

AGENDA FOR OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



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To: All Members of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillors : R Bernstein, C Birchmore, A Arif, N Bayley,
N Boroda, D Green, T Pilkington, D Vernon (Chair),
E Moss, M Rubinstein and G Marsden

Dear Member/Colleague

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which will be held as follows:-

Date:	Tuesday, 13 June 2023
Place:	Council Chamber, Bury Town Hall
Time:	7.00 pm
Briefing Facilities:	If Opposition Members and Co-opted Members require briefing on any particular item on the Agenda, the appropriate Director/Senior Officer originating the related report should be contacted.
Notes:	

AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider whether they have an interest in any matters on the agenda and, if so, to formally declare that interest.

3 MINUTES *(Pages 3 - 8)*

Minutes from the meeting held on 23rd March 2023 are attached for approval.

4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A period of 30 minutes has been set aside for members of the public to ask questions on matters considered at the last meeting and set out in the minutes or on the agenda for tonight's meeting.

5 MEMBER QUESTION TIME

A period of up to 15 minutes will be allocated for questions and supplementary questions from members of the Council who are not members of the committee. This period may be varied at the discretion of the chair.

6 CULTURAL STRATEGY *(Pages 9 - 28)*

Councillor Morris to provide an update. Report attached.

7 TELECOMMUNICATIONS UPDATE *(Pages 29 - 34)*

Councillor Quinn and Councillor O'Brien, Leader to provide an update. Report attached.

8 PROPOSED NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA AND FORUM FOR PRESTWICH *(Pages 35 - 48)*

Councillor O'Brien to provide an update. Report attached

9 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PLAN *(Pages 49 - 50)*

Attached for information.

10 URGENT BUSINESS

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

Minutes of: **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting: 23 March 2023

Present: Councillor D Vernon (in the Chair)
 Councillors R Bernstein, C Birchmore, A Arif, N Bayley,
 N Boroda, D Green, N Jones, T Pilkington, E Moss and D Berry

Also in attendance: Councillor O'Brien, Leader of the Council
 Councillor Rafiq, Cabinet Member Corporate Affairs and HR
 Councillor Quinn Cabinet Member Environment, Climate
 Change and Operations
 Lynne Ridsdale, Chief Executive Bury Council
 Jon O'Connor Group Leader, Asset Manager
 Carmel Foster-Devine, Head of Engineering
 Crispian Logue, Head of Service (Strategic Planning and
 Economic Development)
 Jacqui Dennis, Director of Law and Democratic Services
 Chloe Ashworth, Democratic Services.

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillor K Peel and Councillor M Walsh

OSC.1 APOLOGIES

Apologies are noted above.

OSC.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

OSC.3 MINUTES

It was agreed:

1. The minutes of the meeting held on 09th March 2023 be approved.

OSC.4 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

OSC.5 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

OSC.6 MEMBER QUESTIONS

There were no member questions.

OSC.7 BURY COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN 2023/24 - STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Councillor Rafiq, Cabinet Member Corporate Affairs and HR provided an overview of the report. The report sets out the progress made in 2022/23 to deliver against the priorities set out in the Council and NHS GM (Bury) Corporate Plan. Whilst a final report will be shared with Cabinet at the end of Quarter Four, this summary demonstrates the way in which efforts have been targeted at delivering against the 3Rs which is our framework for contributing the priority outcomes within the LET'S Do It! Strategy. The second half of the report sets out a proposed approach for developing the 2023/24 Corporate Plan.

Members were invited to ask questions.

Councillor Bernstein raised that at Cabinet he raised the suggestion to include the reserves strategy within the Corporate Plan. Councillor Rafiq, Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR agreed that this will be considered going forward.

Councillor Green questioned if feedback from the Children's Ofsted visit had been received. Members were informed the report has been received and confirms we are on target with our improvement plan.

Councillor Boroda asked how the Bury 2030 Plan and the Corporate Plan align. Councillor Rafiq Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR advised the Strategy has helped to develop the Corporate Plan. Councillor Boroda sought assurances that Bury Council is on track to meet the Bury 2030 ambitions.

Councillor Vernon asked questions regarding the People and Communities Plan. In response Lynne Ridsdale, Chief Executive advised it is about working with all public services and community partners in every town with focus currently on Radcliffe and Bury. Each area has been worked with to co-design a set of interventions to engage the communities with the development work so there are changes to connect people to growth. In addition Councillor O'Brien, Leader added when funds are available they have to think about how they link back to the Bury 2030 Strategy.

Councillor Birchmore questioned further on the approaches for Bury and Radcliffe Community Plans and what has been learnt. In response Lynne Ridsdale, Chief Executive advised the two approaches have commonality as they are focused on areas of greatest deprivation in the borough so the commonality is there between the area, but the people are different.

Councillor Green wished to place on record the positive feedback from residents following Lynne Ridsdale's appointment as Chief Executive.

Councillor Boroda asked how the 'local' element of the Let's Do It Strategy runs through the Corporate Plan and Team Bury delivery. In response members were advised that local is the way we want to operate now and we have a small number of public service teams working collaboratively this way and this will need to now be expanded.

Councillor Vernon questioned the reference to an all-age skills strategy. Councillor O'Brien, Leader advised we should have an all-ages skills development approach and have established and appointed to a role to develop this work and build capacity. Councillor Jones further questioned about support for apprenticeships across Greater Manchester. In response Councillor O'Brien, Leader advised the different types of apprenticeships available, and work is taking place across Greater Manchester. Councillor Jones questioned when the Council is going out to tender has consideration taken place from a social value aspect to have more opportunities to upskill people in the Council or Borough to undertake tasks otherwise external people may be required. Councillor O'Brien responded to state it will be reviewed and included as part of the Social Value Policy.

Councillor Birchmore questioned which partners are being worked with as part of the Skills Development. In response Members were advised Bury College will be a big partner, the Adult Learning Centre, Holy Cross College, local Sixth Forms and Greater Manchester organisations and external training partners.

Councillor Vernon questioned the schemes identified for development and new homes. In response Crispian Logue, Head of Service Strategic Planning advised the 450,000 referred to within the plan is a combined total to be provided.

Councillor Vernon thanked Councillor Rafiq, Cabinet Member Corporate Affairs and HR for his attendance this evening.

OSC.8 UPDATE REPORT - PERFORMANCE AND FINANCE SUB-GROUP

Councillor Vernon moved item 10 to take place now so Councillor Rafiq, Cabinet Member Corporate Affairs and HR could participate in discussion.

Councillor Vernon presented an overview of the report.

Councillor Bernstein added that discussions have reflected that the sub-group has been beneficial and worthwhile including a growth in membership.

Councillor Jones wished to thank the Sub-Committee for covering sickness absence which has been of high pertinence along with the work Sam McVaigh, Director of People & Inclusion is involved in to drive forward improvements.

It was agreed:

1. The Overview and Scrutiny agrees that the Performance and Finance Sub-Committee will continue into the next municipal year and appointment to it be included in the annual appointments report.

OSC.9 HIGHWAYS CAPITAL PROGRAMME - HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE FUNDING 2023/24 TO 2026/27 AND INTEGRATED TRANSPORT BLOCK 22/23

Jon O'Connor Group Leader, Asset Manager provided the Committee with a presentation which has been appended to the minutes.

Following the presentation Councillor Vernon opened to Councillor Quinn Cabinet Member Environment, Climate Change and Operations to provide an overview of the report. Councillor Quinn highlighted to members key concerns for highway maintenance and their budgets.

Councillor Boroda questioned how much allowance has been made for unprecedented pressures. In response Jon O'Connor Group Leader Asset Manager advised that it is based on current pressures not future anticipated pressures.

Discussions took place regarding the £2 million allocated within the budget with the details yet to be provided.

Councillor Bernstein highlighted from the presentation that the asset of Bury roads is £1 billion which is significant and it would need huge investment. It was questioned how the 'human factor' in decision making is used in the approval process. Councillor Quinn,

Cabinet Member Environment, Climate Change and Operations provided assurances that the officers are the experts, and they make the decisions. Councillor Quinn Cabinet Member Environment, Climate Change and Operations advised there is an interactive map that shows the programmes of work across the borough which could take place as a learning opportunity for the Scrutiny Committee.

Discussions took place regarding individual areas planned under the programme of works and reserves list.

Members discussed the various weights each type of data is given to make decisions on road works.

Members sought further information on the 'Safer routes for Schools Schemes', in response the Committee were advised this is a scheme that looks at area surrounding a school and what can be done to encourage parents to walk or cycle to school.

Members sought clarity on 'collision hotspots' within the borough. Members were informed that annually the Council looks at collisions in a five-year period and a list is drawn up of areas with the highest number of collisions. Following the exercise, the operations team look at the areas to see if there are any engineering measures that can be put in place to prevent collisions occurring in the future. Carmel Foster-Devine, Head of Engineering advised she would provide a list of hot-spots to the Committee following the meeting.

It was agreed:

1. Councillor Quinn and Officers be thanked for their attendance and update
2. All Councillors receive a copy of the presentation provided by Jon O'Connor Group Leader, Asset Manager.

OSC.10 LOCAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY - CONSULTATION DRAFT

Councillor O'Brien, Leader of the Council provided an overview of the Local Transport Strategy.

Members had discussions on routes of transport around the borough, development of Metrolink sites and bus routes that currently are unconnected. In response the Leader advised that within the strategy on pages 215-227 there is outlines of an improvement plan for bus routes.

Councillor Pilkington suggested that the Strategy could be clearly broken down into updates for each township to assist with using the strategy.

Discussions took place regarding the Rossendale Rail line and Councillor O'Brien confirmed that the Council will think creatively, and the Council's position is that it is worth exploring but there is a heritage red line.

The Leader also advised he would be welcome to considering how to connect Ramsbottom and Tottington.

Councillor Bernstein welcomed the Local Transport Strategy but advised the challenge is how we educate people to understand its aim. He confirmed that there is significant time before delivery and the objective is improving the environment and active travel. The Leader agreed and advised firstly active travel and public transport needs to be improved for those who need

to use public transportation then to support those who choose to use a car but could use effective public transport.

Discussions took place regarding specific Bus and Metrolink routes where members of the Committee highlighted areas for development and gaps in the current transport infrastructure.

Councillor O'Brien finished by thanking officers for their work on this document and asked elected members for their support on this work and communicating it to residents.

It was proposed by Councillor Pilkington and agreed unanimously by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that:

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee suggests that prior to commencement of consultation and to assist engagement, the Local Transport Strategy includes separate transport plans for each of the different townships.

OSC.11 URGENT BUSINESS

Councillor Vernon, took the opportunity to thank officers and members for their participation, attendance and contribution over the year. In addition Councillor Vernon also thanked Jacqui Dennis, Director of Law and Democratic Services and Chloe Ashworth, Senior Scrutiny Officer for their support.

COUNCILLOR D VERNON
Chair

(Note: The meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 9.45 pm)

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Classification: Open	Decision Type: Key
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Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Date: 13 June 2023
Subject:	Bury Cultural Strategy	
Report of	Cabinet Member for Culture and the Economy	

Summary

Between 2019-21 Bury was recognised as the first GM Town of Culture. A commitment was made to develop a borough-wide culture strategy which sustains the innovation developed during this time, supports economic development and contributes to a “wellness” model of community health and wellbeing.

The development of this strategy has been led by an independent partner, Curated Place, part-funded by Arts Council England. It has been co-produced with community groups and the borough’s principal cultural partners. Implementation will be supported through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which has been secured for the next two years.

Report Author and Contact Details:

Name: Lynne Ridsdale
Position: Chief Executive
Department: Corporate Core
E-mail: L.Ridsdale@bury.gov.uk

Background

Described below

Links with the Corporate Priorities:

The culture strategy will support delivery of the borough vision to “drive faster economic growth than the national average by 2030” by highlighting the potential to grow the visitor economy and contribute to the health and wellbeing of residents.

Equality Impact and Considerations:

The strategy is not a matter of policy change and therefore an EIA has not been completed

Inclusion is one of the principal objectives of this strategy, however. The objective is to celebrate communities from across the borough but retain a collective sense of identity, as described in the mission statement: "different cultures, same horizon"

Environmental Impact and Considerations:

Addressing culture's role in driving change across our towns will be a key focus in the implementation of this strategy. In particular by aiming for net zero build in the two Levelling Up sites and developing a climate conscious culture supply chain.

Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
The council has committed to a saving of £250 000 from Bury Art Museum as part of the 2023/24 budget. Failure to achieve this through income generation and efficiencies may compromise its sustainability	This strategy will help develop a thriving visitor economy which should attract more people to the borough and support income generation objectives

Legal Implications:

The overview & scrutiny committee have considered the strategy at an early stage. The finalised strategy for consideration by Council has taken account of this.

Financial Implications:

There are no additional financial consequences to the Councils budgets through the implementation of the Cultural strategy, however, it does support the Council in the delivery of one of its savings identified as part of the 2023/24 budget process

Bury has an extensive cultural offer provided by a wealth of partners. In the past Bury Council has been able to contribute financially from its baseline funding to support the cultural offer within Bury. Due to the increasing pressures on the budget and the savings that need to be made to fund front line statutory services the Council is now moving towards a position where it needs to support its partners through strategic support and through the use of externally generated funding wherever possible, for example the UK Shared prosperity fund, where the cultural strategy is specifically cited as a project but there are a number of complementary projects including East Lancs Railway and Wellness Engagement

The significant regeneration across the borough not only by the Council but also through development partners will also add to footfall which will increase visitors

to attractions including the Bury art museum, East Lancs railway and the breadth of green spaces the borough has to offer

Background papers:

None.

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

Term	Meaning

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CULTURAL STRATEGY DIFFERENT CULTURES SAME HORIZONS

A STRATEGY FOR TRANSFORMING BURY'S
CULTURAL AND CREATIVE SECTOR

Bury
Council

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LET'S DO IT

HOW WE ARE GOING TO MAKE
THINGS HAPPEN TOGETHER

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INTRODUCTION

Cllr. Charlotte Morris
Cabinet Member for Culture and The Economy

Bury
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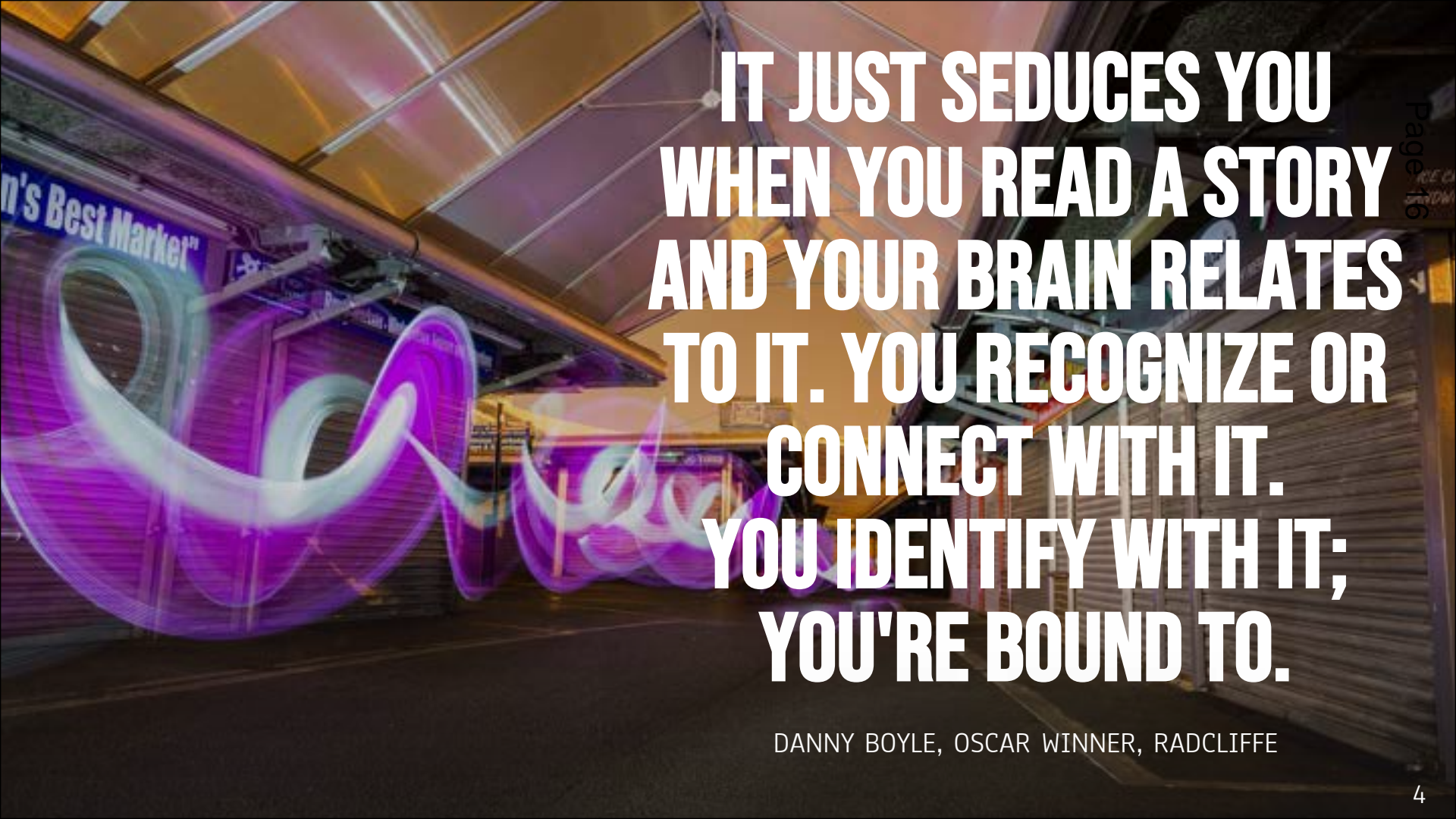
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Bury is a borough rich with culture. We are home to world class artists, producers, writers, musicians, archivists, performers and educators. Ours is a borough that blessed with a wealth of community, history and heritage, and natural and creative assets. As such, we were celebrated as the Greater Manchester Town of Culture between 2019-21.

The Cultural and creative sectors contribute directly to the Bury 2030 vision to stand out as a place that is achieving faster economic growth than the national average, with lower than national average levels of deprivation. The title of the Borough Strategy – LET'S do it! – is drawn directly from the work of Victoria Wood, who was born in Prestwich and raised in Bury. It reminds us of the direct link between the borough's cultural identity and the health, wellbeing and economic success of our communities, as well as the potential of every single resident to achieve their dreams.

This strategy provides a framework to secure and maximise the outcomes of investment in culture. It is a sister document to the forthcoming Economic Development Strategy and complements our Inclusion Strategy, which describes how we will celebrate all our diverse communities of place and identity.

In Bury, we are proud of our shared history as six towns but celebrate our diverse heritage. Each place in our borough has its own story to tell, both of its past but also of its future. I hope you share this vision for our success and will join me in telling our stories through culture and creativity in the future.

A long, glowing, purple and blue wavy light sculpture, resembling a stylized 'S' or a series of connected loops, is the central focus of the image. It is set in a dark, industrial-looking space with a high ceiling and visible structural elements. In the background, a sign for 'n's Best Market' is partially visible. The overall atmosphere is mysterious and artistic.

**IT JUST SEDUCES YOU
WHEN YOU READ A STORY
AND YOUR BRAIN RELATES
TO IT. YOU RECOGNIZE OR
CONNECT WITH IT.
YOU IDENTIFY WITH IT;
YOU'RE BOUND TO.**

DANNY BOYLE, OSCAR WINNER, RADCLIFFE

BACKGROUND

Bury is rich with culture, heritage and cemented by stories. It is the birthplace of BAFTA, Booker and Oscar winners. It is a borough that remains home to world-class artists, producers, writers, musicians, and performers. A place full of diverse, rich tales.

Our communities are organised and active in delivering grassroots creative programmes, whilst our professional artists are excelling in pushing the boundaries of quality, accessibility and form.

Our artistic organisations are creating and delivering exhibitions, festivals and events internationally, and our performers filling stadiums. However, much of this work is taking place outside of Bury.

This strategy aims to directly address the root causes by supporting everyone making culture to cement their work in the borough, whilst attracting new talent to join us driving best practice and bringing all the benefits of the creative economy to every community in Bury. There is a gap in skills, leadership and investment.






Throughout the research for this strategy the communities we spoke to repeatedly highlighted a set of common barriers to success:

- Grassroots organisations don't have the right skills to secure funding nor the financial experience to sustain steady cashflow,
- Professional creatives do not know where to go to drive creative ideas in the borough,
- Culture lacks a seat at the table defining the new place-based vision,
- There is a lack of alignment in fundraising and no shared measures of success preventing financial investment at scale,
- There is a lack of affordable, adaptable space for creative work,
- There is a lack of shared audience data,
- Local authority culture employees need agency to make big ambitions reality.

To maximise the opportunities around the creative economy, creative wellbeing, skills development and social cohesion it is clear Bury urgently needs to renew its cultural leadership, the capacity to fundraise and win investment for a coordinated strategic vision. Community organisations need skills support both winning and managing project funds whilst established organisations need a coherent approach to partner with the council effectively.

With local government funding under ever growing pressures the solution needs to shift from Bury's cultural leadership being one at the top of a hierarchy to one driving our communal currency of culture. Moving to the centre of a community-driven network, this new approach needs to enable others to develop their own skills and networks to multiply council investments. By supporting communities to develop skills, space and strength Bury can embed culture at the heart of our towns by activating community agency in telling their own narratives, all the while embracing Bury's longstanding shared identity as a borough of storytellers .

A night street scene with a building on the left and large illuminated letters spelling 'HAPPY' on the right. The scene is dimly lit, with streetlights and building lights providing the main illumination. The letters are large and white, standing out against the dark background.

**MUSIC ENRICHES PEOPLE'S
LIVES IN THE SAME
WAY PAINTINGS
AND LITERATURE DO.
EVERYBODY DESERVES THAT.**

VICTORIA WOOD, BAFTA WINNER, BURY



STRATEGIC VISION

OUR VISION IS TO ENABLE EVERY COMMUNITY IN BURY TO TELL THEIR STORY AND FOR THESE STORIES TO BE SHARED ACROSS OUR BOROUGH AND BEYOND

Building on the catalyst of Town of Culture and the success of securing Levelling Up funds we want to transform Bury into a leader in lifelong creative practice setting the standard for creative entrepreneurship and an exemplar of co-designed community programmes.

A strategic meeting of Stories, Skills, Strength, Space and Support, this strategy aims to give everyone the opportunity to experience and define our unique borough, a borough synonymous with some of the best-loved storytellers of the late 20th Century. Now we want to ensure it is home to the creative voices of the future - driven by our residents but connected to the world.

By providing a set of 5 adaptable, agile Strategic Pillars it aligns investment opportunities, defines critical tasks and maximises the benefits of culture across our communities. It does this by moving the business of culture in Bury from a hierarchy to a dynamic network that empowers everyone in the borough to plan, resource and tell their stories. By enabling self-actualisation of community voices Bury's communities will be supported to engage with culture not just as audience or participant but as author and creator - owning the tools for self-determination and the networks for sustainable support.

These priorities have been shaped specifically to align with Arts Council's strategy "Let's Create", Heritage Lottery's "Strategic Funding Framework 2021-2024", and Bury's 2030 Strategy "Let's Do it" alongside national policy. It is expressed in plain language and actionable concepts embedding equality in access to creative opportunities and cultural expression across a borough that has nurtured some of the UK's finest storytellers and creative professionals.

— STRATEGIC PILLARS —

 STORIES 	 SKILLS 	 STRENGTH 	 SPACE 	 SUPPORT 
<p>BURY IS A COMMUNITY BUILT ON A UNIQUE HERITAGE THAT VALUES DIVERSE STORIES</p> <p>EVERYONE IN BURY HAS THE RIGHT TO OWN THEIR NARRATIVE AND CELEBRATE THEIR HERITAGE</p> <p>THE COUNCIL WILL CREATE PATHWAYS TO GIVE EVERY COMMUNITY A CREATIVE VOICE</p>	<p>RENEWED CULTURAL LEADERSHIP WILL EMPOWER NEW VOICES AND DEVELOP DIVERSE NEW PROGRAMMES</p> <p>COUNCIL INVESTMENT WILL DEVELOP SKILLS IN SUSTAINABLE CULTURAL COMMUNITIES</p> <p>COMMUNITIES WILL BE TRAINED TO MULTIPLY THE COUNCIL'S CULTURAL INVESTMENTS</p>	<p>CULTURE THAT SUPPORTS THE PHYSICAL, MENTAL, EMOTIONAL AND SOCIAL HEALTH OF THE BOROUGH WILL BE PRIORITISED</p> <p>FAIR WORKING PRACTICES IN CULTURE & HERITAGE WILL UNDERPIN EVERY OPPORTUNITY, PROGRAMME AND EVENT</p> <p>ALIGNING WITH THE GREATER MANCHESTER STRATEGY, BURY WILL DRIVE CREATIVE HEALTH BY EMPOWERING STORIES</p>	<p>ALIGNING CURATED PROGRAMMES WITH GRASSROOTS ACTIVITY BURY'S VENUES WILL CREATE SPACE FOR EVERY COMMUNITY</p> <p>THROUGH AN AUDIT OF BUILT ASSETS, WE WILL NURTURE CREATIVE SPACES ACROSS THE BOROUGH FOR UPSKILLED COMMUNITIES TO OWN</p> <p>LIBRARIES HERITAGE, & CULTURE VENUES WILL OPEN THEIR DOORS TO COMMUNITIES TO MAKE BURY A CENTRE OF SHARED STORIES</p>	<p>A RENEWED EVENTS CALENDAR WILL SUPPORT COMMUNITIES TO DEVELOP THEIR AUDIENCES AND SKILLS</p> <p>THE COUNCIL WILL FACILITATE NETWORKING BEYOND THE SECTOR AND INCLUDE CULTURAL & HERITAGE EXPERTISE IN DECISION MAKING</p> <p>ALL CULTURAL WORKERS, BOTH WITHIN THE COUNCIL AND INDEPENDENT, WILL BE SUPPORTED TO BRING BEST PRACTICE TO BURY</p>

LET'S DO IT

THE FIRST THREE YEARS

ROADMAP

2023-26

A SUGGESTED PLAN OF ACTION TO LAUNCH THE STRATEGY AND PRIME COMMUNITIES FOR ACTIVATING NEW SPACES ACROSS BURY

TIMELINE 2023-24

RECRUIT

RECRUIT
LEADERSHIP
& FUNDING TEAM

DEVISE

CREATIVE &
COMMUNITY
MULTIPLIER
FUND

PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME
STRUCTURE
FOR COMMUNITY
TO FILL

LAUNCH

CO-CREATED
PROGRAMME
PUBLIC LAUNCH

AUDIT

BUILT ASSETS
AUDIT STARTED
TO INFORM
GROWTH PLAN

DATA

DATA
CAPTURED
FROM ALL
EVENTS

LAUNCH

LAUNCH NEW
STRATEGY

ENROL

CREATIVE
SKILLS
DEVELOPMENT
COHORT

TRAIN

COHORT PROJECT
DEVELOPMENT
FUNDRAISING
PROJECT MANAGEMENT
EVENT MANAGEMENT
LEADERSHIP
SUSTAINABILITY

FUNDRAISE

SELECTED
COHORT
SUPPORTED TO
MULTIPLY
INVESTMENT

PRODUCTION

SUCCESSFUL
PROJECTS
FUNDED TO
PRODUCTION
PHASE

DELIVERY

FUNDED
PROJECTS
DELIVER
THROUGHOUT YEAR

TIMELINE 2025

EVALUATE

EVALUATION
OF IMPACTS
& INVESTMENT

REVISE

CREATIVE &
COMMUNITY
MULTIPLIER
FUND

PROGRAMME

YEAR 2
SIGN-OFF
BUILDS ON
SUCCESSSES

PROMOTE

PROGRAMME
BUILDING ON
DATA FROM
YEAR 1

ALIGN

PROGRAMMING
SUCCESSSES
WITH LEVELLING
UP AND
C.A.T POTENTIAL

DATA

DATA
CAPTURED
FROM ALL
EVENTS

REVIEW

PROGRAMME
DEBRIEFS &
REPORTING

ENROL

CREATIVE
SKILLS
DEVELOPMENT
COHORT
YEAR 2

TRAIN

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT
FUNDRAISING
PROJECT MANAGEMENT
EVENT MANAGEMENT
LEADERSHIP
SUSTAINABILITY

FUNDRAISE

ALUMNI &
SELECTED
COHORT
SUPPORTED TO
MULTIPLY
INVESTMENT
FOR LEVELLING
UP SPACES

PRODUCTION

SUCCESSFUL
PROJECTS
FUNDED TO
PRODUCTION
PHASE

DELIVERY

FUNDED
PROJECTS
DELIVER
THROUGHOUT YEAR

TIMELINE 2026

EVALUATE

EVALUATION
OF IMPACTS
& INVESTMENT

FEASIBILITY

IN NEW SPACES
WITH HIGH
POTENTIAL
PROJECTS/
COMMUNITIES

PROGRAMME

YEAR 3
SIGN-OFF
SPECIFIC TO
NEW SPACES

PROMOTE

PROGRAMME
BUILDING ON
DATA FROM
YEAR 1&2

ALIGN

PROGRAMMING
SUCCESSSES
WITH LEVELLING
UP AND
C.A.T POTENTIAL

DATA

DATA
CAPTURED
FROM ALL
EVENTS

REVIEW

PROGRAMME
DEBRIEFS &
REPORTING

ENROL

CREATIVE
SKILLS
DEVELOPMENT
COHORT
YEAR 3

TRAIN

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT
FUNDRAISING
PROJECT MANAGEMENT
EVENT MANAGEMENT
LEADERSHIP
SUSTAINABILITY

FUNDRAISE

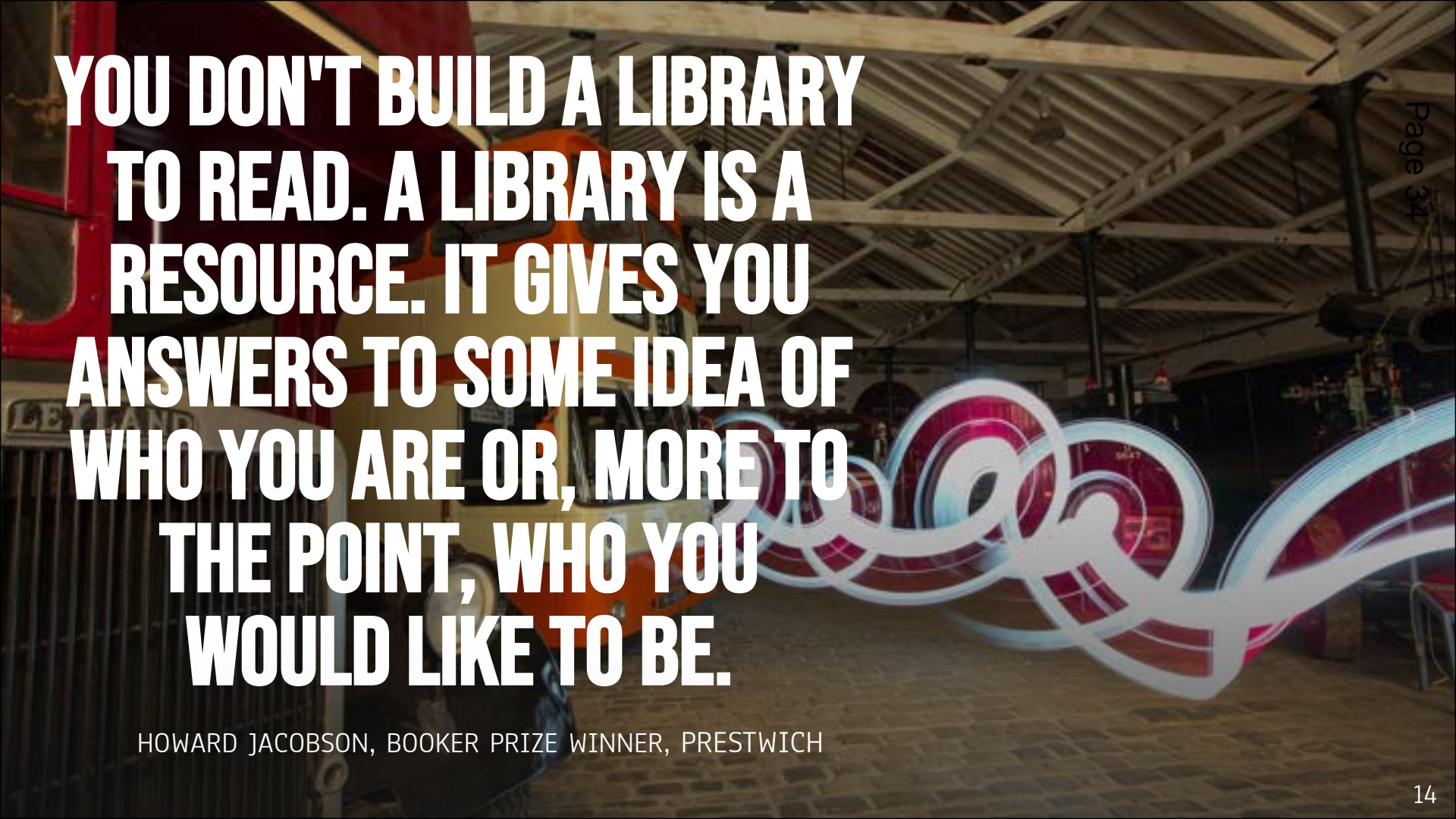
ALUMNI &
SELECTED
COHORT
SUPPORTED TO
MULTIPLY
INVESTMENT
FOR LEVELLING
UP & C.A.T.

PRODUCTION

SUCCESSFUL
PROJECTS
FUNDED TO
PRODUCTION
PHASE

DELIVERY

FUNDED
PROJECTS
DELIVER IN NEW
LEVELLING UP
SPACES



**YOU DON'T BUILD A LIBRARY
TO READ. A LIBRARY IS A
RESOURCE. IT GIVES YOU
ANSWERS TO SOME IDEA OF
WHO YOU ARE OR, MORE TO
THE POINT, WHO YOU
WOULD LIKE TO BE.**

HOWARD JACOBSON, BOOKER PRIZE WINNER, PRESTWICH

DIFFERENT CULTURES SAME HORIZONS

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"It's something I am and something I want others to be. It's a reminder that it's possible to be happy."

Victoria Wood.



CURATED
PLACE

CULTURAL STRATEGY RESEARCHED AND AUTHORED BY CURATED PLACE FOR BURY MBC ©2023
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Bury
Council

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MEETING: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 13 June 2023

SUBJECT: Telecommunications

REPORT FROM:

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien (Leader of the Council)

CONTACT OFFICER:

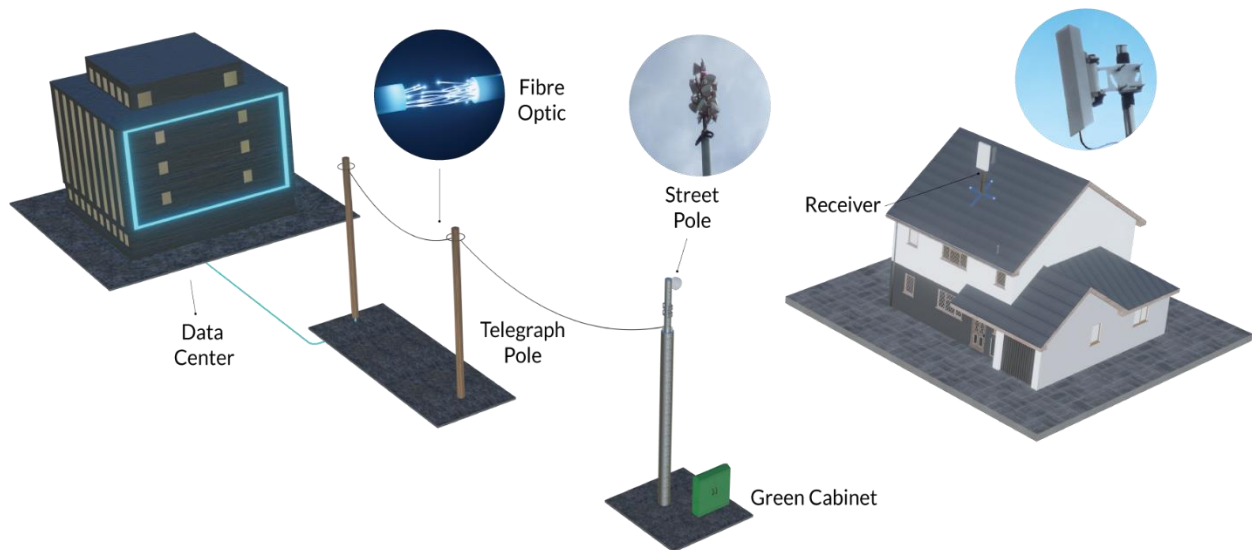
Crispian Logue (Assistant Director – Strategy, Planning & Regulation)

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Government is promoting the availability of high-speed broadband and this is a central part of the Government's National Infrastructure Strategy. To assist this, the Government has introduced legislation that enables the fast and cost-effective roll-out of digital technology and telecommunications.
- 1.2 There are different means of providing telecommunications to homes and businesses. One of the main ways is to provide this directly into premises via underground cabling. Cables generally run from central data facilities, along the highway and straight into properties. These then connect straight into routers and provide wireless broadband within the premises.
- 1.3 Another way is to provide this via wireless telecommunications. Signals travel from antennas to wireless devices such as phones and domestic receivers, providing wireless connectivity. The cabling to the masts that host the antenna are normally underground.
- 1.4 However, telecommunications and digital technology is always evolving, and new companies are emerging in this market. For example, one particular company is now actively installing extensive telecommunications infrastructure in a manner that differs from the two methods above. They are installing a number of poles that connect the cables above ground across specific geographical locations to a pole that will have antenna attached. Telecommunications are then provided into properties by transmitting signals from this antenna into a receiver (see figure 1).
- 1.5 The company suggests that the installation of the infrastructure in this manner costs 90% less than underground cabling and that these savings can be then passed on to the consumer. They also suggest that their model provides

significantly less disruption during installation than digging up highways and driveways.

Figure 1



- 1.6 The company currently has plans to install a significant amount of poles across the Borough (1,100+), to hold the cables overhead.
- 1.7 The Government guidance does suggest that it would be preferential for the roll out of such cabling to utilise existing infrastructure (i.e. existing poles) but this company has indicated that the existing infrastructure does not cater for their specific needs and that there are issues with weight restrictions/maintenance of these. The company that that is installing the new poles have indicated that other providers would also be able to use these once they are installed.
- 1.8 There are other companies also operating in Bury that do install overhead cabling directly into properties via existing infrastructure (such as existing telephone poles where they exist).

2.0 PLANNING & HIGHWAYS

Planning

- 2.1 Planning legislation and guidance for telecommunications can be complex and has been subject to various changes over the years, with amendments made nationally. However, there are three broad roles for local planning authorities in relation to this type of telecommunications infrastructure:
 - **Full Planning Permission:** Like most other forms of development, full planning permission is required for certain types of telecommunication infrastructure. These applications are submitted and determined in the same manner as all other planning applications in that they are considered in principle grounds, as well as siting and appearance.

In relation to poles, full planning permission is required if:

- The poles are above 30 metres in height (on unprotected land);
 - The poles are above 25 metres in height on protected land (deemed to just be conservation areas or Sites of Special Scientific Interest).
- **Prior Approval:** Legislation permits of the principle of some telecommunication infrastructure. In such instances, the role of the local planning authority is limited to considering only the siting and appearance of the proposal. Authorities can refuse such applications on these grounds or can place planning conditions on any approval that have to be complied with. It cannot refuse prior approval applications on principle grounds. These are known as Prior Approval applications.

In relation to poles, prior approval is required if:

- Poles are above 25 metres in height in unprotected areas;
 - Poles are located in protected areas (CA' and SSSI's); and
 - Are designed and installed as monopoles for mobile telecommunications regardless of the height (e.g. 4G and 5G mobile phone masts)
- **Permitted Development:** Some forms of development are deemed to be permitted development and do not require any form of planning application to be made to the local planning authority. Traditionally, permitted development rights covered some minor development works within certain criteria like domestic extensions, changes of use and other minor alterations.

Planning legislation has evolved over time to continually relax restrictions and the now includes various telecommunications including installing some cabinets, buildings and extensions. This means that some telecommunications infrastructure is now permitted development and therefore the local planning authority does not have a role in determining either the principle or the location/appearance of certain infrastructure.

Under permitted development rights, the local planning authority does need to be *notified* of proposals and the local planning authority can *suggest* certain conditions. However, these are not enforceable and do not have to be complied with.

In relation to poles, these are deemed to be permitted development if:

- The poles are below 25 metres in height;
- They are not located in protected areas (CA's or SSSI's);
- They are not deemed to be 'masts' for the purposes of mobile telecommunications.

- 2.2 Like Planning, Highway powers have been limited through national legislation on telecommunications.
- 2.3 The Highway Authority cannot consider the principle of masts and poles and their consideration is limited to ensuring that they:
- are located in a safe location on the highway and not obstructing or causing obstruction issues for users (i.e. vehicle users, cyclists and pedestrians); and
 - are co-ordinated with other street works found within the area.
- 2.4 The installation of masts and poles do require permits from the Highway Authority and they are able to grant/refuse and/or delay these taking into account the above considerations.

3.0 ISSUES

- 3.1 As set out above, a company is currently active across the North-West in installing a significant amount of telecommunication infrastructure. The company has rolled this out across many of the districts in Lancashire and is now in the process of doing the same across Greater Manchester.
- 3.2 There has been little prior engagement with the company and the local authorities within Greater Manchester.
- 3.3 However, the local planning authority in Bury has made contact with the company to get a better understanding of their proposals. It is now understood that the company currently proposes to:
- Install around 1,100 poles to carry overhead cabling around certain geographical locations. These are proposed to be wooden poles like telegraph poles;
 - Install around a further 28 poles that will eventually host an antenna that will transmit telecommunication signals into properties. These are proposed to be metal poles;
 - The poles will range from 11 to 15 metres in height;
 - The company is required to advertise these in the locations that they are proposed, with contact details;
 - They will consider any representations to specific siting concerns flagged by the local planning authority and Members, where it is appropriate to do so; and
 - Follow the Code Systems Operator's Code of Conduct, which is overseen by OFCOM.
- 3.4 The company provided legal opinion that the infrastructure that they proposed should be treated as Permitted Development (i.e. they do not need to planning permission or prior approval from the local planning authority).
- 3.5 Initially this was queried as some of the poles will host antenna to transmit signals and therefore, they could have been considered to be masts (which do require prior approval). However, the Council has subsequently secured its

own legal opinion and this advises that the poles (both the wooden and metal ones) should be treated as Permitted Development as long as they are:

- not on protected land (Conservation Area or a Site of Special Scientific Interest): and
- on local highway land.

- 3.6 Nevertheless, whilst the proposed telecommunication does not need planning consents, the local planning and highway authority continues to liaise with the company to review the proposed locations of the poles. This is to ensure that the siting of these do not cause safety issues to users of the highway and where there may be sensitive buildings or sites adjoining or in close proximity to Conservation Areas, listed buildings or Scheduled Monuments.
- 3.7 At the time of writing, there were around ten locations where poles have been identified as being in unsuitable sites or were not deemed to be permitted development (e.g. in conservation areas) and dialogue was continuing to identify suitable alternative locations.
- 3.8 Equally, the company encourage active engagement directly with them from members of the public and Councillors where particular and quantifiable issues arise with certain locations.
- 3.9 It should be noted that the company may decide that they want to amend their initial locations of the poles and / or expand the number over time. Likewise, other providers may wish to provide these installations elsewhere in the Borough. As such, this report provides a snapshot of the current situation and this is subject to change.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 National legislation limits the role of local planning and highway authorities when it comes to telecommunications infrastructure. The vast majority of such infrastructure is already deemed acceptable in principle and is either deemed to be permitted development or only requiring prior approval consents.
- 4.2 There was a recent debate about the limits local authorities have around such infrastructure at Full Council and a letter was subsequently been sent to the Government setting out the local concerns around the lack of control and the potential impact that this can have at the local level. A response was received from the Minister responsible which underlined the need for Councils to maintain their overview of sites, engage where necessary, encourage the public to be responsive to the companies directly and consider the role that OFCOM has in enforcing the Code of Conduct.

List of Background Papers:-

Contact Details:-

Crispian Logue
c.logue@bury.gov.uk

Executive Director sign off Date:_____

JET Meeting Date:_____

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SCRUTINY REPORT

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 7 June 2023

SUBJECT: Proposed Neighbourhood Area and Forum for Prestwich

REPORT FROM: Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth

CONTACT OFFICER: David Wiggins – Service Manager: Strategic Planning and Infrastructure

1. Summary

1.1 This report relates to applications that have been submitted to the Council for the formal designation of a Neighbourhood Area and Forum in Prestwich.

1.2 In particular, the report sets out:

- The background to neighbourhood planning and the applications for the designation of a neighbourhood area and neighbourhood forum for Prestwich;
- Details of the consultation undertaken on both applications and a summary of the responses received;
- Consideration of the applications and other supporting material in terms of scope, whether they satisfy the necessary legal conditions and consultation responses; and
- the potential next steps.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1 That Members:

- Approve the application for the establishment of the proposed Neighbourhood Area for Prestwich; and
- Approve the application for the establishment of the proposed Neighbourhood Forum for Prestwich.

3. Reasons for recommendation(s)

- 3.1 The applications for the neighbourhood area and neighbourhood forum for Prestwich have satisfied the legal requirements and the consultation responses have not raised any significant objection to either proposal.

4. Alternative options considered and rejected

- 4.1 To refuse the applications for the neighbourhood area and neighbourhood forum. However, the applications have satisfied the legal requirements and the consultation responses have not raised any significant objection to either proposal.

Report Author and Contact Details:

Name: David Wiggins

Position: Service Manager: Strategic Planning and Infrastructure

Department: Business, Growth and Infrastructure

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5. Background

- 5.1 Neighbourhood planning was introduced by the Localism Act in 2011. It gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area. They can choose where they want new homes, shops and offices to be built, have their say on what those new buildings should look like and what infrastructure should be provided.
- 5.2 Local communities can choose to use neighbourhood planning in two main ways:
- To set planning policies through a neighbourhood plan that forms part of the statutory development plan used in determining planning applications.
 - grant planning permission through Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders for specific development which complies with the order¹.

¹ Neighbourhood Development Orders (NDOs) and Community Right to Build Orders (CRtBO) grant planning permission for specific development in a particular area. Whilst a neighbourhood plan can include policies on things like change of use, an NDO or CRtBO can allow the development to go ahead without the need to submit a planning application. Like neighbourhood plans, NDOs and CRtBOs must be subjected to an independent examination, and then be approved by the community in a referendum, before they can come into force.

- 5.3 Before a local community group can undertake neighbourhood planning, it must submit their proposal for the neighbourhood area within which they wish to undertake neighbourhood planning and to apply to be formally designated as a neighbourhood forum.
- 5.4 Applications for the designation of a neighbourhood area and neighbourhood forum for Prestwich Village were received by the Council on 16 February 2023.
- 5.5 The application for the neighbourhood forum is supported by a constitution for the group and this specifies that the prospective forum intend to prepare a neighbourhood plan covering the area proposed in the application for a neighbourhood area.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 On receiving applications for a neighbourhood area and/or a neighbourhood forum, the local authority is required publicise it, to give an opportunity for local people to make representations on the proposals over a minimum period of 6 weeks.
- 6.2 The local authority should issue a decision on whether to designate a neighbourhood area and/or a neighbourhood forum as soon as possible after the consultation period ends but decisions are required to be made within 13 weeks from the date that the application is published.
- 6.3 Consultation on both applications was undertaken concurrently, with both being published on Monday 13 March 2023, marking the start of a 7-week period of consultation that ended on 1 May 2023.
- 6.4 The deadline for satisfying the requirement for the decision on the applications to be made within 13-weeks of their publication is 12 June 2023.

Consultation responses

- 6.5 Table 1 sets out the scale and nature of representations that were received in relation to the area and forum applications.

Table 1 – The scale and nature of representations

Application	No. of supporting representations	Neutral comments	Total representations
Neighbourhood area	4	1	5
Neighbourhood forum	27	1	28

- 6.6 Most of the consultation responses support the proposed designation of the neighbourhood area and the establishment of a neighbourhood forum for Prestwich.
- 6.7 Whilst not an issue in the decision-making process for these applications, 80% of representations received in relation to the neighbourhood area application and 32% in relation to the neighbourhood forum application were received from prospective members of the forum.

7. Consideration of the applications

- 7.1 Both the neighbourhood area and the neighbourhood forum applications have been considered in detail in terms of whether they satisfy the legal requirements for the scope of the applications as well as meeting the necessary conditions for the applications to be approved as set out in the Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) 1990 and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.
- 7.2 Consultation responses have also been taken into account in considering both applications.

Neighbourhood area application

Scope of the application

- 7.3 An application to set up a Neighbourhood Area must by law include:
- a map which identifies the area to which the area application relates;
 - a statement explaining why this area is considered appropriate to be designated as a neighbourhood area; and
 - a statement that the organisation or body making the area application is a relevant body for the purposes of section 61G of the TCPA 1990 Act i.e. a parish council, or an organisation or body which is, or is capable of being, designated as a neighbourhood forum.
- 7.4 The neighbourhood area application is considered to include all the legally required information set out above to enable the application to be appropriately determined.

Conditions

- 7.5 A local planning authority can refuse to designate the specific area applied for if it considers the area is not appropriate. Where it does so, the authority must give valid planning reasons. However, whilst it can refuse the full extent of the area applied for, a local planning authority must still ensure that it designates a neighbourhood area covering part of the area if it receives a valid

application and some or all of the area has not yet been designated as a neighbourhood area.

7.6 Government's Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) on neighbourhood planning (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2>) includes information on what, other than administrative boundaries, may be relevant when deciding the boundaries of a neighbourhood area. This includes:

- village or settlement boundaries, which could reflect areas of planned expansion.
- the catchment area for walking to local services such as shops, primary schools, doctors' surgery, parks or other facilities.
- the area where formal or informal networks of community-based groups operate.
- the physical appearance or characteristics of the neighbourhood, for example buildings that may be of a consistent scale or style.
- whether the area forms all or part of a coherent estate either for businesses or residents.
- whether the area is wholly or predominantly a business area.
- whether infrastructure or physical features define a natural boundary, for example a major road or railway line or waterway.
- the natural setting or features in an area.
- size of the population (living and working) in the area.

7.7 The proposed neighbourhood area comprises the existing urban area of Prestwich that is contained by the M60 to the north; Bury Old Road to the east; Scholes Lane and Hilton Lane to the south; and areas of open land and forest park to the west. It includes significant parts of three separate wards (Holyrood, St. Mary's and Sedgley).

7.8 The neighbourhood area application specifies that existing ward boundaries have been considered but the PPG information on what may be relevant when deciding the boundaries of a neighbourhood area (set out under paragraph 7.6 above) is the most appropriate method for defining the boundary of the proposed neighbourhood area.

7.9 Specifically, the neighbourhood area application states that the area has been defined using a suitable distance from the village centre for all of the residents who live and work and may be interested in the redevelopment of the village centre.

7.10 This is considered to be a reasonable approach to defining a boundary for the proposed neighbourhood area in Prestwich and is reflective of the PPG where

it identifies that the catchment area for walking to local services such as shops, primary schools, doctors' surgery, parks or other facilities may be relevant when deciding on boundaries.

Consultation response

- 7.11 In terms of consultation responses, four of the five responses were supportive of the proposed extent of the neighbourhood area for Prestwich. One respondent specified that the area known as Prestwich Clough should be excluded from the proposed Prestwich Neighbourhood Area.
- 7.12 However, the application justifies the inclusion of St Marys Park and Prestwich Clough as they form a logical physical boundary which is inclusive to the health and wellbeing of the proposed Prestwich area.

Conclusion

- 7.13 Following detailed assessment of the neighbourhood area application and the responses to consultation, it is considered that that the proposed boundary for the Prestwich neighbourhood area is appropriate.

Neighbourhood forum application

Scope of the application

- 7.14 An application by a body or organisation to be a designated Neighbourhood Forum must by law include:
- The name of the proposed neighbourhood forum;
 - A copy of the written constitution of the proposed neighbourhood forum;
 - The name of the neighbourhood area that the application relates to and a map of the area;
 - The contact details of at least one member of the proposed neighbourhood forum to be made public; and
 - A statement which explains how the proposed neighbourhood forum meets the conditions contained in Section 61F(5) of the TCPA 1990.
- 7.15 The neighbourhood forum application is considered to include all the legally required information set out above to enable the application to be appropriately determined.

Conditions

- 7.16 A local planning authority may designate an organisation or body as a neighbourhood forum if the authority is satisfied that it meets the legal conditions set out in Section 61F(5) of the TCPA 1990, as follows:

- (a) It is established for the express purpose of promoting or improving the social, economic and environmental well-being of an area that consists of or includes the neighbourhood area concerned (whether or not it is also established for the express purpose of promoting the carrying on of trades, professions or other businesses in such an area),
- (b) its membership is open to:
 - i. individuals who live in the neighbourhood area concerned,
 - ii. individuals who work there (whether for businesses carried on there or otherwise), and
 - iii. individuals who are elected members of a county council, district council or London borough council any of whose area falls within the neighbourhood area concerned,
- (c) have a membership that includes a minimum of 21 individuals each of whom:
 - i. lives in the neighbourhood area concerned,
 - ii. works there (whether for a business carried on there or otherwise), or
 - iii. is an elected member of a county council, district council or London borough council any of whose area falls within the neighbourhood area concerned,
- (d) it has a written constitution.

7.17 The application for the neighbourhood forum includes a statement which explains how the proposed neighbourhood forum meets the conditions contained in Section 61F(5) of the TCPA 1990 and this is supported by the group's written constitution.

Purpose of the proposed forum

7.18 The neighbourhood forum application states that the forum is established for the express purpose of promoting or improving the social, economic and environmental well-being of an area that consists of or includes the neighbourhood area concerned (whether or not it is also established for the express purpose of promoting the carrying on of trades, professions or other businesses in such an area).

7.19 This stated purpose of the proposed forum is consistent with the requirements of Section 61F (5a) of the TCPA 1990.

Membership of the forum

- 7.20 A local planning authority must, in determining whether to designate an organisation or body as a neighbourhood forum have regard to the desirability of designating an organisation or body:
- i. which has secured (or taken reasonable steps to attempt to secure) that its membership includes at least one individual falling within each of the following categories:
 - individuals who live in the neighbourhood area concerned,
 - individuals who work there (whether for businesses carried on there or otherwise), and
 - individuals who are elected members of a county council, district council or London borough council any of whose area falls within the neighbourhood area concerned,
 - ii. whose membership is drawn from different places in the neighbourhood area concerned and from different sections of the community in that area; and
 - iii. whose purpose reflects (in general terms) the character of that area.
- 7.21 The neighbourhood forum application specifies that the group's membership currently exceeds the required minimum of 21 individuals, all of whom live or work in the neighbourhood area. Although there are no elected members making up the 21 members of the proposed forum, it is considered that reasonable steps have been taken to secure such membership. Consequently, the membership structure is considered to satisfy the legal conditions set out in Section 61F(5b and c) of the TCPA 1990.
- 7.22 In terms of determining whether the proposed forum has drawn its membership from different places in the neighbourhood area concerned and from different sections of the community in that area, the application is supported by an assessment of the demographics of the proposed neighbourhood area based on 2021 Census data (see Appendix 1). This maps out the geographical spread of the proposed membership and compares the demographic composition of the resident population of the proposed neighbourhood area with the proposed forum membership.
- 7.23 The geographical spread of the proposed forum members is considered to represent reasonable coverage within the proposed neighbourhood area.
- 7.24 The demographics report also sets out headline information on the group's composition in terms of gender, ethnicity, age and profession and uses this as a comparator with the wider neighbourhood area. Again, it is considered that the proposed composition of the group is broadly reflective of the general

population within the proposed neighbourhood area. Whilst it is recognised that there are some discrepancies in the comparative information (e.g. there are no members of the proposed forum that are from an Asian group and there is a notably higher proportion of the group falling within the 45-64 age category than is generally the case within the wider population of the area), it is considered that reasonable steps have been taken to secure membership from a range of demographic groups within the area.

Written constitution

- 7.25 As specified previously, the prospective neighbourhood forum have prepared a written constitution which includes a purpose and vision for the forum, structure and governance arrangements, membership criteria and meeting arrangements.
- 7.26 The legal requirement for designating an organisation or body as a neighbourhood forum is only that the organisation or body is supported by a written constitution. The content of that constitution is not material to the decision-making process.
- 7.27 The fact that the group is supported by a written constitution satisfies the legal condition set out in Section 61F(5d) of the TCPA 1990.

Consultation response

- 7.28 In terms of consultation responses, twenty-seven of the twenty-eight responses were supportive of the proposal to formally establish a neighbourhood forum for Prestwich.
- 7.29 One respondent commented that the constitution seems broad given that the proposed neighbourhood forum is being set up specifically to address the planned Prestwich Village regeneration project. The respondent also questioned whether the skill sets within the proposed forum are relevant to the proposed regeneration project and whether the group would affect the timeline for completion of the project if they disagreed with it.
- 7.30 If the forum is established, it would be able to engage at appropriate stages of the Prestwich regeneration project like any other group or individual.
- 7.31 The group has indicated that they intend to prepare a neighbourhood plan for the area. Notwithstanding the fact that neighbourhood plans should be positive and not used as a tool for opposing proposals for new developments, the likely timeframe involved in preparing a neighbourhood plan would mean that it would be unlikely that this could be used as a means of affecting the emerging regeneration proposals for Prestwich.

Conclusion

- 7.32 Following detailed assessment of the neighbourhood forum application, other associated information and the responses to consultation, it is considered that that it would be appropriate to designate the group as a neighbourhood forum to operate within the proposed neighbourhood area.

8. Next steps

- 8.1 If Members were to approve the applications for the formal designation of a neighbourhood area and forum for Prestwich, it has been made clear that the forum would wish to pursue the preparation of a neighbourhood plan for that area.
- 8.2 Assuming that this is the case, the local planning authority has a 'duty to support' the process of preparing the neighbourhood plan. This support may include:
- making existing data and maps available for the evidence base;
 - advising on relevant national, sub-regional and local planning policies/guidance and on the legal requirements for neighbourhood planning;
 - making venues available and helping to arrange community engagement activities;
 - checking the plan prior to formal submission; and
 - participation in meetings of the neighbourhood planning body or its working groups
- 8.3 Neighbourhood plans form part of the statutory development plan for an area and, in this case, would (assuming they are adopted) sit alongside other parts of the development plan, such as Places for Everyone and a Bury Local Plan.
- 8.4 Neighbourhood plans need to have regard to national planning policy and should support the delivery of and be in general conformity with strategic local planning policies. They will also need to consider any emerging local planning policies.
- 8.5 They should shape and direct development that is outside of those strategic policies and can guide development to be more appropriate to local context and help decide where it goes within the area. A neighbourhood plan cannot stop development and Government has made it clear that it is not a tool for residents to oppose proposals for new developments close to them.
- 8.6 The process of preparing a neighbourhood plan is similar to that of other development plans such as Places for Everyone and the Bury Local Plan.
- 8.7 It is a legal requirement that the proposed neighbourhood plan is publicised and the subject of public consultation before it is submitted to the local planning authority.

- 8.8 There would be a duty on the local planning authority to appoint an appropriately qualified and experienced person to carry out the independent examination of the neighbourhood plan.
- 8.9 Following the examination of the neighbourhood plan, the Council would be required to organise a referendum and if more than 50% of those voting in the referendum vote 'yes', then the neighbourhood plan becomes part of the statutory development plan for the area.
- 8.10 It is the responsibility of the Council to cover the costs of the independent examination and referendum although financial support will be available from the Government. From April 2022, local planning authorities will be able to claim financial support including:
- **Neighbourhood areas** - £5,000 for each of the first five neighbourhood areas designated only.
 - **Neighbourhood forum designation** - £5,000 for the each of the first five neighbourhood forums they designate only.
 - **Neighbourhood plans** - £20,000 from when they issue a decision statement detailing their intention to send the plan to referendum (as set out under Regulation 18 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012).
- 8.11 Designated Neighbourhood Forums may request that the local planning authority consult with them on any planning applications or accepted alterations to planning applications relating to land within the Neighbourhood Area.
- 8.12 A neighbourhood forum designation expires after five years. The Council can withdraw a neighbourhood forum designation where it is requested by that forum, or where the Council considers the forum is no longer meeting conditions of approval.

Links with the Corporate Priorities:

The proposed neighbourhood forum has indicated their intention to prepare a neighbourhood plan for the area. A neighbourhood plan for Prestwich would form part of the statutory development plan and would sit alongside other parts of the development plan, such as Places for Everyone (PfE) and a Bury Local Plan. The Local Plan and PfE are identified in the Let's Do It Strategy as key to delivering enterprise to drive economic growth and inclusion – a key feature of the Let's Do It Strategy.

Equality Impact and Considerations:

The initial EIA concludes that the likely overall effect on equality will be positive.

Environmental Impact and Considerations:

The designation of a neighbourhood area and a neighbourhood forum for Prestwich will have a neutral carbon impact.

Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
That, as a result of formal designation, the neighbourhood forum is seen as the key regeneration body for Prestwich town centre.	The report is clear that the prospective neighbourhood forum would be able to engage at appropriate stages of the Prestwich regeneration project like any other group or individual rather than being the regeneration forum.

Legal Implications:

The statutory basis for the designation of a Neighbourhood Area and Neighbourhood Forum is as described in the main body of this report.

Approval of these applications following the consultation process is the first stage in enabling the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan for Prestwich Village. Any Neighbourhood Plan which is eventually prepared will follow a separate statutory consultation and approval process.

The Council has a legal duty to support designated Neighbourhood Forums to prepare Neighbourhood Plans. Under Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Act local planning authorities have a statutory duty (sometimes also referred to as the 'duty to support') to "give such advice or assistance to parish councils and designated Neighbourhood Forums as in all the circumstances, they consider appropriate for the purpose of, or in connection with facilitating the preparation of Neighbourhood Development Plans". However, there is no legal requirement to give financial assistance.

Financial Implications:

The local planning authority will be able to claim for financial support from the Government towards the costs associated with the designation of both the neighbourhood area and the neighbourhood forum.

In addition, should the proposed forum progress to the preparation of a neighbourhood plan as they have indicated, there are likely to be calls on officer time as well as unbudgeted financial implications associated with consultation, the examination of the plan (Inspector's costs) and the organisation of a referendum for the plan. However, local planning authorities are currently able to claim financial support from the Government towards costs incurred in progressing a neighbourhood plan. It is essential that all costs are scrutinised and kept to a minimum and within what is reclaimable as Bury is a financially challenged Council with a £31m savings target in 2023/24.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Neighbourhood demographic study.

Background papers:

Prestwich neighbourhood area application - <https://www.bury.gov.uk/asset-library/1-prestwich-neighbourhood-area-application-v2.pdf>

Proposed boundary of Prestwich neighbourhood area - <https://www.bury.gov.uk/asset-library/2-prestwich-village-forum-area-os.pdf>

Prestwich neighbourhood forum application - <https://www.bury.gov.uk/asset-library/neighbourhood-forum-application-form-2022-v3.pdf>

Constitution for Prestwich neighbourhood forum - <https://www.bury.gov.uk/asset-library/constitution-for-pvnf-20.03.2023.pdf>

Government planning practice guidance on neighbourhood planning - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2>

Update on financial support for neighbourhood planning in 2022/23 - https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1087202/Letter_from_the_Chief_Planner_Neighbourhood_Planning_Grant_Update.pdf

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

Term	Meaning

Items	Deadline for draft reports	Scrutiny Agenda Setting meeting date	Deadline for final reports	Deadline for Publishing Reports	Overview and Scrutiny Meeting date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural Strategy– Donna Ball/Nicky Parker -Cllr Morris Prestwich Forum – David Wiggins - Cllr O'Brien Telecommunications Update – Cllr O'Brien/Cllr Quinn - Crispian Logue 	N/A	30 th May 2023 9:30 am	05 th June 2023 (12 noon)	05 th June 2023 (12 noon)	13 th June 2023 (7:00pm)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prestwich/Whitefield – Paul Lakin STH 	14 th June 2023 TBC	14 th June 2023 TBC	22 nd June 2023 (12 noon)	26 th June 2023 (12 noon)	04 th July 2023 (7:00pm)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Safety Update – Chris Woodhouse and Chris Hill GMP Transport Strategy Highway Improvement Strategy (training session before) 	08 th August 2023	10 th August 2023 TBC	24 th August 2023 (12 noon)	28 th August 2023 (12 noon)	05 th September 2023 (7:00pm)
Finance Update	03 rd October 2023 TBC	05 th October 2023 TBC	19 th October 2023 (12 noon)	24 th October 2023 (12 noon)	01 st November 2023 (7:00pm)
Homelessness Strategy Anti-Poverty Strategy	05 th December 2024 TBC	07 th December 2024 TBC	21 st December 2024	29 th December 2024 (12 noon)	09 th January 2024 (7:00pm)

			(12 noon)		
Budget Scrutiny: 1. Budget Monitoring Quarter 3 2022/23 2. The Council's Budget 2023/24 And The Medium Term Financial Strategy 3. Dedicated Schools Grant And Setting The Schools Budget 2023- 24 4. Capital Budget 2023/24 5. Housing Revenue Account The Flexible Use Of Capital Receipts	09 th January 2024 TBC	11 th January 2024 TBC	25 th January 2024 (12 noon)	29 th January 2024 (12 noon)	06 th February 2024 (7:00pm)

N.b

1. Learning Session with Scrutiny Members on the interactive Map for Highways works. Jon O'Connor, Carmel Foster Devine and Cabinet Member Environment, Climate Change and Operations
2. Highways Capital Programme to be revisited in new municipal year.