

**Lynne Ridsdale  
Chief Executive**

*Our Ref* JG  
*Your Ref* C/JG  
*Date* 5 September 2023  
*Contact*  
*Direct Line* 0161 253 6640  
*E-mail* Julie.Gallagher@bury.gov.uk  
*Web Site* www.bury.gov.uk

**TO: All Members of Council**

**Councillors :** A Arif, S Arif, N Bayley, R Bernstein, D Berry, C Birchmore, C Boles, A Booth, N Boroda, R Brown, C Cummins, L Dean, D Duncalfe, U Farooq, E FitzGerald, N Frith, I Gartside, R Gold, D Green, J Grimshaw, S Haroon, J Harris, M Hayes, K Hussain, J Lancaster, G Marsden, J Mason, L McBriar, G McGill, C Morris, E Moss, E O'Brien, T Pilkington, A Quinn, D Quinn, T Rafiq, I Rizvi, J Rydeheard, L Smith, M Smith, T Tariq, S Thorpe, D Vernon, S Walmsley, M Walsh, M Whitby and Y Wright

Dear Member/Colleague

**Council**

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

<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday, 13 September 2023
<b>Place:</b>	Council Chamber, Bury Town Hall
<b>Time:</b>	7.00 pm
<b>Briefing Facilities:</b>	If Members require briefing on any particular item on the Agenda, the appropriate Director/Senior Officer originating the related report should be contacted.
<b>Notes:</b>	

## **AGENDA**

The Agenda for the meeting is attached.

The Agenda and Reports are available on the Council's Intranet for Councillors and Officers and also on the Council's Website at [www.bury.gov.uk](http://www.bury.gov.uk)

**Yours sincerely**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Widdale'.

**Chief Executive**

**(Note: Members are reminded that under Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, if a Member of a Local Authority has not paid Council Tax for at least two months and, even if an arrangement has been entered into to pay arrears, then at any meeting where consideration is given to matters relating to, or which might affect the calculation of Council Tax, that Member must declare the fact that he/she is in arrears and must not vote on the matter).**

## AGENDA

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members of the Council are requested to declare any interests which they have in any items or issues before the Council for determination.

3 **MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

4 **MINUTES** (Pages 7 - 16)

Minutes attached.

5 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** (Pages 17 - 24)

To answer questions from members of the public, notice of which has been given, on any matter relevant to the Council or its services to the community. Up to 30 minutes will be set aside for this purpose. If time permits, further questions will be invited from members of the public present.

6 **POLLING PLACE AND POLLING STATION REVIEW SEPTEMBER 2023** (Pages 25 - 30)

Report attached.

7 **APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL RETURNING OFFICER FOR COMBINED AUTHORITY ELECTIONS** (Pages 31 - 32)

Report attached.

8 **RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES** (Pages 33 - 50)

To receive and consider the recommendations to the Council contained in the following minutes of the Cabinet:

Committee/Date	Subject	Recommendation
Audit 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2023	Debt write off policy	The proposed amendments to the Constitution in relation to the authorised debt write-off thresholds set out in the report.

9 **LEADER' STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME** (Pages 51 - 84)

To receive a report from the Leader of the Council on the work of the Cabinet and to answer written questions from Members of the Council to the Leader, Cabinet Members and Chair

of a Committee on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties which affect the Borough, provided the necessary written notice has been given. (30 minutes)

A member may ask a verbal question of the Leader, any Member of the Cabinet or Chair of a Committee about any matter on the Council agenda and which the Council has powers or duties or which affects the Borough. Only one verbal question per Councillor. (20 minutes)

10 **COMBINED AUTHORITY REPORT AND QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL'S COMBINED AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES** (Pages 85 - 100)

(A) A combined authority update report is attached, for information

(B) Questions (if any) on the work of the Combined Authority to be asked by Members of the Council for which the necessary notice has been given in accordance with Council Procedure Rules.

11 **NOTICES OF MOTION**

A notice of motion has been received from the following Councillors: A Arif, Bayley, Boles, Boroda, Cummins, Farooq, Fitzgerald, Frith, Gold, Green, Grimshaw, Haroon, Hayes, Ibrahim, McGill, Morris, Moss, O'Brien, Pilkington, Quinn Alan, Quinn Deborah, Rafiq, Rizvi, Rubinstein, Ryder, Smith Lucy Staples-Jones Gareth, Tariq, Thorpe, Walmsley, Whitby.

Entitled Let's Fix It": Bury Demands a Fair Deal On Funding

This Council notes that:

1. Since the beginning of austerity in 2010, local government funding has seen the biggest departmental cut across government, with a 60% reduction.
2. In Bury, this has led to cuts of nearly £150m since 2010.
3. It also comes at a time when demand pressures for adult's and children's social care, SEND and inflation are at their highest levels in decades.
4. A recent BBC investigation has discovered a £5 billion "black hole" in local authority budgets, with the average Council facing a £33m gap by 2025-26, a rise of 60% from two years ago.
5. SIGOMA (Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities) has reported that at least 26 member Councils are at risk of effective bankruptcy within the next two years.

This Council further notes that:

1. A recent study by the Institute for Fiscal Studies, an independent economic think tank, concludes that Bury's local government funding was underfunded by 8.5% compared to the national average – the equivalent of nearly £14m a year less to spend on services.
2. A fair funding review of local government has been promised since 2016 but not happened and currently there is no indication of when it will be carried out and implemented.

This Council resolves to:

1. Launch a public campaign calling on the Government to fix the broken system of local government finance and give Bury what it needs and deserves.
2. Highlight as part of this campaign what the Council and residents can do to support reducing costs and demands on local services.
3. Write to our Members of Parliament, requesting they support our campaign and lobby Ministers for a fair deal for Bury.

Corporate Parenting in Bury

**A MOTION HAS BEEN RECEIVED IN THE NAMES OF COUNCILLORS ARIF, BERNSTEIN, BROWN, DEAN, GARTSIDE, HARRIS, HUSSAIN, LANCASTER, McBRIAR, RYDEHEARD, VERNON**

**This Council notes that:**

One of the most crucial roles which we as Elected Members and as a Council as a whole have is that of corporate parents.

This is a role with significant responsibility and through our decision making and actions the children and young people who are in our care, should always be at the forefront of our minds.

During the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Board, the Children In Care Council (CICC) often report that we as a council could do more to take a proactive approach for our looked after children.

**The Council acknowledges that:**

We take a more active role in the lives of our looked after children, providing them as much support as possible in fulfilling our duty as Corporate Parents.

As part of a more active role we must continue with participating in the lives of all the children and young people who come into our care providing help and support throughout their lives.

**This Council resolves to:**

Encourage all stakeholders and partners involved in decision making in relation to looked after children to meet regularly to discuss good practice and improve joined up working to improve timely and better outcomes for all. The outcome of this to be reported to the Corporate Parenting Board and Children's and Young Peoples Scrutiny Committee.

Regularly provide updates to the CICC as to decisions made by this Council and the impacts it will have on their day to day lives.

Instruct all Councillors to attend Corporate Parenting training on an annual basis to ensure a clear understanding of their role as Corporate Parents.

Ensure all Council employees understand their role in supporting Corporate Parenting initiatives such understanding to be included in annual staff appraisals.

Work with all stakeholders to provide opportunities for our looked after children.

Instruct the Chief Executive to contact Bury Football Club, as a community asset, to ascertain if tickets can be provided to our looked after children and their carers, to ensure family activities are made available.

Offer free membership to our children in care and care leavers to Castle Leisure Centre to provide leisure activities.

To maintain contact with Children and Young People who have been in our care throughout their lives by sending Birthday, Christmas cards and acknowledging other issues of significance in their life's

a **AMENDMENT TO LABOUR NOM** (Pages 101 - 102)

b **ALTERATION TO CONSERVATIVE NOM** (Pages 103 - 104)

12 **COUNCIL MOTION TRACKER** (Pages 105 - 120)

A report setting out progress in respect of Motions passed at the last meeting of Council is attached for information.

13 **SCRUTINY REVIEW REPORTS AND SPECIFIC ITEMS "CALLED IN" BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

14 **QUESTIONS ON THE WORK OF OUTSIDE BODIES OR PARTNERSHIPS**

Questions on the work of Outside Bodies or partnerships on which the Council is represented to be asked by Members of the Council (if any).