

AGENDA FOR

CABINET



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To: All Members of Cabinet

Councillors : E O'Brien (Leader and Cabinet Member, Finance and Growth) (Chair), C Cummins (Cabinet Member, Housing Services), R Gold (Cabinet Member, Communities), C Morris (Cabinet Member, Culture and the Economy), A Quinn (Cabinet Member, Environment, Climate Change and Operations), T Rafiq (Cabinet Member, Corporate Affairs and HR), A Simpson (First Deputy and Cabinet Member, Health and Wellbeing) and T Tariq (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member Children, Young People and Skills)

Dear Member/Colleague

Cabinet

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

Date:	Wednesday, 13 April 2022
Place:	Council Chamber, Bury Town Hall
Time:	6.00 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

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of Cabinet are asked to consider whether they have an interest in any of the matters of the Agenda and, if so, to formally declare that interest.

3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Questions are invited from members of the public about the work of the Cabinet.

Notice of any question must be given to Democratic Services by midday on Monday, 11 April 2022. Approximately 30 minutes will be set aside for Public Question Time, if required.

4 MEMBER QUESTION TIME

Questions are invited from Elected Members about items on the Cabinet agenda. 15 minutes will be set aside for Member Question Time, if required.

Notice of any Member question must be given to the Monitoring Officer by midday Friday, 8 April 2022.

5 MINUTES *(Pages 5 - 24)*

Minutes from the meetings held on 9 and 22 March 2022 are attached.

6 THE DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT DEFICIT RECOVERY AND SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND/OR DISABILITY (SEND) TRANSFORMATION - PROGRAMME SAFETY VALVE *(Pages 25 - 38)*

Report of the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, and Skills is attached.

7 BURY MARKET AND FLEXIHALL - ACQUISITIONS TO FACILITATE DELIVERY OF LEVELLING UP PROJECT - PART A *(Pages 39 - 44)*

Report of the Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth is attached.

8 DISCRETIONARY GRANTS UPDATE REPORT *(Pages 45 - 68)*

Report of the Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR is attached.

9 CHILDREN'S SERVICES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

The Chief Executive to provide a verbal update.

10 MINUTES OF ASSOCIATION OF GREATER MANCHESTER AUTHORITIES / GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY *(Pages 69 - 88)*

To consider the minutes of meeting of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority held on 11 February 2022.

11 URGENT BUSINESS

Any other business which by reason of special circumstances the Chair agrees may be considered as a matter of urgency.

12 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

To consider passing the appropriate resolution under Section 100 (A)(4), Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the reason that the following business involves the disclosure of exempt information as detailed against the item.

13 BURY MARKET AND FLEXIHALL - ACQUISITIONS TO FACILITATE DELIVERY OF LEVELLING UP PROJECT - PART B *(Pages 89 - 104)*

Report of the Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth is attached

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Minutes of: CABINET

Date of Meeting: 9 March 2022

Present: Councillor E O'Brien (in the Chair)
Councillors C Cummins, R Gold, A Quinn, T Rafiq, A Simpson and T Tariq

Also in attendance: Councillors N Jones, M Powell, R Bernstein, N Boroda, R Brown, L Dean, J Harris, J Lancaster, L McBriar and J Rydeheard

Public Attendance: No members of the public were present at the meeting.

Apologies for Absence: Councillor C Morris

CA.229 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Charlotte Morris.

CA.230 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

CA.231 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The following question was submitted in advance of the meeting by a member of the public, Anton Slawycz:

Following the work of the Pilkington Park Councillors and pressure from the community it is great to see Rye Croft is being removed from the Accelerated Land Disposal (ALD) Scheme. What assurances can you give to the community that Rye Croft will remain as is and will not be subject to an ALD in the near future?

Responding, Councillor Eamonn O'Brien reported that he had been invited for a site visit by the local community and, on the back of that and the objections received we thought it appropriate to withdraw it from the disposals programme. A Community Asset Transfer was looked at, but it was deemed simpler to withdraw it. I can confirm there is no intention to bring this site (or any other withdrawn sites) through any future phase of the land disposal programme. We are also more than happy to continue to work with the community there in how this site is used and protected in the future.

The following question was submitted in advance of the meeting by a member of the public, Marie Holder:

The cabinet report outlines the community asset transfer toolkit following the request of this from the Overview and Scrutiny committee last year. What will the council do to ensure this is widely known in the community, with community groups, as well as being accessible online for reference?

Responding, Councillor Eamonn O'Brien reported that following discussions and a request from the Overview and Scrutiny committee last year, an updated Community Asset Transfer

Policy and Toolkit have been prepared and are due to be approved by Cabinet today. This revised version aimed to be more accessible, in line with comments and feedback received. Following approval, officers from the Land & Property Team will engage with the Council's communications team to ensure that details of the revised community asset transfer policy and toolkit are communicated to the wider community and included on the Council's website, and that more use is made of the policy when future sites are identified. Officers will ensure that contact details are included and details on how the Council will assist community groups through the community asset transfer process, which was often quite complicated and time consuming. Encouraging and facilitating early conversations was key, and as such training for Councillors would be held to help them engage with local communities.

The following questions were submitted and answered in writing:

Muhammad Sajad Warraich:

It's clear to see that a lot of roads across Elton Ward and Bury have been left to ruin, with the council failing to spend its pothole budget to fill in the potholes in the roads. Please can the leader of the council provide an explanation for the systematic neglect of roads in Bury?

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien reported that more than 12,000 potholes were filled across Bury this last financial year – and a further 12,000 will be tackled in the coming 12 months. The council is about to invest a further £10 million into the borough's highways, taking the total to £30 million over nine years.

Latest figures also reveal that, under the previous phase of the highways strategy, around 112,000 sq m of surface dressing was put down on 91 streets, and 45 roads were resurfaced. In the pipeline for the coming year is a further 115,000 sq m of surface dressing on 82 streets, and 70,000 sq m of resurfacing on 15 streets. Around 5,000 sq m of patching was completed in 21/22, and any backlog caused by Covid delays will be reprogrammed over 22/23 and 23/24. Bury should receive £6m per annum for its 660km of road network. Since 2010 we have received a third of that amount. This council has had to borrow £30m to maintain the road network. If anyone is neglectful of Bury's roads, it's this government. I suggest Mr Warraich writes to his local MP to get Bury a better highways settlement.

Peter Liggins:

Will Bury Council listen to Sustrans &, the Senior Transport Planner at ARUP, when they say that Option 1 of the Heaton Park Active Travel Neighbourhood "will not work". Both bodies only recommend Option 2, so will the Council commit to only moving forward with that proposal & to disregard the unworkable Option 1 plan?

Sustrans are currently consulting over the Heaton Park Active Travel Neighbourhood. 2 Options are being proposed, but Sustrans & ARUP have told me that they only recommend Option 2 & did not wish to put forward any other proposals. They claim Bury Council insisted that an alternative proposal was created (now known as Option 1) which Sustrans & ARUP have told me 'will not work'.

Councillor Alan Quinn reported that at the Active Neighbourhood drop-in event yesterday (Tuesday, 08 March 2022) which was attended by over 150 residents and businesses, the rationale for the two options was discussed.

It was acknowledged that Option 1, if implemented, would require monitoring and evaluation on the surrounding streets to understand the impacts of any traffic displacement, as has been acknowledged during previous correspondence.

It is also acknowledged that the project team had recommended an approach like Option 2 through the workshop process, but also recognise that residents will have differing views and the presentation of two options would provide a way to understand what would or wouldn't be supported.

The whole purpose of such an engagement exercise as that undertaken for the Heaton Park Active Neighbourhood initiative is to understand what residents think of the proposals. No decision has yet been made as to which, if any, option would be taken forward and it may be that the results of the current feedback exercise would result in an alternative option being taken forward that could include a combination of measures from the two options.

CA.232 MEMBER QUESTION TIME

The following question was submitted in advance of the meeting by Councillor Russell Bernstein:

How will the people of Bury know that the Community Safety Plan is being delivered?

Responding, Councillor Richard Gold reported that for each of the priorities within the Community Safety Plan there is a delivery lead who is a senior officer within the relevant partnership organisation. Each lead will produce frequent delivery reports against the plan, using data from the strategic assessment and updates on key activity. These updates will be presented to the Community Safety Partnership Board co-chaired by Chief Superintendent Chris Hill and the Council's Deputy Chief Exec Lynne Ridsdale on a quarterly basis. Information from these updates will be summarised in a six monthly review to Overview and Scrutiny to supplement the more detailed Annual Performance Plan. In addition the Community Safety Partnership has committed to more regular engagement with residents through our Community Hubs by sharing crime and disorder data at more granular level to allow for meaningful feedback and joint working.

A further supplementary question was submitted:

There was some discussion at Overview and Scrutiny Committee around the availability of hard data – will this be more available moving forwards?

Councillor Gold reported that the hard data is received every week but up until now was only allowed to be used internally. Subsequent to a meeting earlier today with the Chief Superintendent, data for residents is now allowed. Format of this was still being developed, but this would be available from around April and would be under the six priority areas identified in the Community Safety Plan being available by Ward. It was noted that narrative context would be provided when 'blips' skewed or distorted data, and hopefully this would offer reassurance to residents, calming the sense that crime was out of control and also allowing intervention of real hotspots.

The following question was submitted in advance of the meeting by Councillor Jackie Harris:

Whitefield has been selected as the area of focus for the High Street task force with a visit due to take place in January 2023. What will the Council do over the next 9 months in engaging with Whitefield businesses ahead of the visit?

Responding, Councillor Eamonn O'Brien reported that the Council has selected Whitefield as it has unique set of circumstances and want to focus on the high street. The Council were not in charge of when the visit took place, but the 9 month lead in would give us time to begin devising and implementing a programme of engagement to ensure that existing businesses in Whitefield are fully conversed on the High Street Task Force agenda, identify what support and range of benefits will be on offer for local transformation work, identify complementary work around this, and inviting the businesses to be part of the project as key stakeholders.

The Council are currently working with businesses and the Whitefield Town Centre Business Group. The Council will continue to meet with this emerging group with a view to gaining their support for the visit and subsequent project, as well as discussing what the opportunities are for the town and how the above can help to support the developing objectives and ongoing activity. The community hub will be utilised in engagement, bringing together all the various users of the high street.

A further supplementary question was submitted:

Can we have updates as things progress? This is an ambitious programme and could provide a useful model for future developments.

Councillor O'Brien reported that yes, something could be brought back to Cabinet or another meeting later this year.

The following question was submitted in advance of the meeting by Councillor Roger Brown:

As part of the Homeless strategy, how will the Council work closely with partners such as Bury CCG over the next year?

Responding, Councillor Clare Cummins reported that the leadership and development of Partnership working to prevent homelessness is one of the seven principles of the proposed Bury homeless strategy.

This principle of the strategy sets out how the council will seek to proactively lead the homeless partnership to apply the borough-wide LET'S principles to its work (This means taking a Local and Enterprising approach which is delivered Together in a Strengths-based way). For example:

- Establishing proactive neighbour-hood based teams who work together on case work, to ensure multi agency support to complex lives and the prevention of and early intervention in issues that could result in homelessness
- Supporting the development of new housing supply, particularly affordable housing, to ensure there is enough supply to avert homelessness
- collaboration across the council, wider public service, community sector, private and social landlords and the co-design of ongoing policy work with people with lived experience and
- taking a person-centred approach to supporting people who are homeless or at risk of becoming so. This is about doing 'with' not 'to' through a "Keyworker" approach which empowers the client with the skills to lead an independent life within the community .

Bury CCG is a member of the homeless partnership. Its role, together with all other partners, is clearly articulated within a delivery work plan for the next three years and includes mental health, substance misuse and developing new and existing pathways for the homeless community into health care.

A further supplementary question was submitted:

I understand some rough sleepers do not want to go into Council homes, is there a more informal route to help them?

Councillor Cummins reported that the Council reached out to entrenched rough sleepers during the Covid pandemic through the 'everyone in' initiative and encouraged them to reach out to the variety of existing services, and the CCG reached out to the homeless population to invite them for vaccinations. She assured Members that Bury Council was doing their utmost to help people in the borough and ensure services were in place and helping people. She advised everyone to speak to rough sleepers they see and advise them on the contact details of the homelessness team at Bury Council.

The following question was submitted in advance of the meeting by Councillor Luis McBriar:

The Cabinet report on the Youth Zone states, "The Council will seek part of these costs from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) Youth Investment Fund". What engagement has the Council had with the department to date and what are the parameters for the Council to qualify for the above-mentioned fund?

Responding, Councillor Eamonn O'Brien reported that DCMS used a set of metrics to define which Local Authorities would be invited to bid for YIF grants. Bury was not included in the list. We have made a request via our partners OnSide and Youth Focus NW that an application for Bury Youth Zone nevertheless be considered.

The parameters for the Council to qualify for the fund are as DCMS formula using:

- an index of Income Deprivation Affecting Children;
- Children and Young people Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET); and
- Data on the supply of statutory youth provision by local authorities.

OnSide are supportive of this approach, subject to the outcome of the proposed Viability Study and confirmation of site at September's Cabinet meeting. This ties in with the draft timetable of an announcement in Sept/Oct from DCMS about which are the successful bids. I will ensure that James Daly MP is asked to raise this with DCMS.

A further supplementary question was submitted:

With regards to the sites identified, has there been or will there be any consultation across the borough?

Councillor O'Brien reported that we are in the early days of looking at a viability study, and that relevant stakeholders would be involved.

The following question was submitted in advance of the meeting by Councillor Jack Rydeheard:

What opportunities does the Council believe there are in Shared Services for Bury MBC and how will this deliver value for money for the Bury taxpayer?

Responding, Councillor Eamonn O'Brien reported that there were opportunities for shared services, but the practical realities were always trickier in practice. We can be comforted that

Bury's record of collaboration is quite strong, with an increasing degree of collaboration across Greater Manchester, and also with the CCG. Although not a panacea, there were prospects to go further. Opportunities existed across the Council and through the Transformation Programme we are looking at how we can share services better.

A number of services, both corporate and operational could be undertaken as a shared service but smaller services would also benefit from the resilience a shared service approach would bring. As part of the transformation programme and areas to be explored in order to put forward potential ideas to close the Councils 2023/24 financial gaps a number of areas for consideration are being explored across the Council.

A further supplementary question was submitted:

Do you have any idea of where services can be shared to achieve real savings?

Councillor O'Brien reported that some efficiencies were about savings and some were about improving workforce development and resiliency, for example recruitment and attracting key skills. Some of the bigger areas we can drive down costs include children's services, whether shared services or collaboration, achieving better value for money and better outcomes by keep services in the public sector. He advised that, as we come forward with the transformation programme, there will be prospects that come forward for scrutiny and further engagement.

The following question was submitted in advance of the meeting by Councillor Jo Lancaster:

On 17th November 2021 Cabinet meeting I asked 'What plan does Cllr. Tariq have regarding the public consultation for secondary school catchment areas' Cllr Tariq advised 'The timetable for that consultation will be established in the coming weeks. Consultation is likely to take place in early 2022, with the intention of implementing any changes for the academic year commencing September 2023. Councillor Tariq added that the last review was in 1980, and the borough had significantly changed since then. Every year parents rightly challenge why they are in the catchment area they are, and it was hoped that through this process issues could be discussed, debated and a solution identified to fit the borough for the 21st century. Why has the consultation still not taken place?

Responding, Councillor Tamoor Tariq reported that all admission authorities have a statutory duty to act in accordance with the relevant provisions of The School Admission Code 2021, issued under Section 84 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The Code imposes mandatory requirements and provides guidelines setting out aims, objectives and other matters in relation to the discharge of functions relating to admissions by all maintained bodies. Academies are required by their funding agreements to comply with the Code and the law relating to admissions.

In accordance with the School Admissions Code, when changes are proposed to admission arrangements all admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements that will apply for admission applications the following school year. Consultation must last for a minimum of 6 weeks and must take place between 1 October and 31 January in the determination year. All admission authorities must determine admission arrangements by 28 February for entry in September the following calendar year.

The LA has reviewed its current admission arrangements and proposes to consult on changes to those arrangements for Community secondary schools. It is proposed that consultation will be from October to December 2022, with a report to Cabinet early 2023 regarding the determination of admission arrangements for September 2024. This is the earliest opportunity

to implement changes to admission arrangements and will align with the opening of the new secondary school in Radcliffe. Whilst the formal consultation cannot commence prior to October 2022, the LA can provide advance publicity so that parents and other stakeholders are aware of the intentions to make changes to current arrangements.

A further supplementary question was submitted:

What assurances do we have that this will take place?

Councillor Tariq reported that his previous advice was based on what he knew at the time but now the legal situation has been researched this was the timeframe. He advised that he was very familiar with the issues in admission arrangements and the problems caused for families. He agreed the current arrangements were not fit for purpose and assured Members we would be moving forwards with the timelines identified.

CA.233 MINUTES

It was agreed:

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

CA.234 RAMSBOTTOM TOWN CENTRE PLAN

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth, presented the report which detailed the results of the draft Ramsbottom Town Centre Plan consultation and sought approval for the final Plan to become a material planning consideration, which will be used as a tool to guide investment and development in Ramsbottom Town Centre.

In response to Members' questions, it was noted that there was a focus on ensuring capacity was in place to ensure deliver and that the Project Management Office would be similar in scope to that of Radcliffe's, but the scale would be smaller.

Decision:

Cabinet:

1. Noted the key themes raised in response to the consultation on the draft Ramsbottom Town Centre Plan;
2. Accepted the post consultation amendments to the document; and
3. Approved the revised Ramsbottom Town Centre Plan as the final version and Council's policy document for the future of the town – to become a material planning consideration and guide future investment opportunities.

Reasons for the decision:

The Ramsbottom Town Centre Plan provides a vision to guide the future investment of the town centre in the short, medium and long term.

Other options considered and rejected:

No other options were considered/were applicable.

CA.235 BURY TOWN CENTRE MASTERPLAN

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth, presented the report which detailed the results of the draft Bury Town Centre

Masterplan consultation and sought approval for the final Bury Town Centre Masterplan to become a material planning consideration and a document that will guide and support the development and future regeneration of Bury Town Centre.

In response to Members' questions, it was noted that partnership working was key for Bury to ensure quality businesses were attracted to the area and also work with colleges and cultural institutions to improve the educational and cultural offer of the borough. Development of Town Centres was key in ensuring Bury remained ahead of the curve in being an attractive destination.

Decision:

Cabinet:

1. Noted the key themes raised in response to the consultation on the draft Bury Town Centre Masterplan;
2. Approved the post-consultation amendments; and
3. Approved the revised Bury Town Centre Masterplan as the final version and Council's policy document for the future of the town – to become a material planning consideration and guide future regeneration and investment opportunities.

Reasons for the decision:

The Bury Town Centre Masterplan will provide a commercial, market facing and deliverable vision to guide the development and regeneration of Bury Town Centre over the next 15-20 years.

Other options considered and rejected:

No other options were considered/were applicable.

CA.236 EAST LANCASHIRE PAPER MILL SITE UPDATE - PART A

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth, presented the report which set out the progress made to de-risk the site and pursue a delivery strategy to bring the site forward for redevelopment for housing, together with open space and replacement cricket facilities. The report included the procurement and selection of a preferred development partner for comprehensive delivery of the ELPM site, details of which were contained in the Part B report later in the agenda.

In response to Members' questions, it was noted that a 'fabric first' building approach for homes was a part of the Housing Strategy, as passive/low energy homes would be crucial in securing future residents against rising utility prices as well as being positive for the environmental situation. It was noted that this report focussed on the development partner, but a future report would set out detail on viability of what could be built on the site and how we meet our objectives on zero carbon homes.

Decision:

Cabinet:

1. Noted the collaborative approach with Homes England that has been pursued, including the entering into of a legally binding Collaboration Agreement with Homes England to comprehensively deliver the ELPM site for housing, open space and replacement cricket facilities;
2. Agreed to the appointment of a preferred developer and under bidder developer as set out in the part B report; and
3. Agreed to the financial payment arrangement for the capital receipt, based on the terms set out in the Part B report.

Reasons for the decision:

- To ensure that Cabinet are kept fully informed on progress regarding the delivery of the East Lancashire Paper Mill site working in collaboration with Homes England.
- To report on the outcome of the developer procurement process, which has resulted in approval of a preferred development partner for the site, which will enable the delivery of much needed new homes and ensure the site is comprehensively developed to high design and sustainability standards.
- To secure a capital receipt payment arrangement which offers the Council the most attractive financial proposition.
- To facilitate the Council's Brownfield first approach to housing delivery.

Other options considered and rejected:

The other option considered and rejected was set out in the Part B report.

CA.237 ESTABLISHING AN ONSIDE YOUTH ZONE IN BURY

Councillor Tamoor Tariq, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Skills, presented the report which proposed the development of a partnership with the charity Onside to develop a Youth Zone, providing facilities and programmed activities for young people.

This opportunity was widely welcomed as was the opportunity to link into wellbeing services and, in response to Members' questions, it was noted that case studies from similar developments in other localities would be explored. It was also agreed that partnership working with healthcare colleagues as well as charities and volunteer bodies would be key in ensuring this opportunity was fully utilised to provide the best service to the borough's youth.

Decision:

Cabinet:

1. Approved the principle of developing the Youth Zone including a proposed launch in April 2025.
2. Noted that the Chief Executive will submit a further report to Cabinet in September 2022 on the outcome of the Viability Study to determine the most appropriate site.

Reasons for the decision:

To deliver a new youth facility in Bury or Radcliffe.

Other options considered and rejected:

None; Onside is developing Youth Zones around the Country and can bring additional private sector financing into Bury.

CA.238 BURY HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY 2022 TO 2025

Councillor Clare Cummins, Cabinet Member for Housing Services, presented the report which set out the Homelessness strategy from 2022 to 2025, detailing how we will deliver services and meet homeless and rough sleeping demands over the next 3 years to provide the best support and accommodation within the Borough.

In response to Members' questions, it was noted that the website was being refreshed to be more user-friendly. In terms of Councillors' roles, this was an issue all should take ownership of. Councillor Cummins encouraged Members to reach out to rough sleepers and offered to talk with Councillors about what we were trying to achieve.

Decision:

Cabinet approved the strategy to formally implement and deliver with clear objectives and timescales.

Reasons for the decision:

The Council has a statutory duty to support people that are homeless in the Borough as determined through legislation described in the Homelessness strategy document. Therefore, the Council must have an updated and robust Homelessness Strategy to clearly demonstrate how we will meet the required statutory duties and obligations for homelessness in the Borough.

Other options considered and rejected:

None.

CA.239 UPDATE ON THE ACCELERATED LAND AND PROPERTY DISPOSALS PROGRAMME (PART A)

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth, presented the report which set out the Council's disposals successes to date, identified property assets that require withdrawal from the ALPDP following community consultation (and one that has been subject to an objection through the Public Open Space advertising process), noted that some assets will be used for short term occupation under licence, and provided an overview of the reviewed 2018 Community Asset Transfer (CAT) policy and toolkit.

Members were happy Rye Croft had been withdrawn and queried the revised CAT toolkit and policy. It was noted that this had been made more accessible and user-friendly to encourage engagement and be more intelligible to the average person. Members noted issues with capacity prevented officers from dealing with CAT requests as quickly as we'd like, with the process being quite involved to ensure the sustainability of sites, and that the new policy and toolkit would also empower Ward Members to support their local communities.

Decision:

Cabinet:

1. Noted the success of the disposals to date;
2. Gave approval to withdraw property assets from the ALPDP (as set out in Appendix A);
3. Accepted the officer recommendation that, following consultation, the land known as Barratt Estate Limefield (land to the west of Wheatfield Close) remains in the ADLP;
4. Noted that in order to ensure that assets do not remain sterile officers will give consideration to use of short term licences where appropriate (as set out in the report); and
5. Approved amendments to the policy community asset transfer policy (as set out in Appendices C & D).

Reasons for the decision:

- To share the success of the ALPDP to date with members and residents of the borough.
- To allow residents to continue to enjoy the benefits (including health and wellbeing benefits) open space land provides to local communities.
- To make best use of the Council's property assets, where a short-term use has been identified to support wider Council policies or strategies or provide economic benefits.
- To enable the Council to continue to generate capital receipts that can enable other Council projects to be supported.
- To be clear to the local community on how the 2022 CAT policy and toolkit will support the ALPDP.

Other options considered and rejected:

No other options were considered/were applicable.

CA.240 PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT OF FLETCHER FOLD BURY TO DELIVER AFFORDABLE LOW CARBON HOMES

Councillor Clare Cummins, Cabinet Member for Housing Services, presented the report which proposed arrangements for delivery of a housing scheme at Fletcher Fold, Bury in partnership with Six Town Housing. The scheme for 26 affordable homes was approved in principle by Cabinet on 11th November 2020. Since then, the Council had successfully bid for Brownfield Land Funding to undertake land remediation works at the site, which were now complete.

Decision:

Cabinet:

1. Approved the principle of the Fletcher Fold housing scheme being developed by Six Town Housing, on the basis of the financial and governance arrangements set out in the report;
2. Noted that provision of £4m has been made for this scheme in the Council's approved Capital Programme; and
3. Delegated authority to the Director of Housing after consultation with the Chief Executive, the Executive Director of Finance, the Director of Law and Governance and the Cabinet Member for Housing Services to approve the detailed proposals to be submitted by Six Town Housing.

Reasons for the decision:

- To facilitate the Council's brownfield first approach to housing delivery and reduce the Council's revenue costs for holding, maintaining and securing long-term disused sites.
- Delivery of the priorities of the Council's Housing Strategy to increase the supply of new housing and the delivery of affordable homes.
- Delivery of low carbon sustainable homes.

Other options considered and rejected:

1. Do nothing: Bury has high levels of need for affordable housing and supply is required in the marketplace. This is a brownfield site suitable for housing in an area of high demand, to do nothing would not be an option.
2. Market the site: The proposed scheme would not be delivered in the current housebuilding marketplace and, there are overage and clawback mechanisms in the Brownfield Housing Grant contract that would negate any capital receipt to the Council.
3. Dispose of the site to a Registered Housing Provider to deliver a similar scheme. This would take away a degree of control but would reduce the Council's risk. It would not support provide any financial support to the Housing Revenue Account.

CA.241 FINANCE RESTRUCTURE

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth, presented the report which set out a new proposed staffing structure for the finance team. Members noted the challenges to staff, and that this proposal sought to reduce the risk of redundancy to the absolute minimum. In response to Members' questions, it was noted that there were 15 agency staff included in the restructure; some of these were 'career agency' but some would apply for permanent positions.

Decision:

Cabinet:

1. Agreed the overall proposed structure set out in Appendix A as a basis for a 90 day period of consultation with staff and the recognised Trade Unions; and
2. Delegated authority to the Executive Director of Finance and the Cabinet Members for Finance and Corporate Affairs and Human Resources in consultation with the Director of People and Inclusion to consider responses received from the consultation, produce

a final version of the structure and to determine whether the final version is to be implemented or returned to Cabinet for approval prior to implementation.

Reasons for the decision:

The Council needs to create and develop a high performing team which supports all budget holders and activities within the Council to ensure financial discipline, grip and control is achieved. The current structure has been in place a number of years and has evolved over time with the addition and deletion of posts. The Local Government landscape has changed significantly in recent years and new challenges and ways of working have left finance unable to fully support some of the Council's core activity and aspirations. The current structure and grades are inconsistent amongst sections, exacerbates silo working and reduces departmental wide communication.

Other options considered and rejected:

The service could continue as current, but this is deemed inappropriate due to older style job descriptions which no longer cover the requirements by the Council. The Council could adopt a different structure following a 90 day consultation with all staff.

CA.242 COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2022-25

Councillor Richard Gold, Cabinet Member for Communities, presented the report which set out the new Community Safety Plan for the borough. This had been designed through extensive consultation with our communities, partners and stakeholders and had been reviewed by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Decision:

Cabinet approved the Community Safety Plan for Bury 2022-2025 and agreed for it to be presented to Full Council for sign-off in March 2022.

Reasons for the decision:

- This plan builds on the previous Community Safety Plan which covered 2019-2021. The report contains the key achievements that have been made against the five priorities and how these now need to be developed to meet current demands.
- The new plan has been developed through a strategic review of crime and safety performance, consultation with residents via our Community Hubs and wider community engagement network and feedback from our partners across private, public and the voluntary sector.

Other options considered and rejected:

This Plan has been subject to formal consultation and scrutiny by the Council. Alternative priorities have been considered and the priorities within the Plan have been amended to include this feedback and the develop the detailed delivery plans which will underpin the high-level commitments in this plan.

CA.243 HIGH STREETS TASK FORCE SUPPORT FOR BURY

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth, presented the report which advised that Bury, as one of 68 local authorities, has been selected for the newly announced support from the High Streets Task Force to provide a package of direct expert advice and support to local authorities, communities and businesses to deliver long-term transformation to towns and cities in England. It was proposed that Whitefield centre should be selected as the focus for this support but that this could be part of a wider project to support surrounding areas as well.

In response to Members' questions, it was noted that Ward Councillor engagement was crucial to bolster engagement with local businesses. Residents were passionate about Whitefield and lots could be done with the right strategy to address the identified issues around access etc. With regards to encompassing wider communities, it was noted that the Taskforce would be one aspect of the wider plan for Whitefield and Unsworth. The experience of the Taskforce could be used to build strategies tailored to other communities, and the next nine months would be used to identify how best to use this opportunity to regenerate the physical landscape and also improve people's quality of life and opportunities.

Decision:

Cabinet agreed to the selection of Whitefield centre as the focus for the receipt of support and to inform the High Streets Task Force accordingly.

Reasons for the decision:

The Task Force has already been informed that the Council would like to accept their offer of support and they are now asking the Council to select a high street, town or city centre area to receive direct Task Force support aimed at overcoming specific challenges and unlocking potential. Whitefield is in relatively close proximity and is well connected to the larger town centres of Prestwich and Radcliffe – including connectivity via Metrolink. As such, Radcliffe and Prestwich represent reasonable alternatives for Whitefield residents wishing to access town centre shops, services and other facilities and the attractiveness of these centres will be likely to increase once regeneration plans are implemented.

Other options considered and rejected:

The Borough's other key centres of Bury, Radcliffe, Prestwich, Ramsbottom and Tottington were also considered and rejected. Significant work and expertise have already been focused on the planning and regeneration of other key centres on the Borough or, in the case of Tottington, function on a more self-contained basis, rather than the level of connectivity to larger, alternative centres, as is the case with Whitefield.

CA.244 CHILDREN'S SERVICES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

Geoff Little, Chief Executive of Bury Council, provided an update on the progress of the Children's Services Improvement Programme. Members noted that good progress was being made on developing the improvement plan which was due to be submitted by 31 March. The detail of this plan was currently being drafted and would be considered by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee at its meeting next week.

The plan was aligned to seven principles – listening to children and young people, supporting children to stay within their families when it's safe to do so, taking a whole family approach, building positive relationships, early intervention, taking a place-based approach, and striving to do 'with' children and families not 'to' them. The plan would also have three priorities to improve the quality of practice (improving how we identify and support children and families in need of help and protection, more purposeful and timely care planning, and better support for care leavers) and four underpinning conditions to support these: better partnership governance, more stable and effective management, skilled and experienced workforce, and improvement of performance management and quality assurance metrics.

With regards to the three areas identified for immediate action, it was noted that the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) had introduced monthly tracking and monitoring of cases feeding into performance monitoring meetings; a number of permanent management positions had been made to secure stability in the team and improve decision making; and the MASH steering group was working well and had started to refresh all policies.

With regards to quality assurance, independent auditors had been commissioned to undertake a baseline assessment of quality activity which would help us ensure quality assurance and auditing was focussed on issues raised by Ofsted. In addition, more moderation was being added into the process to lead to improvements in practice and give an evidence base for the next inspection.

With regards to workforce, management of initial response and safeguarding teams had been strengthened. Caseloads had reduced but this needed to go further. Rolling recruitment was being implemented to prevent vacancies, a recruitment taskforce was in place, and temporary support was being brought in to reduce caseloads in the immediate term.

Councillor O'Brien advised that he and Councillor Tariq had been for a walkaround with the teams to speak with them directly about the improvements and remaining challenges and advised that this had been enormously helpful in understanding the situation beyond the written reports. This experience was also being offered out to Members of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Tariq advised the council was reaching out directly to schools and headteachers to ask for their views and to improve the relationship with the Council. He also advised that Social Work Week was coming up and advised Members to look out for communications around that.

Decision:

Cabinet noted the update.

Reasons for the decision:

This update was provided in response to a resolution of Council at the meeting held on 19 January 2022.

Other options considered and rejected:

N/A

CA.245 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Decision:

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100 (A)(4), Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, for the reason that the following business involves the disclosure of exempt information as detailed against the item.

CA.246 EAST LANCASHIRE PAPER MILL SITE UPDATE - PART B

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth, presented the report which set out the details regarding the procurement and selection of a preferred development partner for comprehensive delivery of the ELPM site.

Decision:

Cabinet:

1. Noted the collaborative approach with Homes England that has been pursued, including the entering into of a legally binding Collaboration Agreement with Homes England to comprehensively deliver the ELPM site for housing, open space and replacement cricket facilities;
2. Noted the outcome of the development procurement exercise and confirmed the officer recommendation to appoint the preferred development partner and underbidder developer; and

3. Agreed to the financial payment arrangement for the capital receipt, based on the terms as set out in the Part B report.

Reasons for the decision:

As set out for the Part A report.

Other options considered and rejected:

- To not proceed with appointing a developer partner for the delivery of the ELPM site. This is rejected as it would mean abandoning the procurement and be open to challenge. It would seriously undermine our shared key objective with our partner of delivering the comprehensive redevelopment of this major brownfield site for housing and present a reputational risk.
- To agree an alternative option with regard to the payment structure which has been rejected as it does not present an attractive financial proposition.

CA.247 UPDATE ON THE ACCELERATED LAND AND PROPERTY DISPOSALS PROGRAMME (PART B)

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth, presented the report which set out the full financial details.

Decision:

Cabinet:

1. Noted the success of the disposals to date;
2. Gave approval to withdraw property assets from the ALPDP (as set out in Appendix A);
3. Accepted the officer recommendation that, following consultation, the land known as Barratt Estate Limefield (land to the west of Wheatfield Close) remains in the ADLP;
4. Noted that in order to ensure that assets do not remain sterile officers will give consideration to use of short term licences where appropriate (as set out in the report); and
5. Approved amendments to the policy community asset transfer policy (as set out in Appendices C & D).

Reasons for the decision:

As set out for the Part A report.

Other options considered and rejected:

As set out for the Part A report.

COUNCILLOR E O'BRIEN
Chair

(Note: The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 8.07 pm)

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Minutes of:	CABINET
Date of Meeting:	22 March 2022
Present:	Councillor E O'Brien (in the Chair) Councillors C Cummins, A Quinn, T Rafiq, A Simpson and T Tariq
Also in attendance:	Councillor P Cropper
Public Attendance:	No members of the public were present at the meeting.
Apologies for Absence:	Councillor R Gold, Councillor C Morris, Councillor N Jones and Councillor M Powell

CA.248 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Gold, Councillor Morris, Councillor Powell and Councillor Jones, who had sent Councillor Cropper as a substitute.

CA.249 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

CA.250 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

CA.251 MEMBER QUESTION TIME

There were no Member questions.

CA.252 APPROVAL OF TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION JV WITH BRUNTWOOD AND ACQUISITION OF THE MILL GATE ESTATE - PART A

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth, presented the report which set out the detail for the proposed acquisition and development of the Mill Gate estate as part of the regeneration of Bury town centre. The full legal and financial details were contained in a Part B report and a number of Part B appendices.

Councillor O'Brien advised that this report followed on from a previous report to Cabinet in November 2021, and that this report and the accompanying Part B papers, set out the specialist advice the Council has received on the terms of the acquisition, the joint venture, and the results of due diligence on the asset and proposed commercial arrangements. Councillor O'Brien thanked the officers for their work in putting together this detailed report and commended the cross-party support for the deal.

Decision:

Cabinet:

1. Approved entering the joint venture vehicle with Bruntwood in accordance with the commercial terms included within Part B of this report;
2. Approved the acquisition of the Mill Gate estate in accordance with the commercial terms included within Part B of this report;
3. Approved the funding arrangements for the acquisition in accordance with the terms set out in Part B of this report;
4. Delegated any further approvals relating to additional due diligence work to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer; and
5. Instructed the Monitoring Officer to enter into and complete all necessary documents to give effect to the acquisition and the delivery of this proposal through the joint venture partnership.

Reasons for the decision:

- To create a delivery vehicle that is funded through commercial rental receipts, to develop the Mill Gate estate and unlock new opportunities for employment, leisure, serviced offices, food and beverage outlets and hundreds of new affordable homes whilst positively contributing to efforts to support the economic resilience of the town centre. The Mill Gate estate developments will also create enhanced public realm areas.
- To avoid the shopping centre being acquired by an 'income-investor' who would potentially extract surpluses from the centre for short term gain rather than re-investing in the estate. To secure its long-term future, thus necessitating public sector intervention further down the line at potentially great cost. In many locations Local Authorities end-up under enormous pressure to intervene when a facility is being mis-managed, and often this will require a premium above market value to be paid and a series of rectification works following potentially many years of neglect.
- Bury Town Centre Masterplan identifies further development opportunities to the south of Angouleme Way as well as other areas of Bury East ward. The acquisition of the Mill Gate estate will also facilitate physical reconnection and attract investment that will have a positive impact on the surrounding communities.

Other options considered and rejected:

- Council to not act and leave the matter to market forces. This option was rejected because if the shopping centre were to be purchased by a third party, they may not be motivated to reinvest income to maintain the centre to a high standard. This may contribute to the condition of the centre declining, thus resulting in a further detrimental effect on the wider town centre.
- Working with the vendor was originally an option, assisting in their search for a development or investment partner. However, this was discounted as an option as the vendors desired disposal timeframe.
- Council to purchase the Millgate estate for strategic development without a partner. This was discounted as the Council does not have sufficient inhouse capacity or expertise to deliver on this scale and level of ambition.

CA.253 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**Decision:**

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100 (A)(4), Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, for the reason that the following business involves the disclosure of exempt information as detailed against the item.

CA.254 APPROVAL OF TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION JV WITH BRUNTWOOD AND ACQUISITION OF THE MILL GATE ESTATE - PART B

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth, presented the Part B report and appendices which set out the full financial and legal details for the proposed acquisition and development of the Mill Gate estate.

Decision:**Cabinet:**

1. Approved entering the joint venture vehicle with Bruntwood in accordance with the commercial terms included within Part B of this report;
2. Approved the acquisition of the Mill Gate estate in accordance with the commercial terms included within Part B of this report;
3. Approved the funding arrangements for the acquisition in accordance with the terms set out in Part B of this report;
4. Delegated any further approvals relating to additional due diligence work to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer;
5. Instructed the Monitoring Officer to enter into and complete all necessary documents to give effect to the acquisition and the delivery of this proposal through the joint venture partnership;
6. Noted the detail around the head lease;
7. Delegated authority to the Director of Regeneration to undertake an independent valuation; and
8. Noted that a further report in respect of the head lease will come to Cabinet.

Reasons for the decision:

- To create a delivery vehicle that is funded through commercial rental receipts, to develop the Mill Gate estate and unlock new opportunities for employment, leisure, serviced offices, food and beverage outlets and hundreds of new affordable homes whilst positively contributing to efforts to support the economic resilience of the town centre. The Mill Gate estate developments will also create enhanced public realm areas.
- To avoid the shopping centre being acquired by an 'income-investor' who would potentially extract surpluses from the centre for short term gain rather than re-investing in the estate. To secure its long-term future, thus necessitating public sector intervention further down the line at potentially great cost. In many locations Local Authorities end-up under enormous pressure to intervene when a facility is being mis-managed, and often this will require a premium above market value to be paid and a series of rectification works following potentially many years of neglect.
- Bury Town Centre Masterplan identifies further development opportunities to the south of Angouleme Way as well as other areas of Bury East ward. The

acquisition of the Mill Gate estate will also facilitate physical reconnection and attract investment that will have a positive impact on the surrounding communities.

Other options considered and rejected:

- Council to not act and leave the matter to market forces. This option was rejected because if the shopping centre were to be purchased by a third party, they may not be motivated to reinvest income to maintain the centre to a high standard. This may contribute to the condition of the centre declining, thus resulting in a further detrimental effect on the wider town centre.
- Working with the vendor was originally an option, assisting in their search for a development or investment partner. However, this was discounted as an option as the vendors desired disposal timeframe.
- Council to purchase the Millgate estate for strategic development without a partner. This was discounted as the Council does not have sufficient inhouse capacity or expertise to deliver on this scale and level of ambition.

COUNCILLOR E O'BRIEN
Chair

(Note: The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 6.15 pm)



Classification: Open	Decision Type: Non-Key
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Report to:	Cabinet	Date: 13 April 2022
Subject:	The Dedicated Schools Grant Deficit Recovery and Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND) Transformation – Programme Safety Valve	
Report of	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Skills	

1. Summary

- 1.1. Cabinet has previously received reports setting out the significant deficit on the Council's Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and proposed actions to try and reduce this.
- 1.2. This report updates on the revised plan and progress on Project Safety Valve, including how Bury is addressing the financial challenge of eliminating the cumulative DSG deficit by the end of the financial year 2024/25.
- 1.3. The Council has entered into a formal agreement with the DfE on Project Safety Valve which is focused on:
 - 1.3.1. improving SEND services and the experiences and outcomes for children, young people and their families with identified Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
 - 1.3.2. an agreement to eradicate the High Needs Block Deficit by 2024/25. This agreement includes £20m additional revenue funding to be provided in instalments to 2024/25 plus £3.8m additional capital funding provided in 2021/22.
- 1.4. There are five conditions against which progress and performance are measured in quarterly reports to the DfE:
 - 1.4.1. **Agreement Condition 1:**
Strengthen Special Education Needs assessment and placement process
 - 1.4.2. **Agreement Condition 2:**
Ensure robust planning for future provision, including reducing the use of independent school placements by increasing the availability and suitability of local provision within Bury. This should include developing a model for forecasting future needs by March 2022.
 - 1.4.3. **Agreement Condition 3:**
Improve quality and timeliness of management information to enable evaluation of the impact of central services.

1.4.4. Agreement Condition 4:

Support and drive schools in Bury to meet a higher level of need in a more cost effective way within mainstream settings, while maintaining the quality of provision. Develop a culture in which demand is more effectively managed throughout the authority

1.4.5. Agreement Condition 5:

Remodel financial practice to ensure accurate contributions from appropriate funding sources by Dec 2021.

2. Recommendation(s)

Cabinet is asked to:

- 2.1. Note the progress on the DSG recovery agreement between the Department for Education and the Council which forms the basis of the grant agreement that the Council has signed up to.
- 2.2. Support the decisions required by officers to deliver the recovery plan within the agreed timeframe.
- 2.3. Note the financial support provided by the DfE in assisting the Council to recover the DSG deficit and the expectation that this will lead to a balanced position by the end of 2024/25.
- 2.4. Note that the settlement reached with the DfE will bring significant additional government funding into Bury to remove a large proportion of the DSG overspend.
- 2.5. Note that the settlement gives the Council funding to improve services, including services for children and families with SEND; better services here in Bury will replace more expensive services out of borough.
- 2.6. Agree that no decisions for change affecting individual children and families will be made without them.

3. Reasons for recommendation(s)

Cabinet is asked to consider the recommendations in order to demonstrate their ongoing support to Project Safety Valve and SEND Transformation based on the key considerations as follows:

- 3.1. The five conditions of the formal agreement with the DfE outlined at 1.4 form the basis for Bury's delivery plans and associated workstreams as detailed below.
- 3.2. The Project Safety Valve Delivery programme is comprised of six interdependent workstreams. They are:
 - Workforce - recruitment to key roles and performance development
 - Practice and process - revising the processes of the Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) team
 - Strategy and finance - consultation and changes to top-ups

- Future Provision - planning and implementation of capacity
 - Technology and data - development of systems and reporting capabilities
 - Graduated approach - development and launch of approach.
- 3.3. The governance of the PSV programme sits within the wider partnership arrangements for children and young people in Bury. We are also working closely with schools through the Schools' Forum and High Needs Funding sub-group, in addition to regular communication through existing programme meetings between Bury officers and headteachers. Informal and formal dialogue is being undertaken with relevant Trade Unions and staff representatives.
- 3.4. Progress against the Project Safety Valve Delivery Plan has been made. Recent examples include:
- Cleared the backlog of cases waiting over 20 weeks for the first time.
 - Met the 6-week timescale to enable panels to make informed decisions at pace.
 - Begun to implement person centred planning meetings; this will grow over the next quarter
 - Co-produced processes including recruitment and selection
 - Co-produced the Graduate Approach document
 - Developed sufficiency plan that identifies the need for additional and/or re-designated Resourced Provision and Special Places.
 - Work across partnerships to establish the Free School project, which is on track for pupil admission in September 2023. Capital Programme plans are in place.
 - Implemented LiquidLogic system, including a comprehensive data review and cleansing exercise.
 - Improved data reporting, including visualisation and analysis.
 - Improved governance arrangements to enable development of technology and data,
 - New banding scheme for mainstream top-ups agreed, to take effect from April 2022. This is a key savings target.
 - Agreement with special schools to abolish band D+. Projected savings are on track.
 - Reported the review of High Needs Block back to Head Teachers
 - Co-production with Primary Head Teachers to design operational plans to deliver alignment of Early Help locality teams and Inclusion Partnerships
 - After consultation, the Schools Forum has agreed to the maximum 0.5% transfer (£715k) from Schools to High Needs Funding block for 2022/23.

4. Alternative options considered and rejected

- 4.1. This report details the extensive progress made in respect to SEND Transformation and Dedicated Schools Grant deficit recovery where the recommendations included for consideration by Cabinet form part of the overall delivery requirements in accordance with the formal agreement between the Council and the DfE. There are no alternative options to be considered at this stage. Further recommendations will be brought to Cabinet in due course and in line with the continuing priorities of this programme.

Report Author and Contact Details:

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Position: Head of Strategic Business & Finance

Department: Corporate Core - Finance

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5. Background

5.1. PROGRESS AGAINST THE TRANSFORMATION PLAN AND FINANCIAL DEFICIT RECOVERY PLAN

This section of the report details the progress made against each of the agreement conditions

5.2. Agreement Condition 1: Strengthen Special Education Needs assessment and placement process

5.3. Clearing the backlog of cases

The team manager reported a backlog of seven cases on 21st February 2022. This performance improvement needs to be sustained through staff training and support to the decision-making process. The impact on overall performance is considerable: this should result in a reduction in complaints and Quality Assurance concerns, which will enable staff to focus on their current caseload. The impact of this can be seen in the reduction of plans in progress from 258 in January 2021 to 143 in January 2022.

5.4. Improvements to the Education Health and Care Plan service

The team has produced 107 plans within the initial six-week timeframe, 103 of which went to panel on time and with correct and accurate information; this has led to a significant improvement in the pace of the process. The implementation of LiquidLogic has made it easier to monitor and report on progress. Parents are given the required timescale to review and comment on the draft plans. The next priority is to work with parents and stakeholders to review the process and introduce a pilot focussing on the entire process from advice to draft and final plan.

5.5. Transition arrangements

The Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) team has successfully implemented the review arrangements for children in transition from nursery to reception and from year 6 to year 7. This was completed on 15th February 2022. The reviews for young people transitioning from year 11 to post 16 will be completed by 15th March 2022. Caseworkers have been involving parents, families and educational stakeholders in the reviews.

5.6. Capacity

The new Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) team structure has been implemented. Since December four new staff have joined. Another eight are expected to start by the end of April 2022. Effective support has been

provided by agency workers. The additional roles are focused on managing the planning process, including quality control and family engagement. The aim is to ensure that the experience of children and families is positive, and the number of complaints will be reduced as a result. However, parents continue to report concerns over caseworker changes and the lack of a key contact. Therefore, workforce stability and workforce development remain a key priority.

LiquidLogic makes it possible to track each case and the progress team members are making. This will help us to foresee delays and address them proactively.

The team will undertake extensive training and development to establish the professional approach that parents and stakeholders should expect. This will include introducing the professional qualification that supports the SEN service.

5.7. Children, young people and families: experience and engagement

Person centred planning meetings are taking place for all new assessments as part of the six-week timetable for gathering information. The emphasis is on co-producing the plan, which will reduce the number of complaints and tribunal cases.

Parents have been involved in the recruitment to posts in the Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) team. This has included co-designing roles, shortlisting and interviewing candidates. Further work is planned to co-produce induction and onboarding so that the perspective of children and families is foremost in the training.

We have received positive anecdotal feedback from parents who are describing an improvement in their experience of engagement with the team; they report being given information more quickly and with higher levels of accuracy.

However, it is still an inconsistent experience and we are committed to co-producing a pilot to improve the EHCP Process which will include co-producing; advice proformas; revising the plan; revising the process; and involving parents in quality assurance. The aim is to ensure the EHCP process has co-production at its heart and that parents' experience improves and that the EHCP demonstrates person centred multi-agency planning.

5.8. Graduated Approach

The Graduated Response is on track to be launched in Autumn 2022.

Bury is making good progress to develop a Graduated Approach which sets out the provision schools would be expected to put in place for pupils at universal and SEN Support levels, and the provision schools, the Council and other agencies need to put in place for pupils with an EHCP. This tool helps schools understand when to request a statutory assessment and helps parents to have informed discussions with schools and settings about the support being provided for their child and expectations about a graduated response.

A lot of work has been carried out in the last six months to develop the Graduated Approach and is on track for launch in the autumn term of 2022. This has involved establishing a steering group and eight task and finish groups. These involve schools, SENCOs, colleges and parents with co-production activity at the core. The first two sections are being drafted now; Additional events with parents/ carers, children and young people will complement the work of the Task and Finish Groups.

There are bi-monthly Steering Group meetings to set the direction of the work stream. Work with web developers is underway to make the information accessible for the 0-25 age range, with versions for Early Years, School Age and Post-16. Also, the development of a special school specific supplement.

We are on track to align Early Help Locality Teams and Inclusion Partnerships. This will enable schools to access a wider range of support in a streamlined way across the whole set of SEND services, with the intended outcomes that fewer EHCPs will be required.

Examples of progress with the alignment of Early Help Locality Teams and Inclusion Partnerships include:

- Bury has completed an initial successful consultation with the Headteacher Reference Group to share proposals in November 2021. Further successful consultation with primary head teachers took place through the Inclusion Partnership meetings across the autumn term to launch proposals in principle.
- Co-production activity with primary head teachers (February/March 2022) to design operational plans (3 of 4 meetings completed). Final proposals will be circulated to primary head teachers by the end of March 2022 for trial in the summer term 2022.
- A review is planned for the end of the summer term and full operation is planned to take place from September 2022.

5.9. Priorities

Over the next quarter the priorities are:

- to develop and implement co-production of induction and onboarding arrangements to improve standards and build confidence in the services
- to complete the work on two new sections of the Graduated Approach programme
- to maintain performance standards regarding the backlog of cases
- to build competence in LiquidLogic and start to use the improved management information to make decisions
- to review the way panels are working so that they can be supported more effectively
- to further invest in the EHCP team, including professional skills through induction and ongoing workforce development
- to review and simplify the EHC planning process.

5.10. **Agreement Condition 2**

Ensure robust planning for future provision, including reducing the use of independent school placements by increasing the availability and suitability of local provision within Bury. This should include developing a model for forecasting future needs by March 2022.

5.11. Sufficiency model

The sufficiency modelling process has been completed and gaps in provision have been identified.

This identified the need to develop capacity of Resourced Provision for children and young people with identified Autism Spectrum Condition(ASC) as their primary area of need and those with identified Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) needs, and additional specialist provision for SEMH at Key Stage 3 and 4 (secondary aged pupils). The sufficiency plan developed identifies the need for additional and/or re-designated resourced provision and specialist provision

5.12. Resourced Provision development

The specification for Autism Spectrum Condition Resourced Provision and Social Emotional Mental Health Resourced Provision has been produced. The RP Specification was shared with an initial shortlist of six primary schools (previously identified in the capital funding submission).

Detailed delivery plans for the establishment of Resourced Provision will be developed on a school by school basis, with roll-out between September 2022 and March 2023. All schools will be informed of the Resourced Provision specification to enable identification of further host schools for Resourced Provision to meet any remaining gaps, including geographical distribution.

5.13. Free Special Schools

The project to develop a Free Special School (80 place secondary Autism Spectrum Condition) is making good progress, involving the Council, Shaw Trust and the DfE delivery team. The project is on schedule for pupil admission in September 2023. Discussions are pending between the Council and the Shaw Trust to identify the first cohort of pupils to the new school in September 2023.

In addition, a specification has been produced for a further Free Special School (60 places secondary Social Emotional Mental Health). A shortlist of sites has been identified, with further work necessary to confirm preferred location. The target date for opening this school is September 2025.

5.14. Capital programme

Capital programme plans have been developed to support the delivery of these schools and services, alongside the relocation of Spring Lane School, Bury's Pupil Referral Unit from its existing site by September 2023, and the delivery of a Free Secondary School for Radcliffe located on the Spring Lane site, to open September 2024.

5.15. **Agreement Condition 3:
Improve quality and timeliness of management information to enable evaluation of impact of central services.**

5.16. Case management

On 1st February 2022 all active case management record-keeping for the SEN service was migrated onto the LiquidLogic Early Help Module (EHM) system to provide a single source of case management and case reporting data. Previous spreadsheet case management systems have been archived and retired following data migration and assurance. All members of the Education Health and Care Plan EHCP team staff have been fully trained on LiquidLogic, with ongoing one to one support provided. A comprehensive data review and cleansing exercise was undertaken prior to systems migration to update the accuracy of core case data fields, including ethnicity, establishment type, gender, SEN primary and secondary needs and assigned caseworker.

LiquidLogic workflows and forms have been updated and improved to help ensure that core case data is captured consistently and can be monitored through exception reporting. This includes making some fields mandatory, as well as adding additional fields.

Automated dashboards, work trays and report views are now available to all staff on an individual basis to help visualise progress and prioritise effort. Senior team leads, managers and SEN data analysts now have automated live reporting across the team within LiquidLogic to manage the collective cases, identify issues and opportunities and monitor performance.

5.17. Data reporting

The new SEN Data analyst helped prepare the SEN2 and Alternative Provision census statutory returns for timely analysis, assurance and submission with senior leads. The work involved in data assurance also positively contributed to the systems migration meaning core case notes data is the most accurate and complete that it has been for several years.

The latest monthly data pack (and the final one to use data sourced from multiple spreadsheets) was successfully produced at the start of February. See Appendix C. The improved visualisation and analysis has helped provide valuable new insight to senior service leadership which has directly informed conversations and actions with staff, families and partners. All future data packs will be produced more efficiently using data sourced from LiquidLogic.

5.18. Leadership and governance

A new fortnightly "SEN Data Analysis and Action Forum" has been established. This brings together the new SEN data analyst and service leadership to review information about a) data quality and systems usage b) performance and c) forecasting. The forum began meeting in February 2022 and is proving a valuable dedicated space to discuss, decide and evaluate decisions that are informed by data.

A new SEN Data and Technology Systems Governance Group was established in November 2021 to bring together leads from SEN Services, the corporate performance team and Children's IT leads to ensure joined-up analysis and action regarding maintaining and improving core systems and data sets, such as LiquidLogic and statutory returns. This group meets monthly and helps coordinate the successful systems migration.

5.19. Next steps

The next priority steps regarding improving the quality and timeliness of management information are:

- Upgrading LiquidLogic Early Help Module (EHM) to include the newly updated SEN2 module to support the service to generate personal level SEN reporting in line with the 2022/23 requirements at any point during the year (aiming for completion by end of March 2022, with records being backdated to Jan 2022)
- Creating and piloting live digital performance dashboards to bring consolidated, real-time insight about key performance indicators to the service (aiming to pilot by April 2022)
- Developing trusted predictive analysis and forecasting reports for individual and team level performance in relation to service strategy. Using the foundation of LiquidLogic data and improvements to demand and financial forecasting modelling frameworks. (aiming to launch and refine by May 2022)

5.20. **Agreement Condition 4:**

Support and drive schools in Bury to meet a higher level of need in a more cost-effective way within mainstream settings, while maintaining the quality of provision. Develop a culture in which demand is more effectively managed throughout the authority.

5.21. Top ups and banding.

A new banding scheme for mainstream school top-ups has been agreed following consultation with all schools and a review by Schools Forum. Assimilation arrangements are in place for implementation from April 2022. All new mainstream school top-ups will be applied via the new banding scheme from April 2022 and existing top-ups will be allocated to the appropriate band. Projected savings of £0.6m are on track.

A review of Alternative Provision and Resourced Provision top-ups will start in March 2022. Implementation is planned for September 2022. Top-up values for new RPs will be on the new banding arrangements. Agreement has been reached with Special Schools to abolish Band D+ from April 2022. Interim moderation arrangements will also be in place for April 2022. Projected savings of £1.0m are on track. Special schools are completing revised banding allocations. These will be used for budget allocations for April 2022.

5.22. Alignment of Early Help Locality Teams and Inclusion Partnerships.

Bury completed an initial successful consultation with the Headteacher Reference Group to share proposals in November 2021. Further successful consultation with primary head teachers took place through the Inclusion Partnership meetings across the autumn term to launch proposals in principle.

Co-production activity with primary head teachers is underway (February/March 2022) to design operational plans (3 of 4 meetings completed). Final proposals will be circulated to primary head teachers by the end of March 2022 for trial in the summer term 2022.

A review is planned for the end of the summer term and full operation is planned to take place from September 2022.

The intended impact of this alignment will be in terms of schools being able to access a wider range of support across Education and Social Care more quickly with an outcome of fewer requests for EHCP Assessment being submitted by schools.

5.23. **Agreement Condition 5:
Remodel financial practice to ensure accurate contributions from appropriate funding sources by Dec 2021.**

5.24. High Needs Funding Block

The review of the High Needs Funding Block is complete and the outcomes were reported to the Schools Forum on 18th January 2022.

The Schools Forum has agreed to the maximum 0.5% transfer (£715k) from Schools to HNF block for 2022/23.

5.25. Inclusion Hubs and Partnerships

Primary and Secondary Inclusion Hubs and Partnerships funding has been reduced by £348k.

5.26. Non-statutory support services

Non-statutory support services will be reduced by £400k from Sept 22, saving £233k in 2022/23.

Other non-statutory services have been moved to the General Fund, saving £694k and moving forward will be reviewed.

5.27. Top-ups: A review of top-ups for AP and RPs is underway. The changes are due to be implemented from September 2022.

The volume top-up scheme, which supports schools with a higher proportion of children and young people with EHCPs than the national average, is under review. New proposals will be worked up with the Bury Schools Forum sub-group for implementation from Sept 2022.

6. CONCLUSION

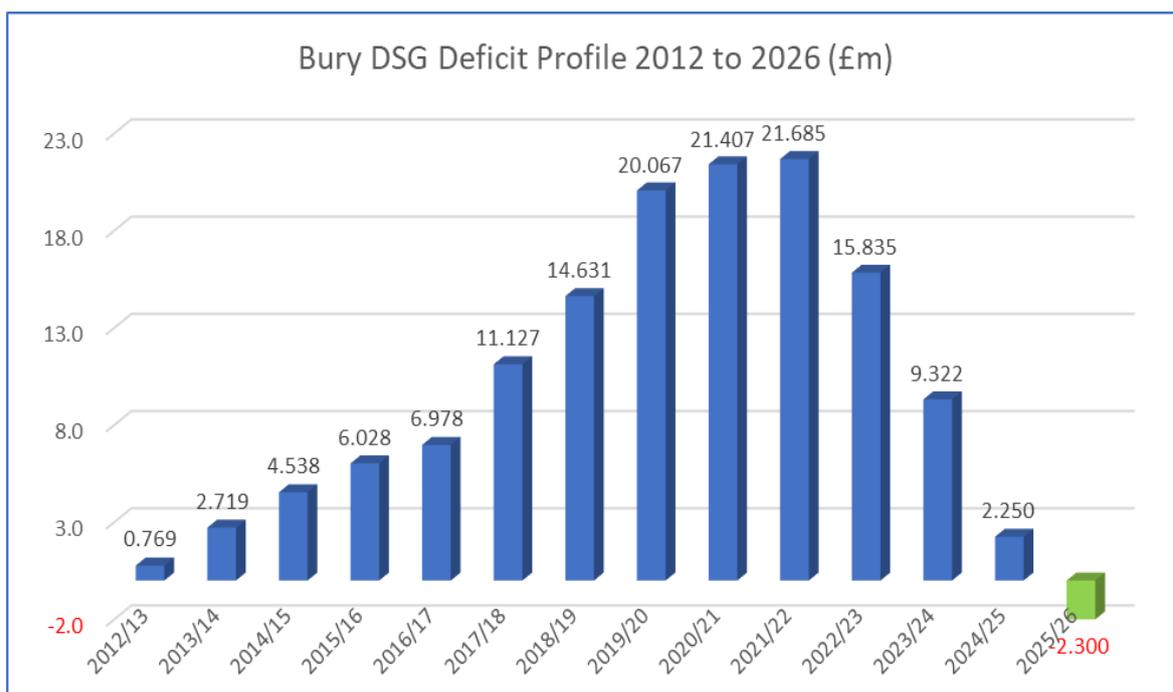
6.1. Improving Special Educational Needs and Disability Services remains a key priority for the Council and Project Safety Valve is a key vehicle to drive that change.

6.2. Although challenges remain in the Education Health and Care Planning process progress has been made with formal agreement with the DfE on Project Safety Valve which is focused on both improving SEND services and the experiences and outcomes for children, young people and their families with identified Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and an agreement to eradicate the High Needs Block Deficit by 2024/25.

- 6.3. Progress has been made around ensuring more robust planning for future provision, improved quality and timeliness of management information to enable evaluation of the impact of central services. Progress has also been made through the work on the Graduated Approach, the development of Resourced Provision to expand the continuum of provision and the re-evaluation of the Education Health and Care Plan funding arrangements to support schools in Bury to meet a higher level of need in a more cost effective way within mainstream settings. In addition progress has been made on the remodelling of financial practice to ensure accurate contributions from appropriate funding sources
- 6.4. Based on all actions taken to date, Bury’s deficit recovery profile forecasts that 2022/23 will demonstrate an in-year positive position on Bury’s High Needs Block which marks a critical milestone in assuring the DfE of Bury’s priority to live within its means of annual High Needs Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocations. The future years forecast subsequently demonstrate the continued reduction of the accumulated deficit in accordance with DfE requirements.
- 6.5. The continued assurance being provided in quarterly monitoring reports to the DfE has secured £6m additional revenue provided in 2020/21, with Bury receiving the full £4m of instalments in 2021/22. The future balance of the £20m remains subject to Bury demonstrating the delivery of all Programme Safety Valve priorities.

For information, the balance of the instalment profile shows the additional funding to be provided as £4m for 2022/23, £3m for 2023/24, and £3m for 2024/25.

- 6.6. With the priorities delivered to date, and future transformation and associated savings profiled through to 2024/25, and into 2025/26 to recognise the timeframe for Bury’s second Special Free School development, the deficit that had accrued from 2012/13 is currently demonstrated to recover as follows:



- 6.7. The profile from 2021/22 onwards will continue to be tracked and updated on a quarterly basis to reflect, actual expenditure, demand pressures, mitigations,

High Needs Dedicated Schools Grant, and additional Programme Safety Valve funding allocations.

- 6.8. Positive feedback continues to be received from DfE lead officers on Programme Safety Valve. This feedback is a testament to Bury's delivery to date of the significant SEND transformation and deficit recovery priorities.
- 6.9. The key priorities for the next phase of Project Safety Valve remain improving the experience and effectiveness of the Education Health and Care Plan process and also ensuring that the challenging financial targets continue to be met, monitored and reported to DfE and Cabinet on a quarterly basis.

7. Links with the Corporate Priorities:

- 7.1. The SEND transformation priorities directly contribute to Bury's 2030 strategy and Let's Do It agenda through, for example:

Local developments supporting individuals, families and in-borough infrastructure to deliver the best educational outcomes for all children with, or without, SEND

Enterprising including enhancing the life chances, employment and commercial opportunities within Bury through investment into at least three new schools

Together working in collaboration across the Council, Schools, Parents, Health, Care, and other stakeholders to drive joined up transformation within the required timeframes

Strengths-based through partnership, inclusion, empowerment, multi-disciplinary team approaches, and by valuing the skills and resourcefulness of others.

8. Equality Impact and Considerations:

- 8.1. The Children and Families Act 2014 brought in new legislation and systems for supporting children and young people 0-25 years with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities. The SEND Code of Practice provides statutory guidance which sets out how local authorities and other services are expected to work and support children and young people with SEN.
- 8.2. The DSG Recovery plan will support the local authority to continue to meet its statutory functions as set out in the SEND Code of Practice and to improve and develop new and existing systems and processes. This will impact positively on children and people with SEND and their families – it is an opportunity to improve co-production with parents and young people, decision making, transparency and equity of service delivery. Children and young people's needs will be identified at an earlier stage and support pathways will be improved.

- 8.3. The SEN service will be integrated more effectively with multi agency partners, ensuring that the holistic needs of children and young people with SEND are met. The school system will be enhanced to increase the range and type of local provision to better meet the diversity of needs and address inequalities in provision.

9. Environmental Impact and Considerations:

None

10. Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
<p>Opportunity to improve services to the public</p> <p>Opportunity to improve the local offer to CYP with SEND</p>	<p>The Project has been made a priority corporately and across the partnership (Bury 2030, The Corporate Plan, The Children’s Strategic Partnership Priorities, Schools Forum)</p>
<p>Opportunity to improve the partnership responsiveness to meeting the needs of CYP earlier and more effectively</p>	<p>The Project is supported by refreshed governance via the newly established CYP Scrutiny Panel</p>
<p>Risk of lack of capacity to mobilise the recovery plan due to complex council governance, systems and processes</p>	<p>The Project is supported by external expertise and programme management provided by TPXimpact (Ameo - FutureGov)</p>
<p>Reputational risk of not meeting deadlines and expectations in respect of improvements and deficit recovery</p>	

11. Legal Implications:

Members are asked to note the updates provided in this report, it is incumbent on the Council to have arrangements in place to ensure we meet our statutory duties as set out in the Children Act 2014 and the respective codes of practice. As part of our governance arrangements Members receive regular updating reports in line with our financial framework as set out in the Council constitution.

12. Financial Implications:

The Council is benefitting from being in the Governments’ Project Safety Valve Programme, without which it would take significantly longer to tackle and eradicate the historic dedicated schools grant deficit. This report updates on progress to date and close monitoring, tight budgetary control and continued deficit reduction must be maintained in order to secure future tranches of the funding.

Background papers:

Any background papers are available upon request from Steven Goodwin:
s.goodwin@bury.gov.uk

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning
DSG	Dedicated Schools Grant
EHCP	Education Health and Care Plan
EHM	Early Help Module (LiquidLogic System)



Classification: Open	Decision Type: Key
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Report to:	Cabinet	Date: 13 April 2022
Subject:	Bury Market and Flexihall – Further acquisitions to facilitate delivery of levelling up project	
Report of	Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Growth	

Summary

In October 2021 the Council were notified of its successful bid to the Levelling Up fund for a £20million contribution towards the Bury Market and Flexihall project. The purpose of this programme is to regenerate Bury Market and deliver a new flexible events hall. Work has continued at pace towards delivering this project. To proceed with the project several property acquisitions are required to facilitate the physical development of the scheme. These properties have been identified as critical to deliver the redevelopment plans for the market and the surrounding area.

The two properties, included within this report, both sit within the proposed footprint of the new Flexihall building. The acquisition of these properties is therefore critical for the delivery of the project. External advice has been sought by independent chartered surveyors, Nolan Redshaw who have provided advice on the property values and undertaken negotiations on behalf of the Council. These negotiations have been subject to Member approval. The details of the proposed terms are set out in the Part B paper on this agenda. A best value report in respect of both properties has been provided by Nolan Redshaw and is appended to the Part B report.

Recommendation(s)

1. Approve the acquisition of properties 4 Princess Parade and 47 Market Street in accordance with the terms set out in Part B of this report.
2. Delegate the finalised terms of the agreements to the Chief Executive in consultation with Cabinet Member for Finance, S151 Officer and Monitoring Officer.

Reasons for recommendation(s)

1. To facilitate delivery of the Bury Market and Flexihall project in accordance with the Levelling Up bid submission and subsequent notification of a successful bid.

Alternative options considered and rejected

1. An alternative option is to not purchase the property, this option was rejected as the land holding is required in order to continue with the Flexihall development.

2. The Council can seek to use compulsory purchase powers as an acquiring authority the Council is able to use compulsory purchase powers and acquire land without the consent of the landowner. The process however is not swift and could take in the region of 18-24 months to be concluded. The requirements of the levelling up bid stated that all funds would need to be defrayed by quarter 1 2025. This option has been rejected as the Council would not therefore have sufficient time to acquire the properties within the project delivery timeline.

Report Author and Contact Details:

Name: Paul Lakin

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Department: BGI

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Department: BGI

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Background

The Levelling Up Fund (LUF) bid for the flexihall proposes to deliver the following:

- Market improvement works – to sustain and enhance the market including installation of a new roof, reconfiguration of existing spaces, access improvements and repairs and maintenance.
- Flexihall - the creation of a high quality, flexible facility at a key gateway to enhance cultural, leisure and hospitality offer. The facilities will support a range of business and community organisations and will be actively managed as part of a co-ordinated town centre offer.
- Public realm – a new public realm environment will be created to link the Market and adjacent infrastructure including Bury Interchange, Bury College and other civic infrastructure.
- Supporting activities - a range of complementary measures to diversify market demographic, including events, business enterprise and resident support.

In order to facilitate the delivery of the Flexihall the acquisition of number of properties is required. Following announcement of the LUF funding, negotiations have taken place via specialist advisors and, subject to Member approval, acceptable terms for acquisition of the properties included within this report have been agreed.

Links with the Corporate Priorities:

The regeneration of Bury Town Centre supports delivery of the Let's Do It strategy and the five themes that underpin the plan.

The five themes all have a correlation to how we design our Towns. As we move towards a future in urban areas where people travel less, buy locally, work and access local services, we need vital and liveable neighbourhoods. This means the Council must think carefully about neighbourhoods and how they can be either built or re-designed to work well. The five themes are summarised below and how they link into the vision for Bury Town Centre.

1. **Healthy Communities:** The delivery of the Bury Market and Flexihall projects will provide community infrastructure including civic facilities and other health related services will be a true connection to the community. The implementation of active travel, walking and cycling routes connecting people with local amenities and increasing the availability of public open space will enable the community in Bury Town Centre and surrounding suburban area to reconnect and thrive.
2. **Carbon neutral:** We need to use every opportunity to ensure that development in Bury Town Centre on our land is carbon neutral and prioritises active travel.
3. **Inclusion:** making sure that everyone's voice is heard, this will absolutely be a focus through the Consultation of the levelling up project delivery.
4. **Digital first:** the full fibre roll out has enabled access to faster speeds and future-proofed infrastructure. This presents an excellent opportunity for the businesses and community with Bury Town Centre being the ideal location to cultivate new business growth, encourage start up SMEs, promote digital growth, and deliver tech enabled employment space.
5. **Inclusive Growth:** the project will include investment in physical infrastructure (roads, cycle facilities and public realm); creating more flexible and innovative/digital workspaces to encourage more businesses to open and remain in Bury; to ensure residents have the best chance to access good jobs.

Equality Impact and Considerations:

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act.
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

- The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations and demonstrate that we are paying ‘due regard’ in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.

A full stakeholder, resident and wider community engagement strategy will be undertaken during the project.

The Council has a pledge to be Zero Carbon by 2038. This means that the current estate needs to be rationalised and modernised.

Our Corporate Plan 2020/22 sets out key themes, principles, and deliverables to support the Borough of Bury as it recovers from the local impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and builds a better and brighter future for our population, communities, and businesses.

Environmental Impact and Considerations:

The Council has a pledge to be Zero Carbon by 2038. The proposals for the Flexihall have due regard for this pledge.

Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
Risk: Consideration of acquisition	Council has received external real estate advice and independent assessment of value for money has been obtained.

Legal Implications:

Member approval is sought to purchase two properties. A valuation report from Nolan Redshaw is appended to the Part B report detailing the negotiations and providing a view regarding best value, Members are asked to note that the proposed purchases are on the basis of a negotiated price in order to allow development to proceed. This is not an open market valuation.

If members agree to the recommendations in this report full legal due diligence, including review of break clauses will be required in respect of both purchases.

Financial Implications:

As part of the levelling up fund bid an allowance was made within the budget for the acquisition of a number of properties to successfully deliver the project. Cabinet has already approved the acquisition of one of these properties on Princess Parade and this report seeks authority to proceed with two further acquisitions.

Nolan Redshaw recognise within their report that neither of these properties were on the open market and therefore the proposed price is a negotiated price rather than an open market valuation but that these properties are essential to secure the wider regeneration benefits and deliver the project on the basis to which the funding was secured.

It is further acknowledged that these are not the last property acquisitions required to deliver this scheme and therefore stringent negotiations are required to secure any remaining properties to remain within budget.

Background papers:

Cabinet report 01.04. 2021 Levelling up Bids

Cabinet report 17.12.2021 - Acquisition of the Mill Gate Estate

(specifically recommendation 5 Approval of acquisition of 6 – 10 Princess Parade)

Cabinet report 15.12.2021 Levelling up Fund approval of expenditure

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning

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Classification: Open	Decision Type: Non-Key
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Report to:	CABINET	Date: 13 April 2022
Subject:	Discretionary Grants Update Report	
Report of	Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR	

Summary

1. An internal audit review of the Elected Members Discretionary Grants scheme was undertaken in 2021, the review contained four recommendations, including that a report be provided to the Council's Cabinet on Elected Member expenditure at year end.

This report provides Cabinet with an update in relation to the Member's Discretionary Grants scheme, guidance issued to members, internal audit review, recipients and plans going forward.

Recommendation(s)

2. That Members note the content of the report.

Reasons for recommendation(s)

3. As set out in the summary.

Alternative options considered and rejected

4. Not applicable.

Report Author and Contact Details:

Julie Gallagher
 Head of Democratic Services
Julie.gallagher@bury.gov.uk

Background

5. In October 2017 Cabinet agreed a new approach to community grants as part of the implementation of the Borough's Neighbourhood Engagement Framework. The Neighbourhood Grant Investment Framework allocated a three-year programme of funding which covered Elected Member Discretionary Budgets, this ended in September 2020.

An annual allocation (£1000) is made to each Elected Member, this must be used to directly benefit the Ward providing the funding or where projects are

identified which have a wider benefit, contributions can be made to jointly fund schemes.

Each Elected Member in the Ward will have their own allocation, but at their request and following agreement with other ward Councillors, these funds can be combined to work on a Ward basis.

Members were advised that all monies must be spent by the 28th February 2022, thus avoiding any potential conflicts of interest in respect of spend during the election period. If a Member fails to spend their allocated budget the money is returned to the Council.

Following the success of the discretionary grants, supported by all parties funding was extended beyond September 2020, oversight of the scheme was transferred from the Social Engagement Team to Democratic Services.

Members were encouraged to consider ways in which their spend could support the 10 point recovery plan for the Borough as outlined at Cabinet on 29th July 2020. These priorities cover tackling poverty, developing a Bury Opportunity guarantee, promoting community voice and supporting community wellbeing.

A further extension was agreed to the Member's Discretionary budget scheme for the 2021/2022 municipal year and that it continued to be provided by Allpay and administered through Democratic Services. The extended scheme included more rigorous monitoring and requirements for Councillors to provide proof of their spend, this information will be published on the Council's website.

By publishing the Discretionary Grant spend on the Council's website and requiring Member's to provide proof/receipts and invoices this will help to alleviate any concerns from the ongoing internal audit review.

2. The Scheme

- ***What can be funded?***

The Discretionary Grant Scheme was designed to be fluid; funds may be used to make financial contributions either directly to schemes undertaken by departments of the Council or can be awarded to voluntary or community groups or constituents.

Ward Councillors are at the heart of local communities and are key to Championing the Council's 'Let's Do It' Strategy within their ward connecting people and groups into activity to deliver the desired outcomes.

The vision is for Councillors in each Ward to:

- Meet on a regular basis to agree local priorities.
- Encourage community groups to get involved in local democracy.
- Oversee the delivery of public services at neighbourhood and ward level by supporting the development of ward and neighbourhood plans.

- Be consulted on development / local application of policy and services changes, including health & care.

- **Support for Ward Councillors**

Support will be provided to Elected Members in their role as Ward Councillors by encouraging them to meet regularly with local voluntary and community partners to bring together co-designed place-based schemes and projects within their wards.

- **Discretionary Grants Scheme**

Ward Councillors are provided with £1000.00 as a discretionary grant to enable them to sponsor small-scale local needs quickly and responsively. The grants can be used to contribute to the delivery of schemes within their wards, offer support to a wide range of different groups including voluntary organisations and community groups.

Members will be provided with timely data and soft intelligence to evidence where funds might best be directed to meet local need and will be sighted on opportunities and ensuring they contribute to the delivery of priorities.

Members will be supported with recording and reporting of spend which will also be published on the Council's website.

Internal Audit Review

Shortly after Democratic Services assumed responsibility for oversight of the scheme internal audit commenced a review. The subsequent internal audit report (considered at Audit Committee in November 2021) included four recommendations: (Appendix 1)

1. Guidance and training should be put in place to provide clear protocols on how the Discretionary Budgets should be spent and recorded. Guidance should detail what money can be spent on and who payments can be made to, to avoid conflicts of interest and accusations of impropriety. Guidance should also include instructions to hold the card securely and details of action to be taken if a card is lost or stolen.
2. Transactions should be processed through the financial management system, Unit 4 to enable the VAT element to be accounted for correctly.
3. Expenditure of the Members Discretionary Budget should be regularly monitored, and a clear audit trail should be in place to evidence that the spend is appropriate.
4. The spend should be monitored and Councillors should be provided with regular budget monitoring reports.

Following agreement at the Democratic Arrangements Forum, Elected Member Discretionary Grants Guidelines document was prepared and circulated to all Members, (Appended 2).

Members were advised that all purchases made by themselves needed to be supported by a receipt or invoice to confirm that the spend was appropriate . All requests for money to be transferred required a description of what the money would be used for.

Regular emails are sent to all Councillors advising on spend as well as this report to Cabinet. Spend will be reported on the Council website.

4 Councillor Spend

Following the decision to continue with the Scheme in September 2020 all Elected Members All pay cards were topped up to £1000. Those that had not spent any monies did not receive these additional funds:

- 14 Councillors **did not** receive additional funds in September 2020, (these Members had not spent any of their grant in the previous 12 months):-

Pilkington Park – 1 Councillor	Radcliffe West – 2 Councillors	Ramsbottom – 3 Councillors	Unsworth – 3 Councillors	Sedgley Park – 1 Councillor
Redvales – 1 Councillor	North Manor – 1 Councillor	Radcliffe East – 1 Councillor	St. Mary's – 1 Councillor	

- From September to 19.02.2021, only 1 Radcliffe West Councillor did not spend their allocation.
- Up to March 2022, 4 Councillors have not spent their full allocation:-

Ward	Amount not spent
Besses	£13.48
North Manor	£200 (Funding allocated was covered by internal Council Department)
Pilkington Park	£1.82
Ramsbottom	£1000 (1 Member)

As evidenced above there has been significant advances in Member take up and Member engagement in the scheme.

A list of recipients benefiting from the scheme is attached at Appendix 3.

Examples of schemes that have been supported is provided at Appendix 4.

5 Next steps

Following agreement at Budget Council (February 2022) the scheme will continue for a further 12 months.

Monthly meetings with Ward Councillors and Community Hub Managers are now taking place, to agree local priorities and collective action. These discussions will assist Members in considering how they may wish to utilise their discretionary grants and reviewing spend to date. In addition, the Community assets and opportunities in each neighbourhood have now been co-designed with local community groups. This intelligence is directing the work of the Community Hubs and may again inform how members wish to direct their funding

All members will be issued with the Discretionary Grant guidance at the start of the Municipal Year and there will be a presentation on the scheme in conjunction with a community hub manager at the new Elected Member induction day, scheduled to take place on 12th May.

Links with the Corporate Priorities:

Please summarise how this links to the Let's Do It Strategy.

3. The *Let's do it!* Strategy sets out an ambition for greater engagement of residents and community groups with the work of the council, in the spirit of social participation. It is anticipated that maintaining a small amount of funding for local investment by ward councillors will support this aspiration. Such arrangements may now be supported by Community and Voluntary organisations who will develop the relationships to support councillors in directing and utilising their spend.

Equality Impact and Considerations:

Please provide an explanation of the outcome(s) of an initial or full EIA.

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- a. eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- b. advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- c. foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.

Equality Analysis	<i>Please provide a written explanation of the outcome(s) of either conducting an initial or full EA.</i>
On agreement of the Neighbourhood Engagement Framework (from which what the DG scheme originates) a Full Equality Analysis was undertaken	

Environmental Impact and Considerations:

Please provide an explanation of the carbon impact of this decision.

4.

Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
Failure to accurately evidence how and where Elected Members spend their DG may make us subject to challenge.	All spend must be evidence by receipts and recorded at the end of year on the Council's website.

Legal Implications:

To be completed by the Council's Monitoring Officer.

5.

Financial Implications:

To be completed by the Council's Section 151 Officer.

6. The funding for Members discretionary grants was extended for a further year as part of the 2022/23 budget amendment. It is essential that proper budgetary control as outlined in this paper is exercised by all Members through the keeping of receipts and invoices for all expenditure incurred.

Background papers:

Please list any background documents to this report and include a hyperlink where possible.

Neighbourhood Engagement Framework

Covid-19 Response and Recovery Update

Operational Decision – Extension of Discretionary Grants

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning

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Internal Audit Review: Members Discretionary Budgets

Breakdown of Management Action Plan

	Recommendation	Management Responsibility:	Action to be taken	Officer Responsibility:	Update
1	Guidance and training should be put in place to provide clear protocols on how the Discretionary Budgets should be spent and recorded. Guidance should detail what money can be spent on and who payments can be made to, to avoid conflicts of interest and accusations of impropriety. Guidance should also include instructions to hold the card securely and details of action to be taken if a card is lost or stolen.	Responsibility: Julie Gallagher Target Date: November 2021	Guidance should be circulated to all Members.	Responsibility: Julie Gallagher Target Date: November 2021	
			The induction process for Members should be expanded to include guidance on the Discretionary Budgets.	Responsibility: Julie Gallagher Target Date:	Member were updated as part of the Induction Process in May 2021 it is not envisaged the scheme will continue beyond May 2022
			Records should be maintained to demonstrate that Members have received the guidance information.	Responsibility: Andrea Tomlinson Target Date:	Completed
			Monitoring should be in place to ensure that Members adhere to the guidance when it is put in place.	Responsibility: Julie Gallagher and Andrea Tomlinson Target Date: Ongoing	
2	Transactions should be processed through the financial management system, Unit 4 to enable the VAT element to be	Responsibility: Target Date:	Necessary guidance should be provided to Members to enable them to identify VAT correctly.	Responsibility: Target Date:	Will need finance support to assist with this action
			Regular monitoring of transactions processed	Responsibility:	

Internal Audit Review: Members Discretionary Budgets

Breakdown of Management Action Plan

	accounted for correctly.		should be undertaken to ensure that VAT has been correctly accounted for.	Target Date:	
3	Expenditure of the Members Discretionary Budget should be regularly monitored, and a clear audit trail should be in place to evidence that the spend is appropriate.	Responsibility: Julie Gallagher Target Date: Ongoing	The transactions noted, where supporting information has not been received, should be investigated to ensure that the purchases were appropriate use of the delegated funds. Receipts should be provided to support these transactions.	Responsibility: Andrea Tomlinson Target Date: Ongoing	
			Members should be required to produce receipts for all transactions made to support the spend of delegated funds.	Responsibility: Andrea Tomlinson Target Date: Ongoing	
			Expenditure should be reported to Cabinet at year-end.	Responsibility: Julie Gallagher and Andrea Tomlinson Target Date: March 2022	

Internal Audit Review: Members Discretionary Budgets

Breakdown of Management Action Plan

4	The spend should be monitored and Councillors should be provided with regular budget monitoring reports.	Responsibility: Julie Gallagher Target Date: December 2021 and January 2022 and March 2022	All Members should be provided with regular budget statements from Allpay.	Responsibility: Andrea Tomlinson Target Date: Ongoing	
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Elected Member Discretionary Grants Guidelines

- ***What are they?***

In October 2017 Cabinet agreed a new approach to community grants as part of the implementation of the Borough's Neighbourhood Engagement Framework. The Neighbourhood Grant Investment Framework allocated a three-year programme of funding which covered Elected Member Discretionary Budgets, this was subsequently extended to February 2022.

The initiative provides a fund for Councillors to propose and support schemes that improve the environment and benefit the community within their Wards.

An annual allocation (currently £1000) is made to each Elected Member, which must be used to directly benefit the Ward providing the funding or where projects are identified which have a wider benefit, contributions can be made to jointly fund schemes.

Each Elected Member in the Ward will have their own allocation, but at their request and agreement, these funds can be combined to work on a Ward basis.

Members were advised that all monies must be spent by the 28th February 2022, thus avoiding any potential conflicts of interest in respect of spend during the election purdah period. If a Member fails to spend their allocated budget the money is returned to the Council.

Oversight of the Member Discretionary Grant Scheme was transferred from the social development team to democratic services team in September 2020.

- ***What can be funded?***

The Discretionary Grant Scheme was designed to be fluid; funds may be used to make financial contributions either directly to schemes undertaken by departments of the Council or can be awarded to voluntary or community groups or constituents.

Ward Councillors are at the heart of local communities and are key to Championing the Council's 'Let's Do It' Strategy within their ward connecting people and groups into activity to deliver the desired outcomes.

The vision is for Councillors in each Ward to:

- Meet on a regular basis to agree local priorities – supported by the Community Hub Manager.
- Encourage community groups to get involved in local democracy.
- Oversee the delivery of public services at neighbourhood and ward level by supporting the development of ward and neighbourhood plans.
- Be consulted on development / local application of policy and services changes, including health & care.

- **Support for Ward Councillors**

Community Hubs will provide support for Elected Members in their role as Ward Councillors. Community Hubs are a key component in the developing neighbourhood model, alongside health & care integrated teams and public service hubs.

The Community Hub Managers will meet with Ward Councillors within their neighbourhood on a monthly basis and work with them to develop ward level plans reflecting current priorities within the area.

The Community Hubs will become a key part of the central delivery mechanism for the place-based neighbourhood model in the borough as described in 'Let's Do It!'.

- **Discretionary Grants Scheme**

Ward Councillors will be provided with £1000.00 as a discretionary grant to enable them to sponsor small-scale local needs quickly and responsively.

The grants can be used to contribute to the delivery of Ward Plans and Hub teams will support Councillors with:

- Timely data and soft intelligence to evidence where funds might best be directed to meet local need.
- Recording and reporting of spend which will also be published on the Council's website.

Community Hub Managers will also support the management of other local community discretionary and participatory grants ensuring Ward Councillors are sighted on the opportunities and ensuring they contribute to the delivery of priorities.

For example:-

- Improvements to open spaces, local parks, etc
- Street scene enhancement – subject to necessary Council policies and planning approvals.
- Improvements to community facilities
- Support for voluntary and community groups
- Contributions to community events - i.e. room hire for one off events.
- Support for school initiatives (outside the national curriculum)
- Support for festive celebrations
- Projects to improve community safety
- Support to assist individuals

When submitting a request under the discretionary grant initiative:

Members should be conscious of the Members' Code of Conduct and should not support any proposal in which they have a personal and prejudicial interest or a disclosable pecuniary interest. Particular care should be exercised in this regard.

- ***What cannot be funded?***

- Activities that have already taken place or purchases that have already been made (retrospective funding)
- Works on unadopted land/highways where the landowner cannot be ascertained except in exceptional circumstances.
- Repairs to buildings (unless there is a community benefit)
- Public Liability Insurance, including running costs and utility bills. •Fund projects that are the responsibility of another statutory body (for example the cost of Police motorcycle lights).
- Provide equipment which is required by law
- Support projects that are in conflict with existing Council policy or strategies

- ***What is the procedure for spending my allocation?***

1. Identify proposal
2. Refer to this document to check that expenditure sits within guidelines
3. Consult with other Ward members as appropriate
4. Establish cost of work or amount of grant required. Page 9
5. VAT - If works are ordered by a Member directly from the Council, VAT may be incurred by the Council which is reclaimable by the Council. However, if a grant is allocated to a group/organisation who subsequently order works from the Council, or any other registered for VAT trader, that group must be charged VAT. Therefore, Members may wish to consider VAT implications when they are looking at costs and if necessary, contact Democratic Services, who will then seek advice from the Finance Officers before an award of grant is made.

Funding can be done either via the All pay payment card or directly through democratic services. Democratic services will retain a record of all expenditure, this will be published annually on the Council's website.

Members are required to provide receipts to democratic services for any expenditure incurred, it is important that Members provide as much detail as possible of the proposal they wish to support.

- ***Accessing your payment and balance information.***

If you require information relating to a payment that has been processed or want to request the balance left on your account, please contact Democratic Services who will access the All pay System and send an email to you with the required information.

Courtesy Notes

1. Members are encouraged to spend their allocation each financial year. The Leader, Deputy Leader and Officers will monitor this spend on a regular basis.
2. Reciprocal arrangements should be in place between Wards where one Ward has supported another.

3. On schemes only – where Members seek support of Ward Colleagues, they must ensure that that Member has given full support before submitting the request.

Guidance prepared V1 – November 2021

Contact Officers:

Julie Gallagher – Head of Democratic Service

Julie.gallagher@bury.gov.uk

Andrea Tomlinson – Mayoral and Members Services Officer

A.J.Tomlinson@bury.gov.uk

Recipients	Comments
8 th Prestwich Scouts	
Abbey Close Community Project	
Abbeyfield Nursing Home	
ADAB	
Affetside Millennium Green Trust	
AFG Law	
Age UK Bury	
Ainsworth Church	
Ainsworth Community Association	
Ainsworth Village	
Albert Avenue Allotments	
All Saints Amateur Operatic Society	
All Saints Parochial Church Council	
Allens Green Bowling Club	
Asian Womens Centre	
Attic Project	
Azamrah Youth Club	
Bailey Street Bowling Green Association	
BAME	
Barcham	
Beat the Street	
Bible Baptist Church Youth Group	
Bolton Road Methodist	
Borough of Bury Veterans	
Brandlesholme Centre	
Brandlesholme Community Group	
Brandlesholme Incredible Edible	
Brandlesholme Methodist Church	
Brandlesholme Residents Association	
British Legion	
Brooksbottom Cricket Club	
Bury Academy	
Bury and Radcliffe Sea Cadet Corps	
Bury blind society	
Bury Cabaret Lunch Club	
Bury Cancer Support Centre	
Bury Clarion Cycling Club	
Bury Community Choir	
Bury Council (Children's Services)	Believe & Achieve Awards
Bury Council(Children's Services)	Youth Cabinet Project
Bury Council (Grounds Maintenance)	Friends of Clarence Park
Bury Croquet Club	
Bury East Sports Association	
Bury Fellowship	
Bury Gateway	
Bury Hospice	

Bury Lions Charity	
Bury Veterans Hub Cafe	
Business bread	
CAP Job Club	
Caritas Red Door	
Chabad Whitefield Ltd	
Cherry Trees Playgroup	
Chesham Fold TRA	
Christ Church Walmersley	
Church Lane Community Centre	
Clean Team Prestwich	
Community Buds	
Community500	
Corrie Gardeners	
Creative Living Centre	
Daisyfield Group	
Diggle Lane Allotment Assoc	
Dignifying Dementia Group	
Eagles Wings	
Early Break	
East Lancs Paper Mill Cricket Club	
East Ward Growing Together	
Eden Gardens Allotment Association	
EET TA Wesley Methodist Primary School	
Elton Reservoir Basin Countryside Wardens	
Elton Vale Sports Club	
Encore Youth Choir	
Ezra Care Charity	
FC Unsworth	
Federation of Jewish Services	
Fightback for Justice	
Food and Friendship	
Freebie foundation Ltd	
Freedom Church	
Freedom Church Lunch Club	
Friends of Burrs Country Park	
Friends of Daisyfield	
Friends of Nuttall Park Community Group	
Friends of Philips Park	
Friends of Prestwich Forest Park	
Friends of Solidarity	
Friends of Tottington Library	
Fusiliers Court Garden Committee	
Fusiliers Court Residents Association	
Goshen Community Association	

Greatledge Ltd	
Green Mount Cricket	
Green Mount Village Community	
Guardrange Ltd	
Guest Road	
Hawkshaw Tennis Club	
Headstart	
Heaton Park Methodist Church	
Heaton Park Primary School	
Helmshore band	
Highfield Road Allotment Association	
Hillock and Oakgate Community Association	
Hillock and Oakgate Residents Association	
Holcombe Harriers	
Holcombe Society	
Hollins Community Centre	
Hollins Conservation Group	
Hollins Social Club	
HSS Ltd	
Incredible Edible	
Incredible Edible & District	
Incredible Edible Prestwich and District	
Incredible Edibles Ramsbottom	
Islamic Centre Mosque	
James Hartley Scrap Metal Ltd	
Jasnoor Communications Ltd	
Jigsaw Bury	
Jinnah Day Care Centre	
Kenyon Community Gardens	
Kirsten MacArthur	
Kol Yaacov Building Fund	
Lady Wilton Hall	
Lancashire Badger Group	
Langley Allotment Holders Association	
Langley Gardening Club	
Little Britain Anglers	
Love Springwater Park	
Lowercroft Primary School	
Maccabi	
Malkin LOVE SPRINGWATER PARK	
Manchester Jewish Community Care	
Manchester Mesivta	
Metro Christian Centre	
Misaskim Manchester	
Mosses Centre	
Mosses Community Pre School	

Mosses Nursery	
Mums Wellbeing Group, Prestwich	
N C R Electrical	
New Springs Community Project	
Normanton Screenprint	
North West Ambulance	
Nothing New 2 Wear Llimited	
Oak Learning Partnership	
Old Hall PTA	
Old Hall Residents	
Openshaw Green Parks Management Association Community Grp	
Our Lady of Grace	
PADOS	
Parkhills Community Trust	
Parrenthorn high school	
Peel Graphics Ltd	
Philips High school Ruth Taylor	
Phoenix Methodist Youth Association	
Pimhole Community Farm	
Pimhole Residents Association Community Group	
popupadventureplay.org	
Prestwich Arts Festival	
Prestwich Carnival	
Prestwich Carnival Management Cttee	
Prestwich Clough Centenary	
Prestwich Community Cinema	
Prestwich Football Club	
Prestwich Methodist Church	
Prestwich Methodist Youth Association	
Prestwich Remembers	
Printforce	
Provel Ltd	
Radcliffe Air Cadets	
Radcliffe Boys Club	
Radcliffe Brass Band	
Radcliffe Carnival	
Radcliffe Churches Together	
Radcliffe Cricket Club	
Radcliffe Market Hall CBS Ltd	
Radcliffe Rotary Bulb fund	
Radcliffe Rotary Club	
Radcliffe Self Managed Allotments	
Radcliffe Town FC	
Rammy Men Organisation community group	
Ramsbottom Community Church	

Ramsbottom Cricket Club	
Ramsbottom Pantry	
Ramsbottom Running Club	
Ramsbottom War Memorial Project	
Ramsbottom Heritage	
RBL POPPY APPEAL	
Run Together Whitefield	
Saint Mary's Flower Park Group	
Shiny Ltd	
Shomrim Prestwich Community Safety	
Shuttleworth Community Group	
Sign Print Design Limited	
Signs Direct	
Simister Group	
Simister Village Allotment Assoc	
Six Town Housing	
So Prestwich	
Social Butterflies	
Solidarity	
spark community	
Spark Fitness - Run together Whitefield	
Spectrum Gaming	
Springs Community Project	
Springside School	
St Andrews Community Hub	
St Andrews Primary School	
St Anne's Church	
St Anne's Church Mother's Union	
St Bernadette RC Primary School	
St Johns Trinity	
St Josephs Church Ramsbottom	
St Margarets PCC	
St Margarets Pre school Play Group	
St Mary's Churchyard Action Group	
St Marys Church of England Primary	
St Michael and St Bernadette's	
St Peters Primary School	
St Stephens Church Drama Group	
St Stephens Parochial Church Council	
Stand Incredible Edible	
Stumbles	
Sultan Style	
Summerseat Methodist Church	
Summerseat Village Community Group	
Superior Signs Lts	
Supporting Sisters	
Supportive Stem	

Tangled Dance Company	
Taylormade castings	
TBDO	
The Ainsworth Village Day	
The Attic Project	
The Besses Boys Band	
The Big Fandango	
The Corps of Drums of The Royal Regiment	
The Eagles Wing	
The Fed	
The Friends of St Mary's Park	
The Friends of the Unsworth Centre	
The Friendship Circle	
The Fusiliers Court Garden Committee	
The Fusiliers Court Residents Association	
The Jewel Foundation	
The Rotary Club of Ramsbottom	
The Sunnywood Project	
The Woodies - Men in Sheds	
Toddler Support Group	
Top O'th Fields and Welcome Walk TRA	
Topping Fold TRA	
Tottington and Bury West Rotary Club	
Tottington Brass Band	
Tottington St John's Cricket Club	
Tottington & District Civic	
Tottington's Big Day Out	
Trewan Sands Children's	
Trust House	
Unity House	
Unsworth Cricket and Tennis Club Ltd	
Unsworth Social Club	
Victoria Community and Youth Centre	
Village allotments	
Visit from the Stork	
Walk Ride Greater Manchester	
Walnut Avenue Allotments	
Walshaw Sports Club	
Wheeldons	
Whitefield Graveyard Group	
Whitefield Horticultural Society	
whitefield painting club	
WOW	
Yeshiva Training	

Examples of Schemes supported by Ward

Ward	Scheme
Besses	Support for community run recreation park
Church	Equipment for drama group
East	Traffic cones for primary school
Elton	Equipment/supplies for Incredible Edible
Holyrood	Support for new parents and parents to be
Moorside	Picnic benches for community garden
North Manor	Equipment for Parent & Toddler Group
Pilkington Park	Springwater Park strimmer and toilet
Radcliffe East	Support for charity helping to tackle domestic violence
Radcliffe North	Restoration of war memorial
Radcliffe West	Supplies for Veterans Café
Ramsbottom	Provision of Defibrillators
Redvales	Cultural event at community group
Sedgley	Prestwich Clough Day
St Mary's	Friends of Philips Park
Tottington	Junior cricket equipment
Unsworth	New Gate at the Unsworth Centre

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED
AUTHORITY HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2022 AT TRAFFORD TOWN HALL,
TALBOT ROAD, STRETFORD**

PRESENT:

Greater Manchester Mayor	Andy Burnham (In the Chair)
Deputy Mayor for Police & Fire	Beverley Hughes
Bolton	Councillor Martyn Cox
Bury	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien
Manchester	Councillor Bev Craig
Oldham	Councillor Arooj Shah
Rochdale	Councillor Neil Emmott
Salford	City Mayor Paul Dennett
Stockport	Councillor Tom McGee
Tameside	Councillor Brenda Warrington
Trafford	Councillor Andrew Western
Wigan	Councillor David Molyneux

OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Police and Crime Panel Chair	Councillor Janet Emsley
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OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM	Eamonn Boylan
GMCA Deputy Chief Executive	Andrew Lightfoot
GMCA Monitoring Officer	Liz Treacy
GMCA Treasurer	Steve Wilson
Bolton	Tony Oakman
Bury	Geoff Little
Manchester	Carol Culley
Oldham	Harry Catherall
Rochdale	Steve Rumbelow
Salford	Tom Stannard
Stockport	Caroline Simpson

Tameside	Steven Pleasant
Trafford	Sara Todd
Wigan	Alison McKenzie-Folan
Office of the GM Mayor	Kevin Lee
GMCA	Julie Connor
GMCA	Sylvia Welsh
GMCA	Nicola Ward
GMCA	James Killan
TfGM	Steve Warrener

GMCA 17/22 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED/-

That apologies be received and noted from Cllr Elise Wilson (Cllr Tom McGee attending) and Joanne Roney (Carol Culley attending).

GMCA 18/22 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

The GM Mayor, Andy Burnham, updated members on the latest Clean Air Zone developments. A constructive meeting had been held with the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs where Greater Manchester’s ongoing commitment to achieving clean air was re-emphasised notwithstanding that compliance by 2024 would not be achievable due to the lack of availability and affordability of compliant vehicles. As a result of the ongoing discussion the Government had agreed to GM’s Clean Air Administration Committee’s request to lift the legal direction on the ten Greater Manchester local authorities, which had set the original date of compliance for 2024. A new Directive with a new date of compliance of 2026 had been announced, which would give the ten local authorities an opportunity to reset the scheme and make it more manageable for residents in the post-pandemic landscape. Government had reiterated its commitment to providing £120m of funding to support vehicle upgrades, with a view to the establishment of a new joint plan, to be agreed by July 2022, with implementation due to commence later in the year. A next steps statement would be published within the next week.

Members reflected upon the situation and emphasised GM’s commitment to improving air quality as air pollution had become a national public health crisis. Progress to date was also

highlighted, with figures to suggest that 80% of buses within Greater Manchester would meet clean emissions standards before the end of the year.

RESOLVED /-

That following a decision of Government to delay the legal direction for GM Local Authorities to ensure all vehicles comply to the Clean Air standards by 2026, a full public statement outlining the next steps would be published next week.

GMCA 19/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED /-

There were no declarations of interest received in relation to any item on the agenda.

GMCA 20/22 MINUTES OF THE GMCA MEETING HELD ON 28 JANUARY 2022

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GMCA meeting held on 28 January 2022 be approved.

**GMCA 21/22 MINUTES OF THE GMCA RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 28
JANUARY 2022**

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GMCA Resources Committee meeting held on 28 January 2022 be noted.

**GMCA 22/22 MINUTES OF THE GMCA OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEES HELD IN FEBRUARY 2022**

RESOLVED /-

1. That the minutes of the Housing, Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 1 February 2022 and the Economy, Business Growth and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 4 February 2022 be noted.

2. That the GMCA note the concerns raised at the GMCA Economy, Business Growth and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee, raised at the meeting held on 4 February, in relation to the 40% decline in the number of Computing and IT students at GCSE level nationally between 2015 and 2020 at a time when the digital economy was rapidly growing in Greater Manchester and that only 11% of students took computer science, with young people in areas of deprivation having less access to school computer science courses, and that the number of girls choosing computer science as a course remains at only 23%.
3. That in response to those concerns, further work would be undertaken in conjunction with the Work and Skills portfolio to ensure that young people were prepared to take on employment within this growing sector.

GMCA 23/22 GMCA REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS 2022/23 OVERVIEW

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Leader for Resources and Investment, presented a report which provided an overview of the proposed GMCA budgets for 2022/23. The report summarised the position on the Mayoral General Budget and Precept Proposals, the GMCA General Budget, GMCA Transport budgets, including Transport Levy and Statutory Charge, and the Waste Services Levy.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the summary report be noted.
2. That the GMCA record its thanks to the GMCA Treasurer, his team at the GMCA and the GM Local Authority finance teams across GM for their work in the preparation of the 2022/23 budgets.
3. That the feedback from the virtual session with the GMCA Corporate Issues & Reform Overview and Scrutiny Committee be received and that it be noted that following these discussions the Scrutiny Chair had agreed to exempt the suite of GMCA budget reports from call-in.

Salford City Mayor, Paul Dennett, GMCA Deputy Mayor, took the Chair for this item of business.

The report sought approval for the Mayoral General Precept for 2022/23 and recommended the setting of the Revenue Budget for 2022/23 as required under section 42A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (updated in the Localism Act 2011) and the precepts and relevant levels of Council Tax required under sections 40, 42B and 47 of the Act.

The GMCA Treasurer was invited to comment on the budget and proposals. It was reported that the Corporate Issues & Reform Overview & Scrutiny committee had met informally on 10 February 2022 and their comments were relayed to the GMCA. During the Committee's discussions, there had been a focus on risks in relation to recovery from COVID-19, particularly concerning the bus network and Metrolink service. It was highlighted that the bus network would be receiving less funding from the Bus Services Improvement Plan than had been anticipated, which would be a significant risk for the network. The Committee had also discussed the proposed increase to the precept and questioned whether alternative options had been considered. The GMCA Treasurer had explained the position in relation to the precept increase and gave reasons why alternative options were not appropriate at this time. The Police, Fire and Crime Panel had also met on 10 February 2022 and had noted the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service budget.

For a Band D property, the proposed increase of £12 for the overall General Mayoral Precept culminated in a final cost of £102.95 per year, comprising £71.20 for the Fire and Rescue service, and £31.75 for non-fire Mayoral-funded services. Although the GMCA had to provide figures pertaining to a Band D property, it was emphasised that the majority of properties within Greater Manchester fell within Bands A and B, with these Bands making up 65% of residencies within the city region. Within Band A, the increase would be £8 for the year and in Band B the increase as a result would be £9.33 for the year.

It was also noted that there had been a change to the business rate collection figures for the 2021/2022 financial year. There had been a difference of £60,000 which was not material and would not affect the proposals contained within the budget report. It was further noted that there had been a transposition error within the report but that this also had no impact on any other figures provided.

The GM Mayor was invited to comment on the Mayoral General Budget (including Fire and Rescue) and precept proposals. The Mayor emphasised his awareness of the cost-of-living pressures on residents and reminded Members that the Mayoral and Fire precepts had been frozen for 2021/2022 in recognition of the pressures that residents faced during the pandemic. Greater Manchester Police had also not been allocated the full precept increase in the previous year in recognition of the fact that the force had been placed into special measures.

It was explained that the precept increase was necessary for the 2022/2023 year for several reasons. The increase would maintain a minimum level of cover at fire stations across the ten local authorities. Five firefighters would be available at single pump fire stations, and four firefighters would be available per pump at double pump fire stations. Furthermore, it was anticipated that there would be additional funding pressures arising from the proposals to provide marauding terrorist attack training for firefighters, pending the outcome of a ballot. Many firefighters had not received this training when they began their careers but it was important for Greater Manchester to be able to provide a robust response in the event of such incidents.

In respect of the non-fire component of the precept, the pressure on Greater Manchester was exceptional within the wider socio-economic context. The conurbation's bus franchising plans to create a London-style transport system were underway and the Government's Levelling Up White Paper had reflected Government's intention to support regions to achieve this goal. The process would bring significant risk and there remained uncertainty regarding the COVID-19 recovery funding for public transport. Passenger levels on the public transport network had returned to around 75% of pre-pandemic levels however, operators had reported continued pressures with funding from the farebox. Some operators had also reported that they would explore options to remove services, cut the frequency of services, or increase fares to make up for the pressures that they had been experiencing. The GMCA would call on the Government to continue funding the public transport system after March as passenger numbers were not expected to have fully recovered by that time. Despite the risks involved with bus franchising, it was emphasised that now was the time to act in order to provide long-term stability for residents. Additional programmes that had influenced the increase to the precepts included the A Bed Every Night and Our Pass schemes, which had been vital for residents during the pandemic and would continue to provide important services over the coming year.

The meeting was advised that a named vote was required to approve the proposals for The GM Mayoral General Budget. Members voted on the recommendations as follows:

District	GMCA Member	
Bolton	Cllr Martyn Cox	Agreed
Bury	Cllr Eamonn O'Brien	Agreed
Manchester	Cllr Bev Craig	Agreed
Oldham	Cllr Arooj Shah	Agreed
Rochdale	Cllr Neil Emmott	Agreed
Salford	Mayor Paul Dennett	Agreed
Stockport	Cllr Tom McGee	Agreed
Tameside	Cllr Brenda Warrington	Agreed
Trafford	Cllr Andrew Western	Agreed
Wigan	Cllr David Molyneux	Agreed

RESOLVED /-

1. That the Mayor's General budget for 2022/23, as set out in the report, together with the calculation of the precepts and Council Tax rates set out in Appendix 2, be approved.
2. That the Mayoral General Precept to £102.95 (Band D) comprising of £71.20 for functions previously covered by the Fire and Rescue Authority precept and £31.75 for other Mayoral General functions be approved.
3. That the overall budget for the Fire and Rescue Service for 2022/23 covered by the Mayoral precept and the medium-term financial position for the Fire and Rescue Service be approved.
4. That the use of reserves as set out in section 3 of the report be approved, noting that the assessment by the GMCA Treasurer that the reserves as at March 2022 are adequate.
5. That it be noted that in accordance with legal requirements, the minutes will record the names of those Members voting for or against the Mayor's budget and precept proposals.

6. That it be noted that the GM Police, Fire and Crime Panel had discussed and noted the proposed GMFRS precept increase at their meeting on the 10 February 2022.
7. That the final Business Rate collection figure from all GM Authorities be noted as £60,000 and that an updated set of Business Rates figures would be circulated in due course.
8. That it be noted that the final table at item 3.1 be amended as follows:

Closing reserves 2021/22 - £41,820,000

Closing reserves 2022/23 - £42,462,000

9. That the GMCA Treasurer's Statement in providing an assurance that the GMCA Mayoral General Budget proposals were robust and the reserves were adequate, be noted.

GMCA 25/22 GMCA TRANSPORT REVENUE BUDGET 2022/23

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Leader for Resources and Investment, introduced a report which set out the transport related GMCA budget for 2022/23. The proposed Transport Levy to be approved for 2022/23 would be apportioned between Local Authorities based upon mid-year 2020 population which would enable Greater Manchester would continue to pursue its ambitions for the Bee Network, a London-style transport system that would be affordable and accessible for residents. Government stabilisation funding would be used to support public transport networks within Greater Manchester, but a number of funding pressures were expected to remain as the country continued to recover from the pandemic.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the issues which were affecting the 2022/23 transport budgets, as detailed in the report, be noted.
2. That the GMCA budget relating to transport functions funded through the levy, as set out in the report for 2022/23, be approved.

3. That a Transport Levy on the District Councils in 2022/23 of £105.773 million, apportioned on the basis of mid-year population 2020, be approved.
4. That a Statutory Charge of £86.7 million to District Councils in 2022/23, as set out in Part 4 of the Transport Order, apportioned on the basis of mid-year population 2020, be approved.
5. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer, in conjunction with the TfGM Finance and Corporate Services Director, to make the necessary adjustments between capital funding and revenue reserves to ensure the correct accounting treatment for the planned revenue spend for the following schemes, detailed in paragraph 4.36:
 - Mayor's Challenge Fund 2022/23 project and programme management costs of up to £1.9 million.
 - Active Travel Fund (Round 2) £0.25 million of revenue funding for associated programme management and assurance costs.
6. That the proposal to increase fees and charges where applicable, in line with inflation and to approve the increases proposed to Bus stop closure charges, as set out in paragraphs 4.59 and 4.60 of the report, be approved.
7. That the use of Transport reserves in 2021/22 and 2022/23, as detailed in section 5 of the report, be approved.
8. That it be noted that the funding for Bus Franchising in 2022/23 was approved as part of the Mayoral Budget 2022-23, also on this agenda.
9. That it be noted that the Corporate Issues and Reform Overview & Scrutiny Committee had discussed their concerns regarding the risks to the budget associated with the uncertainty surrounding more longer-term funding for bus and Metrolink services and that those concerns were echoed by the GMCA Treasurer.

GMCA 26/22

GMCA REVENUE GENERAL BUDGET 2022/23

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Leader for Resources and Investment, took the GMCA through a report which set out the GMCA Revenue General Budget for 2022/23. The

proposed District contributions of £8.603m were included in the report for approval for 2022/23, together with the consequent allocations to the individual Local Authorities, which were unchanged from 2021/22.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the budget relating to the GMCA functions excluding transport and waste in 2022/23, as set out in section 2 of the report, be approved.
2. That District contributions of £8.603 million, as set out in section 3 of the report, be approved.
3. That the use of reserves, as set out in section 4 of the report, be approved.

GMCA 27/22 GM WASTE BUDGET AND LEVY 2022/23 AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN TO 2024/25

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Leader for Resources and Investment, introduced a report which sought comment on the budget and levy for 2022/23 and on the Medium-Term Financial Plan for a further two-year period to 2024/25. The plans would be delivered by a total level requirement for 2022/23 of £164.8m, which represented a 1.5% average increase over 2021/22. At a Local Authority level, the levy changes ranged from -2.2% to 4.3%. The Medium-Term Financial Plan also proposed levy charges of £170.5m in 2023/24 and £174.7m in 2024/25.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the forecast outturn for 2021/22 be noted.
2. That the proposed 2022/23 Trade Waste rate of £118.30 to allow forward planning by Local Authorities be noted.
3. That the capital programme for 2022/23, as set out in Appendix A of the report, be noted.
4. That the budget and levy for 2022/23 of £164.8m (1.5% increase) be noted.

5. That the risk position set out in the Balances Strategy and Reserves be noted.
6. That it be noted that due to the volatility within the waste sector, there was a risk that significant budget underspend may not be retained in 2022/23.
7. That it be noted that it remained the intention of the GMCA to return a minimum of £10m to those GM Authorities who held a GM waste contract.

GMCA 28/22 GMCA CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021/22-2024/25

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Leader for Resources and Investment, took the GMCA through a report which provided an update in relation to the GMCA's 2021/22 capital expenditure programme and presented the capital programme budget for 2022/23 – 2024/25 for approval. The capital programme included Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue services, economic development and regeneration programmes, Waste & Resources Service and the continuation of the programme of activity that had been conducted by Transport for Greater Manchester and Local Authorities. The GMCA had submitted a programme case to the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement funding scheme and anticipated the confirmation of the award by the end of March 2022, at which time the 2022/23 budget would be updated and brought back to the GMCA for approval.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the current 2021/22 forecast of £479.9 million, compared to the 2021/22 quarter 2 capital forecast of £625.7 million, be noted.
2. That the capital programme budget for 2022/23 and the forward plan, as detailed in the report and in Appendix A be approved.
3. That it be noted that as the anticipated funding through the City Region Sustainable Transport Fund of £1.07 billion had not yet been finalised, a further capital budget report would be submitted to the GMCA once the details had been agreed.

**GMCA 29/22 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND
ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2022/23**

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Leader for Resources and Investment, introduced a report which set out the proposed Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Borrowing Limits and Prudential Indicators for 2022/23 to 2024/25. The strategy reflected the draft 2021-2025 capital programme for Transport, Economic Development, Fire and Rescue, Waste, and Police.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the proposed Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy to apply from the 1 April 2022, be approved, in particular:
 - a. The Treasury and Prudential Indicators listed in Section 4.
 - b. The Minimum Revenue Position (MRP) Strategy in Section 3.
 - c. The Treasury Management Scheme of Delegation at Appendix F.
 - d. The Borrowing Strategy detailed in Section 5.
 - e. Delegation to the Treasurer to step outside of the investment limits to safeguard the GMCA's position as outlined in section 5.21.

2. That the change in the Minimum Revenue Provision Strategy be approved to enable it to apply in 2021/22.

GMCA 30/22 CAPITAL STRATEGY 2022/23

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Leader for Resources and Investment, took Members through a report on the Capital Strategy 2022/23, which set out the over-arching principles and processes by which the capital and investment decisions set out in the Capital Programme would be prioritised against the key aims of the Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS).

In addition, the Capital Strategy considered the finding implications of the Capital Programme and where borrowing would be required, the Treasury Management Strategy set out how this would be managed during the year along with the policy for managing investments. The Treasury Management Strategy incorporated the statutory prudential indicators along with the Minimum Revenue Policy that would be adopted for 2022/23. The Capital Strategy also

provided an overview of the governance arrangements for capital investment decisions and outlined the Authority's arrangements for managing risk.

The Capital Strategy for the GMCA would ensure that all resources would be directed to achieving the outcomes contained within the GMS by maximising the use of external funding to deliver the highest impact affordable programme. There were several key priority investment areas for the GMCA, including transport, economic development and regeneration, the Fire and Rescue Service, the Waste & Resources Service, and the Police Service.

RESOLVED /-

That the Capital Strategy for 2022/23 be approved.

GMCA 31/22 GMCA REVENUE UPDATE QUARTER 3 2021/22

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Leader for Resources and Investment, introduced a report which informed the GMCA of the 2021/22 financial position at the end of December 2021 (quarter 3) and the forecast revenue outturn position for the 2021/22 financial year.

RESOLVED /-

1. That an increase to the Mayoral budget of £125k to be funded from reserves, as set out in Section 2 of the report, be approved.
2. That an increase to the Fire and Rescue Services budget of £539k to be fully funded from reserves, as set out in Section 4 of the report, be approved.

GMCA 32/22 A BED EVERY NIGHT 2022-2025 PROGRAMME

Salford City Mayor, Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure, took Members through a report that provided the GMCA with the detailed projected budget for homelessness activity and an outline of activities and programmes of work.

It was noted that A Bed Every Night (ABEN) had attracted international interest and the GMCA was eager to put the scheme on a stable footing. Greater Manchester had seen a 67% reduction in rough sleeping over the past four years and ABEN had been central to this progress. ABEN sat alongside other programmes, such as, Housing First, the Rough Sleeper Initiative and the Rough Sleeper Accommodation programme. In light of the cost of living and inflation crises, there had been great uncertainty concerning the funding and demand for homelessness services. The proposals sought to address equity of funding across Local Authorities while maintaining provision and maximising contributions. Statistics had shown that over 50% of rough sleepers in Greater Manchester were under the age of 35, there were over 55 nationalities in GM's rough sleeper population, and over 50% of rough sleepers had substance misuse and mental health challenges. All of these factors would need to be addressed in a broad system of support from a variety of sectors. ABEN had been a positive intervention and 41% of service users had achieved a positive outcome. However, it was recognised that challenges remained with evictions and abandonments in the current system.

The GMCA was grateful for the continuation of funding from Government for the Housing First scheme, which had a tenancy sustainability rate of around 85%. ABEN had acted as a pathway away from rough sleeping for many people. The three-year budget was also seen as a way to engage partners in the long-term in order to make a real difference in GM alongside regular reviews of the scheme in recognition of the constantly changing landscape.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the A Bed Every Night service developments over the coming three years be noted.
2. That the A Bed Every Night budget for 2022/23 (£5,850,000) be approved.
3. That the direction of travel towards a more equitable allocation of funds to Local Authorities, pending reviews on the total budget required and evidence of the need for variance in Local Authorities allocations for 2023/24 and 2024/25, be approved.
4. That the continuation of the Greater Manchester Housing First pilot be noted and that the ongoing delivery be supported.

5. That the submission of the Greater Manchester Rough Sleeper Initiative bid be noted and the planned delivery supported.
6. That the GMCA record its thanks to the GMCA and Local Authority teams working to increase the profile of the Mayors Charity for their significant work to date.

GMCA 33/22 NATIONAL SKILLS FUND

Councillor Bev Craig, Portfolio Lead for Education, Skills, Work & Apprenticeships and Digital City Region, introduced a report that updated Members on the National Skills Fund and skills bootcamps, including the opportunity to access devolved funding to support retraining in 2022/23. The report also outlined a delivery proposal for skills bootcamps in 2022/23 and set out the approach for developing the call for proposals further with stakeholders. Skills bootcamps offered flexible courses up to a maximum duration of 16 weeks, with opportunities to build sector-specific skills and fast-track to an interview with a local employer. Supporting the labour market to adapt to changes in several sectors would be critical to recovering strongly from the pandemic and tackling inequalities.

GM had been a pilot area working with Government to assess the impact of skills bootcamps. The pilot scheme had worked with over 500 participants, achieving a good gender balance and around 40% of participants coming from a minority ethnic background. The ambitions for the continuation of the scheme consisted of using £7m funding to support 2500 residents initially, with proposals to encourage Government to continue the work to support 10,000 residents over a three-year period.

The GMCA agreed that the skills bootcamps had been successful and welcomed the proposals to continue working with Government into the next year. Tameside Council was eager to contribute to the delivery of the skills bootcamps as many of its residents could benefit from the scheme. It was noted that there were plans to offer skills bootcamps in each of the ten local authority areas and in a variety of sectors to respond to local needs. Post-16 education had been identified as a potential area for further devolution in the Levelling Up White Paper.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the overall progress of the Skills Bootcamps Pilot be noted.

2. That the proposed approach to new Skills Bootcamp delivery in 2022/23 be noted.
3. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Education, Skills, Work & Apprenticeships and Digital City Region, to agree section 14 grant conditions, the commissioning route and award of individual grants/contacts.
4. That it be noted that Tameside Council would like to contribute to the planning of future Skills Bootcamps.
5. That it be noted that the GM Mayor would continue to pursue further skills funding devolution through ongoing conversations with the Levelling Up Secretary.

**GMCA 34/22 GMCA RESPONSE TO THE HS2 PHASE 2B HYBRID BILL
ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT CONSULTATION**

The GM Mayor, Andy Burnham, provided an update to the GMCA on the HS2 Phase 2b Bill and introduced a report that sought agreement to respond to the consultation on the Environmental Statement for the Crewe to Manchester HS2 Phase 2b line. Delegated authority was also sought for the Chief Executive for GMCA & TfGM in consultation with the GM Mayor to approve the response to the consultation on the Environmental Statement.

The Bill had been deposited in Parliament on the 24 January 2022 and the GCMA would be required to submit any response before the deadline on 31 March 2022. The Bill would affect several authorities in Greater Manchester where the proposed route would operate, including Wigan, Manchester, and Trafford. There would also be a knock-on effect on a range of boroughs, including Tameside which would see consequences for its transport connectivity. It was recognised that other local authority areas may also have concerns that would need to be raised in the response and consequently Members agreed to receive a further report on the matter for review.

RESOLVED /-

1. That it be noted that the HS2 Phase 2b Crewe to Manchester hybrid Bill was deposited on 24 January 2022.

2. That the Bill process that TfGM will be required to follow to respond to the Environmental Statement consultation; consultation period of 25 January 2022 to 31 March 2022 be noted.
3. That the submission of a response to the consultation on the Environmental Statement for HS2 Phase 2b Crewe to Manchester Bill be approved.
4. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, in consultation with the GM Mayor, to approve a response to the consultation on the Environmental Statement for the Crewe to Manchester HS2 Phase 2b Bill.
5. That a further report would be submitted to the GMCA on the Parliamentary and Select Committee process for HS2 Bill and that it be noted that presentations, including specifically the underground station at Manchester Piccadilly and the significant implications for wider connectivity, including Tameside, would be raised as part of the formal petitioning process.

GMCA 35/22 GMCA CORPORATE PLAN

Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM, introduced a report which provided Members with the GMCA Corporate Plan for review and endorsement. The Corporate Plan would provide a framework for the GMCA's activity over the next three years (2022 – 2025). This would be the organisation's first Corporate Plan and was an externally focused document, which would be accompanied by annual (internally focused) business plans. The report had drawn out some of the recent achievements across the GMCA, and the priorities and areas of focus for the next three years had been set based around the GMCA's four corporate objectives. Subject to endorsement, the Corporate Plan would be published on the GMCA website.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the Corporate Plan, including summary vision, noting the organisation's key achievements and priorities for the coming years be noted.

2. That the Corporate Plan, summary document, the approach to develop annual business plans to sit alongside the corporate plan and an effective performance framework to monitor progress in delivering the activities, set out in the report, be endorsed.

GMCA 36/22 GM BROWNFIELD HOUSING FUND: FURTHER FUNDS BID

Salford City Mayor, Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure, took Members through a report which sought the GMCA's approval to allocate grant funding to eight sites (contained within para 2.3 of the report) and subsequently enter into individual Grant Agreements with the respective parties.

The GMCA had been invited to submit proposals in December 2021 for additional Brownfield Housing Funds (BHF), which were not part of the previous allocation in July 2020. The additional BHF were also not part of the £300m funding that was anticipated to be outlined further in the Levelling Up White Paper. At the end of January 2022, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities announced that the GM proposals had been successful. The total funding of £11.38m would be used to build homes on brownfield land.

RESOLVED /-

1. That receipt of the DLUHC Further Brownfield Housing Funds and allocation of grant funding to those sites, as set out within para 2.3 of the report, and the entering into individual Grant Agreements for those recommended sites, be approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer, acting in conjunction with the GMCA Monitoring Officer, to agree the final terms of all the necessary agreements.

GMCA 37/22 MAYOR'S CYCLING AND WALKING CHALLENGE FUND

The GM Mayor, Andy Burnham, introduced a report which sought approval of the delivery funding requirements for two Mayor's Challenge Fund (MCF) Cycling and Walking Schemes and informed Members of the planned extension to the MCF programme into 2022/23 to ensure the continued delivery of the GM Active Travel Capital Programme.

The Salford scheme would transform a section of Chapel Street in Salford by providing 750m of continuous footway and a terraced cycle track separated from traffic, which would establish Chapel Street as a gateway to the city and support the wider aspirations for regeneration of Chapel Wharf. The Bury scheme related to the Fishpool area and would be split into two phases; Phase 1 involved the construction of a new bridge over the River Roch to enhance the links between Fishpool and Pilsworth. It was anticipated that this scheme would provide very high value for money.

Members reflected upon the impact that the schemes would have in Bury and Salford. In Bury, it was noted that the new bridge would enhance employment opportunities for residents by providing greater access to Pilsworth as an employment hub. In Salford, the scheme would enhance infrastructure and contribute to the improvement of the city, which had been transformed in recent years. Both schemes would encourage active travel by making it easier for residents to choose walking or cycling as a safe and accessible option.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the release of up to £5.4 million of MCF funding for the Bury and Salford schemes, as set out in section 2 of the report, in order to secure full approval and enable the signing of the necessary legal agreements, be approved.
2. That the planned continuation of the Mayor's Challenge Fund Cycling and Walking Programme into 2022/23, in support of continued scheme delivery across Greater Manchester, be noted.
3. That it be noted that at the start of the new municipal year there would be an opportunity to set out the new leadership and governance arrangements for the cycling and walking programme.
4. That a future report would be submitted to the GMCA on the widening of the pilot scheme undertaken in Tameside regarding junction zebra crossings.

GMCA 38/22 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED /-

That, under section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public should be excluded from the meeting for the following items on business on the grounds that this involved the likely disclosure of exempt information, as set out in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

GMCA 39/22 A BED EVERY NIGHT 2022-2025 PROGRAMME

Clerk's Note: This item was considered in support of the report considered in Part A of the agenda (Minute GMCA 32/22 above refers)

RESOLVED /-

That the report be noted.

Signed by the Chair:

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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