

Minutes of: COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 18 January 2023

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor , in the Chair)
Councillors A Arif, S Arif, N Bayley, R Bernstein, C Birchmore, C Boles, A Booth, N Boroda, R Brown, C Cummins, L Dean, S Donnelly, D Duncalfe, U Farooq, E FitzGerald, I Gartside, R Gold, D Green, J Grimshaw, S Haroon, J Harris, M Hayes, K Hussain, N Jones, J Lancaster, G Marsden, J Mason, L McBriar, G McGill, C Morris, E Moss, E O'Brien, K Peel, T Pilkington, A Quinn, D Quinn, T Rafiq, I Rizvi, J Rydeheard, L Smith, M Smith, T Tariq, C Tegolo, S Thorpe, D Vernon, S Walmsley, M Walsh, M Whitby and Y Wright

**Apologies for
Absence** D Berry and N Frith

Public Attendance: 44 members of the public attended the meeting.

C. 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Birchmore, Booth, Walsh and Y Wright declared personal interest in considering the Conservative Notice of Motion as Members of Bury Folk Keep it Green.

Councillor Joan Grimshaw declared a personal interest in all matters under consideration as her daughter is employed by the GMCA.

C. 3 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor commended those residents of Bury that had received honours in the King's New Years Honours list.

C. 4 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th December were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

C. 5 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Notice had been received of 9 questions. The Leader gave an undertaking that copies of those questions and responses will be circulated to all Councillors. The Leader also gave an undertaking to make these available on the Council Web Site.

Questioner	Topic	Responding
S Jussab	Car parking on match days	Cllr Quinn
P Liggins (Not present)	Heaton Park Low Traffic Neighbourhood	Cllr Quinn
Andrew Luxton	Street Lighting in Elton	Cllr Quinn
Stephen Cluer	Places for Everyone Plan	Cllr O'Brien

Alan Bayfield	Councillor Complaint	Monitoring Officer
P Smith Lawrence	PassivHaus Principles	Cllr O'Brien
Nick Hubble	Heaton Park Active Neighbourhoods	Cllr Quinn
Charlie Allen	Hartley Park Gardens	Cllr Quinn
Andy Hay (Not present)	Prestwich Regeneration	Cllr O'Brien

C. 6 RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Meeting of Cabinet, 11th January 2023 – Appointment of Deputy Mayor

It was moved by Councillor O'Brien and seconded by Councillor Bernstein and it was agreed that:

Councillor Hussain be appointed as the Deputy Mayor for the Metropolitan Borough of Bury for the municipal year 2023.24

C. 7 COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME

It was moved by Councillor Gold and seconded by Councillor O'Brien and it was agreed that the recommendations within the Council Tax Support Scheme be approved.

C. 8 APPOINTMENT OF ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER

It was moved by Councillor Rafiq and seconded by Councillor O'Brien and it was agreed that: Lynne Ridsdale, Bury Council's Deputy Chief Executive be appointed as Deputy Electoral Registration Officer until 1 March 2023.

The Bury Council's Monitoring Officer, Jacqui Dennis and the Joint Chief Information Officer, Kate Waterhouse being appointed as Deputy Electoral Registration Officers.

C. 9 ESTABLISHMENT OF GREATER MANCHESTER JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - CLEAN AIR

It was moved by Councillor Alan Quinn and seconded by Councillor O'Brien and with 40 members voting for, 8 members voting against and Councillor Brown and the Mayor abstaining:

Council agrees to:

1. The establishment of a GM Clean Air Joint Scrutiny Committee;
2. The Terms of Reference of the Committee as set out in Appendix A; and
3. Appoint a member and substitute to the Committee.

C. 10 GREATER MANCHESTER INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

It was moved by Councillor O'Brien and it was seconded by Councillor Tariq and it was agreed that the Council:

1. Note the recommendations of the report of the GM Independent Remuneration Panel. (Appendix 1).
2. Note that the levelling up bill is still proceeding through parliament and therefore the GMCA does not yet have legislative power to pay allowances directly to the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee members.

3. That Bury Council (along with GM Districts) pay allowances to their appointees to the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the interim.
4. Ensure that appropriate arrangements are put in place with the GM treasurer to enable reimbursement from the GMCA to Bury Council.
5. Payments of SRAs for Members and Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee are set as recommended in the report (Appendix 1) and are backdated to 24th June 2022 when the new scrutiny arrangements were put in place.
6. The Council's Member Allowance Scheme is adjusted to take account of the interim arrangements.

C. 11 LEADER' STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(a) Written question (Notice given)

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

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

	Questioner	Cabinet Member	Topic
1	Cllr Arif	Cllr Gold	Knife Crime
2	Cllr FitzGerald	Cllr Gold	Cost of Living Crisis
3	Cllr D Quinn	Cllr Morris	Cultural Offer
4	Cllr Lancaster	Cllr A Quinn	Tree Damage
5	Cllr Birchmore	Cllr O'Brien	3 Knowsley Place
6	Cllr Moss	Cllr Cummins	Cold weather Provision
7	Cllr Green	Cllr Cummins	No fault evictions
8	Cllr Gold	Cllr Hussain	Kings Coronation
9	Cllr Bayley	Cllr L Smith	Performance in Children's Services
10	Cllr Peel	Cllr L Smith	SEND
11	Cllr Rydeheard	Cllr Morris	Bury Art Museum
12	Cllr M Smith	Cllr L Smith	School Absence Rates

Due to the lack of time to answer questions 13 to 19 inclusive, the Leader gave an undertaking that copies of those questions and responses will be circulated to all Councillors. The Leader also gave an undertaking to make these available on the Council Web Site.

b) Verbal Questions

Questioner	Cabinet Member	Topic
Cllr Bernstein	Cllr L Smith	Upcoming Teacher Strikes

Cllr D Duncalfe	Cllr L Smith	Radcliffe School
Cllr J Lancaster	Cllr L Smith	Catchment area consultation
Cllr M Smith	Cllr O'Brien	Recruitment and retention in BGI
Cllr Hayes	Cllr O'Brien	All age skill strategy
Cllr S Arif	Cllr Quinn	Missed bin collections
Cllr Rydeheard	Cllr Quinn	Grit Bins
Cllr Pilkington	Cllr Morris	Cultural Venues

C. 12 COMBINED AUTHORITY REPORT AND QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL'S COMBINED AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES

- (a) The Council received a report on the work of the Combined Authorities.
(b) The following questions had been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rules:

Questioner	Combined Authority Member	Topic
Cllr McGill	Cllr Peel	Bus Franchising
Cllr Farooq	Cllr Peel	Quality of the Bus Fleet
Cllr Harris	Cllr Peel	Parking at Metrolink
Cllr McGill	Cllr Gold	Operation Avro
Cllr Vernon	Cllr Gold	Community Coordinator Project
Cllr Dean	Cllr Gold	Operation Falcon

C. 13 * SHORT ADJOURNMENT*****
C. 14 NOTICES OF MOTION

(i) Scrap Voter I.D. Requirement for Local Elections 2023

This Council notes:

- With the passage of the Elections Act last April, voters will now have to present identification when they go to vote in person.
- If an eligible voter does not have or cannot present identification, they will be turned away.
- According to government-issued research, 2% of eligible voters have no form of photo ID, and 4% of eligible voters have no form of recognisable ID. For Bury, this means thousands of eligible voters would be at risk of not being able to vote.

- The 344-page legal guidelines setting out how the system will operate were only put before parliament in November 2022 and have only just come into effect, giving election officials minimal time to respond.
- The Association of Electoral Administrators has said it is already concerned about the tightness of timescales and recruiting enough temporary staff for polling stations.
- The Electoral Commission, the official watchdog that will oversee the rollout of voter ID, has said the timetable could affect some eligible voters' ability to vote in the May 2023 local elections, saying there was a risk of confusion and of valid voters being turned away, which could damage wider confidence in elections.
- The Local Government Association (LGA) has also shared concerns that there is insufficient time ahead of the May 2023 elections to introduce the requirement to show photo ID and are calling for a delay of the process.

This Council resolves to:

- Write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities expressing our opposition to the new requirements and calling for a delay to the introduction of voter I.D. requirements for the local elections in May 2023.
- Write to the Members of Parliament for Bury South and Bury North requesting that they also write to the Secretary of State expressing opposition to the new requirements and call for a delay to the introduction of voter I.D. requirements for the local elections in May 2023.
- In the situation where our resolutions are ignored or rejected, to call on the Returning Officer to run a comprehensive voter registration campaign and voter I.D. awareness campaign in the run up to the local elections in May 2023. This would include, but not be limited to:
 1. Correspondence to all households about the new requirements
 2. Targeted communication to those most likely not to have accepted identification
 3. Engagement with schools and colleges encouraging younger people to register to vote

On being put with 29 Members voting for and 13 members voting against and the Mayor, Councillors C Birchmore, M Smith, Duncalfe, Mason, Walsh and Marsden abstaining

The Mayor declared the motion was carried.

(ii) **Withdrawal of Bury Council from the Places for Everyone Plan**

A motion has been received and set in the summons in the names of councillors Arif, Bernstein, Brown, Dean, Gartside, Harris, Hussain, Jones, Lancaster, McBriar, Rydeheard, Vernon.

The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities recently made a statement in the house of commons in relation to an update on the levelling up bill.

In this statement the Secretary of State confirmed that he believes that the plan-making process for housing has to start with a number. This number the Secretary of State went on to say should be an advisory starting point, a guide from that is not mandatory.

The Secretary of State further added it will be up to Local Authorities, working with their communities, to determine how many homes can actually be built, taking into account what should be protected in each area-be that our precious green belt or national parks.

The Secretary of State further outlined how those local authorities with local plans at an advanced stage of preparation who will not benefit from these provisions can take advantage of transitional arrangements to produce plans that are compliant with the new guidance. Although this Council is part of the Places for Everyone submission we have no adopted local plan. As such the housing need calculation made within Places for Everyone is now obsolete and not in line with national guidance. As such it is clear that Bury's local plan must produced in line with the new national guidance. Bearing in mind the clarification outlined in the Secretary of State's statement in the house of commons;

This council resolves to;

- Withdraw Bury Council from the Places for Everyone Plan as an immediate priority.
- Develop a joint approach to calculating housing need though community consultation and a reinforced brownfield first policy.
- Make a public commitment to protect the Borough's precious green belt by removing Simister, Walshaw and Elton reservoir sites from any future local plan

In accordance with the Council Constitution, following a request from the Conservative Group for a recorded vote (8 members stood) on being put with
Councillors: S Arif; Bernstein, Birchmore, Booth, Brown, Dean, Duncalfe, Gartside, Harris, Hussain, N Jones, Lancaster, Marsden, Mason, McBriar, Rydeheard, M Smith, Tegolo, Vernon, Walsh, Y Wright voting for;

And Councillors: A Arif, Bayley, Boles, Boroda, Cummins, Donnelly, Farooq, FitzGerald, Gold, Green, Grimshaw, Hayes, McGill, Morris, Moss, O'Brien, Peel, Pilkington, A Quinn, D Quinn, Rafiq, Rizvi, L Smith, Tariq, Thorpe, Walmsley, Whitby voting against and the Mayor abstaining;

The Mayor declared the motion lost.

C. 15 COUNCIL MOTION TRACKER

For information.

C. 16 SCRUTINY REVIEW REPORTS AND SPECIFIC ITEMS "CALLED IN" BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

There were no scrutiny reports or specific items called in.

C. 17 SCRUTINY REVIEW REPORTS AND SPECIFIC ITEMS "CALLED IN" BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

There were no questions on the work of the outside partnerships

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR