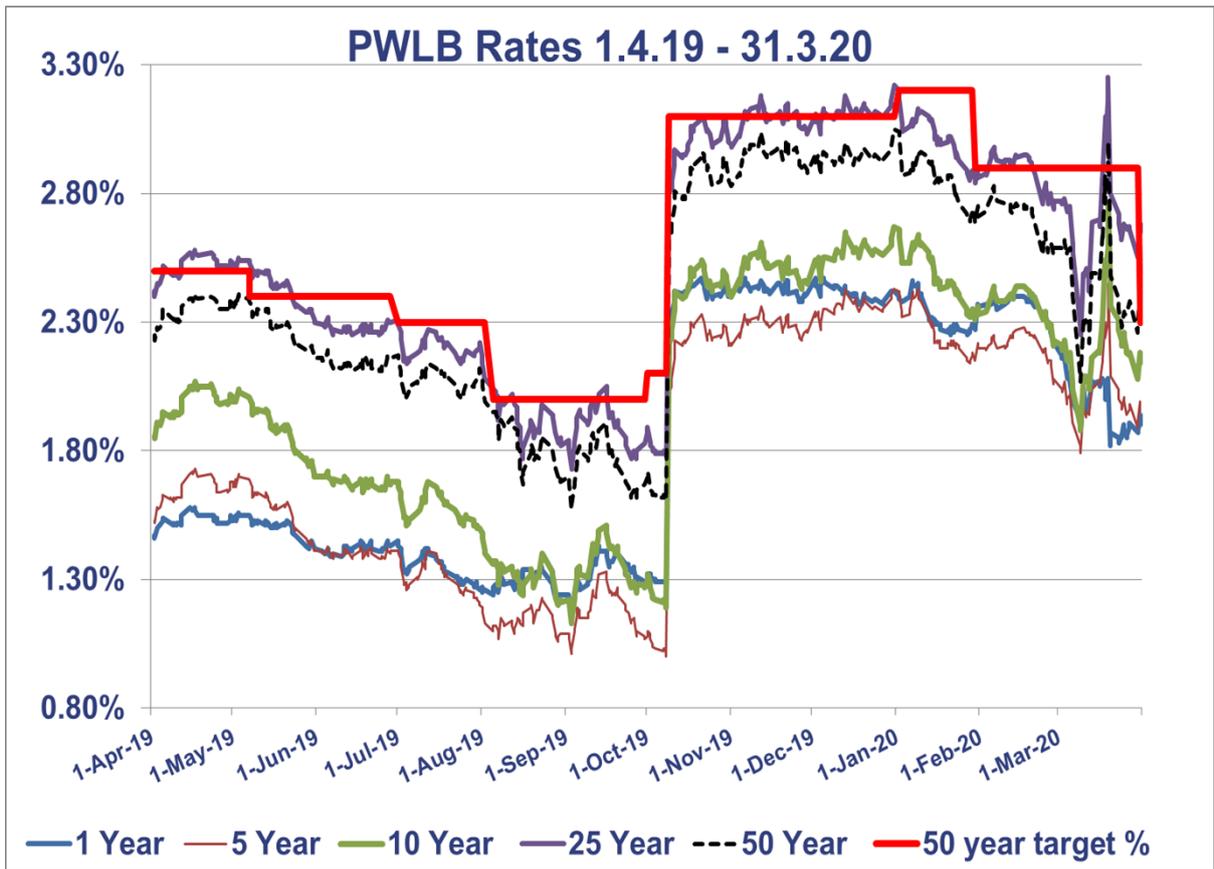


Inflation UK, US, Germany and France





	Bank Rate	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
High	0.75	0.58	0.61	0.72	0.83	0.98
High Date	01/04/2019	09/05/2019	15/04/2019	01/04/2019	01/04/2019	15/04/2019
Low	0.10	0.00	0.11	0.26	0.31	0.39
Low Date	19/03/2020	25/03/2020	23/03/2020	11/03/2020	11/03/2020	11/03/2020
Average	0.72	0.53	0.56	0.63	0.70	0.80
Spread	0.65	0.58	0.50	0.46	0.52	0.59



Document Pack Page 38

	1 Year	5 Year	10 Year	25 Year	50 Year
01/04/2019	1.46%	1.52%	1.84%	2.41%	2.24%
31/03/2020	1.90%	1.95%	2.14%	2.65%	2.39%
Low	1.17%	1.00%	1.13%	1.73%	1.57%
Date	03/09/2019	08/10/2019	03/09/2019	03/09/2019	03/09/2019
High	2.47%	2.45%	2.76%	3.25%	3.05%
Date	21/10/2019	19/03/2020	19/03/2020	19/03/2020	31/12/2019
Average	1.83%	1.77%	2.00%	2.56%	2.40%

REPORT FOR DECISION

DECISION OF:	CABINET
DATE:	2 SEPTEMBER 2020
SUBJECT:	CABINET APPOINTMENTS UPDATE
REPORT FROM:	INTERIM MONITORING OFFICER
CONTACT OFFICER:	JANET WITKOWSKI
TYPE OF DECISION:	CABINET
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:	This paper is within the public domain.
SUMMARY:	The report sets out amendments to the appointments made at the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 20 th May 2020.
OPTIONS & RECOMMENDED OPTION	That Cabinet notes the appointments and amendments to appointments made since the Annual Meeting of Council as set out in paragraph 1.2
IMPLICATIONS:	
Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:	Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes
Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:	No additional financial implications
Statement on impact on resources:	None as a result of this report.
Equality/Diversity implications:	None as a direct result of this report.

Considered by Monitoring Officer:	Yes Appointments to external and internal bodies are a function of the Council	
Wards Affected:	All	
Scrutiny Interest:		

1.0 ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS UPDATE

- 1.1 At the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 20 May 2020 the Council resolved, in respect of the various appointments made at that meeting, that the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leaders of the Political Groups be authorised to determine any appointments to bodies which remain unfilled and any changes to appointments or any new appointments to be made during 2020/21.
- 1.2 Since the Annual Meeting the following appointment/amendment to the Cabinet portfolio have been made:-

Committee/Position	Elected Member/Representative
Transfer of responsibility for the following areas: Civic Venues Libraries and Archives	From the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing and First Deputy, Councillor Simpson to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Emergency Planning Councillor David Jones

2.0 Cabinet is requested to note the appointments and changes to appointments set out in this report.

List of Background Papers:-

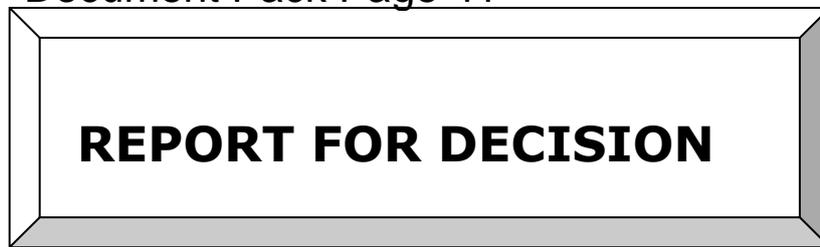
Annual Appointments Report 2020/2021

Contact Details:-

Janet Witkowski

j.witkowski@bury.gov.uk

0161 253 5219



DECISION OF:	COUNCIL
DATE:	9 September 2020
SUBJECT:	Appointment of The Interim S151 Officer
REPORT FROM:	Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR, Councillor Tahir Rafiq
CONTACT OFFICER:	Geoff Little, Chief Executive
SUMMARY:	To request Members to appoint Ms Lisa Kitto pending the recruitment to this position of a permanent employee. To recommend that the Council (a) appoints Lisa Kitto for interim period until February 2021 as interim Director of Financial Transformation and that this post will discharge the Council's responsibilities under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972; and (b) notes that these arrangements will be reviewed in February 2021
OPTIONS & RECOMMENDED OPTION	Lisa Kitto is appointed as interim Section 151 Officer and Director of Financial Transformation with immediate effect and until the successful appointment of a permanent Director of Financial Transformation and Section 151 officer is made.
IMPLICATIONS:	
Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:	Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes
Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:	The proposed appointment of Lisa Kitto as Interim Section 151 Officer and Director of Financial Transformation will be contained within existing budgets.
Equality/Diversity implications:	EIA attached. Recruitment following the restructure will be in line with equality and diversity
Considered by Monitoring Officer:	Yes Comments as set out in Report
Wards Affected:	All
Background Papers	The Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government Published Apr 2016 CIPFA

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 At a meeting of Full Council on 10 July 2019 it was agreed to establish a Strategic Commissioning Board with the Bury NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) as a joint Committee of the Council to operate from 1 October 2019. The framework to support this arrangement included the appointment in June 2019 of a single Chief Finance Officer for both the Council and the CCG.
- 1.2 The Council is required by the Local Government Act 1972 to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and employ a suitably qualified individual reporting directly to the Chief Executive as Section 151 Officer. This person is bound by professional standards and specific legislation to lead the promotion and delivery by the whole authority of good financial management so that public money is safeguarded at all times and used appropriately, economically, efficiently and effectively.
- 1.3 CIPFA the regulatory body for public service accountants requires the s151 Officer to be a full member of the leadership team with a status at least equivalent to other members of the team.

2.0 The Current Situation

- 2.1 The Corporate Core Restructure proposals are due to be agreed by Cabinet on 2 September 2020. This will authorise a recruitment process to appoint a full time Director of Financial Transformation to include S151 officer responsibility. It is proposed that this arrangement be implemented on an initial fixed term basis to February 2021 and then be subject to review
- 2.2 Ms Kitto has been acting Deputy Chief Finance Officer since October 2019 and has played a key role in strengthening the Council's financial management and in the preparation for the 2020/21 budget. At the same time the Council and Bury CCG have, under the leadership of the Joint Chief Finance Officer Mike Woodhead, put in place the arrangements for pooled and aligned budgets including the Bury Strategic Commissioning Board and an agreement under Section 75 of the of the National Health Service Act 2006. By February of this year the Council was in a stronger financial position with increased reserves and the CCG had embarked on a programme of strategic reviews to balance its budget. Both organisations still faced significant budgets challenges in the medium term but the foundations had been laid to secure financial benefits from the integration of health and care services, especially the key budgets in Adult Social Care.
- 2.3 However the Council and Bury CCG are now facing new an unexpected financial challenges arising from the COVID-19 crisis. In addition to significant increases in funding gaps both organisations face huge uncertainties in funding from Government and NHS England. In these circumstances the Chief Executive recommends a re-focusing of roles so that the Joint Chief Finance Officer has the space to drive forward the financial opportunities within the Bury Health and Care Recovery and Transformation Programme and to contribute to Greater Manchester Health and Care Partnership financial strategy. The interim Director of Financial Transformation will focus on the Council budget, including the Capital Programme and Housing Revenue Account and the significant challenges of the DSG. The allocation of the Section 151 responsibilities is commensurate with these responsibilities.
- 2.4 The Joint Chief Finance Officer will continue to hold strategic responsibility for finance across the Council and the CCG; lead on the pooled budget and a portfolio

of strategic programmes including the housing delivery pipeline and delivery vehicle, One Public Estate and Radcliffe SRF.

- 2.5 In the interim the Council is unable to function legally without appointing a section 151 officer. Ms Lisa Kitto has been working for the Council on an interim basis as Interim Finance Officer since October 2019 and she has relevant experience, and is suitably qualified, to be able to perform the role. This complies with the requirements set out in the Cipfa Code 'Role of the Chief financial Officer' in that an individual must be professionally qualified and suitably experienced.

3. Financial and VAT

- 3.1 The proposed appointment of Lisa Kitto as Interim Section 151 Officer and Director of Financial Transformation will be contained within existing budgets.

4. Legal

- 4.1 The Council is required by the Local Government Act 1972 to employ suitably qualified individuals as Head of Paid Service, Section 151 Officer (Chief Financial Officer) and Monitoring Officer. The proposed appointment complies with those requirements.

5. Equity and Equalities

- 5.1 The council has and will comply with its relevant policies and procedures.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1 Lisa Kitto is appointed as interim Section 151 Officer and Director of Financial Transformation with immediate effect and until the successful appointment of a permanent Director of Financial Transformation and Section 151 officer is made.

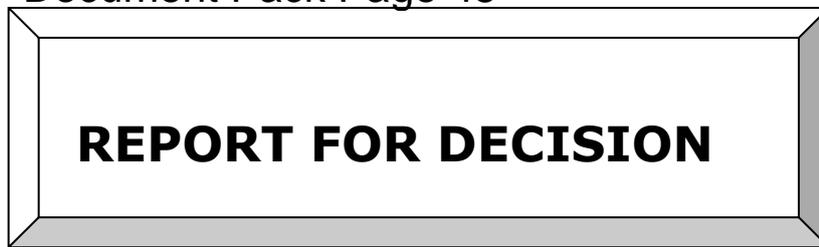
List of Background Papers:-

The Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government
Published Apr 2016 CIPFA

Contact Details:-

Marie Rosenthal – Strategic Advisor

This page is intentionally left blank



DECISION OF:	The Council
DATE:	9 September 2020
SUBJECT:	Monitoring of Urgent Items and Exemption of Call-In
REPORT FROM:	The Leader of the Council
CONTACT OFFICER:	Janet Witkowski, Interim Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer
TYPE OF DECISION:	Non key decision
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:	This paper is within the public domain.
SUMMARY:	The report advises Council of Executive Key decisions that have been taken as urgent items under Rule 18 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules and that have been exempt from call-in because the decision needed to be implemented as a matter of urgency.
OPTIONS & RECOMMENDED OPTION	That Council notes the Executive Key Decisions that have been taken as urgent items and which were exempted from call-in in.
IMPLICATIONS:	No implications.
Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:	Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes
Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:	The financial implications for the decision were considered at the the time the decision was made. There are not further financial implications arising from this report.
Equality/Diversity implications:	None.
Considered by Monitoring Officer:	The Council's Constitution requires that Executive Key Decisions that have been

	taken as urgent items under Rule 18 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules and that have been exempt from call-in, be reported within 3 months to a meeting of the Full Council. This reports provides details of those decisions taken since the last Council
Wards Affected:	All Wards.
Scrutiny Interest:	No.

1.0 Monitoring of Urgent Key Decisions

1.1 Under Rule 18 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules, it is reported that the following executive key decisions have been taken as special urgency items and as such have not met the required publication period of 28 days (and less than five days’ notice for open items) on the Council’s Forward Plan.

(i) **Leader Decision via Emergency Powers Group – 13.8.2020
Discretionary Grant Scheme for Businesses – Phase 3**

Decisions Taken:

Approval of Phase 3 of the Discretionary Grants Scheme to provide support for businesses in the following categories:

- Those micro businesses that rent a chair within a health, beauty, male grooming business. It is proposed that a grant is allocated to cover the purchase of new stock, marketing materials and fixed rental cost. It is proposed that a one off grant of £1000 is allocated. The applicants would be required to provide evidence of occupancy and continued occupancy
- Those micro businesses that rent storage space in order to run their businesses. It is proposed that a one off grant of £1000 is allocated. The applicants would be required to provide evidence of occupancy and continued occupancy and loss of income
- Those hereditaments over £15,000 Rateable Value and not eligible under retail, leisure, hospitality - but have had significant losses. In particular suppliers to businesses that have been locked down
- Playgroups and preschool groups that where not eligible in phase 2 but can demonstrate monthly fixed costs relating to their business
- Those organisations that could have applied for Phase 2 but missed the deadline

The reason why this decision was urgent and could not be reasonably deferred was:-

The decision is urgently required to enable payment of grants to businesses requiring urgent financial support, which have been impacted by Covid. This cannot wait until the next cabinet meeting as the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has announced the closure of the scheme and has stated that all applications must be received by 28 August and all payments made by 30

September. Any unused monies at this point will be returned to central Government.

List of Background Papers:-

Council Constitution
Records of Urgent Decisions

Contact Details:-

Janet Witkowski
Interim Council Solicitor and Monitoring Officer
Email: j.witkowski@bury.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

Q	Party	Question
1	Lib Dem Cllr Tariq	Given new guidelines around the wearing of masks in Secondary schools, what is being done by the Council to ensure that schools have sufficient supplies of PPE to provide for staff and students? – Councillor Powell
		There is a reasonable expectation that pupils, being required to wear masks in shops and some other public places, will be in possession of masks that can then be used when in communal spaces in schools. It is however recognised that there will be instances where pupils do not have access to a mask and arrangements have been made through the Council's Public Health Team, for all secondary schools to be provided with a supply of masks.
2	Labour Cllr O'Brien	Would the Leader join me in thanking all Bury's local businesses for their efforts during the lockdown, and for taking seriously their responsibilities for customer and staff safety as they reopen? Cllr Whitby
		<p>I would like to take this opportunity to place on record on behalf of the Cabinet my thanks to Bury's local businesses for their efforts during lockdown and the manner in which businesses have taken seriously their responsibilities.</p> <p>Any business should be operating in a Covid 19 secure way to help protect both their staff and clients. This means they should have carried out a risk assessment, incorporated social distancing, good hygiene practices such as hand washing, hand sanitisation and masks / visors where possible. If in the hospitality trade be assisting the NHS with record keeping for customers to help with contact tracing.</p> <p>Anyone wanting to report Covid 19 poor safety measures can contact the council in the usual ways by ringing 253 5353 , your voice counts or by emailing commercial@bury.gov.uk</p>
3	Labour Cllr D Jones	Following the tragic murder of teenager Cole Kershaw, could the Leader advise us what action the Council is taking to improve community safety in the Chesham area of Moorside? Cllr Walmsley
		<p>Members will no doubt be aware of the tragic death of Cole Kershaw who was shot on the night of August 12th. Three men from Bury have been charged and are now awaiting trial.</p> <p>Although thankfully a rare occurrence in Bury this incident has shone a spotlight on Chesham with residents suggesting there is an issue with crime and anti-social behaviour in the area.</p> <p>In the immediate aftermath of the incident, Police colleagues have been</p>

Q	Party	Question
		<p>very visible in the area with increased patrols and a mobile police station at Clarence Park to provide reassurance and advice. GMP Family Liaison Officers and Local Authority colleagues are also in regular contact with the family of the victim to support the family through the tragedy.</p> <p>From a wider perspective, clearly the community have been through a difficult time and are no doubt concerned about the incident. The additional Police presence will help but a longer-term approach is needed to defuse tensions and ensure that the community feel safe.</p> <p>One of the common complaints raised by the community is in relation to anti-social behaviour perpetrated by young people, hanging around in parks and on the street at night. This issue had already been raised through our Youth Violence programme and detached youth workers have been focussing on the area recently. They have so far engaged with 27 young people in and around Chesham and will continue to make this area their prime focus in the coming weeks and months. Through the Serious Youth Violence grant funding we are funding a further five project and sessional staff to enhance this work for the next 12 months. This is being delivered in conjunction with Police colleagues through Operation Sycamore where Police are increasing patrols of hotspot areas for anti-social behaviour at peak times (often Friday and Saturday evenings).</p> <p>Whilst the precise details of the incident are not public knowledge the perception in the community is that organised crime is involved and that there is a wider concern about the prevalence of drug dealing in the area. Again, with a focus on young people there is a team of Early Intervention Practitioners working with young people on the periphery of Organised Crime which complements the work the Police do in targeting Organised Crime gangs across the borough.</p> <p>Additionally, as above, we are aware of the potential for community tensions at this time. Each week a Tensions Monitoring Group meets to discuss intelligence received and looks at how best we can mitigate those issues. Chesham will be at the forefront of those discussions with a specific task and finish group convening to ensure that specific work is done to capture tensions from the community and act before they become more entrenched.</p>
4	<p>Conservative Cllr O'Brien</p>	<p>Can the Leader explain the recently advertised post of Executive Policy Support, why this is needed and how this differs from a Political Assistant. Cllr. Yvonne Wright</p>

Q	Party	Question
		<p>This post is not unique to Bury. Others in Greater Manchester have established something similar.</p> <p>There are many differences to this post and the role of a Political Assistant:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This is a support role to me as Leader of the Council and not to the wider Group - it does not work directly for the Labour Group. 2. The post holder is responsible to an officer in the Council on a line management basis, rather than to me as Group Leader. 3. This post is recruited by an officer in the Council, whereas Political Assistants are recruited by the Group Leader and Councillors from the political group. 4. The postholder will not be able to seek support for a political party – which a Political Assistant is able to do. 5. The level of remuneration for a Political Assistant is set by law, whereas we have recruited in line with the Council's Job Evaluation Process (which is a similar salary to that stated in law) – <i>for reference Political Assistants may be paid from £25,044 to £34,986 and the Council's Grade is a Grade 12 (£33,799 to £35,934).</i> 6. The post is a permanent appointment, whereas a Political Assistant is fixed term to align with the election process. <p>Moving on to why this role is needed, the Council does not have the skills or capacity in its current workforce to undertake this role. It will fully support me in my portfolio of work, primarily here in Bury; but it will also support me in my role in Greater Manchester, as lead for children and young people.</p>
5	<p>Labour</p> <p>Cllr D Jones</p>	<p>Could the leader update us on the current situation regarding the Veterans Covenant which I understand was adopted some time ago? Cllr Gold</p>
		<p>The Armed Forces Covenant is a long-standing promise by the nation that those who serve or who have served in the armed forces, and their families, will be treated with fairness and respect within the communities, economy and society they serve and protect.</p> <p>In June 2017 Bury Council confirmed its support for the Armed Forces Community by signing the Armed Forces Community Covenant. Since this time, there has been significant work on a Greater Manchester covenant and whilst this will not replace Bury's own, it is timely to review Bury's covenant building on the regional offer and our own local offer in Bury.</p> <p>Following agreement with the Cabinet Member for Communities and</p>

Q	Party	Question
		<p>Emergency Response a review of the local covenant was signalled on Armed Forces Day this year. As a result a desktop review has been undertaken of Bury's current covenant, testing this against areas of best practice including LGA guidance.</p> <p>This review has considered key domains within the Covenant and themes raised at Bury's Armed Forces Summit which took place in 2018 including employment; education and skills; health and wellbeing; housing; recognition and remembrance; community integration; and working with partners.</p> <p>A meeting with Armed Forces Community representatives and stakeholders is scheduled on 16 September to explore what more could be done locally to improve the delivery of the covenant, and importantly to prioritise actions. Following this meeting, when we will be clearer on priorities, we will seek to engage with partners across public services to develop a collaborative approach to the refresh of the covenant, with key partners being asked to co-sign the covenant to demonstrate their commitment to delivering actions locally.</p> <p>This work will complement the Council's Opportunity Guarantee, which has been agreed as part of the recovery phase from covid-19, as the covenant will set out what members of the Armed Forces Community can expect from the Council and partners.</p> <p>The outcome of the review will be submitted to the Strategic Commissioning Board along with recommendations as to the future governance arrangements To maintain ongoing engagement and commitment to delivering the covenant.</p>
6	<p>Labour</p> <p>Cllr Tariq</p>	<p>What have we been doing to support the safe and secure opening of our local schools for this new academic year? Cllr Susan Southworth</p>
		<p>Thank you for your question, as you will be aware Schools and Centres are scheduled for full re-opening from start of term and I can assure Council that the following steps have been put in place to ensure the safe and secure opening:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk Assessments have been reviewed and where appropriate refreshed. • Use of zoning, bubbles, scenario planning, and curriculum adjustments to suit specific situations and environments. • A Heads Conference took place on Monday 24 August 2020. • Careful audit of practice in other Local Authorities, attention to guidance from Government, and Public Health England: supportive discussions with the RSC team. • Daily Bulletins plus Lets Do It Resource (a compendium of advice, guidance, and support) • Weekly meetings with: Advisory Heads, Unions and Associations, school clusters, and the Regional Schools Commissioner. Pastoral support to schools.

Q	Party	Question
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular briefings to parents and carers. • Communications Strategy across Children’s Services to ensure consistent reassuring messages to service and parents. • Good partnership with Public Health England, emerging body of good practice in how to manage spikes: based on six schools and four Early Years centres. • Covid Catch Up Grant £2.4 million to schools. Plus National Tuition Scheme. • Three phases: 1. Autumn Term: return, assess, reset 2. Autumn-Spring Terms: Consolidation and recovery 3. Autumn - Summer Terms: Development. • HMI feedback from their residency in Bury - we were made very welcome. It was a focussed and well organised residency. Relationships between Heads and the Local Authority were felt to be excellent, with high levels of trust and confidence. There was a determination to succeed; and much passion!
7	Conservative Cllr O’Brien	Can the leader provide a breakdown of standards complaints made by political groups for the previous three years including the total cost of these complaints to the Bury Tax Payer. Cllr. Robert Caserta
		<p>There have been no standards complaints made by political groups in the three year period since 1 September 2017, formal or informal.</p> <p>The Council’s records show that there have been standards complaints from elected members as well as members of the public during that time, 9 Complaints from elected members and 17 Complaints from members of the public.</p> <p>The external cost of dealing with those complaints to date over the 3 year period was £6016.15.</p> <p>In addition the Council’s Independent Person costs the Council £500 per annum plus any expenses charged for attending any hearings.</p> <p>The internal cost to the Council is in both officer and member time, which is not recorded.</p> <p>If there is a supplemental the response should be;</p> <p>As standards matters are within the remit of the Council’s Standards Committee I will ask Cllr Pickstone as Chair of that committee to respond in writing.</p>
8	Lib Dem Cllr Simpson	What level of use is currently being made of the site of the Prestwich Walk-In Centre and when will the Walk-In Centre reopen?- Councillor S Wright

Q	Party	Question
		<p>The Prestwich Walk in Centre is currently the base for the Covid Management Service for the borough – an invaluable service during the pandemic in providing primary care services for COVID positive patients and making a contribution to reducing infection risk in other practices in the borough.</p> <p>The COVID Management Service has been and continues to be a vital element of the Bury wide COVID strategy which includes the need to minimise open access points for patients in favour of a more managed triage and book service. The COVID management service has dealt with 2,504 referrals since the pandemic started. The service provides telephone triage and advice, face to face GP appointments and home visits where required.</p> <p>Options on the continuation of the covid management service are currently in development and will take place in the context of the epidemiology of the pandemic.</p> <p>While we are in the pandemic we are seeking to limit face to face contacts for healthcare services in favour of digitalised opportunities through, for example, Ask my GP, and in current circumstances of COVID 19 it is not intended the WIC will reopen soon.</p>
9	<p>Labour Cllr Tariq</p>	<p>During this difficult time, what are we doing to protect the most vulnerable children in our borough? Cllr Whitby</p>
		<p>We are continuing to take a robust approach to ensuring that the most vulnerable children in the borough are protected. All children who have a key worker with an Early Help, Children in Need, Child Protection, LAC or EHC Plan are being supported to return to school and we are closely monitoring attendance.</p> <p>The Team around the School model provides clear communication pathways and schools have a named worker they can contact if they have any concerns for children returning to school.</p> <p>At the request of the Inclusion Partnerships, Inclusion service personnel have put together a list of 'starting point' questions to help schools to identify their newly vulnerable pupils prior to their return to school. Information gathered can be used as a monitoring tool to support the early identification of need and to ensure that intervention is made available at the earliest possible point.</p>

Q	Party	Question
10	Labour Cllr O'Brien	Would the Leader share my concern that the Government are consulting on measures to weaken the requirement for affordable housing on smaller development sites? Cllr Gold
		<p>Current national planning policy states that affordable housing contributions should be sought for developments on sites with 10 or more homes.</p> <p>As part of the package of widespread proposed reforms to the planning system, the Government is currently consulting on proposals that would temporarily raise this threshold to 'around 40 or 50 homes'.</p> <p>Simply put – the net effect of this proposal, should it make its way through to national planning guidance, would be to significantly reduce the amount of affordable housing that would be delivered through the planning system across the country.</p> <p>Just as a snapshot – over 20% of homes that are currently being constructed across the Bury are on sites between 10 and 50 units. If this proposal had been in place at the time of permission, there would have been a loss of over 100 much needed affordable homes for our residents.</p> <p>Even these units that have been secured through existing permissions may be under threat if the proposal goes ahead. Developer's sitting on existing permissions that are conditioned to ensure a percentage are affordable are likely to resubmit their proposals without any these and local authorities – including ourselves – will be powerless to stop this.</p> <p>The bottom line is that this proposal will significantly reduce the amount of affordable homes that will be delivered in Bury, which will undermine our local planning policies and aspirations to provide good quality affordable homes for those in need – including new young families seeking secure accommodation.</p>
11	Conservative Cllr O'Brien	Can the Leader of the Council detail how many and who in the Labour Council Group took a 10% allowance cut since May 2020 as part of the expansion of the Cabinet. Cllr. Ian Schofield
		Following the unanimous agreement at Full Council in 2011, Members resolved that the Member Allowance scheme be amended and payments of special responsibility allowances be subject to a 10% reduction. This includes all Cabinet, Deputy Cabinet members and Chairs of Regulatory and Scrutiny Committees.
12	Labour Cllr O'Brien	In the Government's White Paper on Planning, it references a binding housing target for local authorities and a new methodology for Local Housing Need. Has the Council determined what impact this may have on the GMSF? Cllr Mortenson
		Under the Government's proposed reforms to the planning system, there

Q	Party	Question
		<p>are proposals to make changes to the current methodology used for identifying local housing needs for each district.</p> <p>Members will be aware that this methodology is important as it identifies the level of housing need that should be planned for in each local authority.</p> <p>The current standard methodology that is required for the GMSF, uses the 2014 household projections. This gives Bury an annual local housing need of 601 dwellings.</p> <p>The proposed new method for calculating local housing need uses the latest 2018 household projections, which on the face of it – makes sense given that this is the most up to date evidence of household growth.</p> <p>However, the methodology also applies an uplift to these projections based on affordability issues and also a percentage of existing housing stock. The net effect of this is that the new methodology would actually give Bury an increased annual housing need of 673 dwellings.</p> <p>This increase is in spite of the 2018 household projections being much lower than the 2014 household projections that we currently have to work with under Government policy.</p> <p>It would seem that the new methodology has been designed to drive forward the Government’s aspirations for aspirations for 300,000 homes annually, and one million homes over the current Parliament.</p> <p>Importantly – the new proposals indicate that the housing need figures would be binding on local authorities. It is unclear whether districts would be able to work with other local authorities in meeting the need.</p> <p>As Members will be aware, the GMSF process allows us to offset a significant proportion of our current housing need to other parts of the conurbation.</p> <p>Clearly if we are unable to offset some of our needs and the annual requirement is actually higher – and BINDING – then the impact on our Green Belt could be much higher than it would be through the GMSF process.</p>
13	<p>Labour</p> <p>Cllr Cummins</p>	<p>What support has the Council put in place to support those in the private rented sector who may be affected by the proposed lifting of the evictions ban? Cllr B Mortenson</p>
		<p>The Eviction ban has now been extended until the 20th September.</p>

Q	Party	Question
		<p>Homelessness - during the pandemic we have continued to work and engage with tenants and landlords in the PRS within our statutory homelessness duty to prevent homelessness and provide support and advice as required. At present we are supporting 31 tenants in the PRS at risk of homelessness. One specific action due to the Eviction ban ending in August was to produce a letter which was sent to letting agents, known landlords and relevant stakeholder with information to promote how and who to contact for advice and support for any tenants at risk of homelessness.</p> <p>The Urban Renewal team in their statutory role also support the PRS and have contacted all landlords who have property portfolio's in Bury, all HMO landlords and all lettings agents via email to identify specific tenant needs as a result of the pandemic, such as language barriers for example, so that they can get information translated into appropriate languages to help provide support and advice. They have also continued operationally to ensure that disrepair issues are being tackled throughout the pandemic.</p> <p>Bury has made a strong commitment in Priority 2 of its recovery plan to ensure there is 'no rough sleeping'. As well implementing the GM initiative of 'A Bed Every Night' and delivering outreach support, the council is working closely with commissioned housing related support providers to deliver tenancy related support, before households are in crisis. This includes a floating support service that works with all households, including those that are owner occupiers to prevent evictions and develop independent living skills.</p>
14	<p>Conservative Cllr O'Brien</p>	<p>The Government has provided £1.957 million to Bury Council to fund the Discretionary Grant Scheme to help local small and micro businesses. Has all the grant been allocated and what businesses have benefited? Cllr. Dene Vernon</p>
		<p>As of 12th August a total of £1,677,844.80 has been allocated to 249 Bury businesses. Phase 3 has now closed and the expectation is that we will spend all of the £1.957m budget. Phase 3 Grant allocations will be processed w/c 1st September 2020 ahead of the Government deadline for payments of 30th September 2020. An evaluation of the programme will be completed once the scheme closes and details will be shared.</p>
15	<p>Labour Cllr D Jones</p>	<p>On the 13th of November it's national let's be kind day, I wondered if this could be used as a day to thank volunteers who've helped over the COVID19 period I also thought this might be a good day to promote kindness and community groups showcase there good work? Cllr Grimshaw</p>

Q	Party	Question
		<p>Thanks for the notification about this day. Thanking Key Workers and Volunteers is one of the ten priorities of the Bury Recovery Plan and we can consider how we can use this day in November to complement our current plans. We will work in co-production with VCFA and the Kind Bury movement to make the most of the opportunities this day offers. We wouldn't want to limit our activity to just one day and have already engaged in some thanks and recognition activity through the road painting campaign and thank you letters to volunteers. We have developed a video about the work of the Community Hub staff and volunteers and this would be a great day to launch it across social media. We are also committed to embedding the work of volunteers and the Kind Bury and People Powered Network in the 2030 Strategy.</p>
16	Labour Cllr Simpson	<p>What is the council doing to promote health and well being during the COVID19 crisis? Cllr McGill</p>
		<p>Many of our staff are Bury residents and as such at the start of lockdown, an Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) was implemented, which enables council staff to access wellbeing support via telephone, website and app.</p> <p>In regards to the wider community. The Bury Directory team immediately set up a dedicated Coronavirus section, bringing together a range of essential support services, information and advice pages specifically to COVID19 in one place. Within this section there are updates on the latest information from Government, links to Public Health England websites and NHS website. There are also specific Health and Wellbeing topic areas covered such as bereavement and mental health. Alongside the directory information, key messages, updates and campaigns have been shared via all our social media websites (Facebook and twitter) to enhance getting the messages out to the public/professionals.</p> <p>We also created an online version of the 'Helping Yourself to Wellbeing' training course to ensure people could continue to access advice and support from their home. This is aimed at helping people make behaviour changes to improve their health and the health of others.</p> <p>In addition Bury Community hubs were set up at the start of the lockdown with the support of organised voluntary groups and local volunteers across the whole of Bury. They have provided support to the most vulnerable, particularly those required to shield or otherwise socially or economically vulnerable. They have helped with food and medicine supplies and other essentials. In partnership with the hubs, Age UK Bury have also been offering a befriending service that the hubs refer</p>

Q	Party	Question
		<p>into, for those at risk of social isolation.</p> <p>During COVID-19 the Live Well Service has continued to deliver support to local communities, through the BEATS service and Health Trainers. The service continued to provide range of advice and support around physical activity, healthy eating and stopping smoking using a range of online technologies.</p> <p>Finally, the council facilitated the development of the Bury Food Aid group This is the coming together and coordinated approach of 12 food banks providing support with food distribution and storage facilities to the most vulnerable.</p>
17	Lib Dem Cllr O'Brien	<p>Can the leader provide an update on the progress made in recent months regarding plans for the regeneration of Prestwich village centre? – Councillor Powell</p>
		<p>Over the last 6 months the Council has made significant progress with regard to bringing forward the pre-development phase of the regeneration of Prestwich Village. Progress includes engagement with the development market. We have developed a set of key values and principles we see as important in delivering the Prestwich scheme.</p> <p>Over the next 6 months the Council are seeking to source a long-term partner who shares our views on the potential of the site and wants to work with the community to deliver a new centre which is attractive to all residents.</p> <p>We will also be designing a hub building that meets the requirements of the public sector bodies in Prestwich. The hub building will incorporate the NHS Trust's functions combining two GP practices, the library, adult learning centre, indoor community room (to replace the Longfield Suite that could house indoor market, leisure uses), new cycling hub and a Job Centre.</p> <p>It is anticipated at the November Cabinet a Paper will be presented outlining the way forward for the regeneration of Prestwich.</p>
18	Conservative Cllr Rafiq	<p>During the present Covid19 emergency with all the financial pressures, why is the council spending large sums of money re-writing our constitution? Cllr. Jackie Harris</p>
		<p>The Constitution sets out how the Council operates; how decisions are lawfully made and the procedures which are to be followed to ensure that these are efficient, transparent and accountable to local people. The Council has a legal duty to publish an up-to-date Constitution.</p>

Q	Party	Question																																																								
		<p>The Council made a number of changes to the Constitution at its annual meeting in May 2020 and agreed to a further full Review during 2020/21 as a priority.</p> <p>A technical review of the Constitution has found that it has not been properly reviewed since 2001, is out of date and is not internally consistent. This creates unnecessary legal risk to the governance of the Council and decisions affecting public services and public money, especially at a time of national crisis. It is also an unwieldy document to read, navigate and use on-line.</p> <p>The review began in June and will be completed in time for the Council meeting in November 2020.</p>																																																								
19	<p>Lib Dem</p> <p>Cllr O'Brien</p>	<p>What are the total amounts of uncollected Council Tax and Business Rates from the current and previous five financial years? How does the collection rate this year compare with the same period in previous years?- Councillor Tegolo</p>																																																								
		<p>Based on a comparison with collection rates for previous years, the Council has collected £1.060m less in council tax and £0.759m less in business rates than anticipated. Some residents and businesses have however negotiated alternative payment profiles, i.e. spreading payments over 12 months rather than 10 and also delaying the start of their payment for 3 months and this will have an impact.</p> <p>The information in the previous financial years is as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="422 1368 1522 2007"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th colspan="3">Council Tax</th> <th colspan="3">Business Rates</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>Amount Billed</th> <th>Amount Collected</th> <th>Shortfall</th> <th>Amount Billed</th> <th>Amount Collected</th> <th>Shortfall</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2019/20</td> <td>104.1</td> <td>100.3</td> <td>3.8</td> <td>51.3</td> <td>48.9</td> <td>2.4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018/19</td> <td>98.9</td> <td>95.4</td> <td>3.5</td> <td>51.9</td> <td>49.9</td> <td>2.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017/18</td> <td>92.2</td> <td>89.1</td> <td>3.1</td> <td>51.1</td> <td>49.0</td> <td>2.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016/17</td> <td>85.3</td> <td>82.6</td> <td>2.7</td> <td>53.4</td> <td>50.7</td> <td>2.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015/16</td> <td>81.1</td> <td>78.8</td> <td>2.3</td> <td>52.2</td> <td>49.2</td> <td>3.0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Council Tax			Business Rates				Amount Billed	Amount Collected	Shortfall	Amount Billed	Amount Collected	Shortfall		£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	2019/20	104.1	100.3	3.8	51.3	48.9	2.4	2018/19	98.9	95.4	3.5	51.9	49.9	2.0	2017/18	92.2	89.1	3.1	51.1	49.0	2.1	2016/17	85.3	82.6	2.7	53.4	50.7	2.7	2015/16	81.1	78.8	2.3	52.2	49.2	3.0
	Council Tax			Business Rates																																																						
	Amount Billed	Amount Collected	Shortfall	Amount Billed	Amount Collected	Shortfall																																																				
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m																																																				
2019/20	104.1	100.3	3.8	51.3	48.9	2.4																																																				
2018/19	98.9	95.4	3.5	51.9	49.9	2.0																																																				
2017/18	92.2	89.1	3.1	51.1	49.0	2.1																																																				
2016/17	85.3	82.6	2.7	53.4	50.7	2.7																																																				
2015/16	81.1	78.8	2.3	52.2	49.2	3.0																																																				

Q	Party	Question
20	Lib Dem Cllr O'Brien	Given the recent announcement that Capita are closing many of their office bases, what is the current rental status of the out of borough commercial properties owned by the Authority?- Councillor S Wright
		<p>We have had no official notification from Capita as regards surrendering their lease and the rent continues to be paid.</p> <p>The Council is in a position to insist that Capita continue to pay rent over the entire term of their lease agreement.</p>
21	Lib Dem Cllr Quinn	How many reports of fly-tipping have been made so far this year and for the last full financial year?- Councillor Tegolo
		<p>Fly Tipping reports from 01/04/20 = 1420</p> <p>Fly Tipping reports for financial year 2019/20 = 2565</p>

This page is intentionally left blank

REPORT FOR DECISION



DECISION OF:	The Council
DATE:	9th September 2020
SUBJECT:	Update on Combined Authority activity
REPORT FROM:	Leader of the Council
CONTACT OFFICER:	Geoff Little, Chief Executive
TYPE OF DECISION:	Non key decision
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:	This paper is within the public domain.
SUMMARY:	This report provides an update on the activity of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, and associated bodies.
OPTIONS & RECOMMENDED OPTION	That Council notes the report and agrees that further updates on the Combined Authority are provided to future Council meetings
IMPLICATIONS:	
Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:	Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes
Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:	There are no specific financial implications arising from the update report. Any financial implications arising from proposals involving the Greater Manchester Combined Authority are considered as and when decisions are needed to be made at an individual district council level.
Equality/Diversity implications:	Equality Impact considerations included on the individual Combined Authority reports.
Considered by Monitoring Officer:	MO Comments: 'There are no legal implications arising from the report'

Wards Affected:	All Wards.
Scrutiny Interest:	Overview and Scrutiny

1.0 Background

1.1 This report provides an update on the work of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority in recent months and will be the first in a series of updates to each Council meeting on such activity.

2.0 Governance

2.1 The Combined Authority meets monthly, chaired by the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, and is attended by the Leaders of each of the ten local authorities in the region. These meetings have taken place digitally since May due to social distancing restrictions.

2.2 The Greater Manchester Mayoral Election scheduled for May 2020 is now due to take place in May 2021 having been postponed due to Coronavirus restrictions.

2.3 The Annual Appointments report outlines the membership of Bury Councillors on Greater Manchester Committees.

<i>Bury Councillor</i>	<i>Greater Manchester Committee</i>
Cllr E. O'Brien (Cllr Tariq named substitute)	Greater Manchester Combined Authority
Cllr A. Quinn	GM Waste & Recycling Committee
Cllr T. Pickstone	Corporate issues & reform Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Cllr M. Whitby	Economy, business and skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Cllrs M. Hayes and P. Cropper	Housing, Planning and Environment O&S
Cllr R. Walker	Scrutiny substitute pool
Cllr J. Black (Cllr D. Jones named substitute)	Culture and Social Impact Fund Committee
Cllr A. Simpson (Cllr E.O'Brien named substitute)	Health and Care Board
Cllr A. Simpson	Joint Health Commissioning Board
Cllr R. Gold (Cllr C.Smith named substitute)	Transport Committee
Cllr T. Tariq	Work & Skills Advisory Panel and Executive

3.0 Role in Covid Response

3.1 The Combined Authority has played a key role in corralling regional response activity, building on a strong set of relationships experienced in working together across the ten localities to make best use of collective skills and

resources; recognising that the sharing of data and mutual aid is key in our region where there is considerable cross-borough travel.

- 3.2 To strengthen the response across Greater Manchester, there has been a revision of the GM governance; a number of fora were stepped up or introduced to support this activity, providing localities an opportunity to escalate issues, including:
 - The *Greater Manchester Strategic Co-ordination Group (GM SCG)*, a multi-agency group established within the UK's statutory emergency response framework to rapidly mobilise resources to deliver an integrated response – this now includes all LA chief executives.
 - The *Local Resilience Forum*, which in turn escalates to national government as necessary
- 3.3 The GM Integrated Contact Tracing Hub has been operational since 8th June working collaboratively alongside the 10 districts to implement the requirements of Level 1 contract tracing. Plans are well developed to stand up Locally Enhanced contact tracing by all GM local authorities by end of w/c 31st August to improve the percentage of index cases and contacts followed up.
- 3.4 A GM Framework for managing local outbreaks has been approved. The Framework factors in the 10 locality level plans which have been prepared by Locality Directors of Public Health and are now published online in response to national planning requirements.
- 3.5 The latest Recovery update from the Greater Manchester Joint Commissioning Board is available through the following link: <https://www.gmhsc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Supplementary-Agenda-Report-7.pdf>
- 3.6 On a fortnightly basis, the Mayor of Greater Manchester has chaired the Greater Manchester COVID19 Emergency Committee - a multi-agency meeting to help co-ordinate Greater Manchester's efforts to combat the COVID19 outbreak, including response to infection rates across the Borough and changes to any local restrictions. In addition to this, the GM Mayor holds weekly press conferences with other Greater Manchester leaders to update the public and answer questions from the press.

4.0 Living with Covid Resilience Plan

- 4.1 At the meeting of the 2nd September 2020, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority will consider the 'Greater Manchester Living with Covid Resilience Plan'. This is a one year delivery document, akin to Bury's Covid Recovery Plan, considering the impacts arising from Covid and short terms actions to address such impacts.
- 4.2 This plan will act as bridge between the existing Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS), 'Our People, Our Place' and the refresh of the GMS which has been postponed until 2021.
- 4.3 The Plan recognises the significant and disproportionate impacts arising from Covid on Greater Manchester residents, businesses and places, but also seeks to acknowledge the positive gains and innovations which supported Greater Manchester's response to the pandemic. The plan is designed to be a flexible framework recognising that at the time of writing, Greater Manchester has

additional local restrictions and with a vaccine yet to be development therefore for the next year or maybe longer, we will be living with Covid.

- 4.4 The plan takes account of Greater Manchester's overarching principles which were determined early on the region's response to the pandemic, and continue to shape and guide the development of the regional response:
- Tackling inequalities and poverty
 - Promoting a Safe GM
 - Co-design, civil society and social infrastructure
 - Building a confident city-region
 - Enabling a resilient city-region
 - Instilling positive behaviour change
- 4.5 The plan does not seek to capture every action that will be taking place across the system. Existing strategies, long term plans and aspirations still stand, and across the Greater Manchester system, localities, policy areas, sectors and agencies reframing, recovery and re-start activity following the lockdown are now underway. This plan is complementary to that activity and seeks to draw together interventions which are required to build resilience while living with Covid and where the whole system has a role to play in their delivery.
- 4.6 In formulating the plan a focus has been applied to tackle pre-existing or newly identified stresses and risks in the system which must be respond to as part of our future response to outbreaks or other emergencies; so to build GM's economic, social and environmental resilience to prevent / minimise loss from a future shock event (e.g. second wave of infection, no deal Brexit).
- 4.7 This recovery and resilience plan focuses on the activity of the Combined Authority for the next year around three areas:
- where the impact of Covid has been significant and even devastating;
 - where the impact has caused challenge, and;
 - where the impact has driven innovation and accelerated new approaches.
- 4.8 The Plan is structured across two tables – a description of the impacts observed (both positive and negatives) and a package of GM deliverables responding to those impacts.
- 4.9 Within the first of these tables examples of significant negative impact include:
- Health impacts on BAME people, disabled people, older people
 - Mental health impacts on all ages, shielded people and those most likely to be isolated
 - Educational and social impacts in particular for disadvantaged children and families

In relation to positive impacts these are highlighted as being:

- Digital shift and capabilities with rapidly developed and novel operating models to be retained and developed
- GM Partnerships and ways of working reinforced and approaches strengthened to deliver effective responses
- Locally controlled devolved resources enabled targeted, timely responses.

Document Pack Page 67

- 4.10 The second table details deliverables with a clear recognition that these require a system response. Lead partners from across the GM system are identified against specific actions under each deliverable. The overall deliverables are listed below, against which is a reference to show how these align with Bury's Covid Recovery Plan.

Bury Recovery Plan priorities-

1: Summer Activity Provision/ 2: No Rough Sleepers/ 3: Bury Opportunity Guarantee/ 4: Anti-Poverty / 5: Year of Culture / 6: Health and Care Recovery / 7: Backing Bury's businesses / 8: Working Well / 9: Economic Recovery Strategy / 10: Recognising key workers/

GM Deliverable	Alignment to Bury Covid Recovery Plan
Implement a system wide approach to assessing and responding to evidenced inequalities in the ongoing management of the Covid response and the design and delivery of recovery and restart activity	3, 6
Sustain support to care homes and extend Living Well at Home to strengthen the resilience of adult social care provision	6
Boost physical activity programmes and social prescribing, including for people with long term conditions	6
Sustain food availability networks	4
Complete 'Everyone In' and deliver a transition programme and ongoing support for homeless people	2
Building on the Community Hubs experience and closer working with schools, develop integrated neighbourhood services that share people, information, money and stories	3, 4, 6
Launch a targeted plan to tackle digital exclusion	3
Ensure the provision of comprehensive mental health and wellbeing support accounting for growth in demand and severity across all age	3, 6
Restore proactive care and support for both children and adults with long term health conditions and support those who are recovering from Covid	6
Supporting successful return to school and college for all learners, with inclusion of catch up and wellbeing support if needed	1, 3
Learning from each other on how best to manage any increases in safeguarding for children & young people and vulnerable adults	6
Deliver GM employment and skills recovery plan with evidence based targeted programmes of support	3, 7, 8, 9
Immediate implementation of the GM Social Value Framework	3, 9
Appropriately contracted provision from the VCSE sector as part of	3

ongoing networked support infrastructure	
Develop system wide responses to maintain and develop social infrastructure as part of driving more inclusive economic growth in the future, including system changes, investment and formal collaboration with new infrastructure	3, 6, 7, 9
Deliver housing and public building retrofit programme as part of greener economic recovery	2
Provide support to enable businesses including social enterprises to innovate and adapt	3, 5, 7, 9
Targeted support to sectors facing lasting impacts from Covid, and growing sectors with investment where they can exploit new opportunities	5, 7, 9
Significantly expand the GM Good Employment Charter to drive more secure work, higher pay and better employment standards	3, 9
Develop and deliver a Cultural Recovery Plan, recognising the role of a sustainable cultural sector as a key driver of wellbeing and a vibrant GM	5, 6
Continue the SafeGM campaign to provide reassurance about getting back to work	3, 7
Secure infrastructure investment needed to kick start the economy	5, 7, 8, 9
Swiftly progress investment opportunities as part of economic stimulus and push for wider government funding for councils and locally controlled devolved resources	9
Develop sustainable mutual aid and support networks that add value locally and provide a better way of working	3
Deliver the Cycling and Walking Plan, and build on positive shift in travel behaviour	6
Progress more integrated public transport system with support from DfT	6
Progress GM Clean Air Plan	*
Progress Environment Plan to continue to reduce carbon emissions and create an improved, more resilient natural environment for socially distanced recreation	*

**Carbon Neutral Strategy included within Recovery Plan as specific medium term priority*

- 4.11 The GM multiagency Recovery Coordination Group will meet quarterly to maintain oversight of the Plan’s implementation. This oversight will seek to ensure progress is being made against the GM deliverables, and that system wide developments and innovations continue to shape and inform the region’s ongoing response to the Covid pandemic.

5.0 Equalities

- 5.1 The Age-friendly GM and Equalities Portfolio will also have responsibility for the oversight and implementation of the Living With Covid Resilience Plan with regards to driving effective responses to evidenced inequalities.
- 5.2 Considerable activity has taken place through the Combined Authority on understanding and addressing inequalities within the last year, including through the establishment and reporting from numerous panels and fora.
- 5.3 Work is actively taking place to map and align activity at a regional level with that taking place locally, particularly in the context of the current Equalities Review, announced in June by Bury Council and Bury CCG, an update on which will be presented to the Strategic Commissioning Board in October 2020.
- 5.4 In July 2020 the Greater Manchester Disabled Persons Panel reported on their recent Big Disability Survey which included a series of recommendations upon which Bury has provided initial feedback and will inform the local Equalities Strategy which will be an outcome of activity outlined in 5.3.
- 5.5 Also in July a report was received from the GM LGBT+ Advisory Panel which acknowledged representation from officers in Bury for their work in promoting best practice and engagement.
- 5.6 The Combined Authority is finalising a Women and Girls' Equality Panel to accelerate gender equality, enabling women and girls to live their best life in Greater Manchester. The Panel will work to ensure that all women and girls, across the ten boroughs of Greater Manchester, have equality of opportunity to start well, live well and age well. It will establish a clear vision for women and girls in Greater Manchester to understand issues and inequalities impacting on their lives and recognising women and girls' particular experience of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Panel will play a key role in making recommendations to GMCA, partners from across the public, private and voluntary sectors to drive and operationalise change.
- 5.7 A further equality panel is being formed in relation to race. Prior to the Coronavirus pandemic the Combined Authority was in the process of developing a Race Equality Panel to strengthen the voice of people from different races and ethnic backgrounds and provide challenge to local public bodies on their policies and actions. Engagement has taken place during July and August on the formation of the panel; to ensure that this is developed in partnership with residents and that recent events, including the coronavirus outbreak, and the death of George Floyd and Black Lives Matter movement are taken into account.

6.0 Specific activity and decisions of the Combined Authority

- 6.1 The following section provides an update in relation to further papers discussed at the most recent Combined Authority meetings.
- 6.2 ***Young Person's Guarantee***
 - 6.2.1 This initiative brings together in a coherent way the regional commitments from education, business and health, setting out the opportunities for life readiness to enable young people (those aged 11-30) in Greater Manchester to prosper. The opportunity draws upon Covid recovery plans for the GM Children & Young People's Plan, under the

direction of the GM Children's Board and the work of the Employment & Skills Advisory Panel.

- 6.2.2 The vision is to protect those in education, employment and apprenticeships who face immediate challenges and displacement because of the pandemic; promote current and emergency opportunities that help support young people to be ready for life, learning and work; and progressing young people through quality education, employment training across the city region.
- 6.2.3 There are four key thematic areas covered by the guarantee
- Keeping Connected: securing better access and inclusion for all of our young people
 - Staying Well – improving our young people's wellbeing, resilience, hope and optimism
 - Preparing for Successful Transitions – supporting our young people to be ready for life, further learning and work
 - Removing Economic Inequalities – reducing labour market barriers and challenges to safeguard our future workforce
- 6.2.4 A Youth Task Force has been proposed to drive forward the design, development and delivery of the Guarantee, with multi-agency representation working closely with the Youth Combined Authority to ensure the voice of young people is at the heart of the plan. The Task Force will be chaired by former Olympian and Commonwealth Gold Medal Winner, Diane Modahl, whose foundation has been supporting disadvantaged young people through sport and positive engagement activities since 2002.
- 6.2.5 For Bury, there is particular synergy with the Bury Opportunity Guarantee priority within the local Covid Recovery Plan, in terms of opportunities through work shadowing, mentoring, apprenticeships and skill development opportunities.

6.3 ***Working Well***

- 6.3.1 Working Well is family of services that embody Greater Manchester's devolved employment & health offer have been commissioned to support people experiencing or at risk of long-term unemployment.
- 6.3.2 First announced as part of the 2014 Devolution agreement, Greater Manchester successfully negotiated for the opportunity to co-design, procure and deliver a localised version of the new Work and Health Programme. The programme brings together expertise and local knowledge to include integrated health, skills and employment support, and offers all participants individually tailored and personalised support from their own dedicated key worker to support them on their journey back to work.
- 6.3.3 As part of the Chancellor's summer statement it was announced that there would be a variation to the devolved Working Well Work and Health Programme to enable the development of the Working Well Light Programme to offer early support to those have become recently unemployed. From October the Working Well Light Programme will provide early support, which will complement the wider labour market offer of support through a sector-based approach that responds to local

priorities. The scheme will provide a light touch provision that includes, but is not limited to, transferable skills analysis, CV writing, job search, interview skills, self-efficacy and confidence building.

6.3.4 DWP and GMCA Skills and Work Team have been working closely over the last few weeks to develop the service delivery model. The programme will support 13,200 GM residents to find employment.

6.3.5 This is in addition to the introduction of the Working Well Supportive Employment Service. This is a new service commissioned by GMCA and co designed across the ten local authorities to support residents with severe mental health illness, people with a learning disability and/or autism. This programme start date was delayed due to COVID but began taking referrals on 1st August 2020. Individual placement and support is being provided via telephone/videocall at present due to distancing restrictions.

6.4 **Adult Education Budget**

6.4.1 The Adult Education Budget (AEB) for the region is devolved to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. It is worth £92 million per year and provides essential education and skills provision for over 70,000 residents each year. It supports the development of skills for life and work whilst ensuring employers can access the skilled workforce needed for businesses across the city-region to thrive.

6.4.2 As part of the city-region's response to COVID-19, the GMCA approved amendments to the devolved funding and performance management rules for 2019/20 which allowed a great access to AEB funding. This enabled greater support to furloughed workers, those working in key sector areas, and vulnerable learners who need additional aid to access training and skills.

6.4.3 The reassurance of maintained level of funding 20/21 due to lack of ability to measure a full year of activity and the impact of Covid 19 on fulfilling funding targets has been well received.

6.5 **GM Co-operative Commission**

6.5.1 Following the launch of the report of the GM Co-operative Commission, it was agreed that Commissioners would meet to develop an Implementation Plan for the recommendations which had been made. It is proposed that this piece of work takes into account the emerging impacts of Covid-19 and is completed by September 2020. The work of the Commission in its current form would then be complete.

6.5.2 The Implementation Plan will present an opportunity to embed co-operative ways of working where they can make the most difference in terms of other sectors, for example social care, housing, transport and business. This will give a chance to refresh membership of the steering group that drives forward the work, bringing in diverse and expert voices from the relevant sectors.

6.5.3 Bury is currently an associate member as part of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. A recommendation of the Commission's report was that each Greater Manchester locality should consider becoming

members of the Co-op Council's Innovation Network.

6.6 **GM Clean Air Plan - Consultation Update**

6.6.1 A report was tabled to Bury's Cabinet on 2nd September providing a comprehensive update on the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan and specifically in relation to the respective consultation.

<https://councildecisions.bury.gov.uk/documents/s23736/GM%20Clean%20Air%20Plan%20Consult%20Cabinet%20Update%20Am%2018.08.20.pdf>

6.6.2 The report sets out the progress that has been made on the development of Greater Manchester's (GM) Clean Air Plan following the decision that the GM Local Authorities will move to a statutory public consultation on this plan as soon as reasonably practicable in light of COVID-19 restrictions, and the link to taxi and private hire common minimum licensing standards. The report also considers the formal governance mechanisms that will underpin the delivery of a GM Clean Air Zone (CAZ) and the supporting measures.

6.6.3 The report does not seeking a decision on whether to introduce a scheme as that has been mandated by the Secretary of State. Rather it sets out a position for consultation on the daily charge, discounts and exemptions of a Category C GM Clean Air Zone, and the proposals for the supporting funds that have been developed taking stakeholder engagement and statistical modelling into account. It is seeking agreement to consult and endorsement of the policy for consultation. The policy will be reviewed in line with the findings from the statutory consultation.

6.6.4. An All member briefing on GM Clean Air Plan for Bury Elected Members was held on 23 July

6.7 **The Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund**

6.7.1 In March 2018, GMCA agreed to allocate £160 million of Greater Manchester's £243 million Transforming Cities Fund to develop a Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund (MCF). The fund is being used to deliver the first phase of the Bee Network, which is the walking and cycling element of the Our Network plan to transform Greater Manchester's transport system. The Bee Network, once complete, will cover circa 1,800 miles and be the longest, integrated, planned network in the country connecting every neighbourhood of Greater Manchester.

6.7.2 Over the last 2 years, Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) has been working closely with scheme promoters to set up and progress the projects in line with the agreed governance arrangements, and continues to utilise TfGM's established Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Support Team to provide collaborative support to Local Authority partners

6.7.3 Bury has "Programme Entry" for MCF schemes in Tranche 1, Tranche 5 and Tranche 6. Work has been taking place to actively develop the schemes with an application made towards development costs. The programme entry schemes include cycle parking on the Bury Metrolink line alongside new and upgraded crossing points junctions.

6.7.4 Recognising the impact of Coronavirus on travel patterns and the encouragement of people to walk or cycle, Bury has also received Emergency Active Travel Tranche 1 Funding for the A56 Prestwich pop-up cycle lane and has just submitted an Emergency Active Travel Tranche 2 submission for filtered neighbourhood and improving links to further education establishments in the Fishpool area and improving access to Bury town centre from the Pimhole area.

6.8 ***Social Value & Public Procurement***

6.8.1 Greater Manchester was an early adopter of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012, with the requirements reflected in the GMCA's Constitution for the organisation to include considerations of social value in all purchasing and disposal procedures.

6.8.2 In association with local authority Heads of Procurement from across the city region, an initial proposal for the refresh of the existing Greater Manchester Social Value Framework in the light of the likely impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic has now been developed.

6.8.3 The refreshed framework is built around six objectives:

- Provide the best employment that you can
- Keep the clean air in Greater Manchester
- Create the employment and skills opportunities that we need to Build Back Better
- Be part of a strong local community
- Make your organisation greener
- Develop a local, GM-based and resilient supply chain

6.8.4 It is proposed that the Social Value Framework will be presented using a web-based portal, structured around the six objectives, with links through to a range of suggested actions and sources of support and guidance. Each objective will have a tile on the home page behind which will sit an overview of the objective, its drivers, suggested actions and projected outcomes as well as links to named GM programmes and initiatives which any organisation can join or receive support (e.g. GM Good Employment Charter or Bridge GM)

6.9 ***Greater Manchester's Plan for Jobs, Homes and the Environment, the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework***

6.9.1 Greater Manchester's plan for Jobs, Homes and the Environment, the Spatial Framework, sets out how the city-region will build the right homes, in the right places so everyone can live in well-connected and environmentally sustainable villages, towns and cities. It will also help Greater Manchester continue to be a dynamic, attractive place to invest and do business. The pandemic has made planning for our future even more important and this plan can be a key tool in helping Greater Manchester recover and thrive.

6.9.2 This plan was shared in 2019 with the feedback received from more than 17,000 residents, businesses and community groups. This feedback has informed the development of the plan which also takes into account the impact of the pandemic; together this has shaped the final version of the plan.

6.9.3 The revised plan:

- sets out how Greater Manchester should develop up until 2037;
- identifies the amount of new development that will come forward across the 10 districts, in terms of housing, offices, and industry and warehousing, and the main areas in which this will be focused;
- supports the delivery of key infrastructure, such as transport and utilities;
- protects the important environmental assets across the city region;
- allocates sites for employment and housing outside of the existing urban area; and
- defines a new green belt boundary for Greater Manchester

6.9.4 In September and October 2020 the final draft of the plan will be subject to full scrutiny by all councillors across Greater Manchester's 10 boroughs.

6.9.5 If approved for publication, the plan will be brought forward for an eight-week public consultation in early November to give residents and stakeholders a chance to see how the plan has been changed in response to issues raised previously. There will also be an opportunity to raise formal objections to the plan.

6.10 A Bed Every Night

6.10.1 The A Bed Every Night (ABEN) programme has provided a key accommodation and support pathway for people who are experiencing rough sleeping, or at imminent risk, in Greater Manchester for the last 2 years. It has been delivered as one part of a wider system of activity to prevent and relieve rough sleeping, including the Rough Sleeper Initiative, Rapid Rehousing Programme, and Housing First pilot, to provide options and complementary resources for people who rough sleep.

6.10.2 The role of A Bed Every Night becomes even more critical as a humanitarian relief programme as we begin to 'live with Covid-19' and manage the continued risk to life that this presents to those who are vulnerable.

6.10.3 Phase 3 seeks to increase accommodation capacity and ensure further wrap-around support for individuals. ABEN Phase 3 funds 15 bed spaces in Bury, an increase from 10 the previous year. Linking this provision with ABEN operationally and strategically with our other multi-agency stakeholders especially health will provide a more robust service with more positive longer term outcomes for our rough sleepers.

6.11 Culture

6.11.1 Greater Manchester has been at the heart of promoting the value of culture. United We Stream GM has led the way with livestreaming performing arts, literature, comedy, and music, with the vast majority of this activity having been streamed for The Met Theatre in Bury, which is fitting given Bury's title as in the inaugural Greater Manchester Town of Culture. United We Stream has raised over £475k to support the regional cultural, creative and night time economy.

6.11.2 For those without digital access, culture and creativity has been shared through the distribution of Creative Care Kits. The Creative Care Kit contains a range of activities that can be completed at home using

materials that are provided including an activity book, art and craft supplies and a seed bomb. Contributions to activities in the kit were co-produced through Bury Culture Champions, Bury Art Museum and Met.

7.0 Update on Waste and Resources Contract

- 7.1 The Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) access restriction policy was introduced in February 2020 to deter traders from unlawfully using the sites, from 1st September the next phase of this policy will see a limit being introduced on the number of bags of rubble that residents can dispose on at any one time. Rubble is one of the main types of waste that traders are disposing of at the HWRCs.
- 7.2 Trade waste is not permitted at any HWRC, and although fixed height barriers are installed at all sites set at 2 metres high to prevent large vans from entering sites, a large amount of trade waste is still being deposited at the sites unlawfully. All traders and businesses must pay for the disposal of trade/business waste; the HWRCs are for household waste only. Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA 1990), trade waste must be disposed of at appropriately permitted facilities for a reasonable charge and anyone transporting such waste is subject to the requirements of Duty of Care (set out at section 34 of the EPA 1990).
- 7.3 The new access restriction policy limits the number of visits by vehicle type:
- Cars and cars with single axel trailers – 52 visits a year
- This includes: disability-adapted vehicles, SUVs, people carriers with multiple seats (under 2 metres high), bicycles, cargo bikes and bikes with a cargo trailer.
- Cars with a double axel trailer – 18 visits a year
 - Vehicles up to 3.5 tonne gross vehicle weight: 18 visits a year
- This includes pickup trucks, estate vans, city vans and chassis vans
- Vans over 3.5 tonnes can visit 12 times a year
- From 1st September all vehicles will be limited to no more than five bags (900mm x 600mm) of rubble per visit. This is designed to stop traders from using the sites for the illegal disposal of large quantities of rubble.
- 7.4 The Recycle For Greater Manchester (R4GM) Communications team are working with Bury Council on a paper and card contamination campaign to engage with residents who are deliberately contaminating their bin. Through research and inspections carried out at the SUEZ transfer loading station where the paper and card is tipped off from the collection rounds; the following main types of contamination have been identified:
- Bags of general waste
 - Soiled nappies
 - Food
 - Electrical items
 - Textiles
- 7.5 From September 2020 all green paper and card bins in Bury will have a sticker applied, this will inform and remind residents what can and cannot go in the bin. Each household will receive a leaflet again reiterating what should go in the bin, it will also contain information about the consequences of getting recycling wrong, showing images of contaminated loads and outlining the cost

to Bury Council. The Bin sticker and leafleting will be reinforced with social media, radio adverts, newspaper content and newsletters. R4GM will also be working with key stakeholder such as Six Town Housing to disseminate the key messages.

- 7.6 In October the campaign will be followed up with a second round of bin stickering which will target those bins which are still contaminated. Bin crews will inspect each bin and a red warning sticker will be applied advising the resident to remove the wrong items before the next collection, a follow up email will be sent to those who have signed up to Bury's online bin collection reminder service.
- 7.7 The current situation around Covid, has meant that all R4GM education activities that normally would be delivered in person (either on site or on outreach) have been suspended. The education team are developing new ways to engage with the public. These include:
- Education Facebook page
 - Live sessions
 - Pre-recorded films.
- 7.8 A new home composting campaign has been launched to ease pressure on council garden waste collection services. This has been developed to ease pressure on council garden waste collection service by promoting home composting. The campaign; called Let's Compost Now provides easy tips on how to start composting, myth busting and how to guides. More information can be found here on our website:
<https://recycleforgreatermanchester.com/community-post/lets-compost-now/>. A toolkit of social media assets has been provided to your communication team to promote locally.
- 7.9 Of wider information, three reuse shops are being develop by SUEZ which will be open by the end of the March 2021. These will be located on 3 household waste recycling centres, the nearest to the Borough of Bury being in Oldham at Arkwright St recycling centre. The shops will sell pre-owned items that have been donated to containers that will be added to each of the recycling centres. Items could be any household item that is suitable to be reused, such as furniture, bikes, bric-a-brac, books, gardening equipment, etc. Proceeds from the 'reuse shops' will go to the Greater Manchester Mayor's charity with a commitment of a donation of £100,000 every year. In terms of the waste hierarchy, reuse is more favourable than recycling. Reusing extends a products lifecycle without using up lots of energy. Reusing also means less waste goes to landfill or energy from waste.

8.0 Update from Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM)

- 8.1 Mobile phone data shows in Bury the average daily number of trips being made is only 43% below the pre COVID-19 level; the average for GM is 47%. This dataset also shows that approximately 30% of those who made a regular commute tips in Bury are still making that trip. This is only marginally above the GM average of 28%
- 8.2 In August, government announced an extension to Metrolink funding for a further 12 weeks. This has been crucial in TfGM recovery and in preparation for the return of education and commuter demand.

- 8.3 Metrolink services are operating at a 10-minute frequency across all lines between 6am and 7pm Monday to Friday. From 24 August running times were extended, with services running every 20 minutes between 7pm and midnight Monday to Friday. On Saturdays, a 10 minute service will operate from 8am to 8pm, moving to a 20-minute service until midnight. On Sundays a 15-minute service will run through the day, from 7am to 11pm.
- 8.4 Face covering compliance has increased to around 80% on bus and Metrolink. The TravelSafe Partnership continue to undertake 'Days of Action' to target the areas with the lowest levels of compliance.
- 8.5 TfGM has been working closely with local authorities and operators over the past few months to fully understand the implications of the return to school in September and make preparations for this. There is ongoing and regular engagement with senior colleagues in the ten local authorities to ensure a coordinated approach, to keep them up to date with progress with preparations for September and assist with communications with schools.
- 8.6 A package of interventions has been developed, including developing travel demand management (TDM) principles, success measures and a process for escalation to ensure we are in the best position to manage demand as and when issues arise in September. A Back to School tactical communications campaign launched last month promoting active travel options for school children and parents and also promoting IGO applications and changes to yellow school bus services. A joined-up approach is being employed to ensure that plans for dedicated school services, SEN transport and the wider transport network have all been considered and aligned.
- 8.7 Our Pass launched for new members on 1 September, allowing for free bus travel and half-price off-peak 1-day and weekend Metrolink travelcards. Also as of the 1 September, 18-21 year old care leavers in Greater Manchester will be eligible for free bus travel. This is following a commitment in the GMCA Care Leavers Guarantee and Core Offer.
- 8.8 Planning applications have been submitted for Radcliffe and Whitefield park and ride expansion projects. Following the successful Restoring Your Railways 'Ideas Fund' bid to investigate the potential future use of former railway line between Bury-Heywood-Rochdale, TfGM submitted a full bid to DfT at the end of July and are waiting for the Department to grant authorisation to proceed to the next stage, to develop the summary cases for change.

9.0 Recommendation

- 9.1 That Council note the updates from the Combined Authority, with further updates to be presented to future Council meetings

List of Background Papers:-

None identified

Contact Details:-

Chris Woodhouse
Strategic Partnerships Manager
c.woodhouse@bury.gov.uk
0161 253 6592

Joint Authorities Questions:

1) In last year's Combined Authority consultation on the Greater Manchester Strategy Framework, how many consultation responses were received from Bury residents in support of the proposals to build on greenbelt land and how many were received that were against? - Councillor Tegolo

Consultation on the 2019 draft of the GMSF generated a total of 67,000 individual comments from 17,500 people and organisations and these are all available on the GMCA's web site.

Specific comments were received for each of the proposed allocations and these ranged in number from 327 responses for Whitefield to 690 for the Elton Reservoir proposals. The majority of these responses objected to these sites.

Whilst public opinion is clearly important in shaping the approach taken in the GMSF, it is important to recognise that this is just one of a wide range of complex considerations that have to be balanced in shaping the strategy set out in the GMSF.

For example, it is also necessary for plans to be consistent with the Government's national planning policy and guidance, including the requirement for plans to set out a strategy which, as a minimum, seeks to meet the area's objectively assessed development needs.

- Councillor O'Brien to respond

2) What proportion of eligible older people in Greater Manchester (and in Bury if known) are current owners of a £10 card to allow for free Metrolink travel? Councillor Powell

In Bury, there are currently **37,095** concessionary card holders. Of these, **13,499** have added the 'add tram & train' product. That's **36%** of the eligible customers.

For the whole of Greater Manchester, the take-up figure is **28%** of all eligible card holders.

- Councillor Gold to respond

3) How are Transport for Greater Manchester enforcing the COVID-19 rules to ensure safety of travel for residents? Cllr. Dorothy Gunther

Safe Travel

TfGM alongside operators are working to ensure passengers adhere to the Covid-19 travel guidelines through education, encouragement and awareness. TfGM are providing customer support across the Metrolink and bus networks, and at

interchanges. Face coverings are available at travel shops, alongside visual and printed materials encouraging use. Announcements are regularly made across the Metrolink network and posters are on display at tram stops encouraging passengers to use face coverings, socially distance and use contactless payment methods. There is also online support with advice on public transport use, journey planning and the availability of cashless ticketing options to minimise contact.

Days of Action

Several TravelSafe Partnership 'Days of Action' have been implemented across the bus and Metrolink networks since July. The multi-agency approach aims to engage, explain and encourage passengers to wear face coverings, adhere to social distancing and to use contactless payment/ticketing products where possible. Activity has included staff presence across the transport network, combined with a social media campaign and coverage through television and radio channels.

Face covering compliance has increased after the implementation of the 'Days of Action', with compliance across all modes now at circa. **85%**. Additional days have been scheduled in over September.

Enforcement

Transport staff will engage and educate customers not adhering to face covering rules (taking exemptions into account). If necessary, staff will deny travel to anyone not adhering to these guidelines, and where appropriate will request the support of GMP/Transport Unit to take enforcement action, which may result in the issuing of a fine.

- Councillor Gold to respond

Motion Tracker: Full Council Meeting – 8 July 2020

ITEM	RESPONSE/ACTIONS REQUIRED	WHO RESPONSIBLE	PROGRESS/ DATE COMPLETED
<p>Council Motion: Securing a Fair Deal for Private Renters and Selective Licensing</p>	<p>1. To give full consideration to introducing a selective licensing scheme in specific areas, such as in Prestwich, Radcliffe and East Bury, to tackle antisocial behaviour and support wider housing market renewal and regeneration and to help develop more sustainable communities.</p> <p>2. That by the end of this calendar year, a report be brought to Overview and Scrutiny and then to Cabinet, reporting back on whether a selective licensing approach is appropriate for parts of Bury. The report should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a comprehensive assessment of privately rented accommodation in Bury - an update on criminality and antisocial behaviour and any link between this and the private rented sector <p>3. To continue to work with Six Town Housing, to address how the Council can help bring empty properties into use through assisting with private sector renting, in return for nomination rights.</p>	<p>Chief Executive/Director of Housing</p>	<p>A report will be presented to Overview and Scrutiny and Cabinet which looks at the range of options to improve conditions in the private rented sector and not just the single option the motion.</p>

	<p>4. To call on the Government to provide greater assistance for those private renters who are particularly struggling during the Coronavirus pandemic.</p>		
<p>Council Motion: Independent inquiry into the handling of coronavirus</p>	<p>1) write to the prime minister to demand an independent inquiry into the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. This inquiry should be wide ranging in scope bringing in evidence from national and international experts and local and community stakeholders. It should report back in a timely manner – we suggest before the end of this year – with clear recommendations on what the government needs to do to make amends for the mistakes made thus far, but importantly to ensure those same mistakes are not made again.</p>	<p>Chief Executive</p>	<p>Letter appended.</p>

Geoff Little OBE
Chief Executive



Our Ref GL/HM/Council
Date 3 August 2020
Please ask for Geoff Little
Direct Line 0161 253 5102
E-mail g.little@bury.gov.uk

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister,

Bury Council at its Full Council meeting on 8 July 2020 debated a notice of motion in relation to the coronavirus pandemic.

Accordingly, Full Council resolved to ask me to write to you requesting that the government commission an independent inquiry into the handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

Council Members asked that the inquiry be wide ranging in scope, bringing in evidence from national and international experts together with local and community stakeholders.

Council Members further requested that the inquiry should report back before the end of the year and that it should include clear recommendations and lessons learnt.

I look forward to your response so that an update can be provided to Members of Bury Council.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "G Little".

G Little
Chief Executive

This page is intentionally left blank