

**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', is positioned below the 'Yours sincerely' text.

**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).

**Minutes of:** COUNCIL

**Date of Meeting:** 19 July 2023

**Present:** The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor , in the Chair)  
Councillors A Arif, N Bayley, R Bernstein, D Berry, C Birchmore, C Boles, A Booth, N Boroda, R Brown, C Cummins, L Dean, D Duncalfe, E FitzGerald, N Frith, R Gold, D Green, J Grimshaw, S Haroon, J Harris, M Hayes, K Hussain, J Lancaster, G Marsden, 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

**Apologies for  
Absence** S Arif, U Farooq, I Gartside and J Mason

**Public Attendance:** 4 members of the public attended the meeting.

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**C. 9 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Pilkington declared a personal interest in all matters under consideration as a member of the newly constituted Ramsbottom Events Group.

**C. 10 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor provided Elected Members with an update on Mayoral duties undertaken since the Annual Council Meeting.

The Mayor also informed Members of the passing of former Mayor and Sedgley Ward Councillor Emanuel Wolfe Adler. As a mark of respect the Council observed a minutes silence.

**C. 11 MINUTES**

Minutes part one and part two from the annual council meeting 2023 were approved.

**C. 12 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No questions were received in advance of the meeting.

The following questions were raised at the meeting:

Andy Hay – Vote of thanks, reablement team  
Reg Dixon – Grid, Rochdale Road.

**C. 13 RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

**A) Meeting of Cabinet – Review of the Council’s Senior Management Structure**

It was moved by Councillor Rafiq and seconded by Councillor O'Brien and it was resolved:

That

- A) That the role of Executive Director (Place) is regraded from Chief Officer G to Chief Officer Band H
- B) That a new post of Executive Director (Strategy and Transformation) is established at Chief Officer Band H
- C) That the role of Director of Law and Governance is regraded from Chief Officer Band E to Chief Officer Band F
- D) That a Market Supplement payment of £14k is applied to the Director of Adult Social Services role.

**B) Meeting of Cabinet – Restructure of the HR Department – Approval of redundancy cost**

It was moved by Councillor Rafiq and seconded by Councillor O'Brien and it was resolved:

That:

Council approves the cost associated with proposed redundancy of the post of Strategic Lead (HR).

**C) Meeting of Cabinet – The Council’s Financial Position 2022.23 outturn report: appendix 2 Treasury Management report.**

It was moved by Councillor Gold and seconded by Councillor O'Brien and it was resolved:

That:

The Treasury Management report be approved.

**C. 14 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 Birchmore	Cllr A Quinn	Potholes
2	Cllr Staples Jones	Cllr Gold	Defence Employers Recognition
3	Cllr D Quinn	Cllr Morris	Culture strategy
4	Cllr Bayley	Cllr O'Brien	Radcliffe Regeneration
5	Cllr Vernon	Cllr A Quinn	Flash Flooding



6	Cllr A Booth	Cllr L Smith	SEND
7	Cllr Staples Jones	Cllr Morris	Bury FC
8	Cllr Boroda	Cllr A Quinn	Croft Lane
9	Cllr Ibrahim	Cllr A Quinn	Electric Vehicles
10	Cllr A Quinn	Cllr Dean	Waterside Road

Due to the lack of time to answer questions 11 to 20 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 O'Brien	Disabled access to play areas
Cllr M Smith	Cllr O'Brien	Officer support to Regeneration projects
Cllr Green	Cllr Morris	Taxi licensing
Cllr McBriar	Cllr O'Brien	Section 106 monies
Cllr D Quinn	Cllr L Smith	Corporate Parenting
Cllr N Frith	Cllr L Smith	Inclusive Education
Cllr Y Wright	Cllr A Quinn	Zebra crossings in Tottington
Cllr Lancaster	Cllr O'Brien and L Smith	DfE funding

**C. 15 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 Staples Jones	Cllr Bayley	Bus services in Ramsbottom

Cllr A Arif	Cllr Gold	Neighbourhood policing model
Cllr Vernon	Cllr Bayley	Average Speed Cameras
Cllr Brown	Cllr Gold	Care home abuse
Cllr Hussain	Cllr Gold	Bee in the loop

## C. 16 NOTICES OF MOTION

### Community Governance Review

Members considered the motion received, as set out in the summons in the names of: Councillors Carol Birchmore, Cllr Donald Berry, Cllr Andrea Booth, Cllr Des Duncalfe, Cllr Glyn Marsden, Cllr James Mason, Cllr Mike Smith and Cllr Mary Walsh

#### **This Council notes :-**

Bury MBC has powers to conduct a Community Governance Review (CGR) for a specific area within the Borough.

The Council notes the establishment of a Town Council may promote community engagement, effective local government and the provision of local services for local people that Bury Council may be unable to sustain due to resource pressures.

In addition, Government guidance states that it is good practice for principal councils to conduct a community governance review every 10-15 years, except in areas with very low populations.

#### **The Council acknowledges –**

In undertaking this review the Council will have regard to the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued in March 2010 by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and will comply with Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 ('the 2007 Act'), the relevant parts of the Local Government Act 1972 and regulations issued under those acts.

The Boundary commission guidance states that terms of reference set out the aims of the review, the matters that it will address and policies that the Council considers relevant to the review. The terms of reference will be published on the Council's website and in hard copy and will be made available at the Council offices and at other venues within the area under review.

The Council itself will agree the draft and final recommendations and make any Reorganisation of Community Governance Order.

In coming to its recommendations in the review, the Council will take account of the views of local people and stakeholders. Legislation requires the Council to consult the local government electors for the area under review and any other person or body who appears to have an interest in the review, and to take the representations that are received into account by judging them against the criteria in the 2007 Act.

The Council will promote community engagement and transparency in decision making. In relation to the review the Council will:-

- Publish these terms of reference;

- Publicise the review as widely as possible using printed and electronic means and seek to engage the local media in reporting the issues under review;
  - Consult residents, business organisations, community groups, other local organisations, political parties and elected representatives for the areas under review;
  - Make key documents available at the Council offices and at other venues in the areas under review;
  - Accept submissions by post or via e-mail or the Council's website;
  - Take into account representations received in connection with the review; and
  - Publicise the draft and final recommendations and the outcome of the review.
- Publication of a terms of reference formally begins the review, which must then be completed within six months.

If the review results in any changes to community governance, at the conclusion of the review the Council will make a Reorganisation of Community Governance Order. Copies of this order, the map(s) that show the effects of the order in detail, and the document(s) which set out the reasons for the Council's decisions (including where it has decided to make no change following the review) will be deposited at the Council's offices, published on its website.

**This Council therefore resolves :-**

- Bury Council ('the Council') to undertake a community governance review ('the review') of the whole of the Borough following the completion of the Electoral Review by the Boundary Commission.
- The review will consider whether any changes should be made to existing community governance arrangements within the Six Towns that make up the Borough including whether a new Town Council should be created and the electoral arrangements for this Town Council.
- That Radcliffe should be the Township pilot for this review which may then be extended across the other five Towns that make up the whole.
- In accordance with regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2000, functions relating to Community Governance Reviews are not to be the responsibility of an authority's executive.
- The management of the review will be the responsibility of a project manager appointed by the Director of Law & Governance.
- Establish a cross party Community Governance Review Working Party.

**On being put; with 8 Members voting for, 38 Members voting against and the Mayor abstaining, the Mayor declared the motion lost.**

***Prior to consideration of this item the Monitoring Officer, issued the following guidance.***

***Further to consultation with the Chair of the Standards Committee, Madam Mayor and in accordance with legislative requirements, the Monitor Officer is authorised to issue a general dispensation to all Elected Members present in respect of the following notice of motion:***

**B) Support Bury Mortgage Holders Now**

Members considered the motion received, as set out in the summons in the names of: 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.

### **This Council believes that:**

Following the latest announcement of a hike in interest rates from the Bank of England, with the prospect of even higher interest rates to follow, there is a crisis facing mortgage holders in our borough and across the UK.

This crisis will not stop at those with mortgages, it will, and already is, hitting those in the private rented sector too.

Action must be taken now to support our residents with this mortgage cost crisis.

### **This Council notes that:**

A report into the matter by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) concluded that 19% of households, amounting to 1.4 million UK mortgage holders, would lose a fifth of their disposable income as their fixed-rate mortgage deal ended.

For our borough, this would be approximately 28,513 people impacted by the mortgage cost crisis.

The IFS report warned that the biggest impact would be felt by those under the age of 40 with larger mortgages, and worst for those in their 30s, for whom payments will rise by £360 a month, or 11% of disposable income.

Overall, average mortgage costs will rise by £2,900 per year, with new mortgages now costing a typical household over £2,000 more per year than in comparable countries like France.

### **This Council resolves to:**

- Support the Labour Party's 5-point plan to respond to the mortgage cost crisis, which includes:
  1. requiring banks to allow borrowers to switch to interest-only mortgage payments;
  2. requiring banks to allow borrowers to lengthen the term of their mortgage period;
  3. requiring lenders to reverse any support measures when the borrower requests;
  4. requiring lenders to wait a minimum of six months before initiating repossession proceedings;
  5. instructing the FCA (Financial Conduct Authority) to urgently issue consumer guidance to prevent the changes from impacting credit scores.
  
- Write to the Bury North and Bury South Members of Parliament, asking them to support the above 5-point plan in response to the mortgage cost crisis facing their constituents.
  
- Promote further the provisions within the Bury Labour budget amendment around cost-of-living support, especially the £100k discretionary Council Tax Support Fund for those not traditionally eligible for financial support.

**On being put; with 37 Members voting for, 9 Members voting against and the Mayor abstaining, the Mayor declared the motion carried.**

**C) Promoting a Safe and Drug-Free Environment in Schools**

Members considered the motion received, as set out in the summons in the names of: BERNSTEIN, BROWN, DEAN, GARTSIDE, HARRIS, HUSSAIN, LANCASTER, McBRIAR, RYDEHEARD, VERNON

**This Council notes that:**

Substance abuse, including the use of drugs and alcohol, poses significant risks to the health, well-being, and educational outcomes of students.

- Since 2015, young people aged 14-17 increasingly believe it is “normal to get drunk” to where now 55% of young people believe it is normal.
- Maintaining a safe and drug-free environment is crucial for providing a conducive learning environment and ensuring our duty of care for all students in our schools.
- Schools play a critical role in educating students about the dangers of substance abuse and promoting healthy behaviours.

**The Council acknowledges that:**

- Our current zero-tolerance approach to drugs or illicit substances is recognised as an important deterrent and principle which sends a strong message that substance abuse in our schools will not be tolerated.
- Collaborative efforts between schools, parents, the Council, GMP; community organisations continue to be essential in addressing substance abuse issues effectively and they must be rigorously and consistently followed up and impact monitored.
- Recent studies have revealed that 37% of young people in Bury are not worried about the long-term health effects of alcohol, indicating a need for increased awareness and education on the risks associated with alcohol consumption and substance use.
- Our schools are places that every student deserves and needs to feel safe in; students should not feel unsafe and feel pressurised due to peers bringing illicit substances into schools.

**This Council resolves to:**

- Reiterate our zero-tolerance approach to drugs and illicit substances in our Borough's schools, emphasising the need for the strictest disciplinary action for any violations.
- Write to all school Head Teachers in the borough, highlighting the need to proactively address the weakening stance young people in Bury take on the long-term health effects of alcohol consumption.
- Provide digital resources to schools for regular awareness campaigns to engage students, parents, and the wider community in promoting a safe and drug-free environment.

- Encourage the involvement of student groups, youth organisations, and student councils to actively participate in awareness campaigns and share their perspectives on substance abuse prevention.
- Review the impact of the actions outlined by no later than the end of 31 July 2024.

Members considered an amendment, moved by Councillor Thorpe and seconded by Councillor L Smith that:

**This Council notes that:**

- Substance abuse, including the use of drugs and alcohol, poses significant risks to the health, well-being, and educational outcomes of students.
- Since 2015, young people aged 14-17 increasingly believe it is “normal to get drunk” to where now 55% of young people believe it is normal.
- **Liver disease is the only major cause of death where rates are rising. The number of people dying prematurely from liver disease and liver cancer has increased by almost two-thirds (64%) in the last 20 years, and 6 in 10 cases are related to alcohol consumption, according to the British Liver Trust.**
- **NHS figures for 2021 show that 9% of 11-15 year olds used e-cigarettes (vapes) and it is thought this figure has risen rapidly to an estimated 15%.**
- Maintaining a safe and drug-free environment is crucial for providing a conducive learning environment, **mitigating long term health issues and** ensuring our duty of care for all students in our schools.
- Schools play a critical role in educating students about the dangers of substance abuse and promoting healthy behaviours, **supported by the council and other agencies.**

**The Council acknowledges that:**

- Our current zero-tolerance approach to drugs or illicit substances is recognised as an important deterrent and principle which sends a strong message that substance abuse in our schools will not be tolerated.
- Collaborative efforts between schools, parents, the Council, GMP; community organisations continue to be essential in addressing substance abuse issues effectively and they must be rigorously and consistently followed up and impact monitored.
- Recent studies have revealed that 37% of young people in Bury are not worried about the long-term health effects of alcohol, indicating a need for increased awareness and education on the risks associated with alcohol consumption and substance use.
- **Sales of e-cigarettes and vaping liquids, including disposable vapes is illegal to anyone aged under 18 years yet usage has drastically increased in recent years.**

Our schools are places that every student deserves and needs to feel safe in; students should not feel unsafe and feel pressurised due to peers bringing illicit substances into schools. **Schools have a duty to educate their students on the dangers of social consumption of narcotic substances, alcohol and tobacco related products.**

**This Council resolves to:**

- Reiterate our zero-tolerance approach to drugs and illicit substances in our Borough's schools,  
DELETE  
~~emphasising the need for the strictest disciplinary action for any violations.~~

~~ADD~~

~~as part of our Inclusion strategy to ensure consistency of approach to sanctioning young people.~~

- Write to all school Head Teachers in the borough, stating our resolve to support initiatives to highlight
- ~~DELETE~~

~~the need to proactively address the weakening stance young people in Bury take on~~

- the long-term health effects of alcohol consumption,
- ~~ADD~~
- ~~drugs use and vaping, together with the environmental impact of the disposal of vaping materials and nitrous oxide paraphernalia.~~
- ~~The Council works with public health to ensure schools have access to all relevant and effective materials and resources to support schools.~~
- ~~Ask police and Council enforcement to work within communities to identify and prosecute retail outlets selling vaping materials and e cigarettes to young people under 18.~~
- ~~DELETE~~
- ~~Provide digital resources to schools for regular awareness campaigns to engage students, parents, and the wider community in promoting a safe and drug-free environment~~
- Encourage the involvement of student groups, youth organisations, and student councils to actively participate in awareness campaigns and share their perspectives on substance abuse prevention.
- ~~Council to write to Bury MPs to examine the case for an outright ban on disposable vapes.~~
- Review the impact of the actions outlined by no later than the end of 31 July 2024.

Members moved to vote on the amendment:

On being put with 38 voting for, 9 voting against and the Mayor abstaining, the amendment was carried.

The amendment is now the substantive motion, on being put: with 38 voting for, 9 voting against and the Mayor abstaining, the motion was carried.

**C. 17 AMENDMENT**  
**C. 18 COUNCIL MOTION TRACKER**

For information only.

**C. 19 SCRUTINY REVIEW REPORTS AND SPECIFIC ITEMS "CALLED IN" BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

There were no scrutiny review reports or items called in by scrutiny.

**C. 20 QUESTIONS ON THE WORK OF OUTSIDE BODIES OR PARTNERSHIPS**

There were no questions to the outside bodies or partnerships.

**THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR**

**(Notes:** Part 1 of the meeting started at 7.05 pm and ended at 10.05pm)



## Public Questions – September 2023

1. Can the Leader explain the poor state of the Borough's pavements and roads?

Clark Davidson

Figures provided by the OECD have outlined that £4bn was spent in 2006 on UK local road maintenance compared with £2bn in 2019. This contrasts with Sweden, Denmark, the United States, Japan and New Zealand, which have increased spending by around half over the same period.

The LGA has also stated that despite additional funding delivered in the budget this year, latest predictions from the Annual Local Authority Road Maintenance (ALARM) survey found that councils face a record £14bn road repair backlog.

Bucking this trend, Bury Council have invested £20million into additional highway maintenance over the past 6 years with a further £10million to come over the next 3 years.

This additional funding has been necessary to address the shortfall in funding provided by central government and to improve the condition of our highway network, which is critical to the borough and its residents.

2. At last Council, I asked whether the council would be doing anything to remember My Friend and former leader Mike Connolly

Andy Hay

**I have spoken with Ian and he has confirmed that there has been no request from him or any other members of Mike's family to remember Mike him in any other way than what has already been done.**

**As past Leader his name is on the Board in the Town Hall Council Chamber and as Past Mayor his name is on the Board outside the Council Chamber.**

**The Council also assisted Ian, Mike's partner with his wish for a bench to be placed in honour of Mike at Clarence Park Lido which he and Mike's friends and family can visit.**

**Ian has said that there is no further need nor wish for anything else.**

3. The residents of Watermill Gardens, Kersal Vale Road, Prestwich, referred to as postcode M25 9SZ are listed under Bury Council in Bury, BL9 0SW. However, we have been given an M7 postcode which is a Salford postcode. We urge the council to implement the postcode to reflect M25 in Prestwich correctly as all residents pay council tax to Bury Council who are liable for all issues within the community. Salford are not liable for anything within this boundary. The homes were marketed through Cube Homes and Plumlife as Prestwich. Everything via social media references Prestwich, and we were promised when buying these homes they are in Prestwich M25.

I expressed these concerns with Cube Homes and MP Debora Green on a recent site visit and was advised that in order to have the correct postcode confirmed, you are required to go off the nearest sorting office to where you live. The Salford sorting office is 2.9 miles away. The Waterloo road sorting office is 3.0 miles away. The Prestwich sorting office is 2.0 miles away.

As a result of this, the postcode of M7 is incorrect as we are not living in Salford.

The sorting office shows as matter of fact that we live closer to the Prestwich office and not the Salford office. As the evidence is there, it shows that all residents living on Watermill Gardens should be located under Prestwich and should morally be given the correct postcode.

Please can you look to make this change happen? It would be in everyone's best interest if this was rectified and we would be extremely grateful for your help in taking this forward to ensure this correct justification.

Laura Heaney

**The Council is not responsible for the allocation of postcodes – this is solely the responsibility of Royal Mail.**

**There is an address and a postal address. The Street Naming and Numbering section allocate addresses to properties in**

**accordance with national guidelines and the approval of the Council Gazetteer Custodian.**

**Royal Mail allocate the postcode to these addresses, thereby making them postal addresses.**

**Any perceived problem with the postcode of a property MUST be taken up with Royal Mail.**

**Not present**

4. What are the council doing to hold to account TFGM and the mayor on the extremely poor performance and unreliability of the Bury Metrolink line? The line is constantly down or has communication or ticketing faults and this is impacting our local economy as people avoid using it. In August it was down 4 weeks in a row with a journey from Salford to Bury taking 2 hours on one day. People are faced with extended journeys making them late for work or appointments or we local families are having to pay for taxis as it is so poor.

M Sutcliffe

Response drafted and shared, will be on website following the meeting.

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## Metrolink Bury line performance note, 7 September 2023

Since 1 January 2023, a total of 21 disruptive incidents with a duration of 15 minutes or more have occurred on the Bury line compared to a network wide average of 19 incidents.

The severity of some incidents on the Bury line has resulted in a total of 127 hours of delay since 1 January 2023 compared to a full network average of 37.5 hours.

The most significant incidents include:

- The overhead line coming down outside Victoria Station 11/06/2023, 81 hours of partial line closure;
- Theft of trackside equipment between Radcliffe and Crumpsall 10/08/2023, 9 hours of partial line closure; and
- Theft of trackside equipment at Bury 23/08/2023, 9 hours of partial line closure.

The overhead line issue at Victoria Station also had an impact on Parklife egress after the event on Sunday 11/06/2023. It is estimated that 13,000 festival goers were affected because of the incident and approximately £26,000 of revenue lost as a result.

A full breakdown of incidents recorded on the Bury line including type of incident and disruption duration can be seen on pages 3 and 4 of this note. After each of these incidents, our teams worked to restore services as quickly as possible. Ticket acceptance was put in place with commercial bus operators, or a bespoke bus service sourced to help passengers complete their journeys after significant disruptive events.

By far the worst incident was the overhead line failure mentioned above, as it also impacted service on the Oldham and Rochdale line.

Despite the number of incidents and severity of disruption on the Bury line, 94% of services have operated to within 2 minutes of the service pattern (6 minutes peak / 12 minute off-peaks) so far in 2023.

Excluding the 3 significant incidents referenced above, on average, passengers' wait time delay was 13 seconds on the Bury line compared to a network average of 41 seconds over the equivalent period.

There are several interventions in place and more planned through 2024 and early 2025 to help address the risk of thefts on the line and to renew infrastructure to improve speeds and journey times.

**Every journey. Every day.**

Interventions include:

- Security patrols and additional CCTV monitoring have been implemented in response to thefts. Copper elements with a high scrap metal value are being swapped with a low scrap value aluminium alternative. We are working with partners to see if additional GMP support can be provided.
- Overhead line weights were replaced in 2022 to improve reliability in warmer weather, with more replacements planned in 2024. In addition, 2km of rail was replaced during the same period and further replacements are planned in 2024 to improve speed and journey times.
- Whitefield tunnel work is scheduled for next summer which will improve speeds through the section towards Bury.
- Signalling reliability will be improved as we replace fibre optic cables.
- Cutting back of vegetation on the Bury line is ongoing to eliminate the risk of falling trees or branches causing disruption.

TfGM is held to account by the Greater Manchester Mayor and the 10 district councils via the formal Bee Network Committee. Details of which can be found here:

[Committees - Greater Manchester Combined Authority \(greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/committees)

Metrolink performance reports by line from 2018 through 2023 to date can be found here:

[Metrolink Performance reports | Transport for Greater Manchester \(tfgm.com\)](https://www.tfgm.com/metro/performance-reports)

Danny Vaughan  
Head of Metrolink, TfGM

Disruption date	Disruption start time	Disruption end date & time	Duration (H:M)	Disruption Category	Disruption Root Cause
23/01/2023	12:10	23/01/2023 13:05	0:55	Signalling	Bury signalling fault
26/01/2023	15:45	26/01/2023 16:30	0:45	Vehicle fault	Failed tram at Queens Road
01/03/2023	07:47	01/03/2023 10:11	2:24	Signalling	Bury signalling fault
30/03/2023	17:34	30/03/2023 18:00	0:26	Points	Irk Valley points failure
30/03/2023	18:01	30/03/2023 20:35	2:34	Points	Irk Valley points failure
12/04/2023	17:38	12/04/2023 18:30	0:52	Vehicle fault	Pantograph failure at Besses
22/04/2023	08:50	22/04/2023 10:49	1:59	Emergency services	Police incident at Radcliffe
28/04/2023	18:25	28/04/2023 18:40	0:15	Emergency services	Medical emergency at Prestwich
13/05/2023	14:50	13/05/2023 16:12	1:22	Overhead line	Sagging Overhead Line Equipment (OHLE) support wire at Besses
01/06/2023	13:35	01/06/2023 19:45	6:10	Overhead line	Tree resting on OHLE at Whitefield
02/06/2023	21:55	02/06/2023 23:20	1:25	Crime	Object on OHLE at Heaton Park
11/06/2023	15:05	15/06/2023 00:00	80:55	Overhead line	OHLE down at Victoria
18/06/2023	18:25	18/06/2023 18:50	0:25	Crime	Male on tracks at Radcliffe
18/06/2023	19:48	18/06/2023 21:30	1:42	Crime	Line on OHLE at Radcliffe bank
24/07/2023	17:40	24/07/2023 21:25	3:45	Driver	Signal Passed at Stop (SPAS) activation at Bury
01/08/2023	05:50	01/08/2023 06:40	0:50	Electrical	Isolators not closed after Engineering works at Bury

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04/08/2023	20:05	04/08/2023 20:35	0:30	Points	Bury points fault
10/08/2023	15:38	11/08/2023 00:45	9:07	Crime	Theft of track equipment Radcliffe - Crumpsall
16/08/2023	16:28	16/08/2023 17:36	1:08	Points	Whitefield points fault
23/08/2023	05:50	23/08/2023 14:45	8:55	Crime	Theft of track equipment at Bury
23/08/2023	22:40	24/08/2023 00:00	1:20	Crime	Power failure at Prestwich





<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Decision Type:</b> Non-Key
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<b>Report to:</b>	Council	<b>Date:</b> 13 September 2023
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Polling District and Places Review 2023</b>	
<b>Report of</b>	Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR	

## Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek a recommendation from Council for approval of plans for a statutory review of polling districts and places within the borough of Bury.

## Recommendation(s)

1. That the compulsory polling district and places review commences on Monday 2 October 2023.
2. That the outline table for the review is approved
3. That approval is granted to follow the review process described in this report.
4. That the ERO (Electoral Registration Officer) is authorised to take the necessary measures as soon as possible to give effect to parliamentary constituency changes, ensuring that the register reflects existing and new constituencies until the boundaries are fully in force.
5. That the Electoral Registration Officer is authorised to take the necessary measures to give effect to any new or amended polling districts on completion of the polling district review, ensuring that the register reflects existing and new boundaries until the boundaries are fully in force.
6. That power to designate polling places in accordance with section 18 and 18B of the Representation of the People Act 1983 is delegated to the Chief Executive, in their role as Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer.

---

### Report Author and Contact Details:

*Name:* Rachel Everitt  
*Position:* Elections Manager  
*Department:* Elections  
*E-mail:* [r.everitt@bury.gov.uk](mailto:r.everitt@bury.gov.uk)

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## 1. Background

1.1. The following definitions may be helpful when reading this report:

Polling District	Geographical electoral areas into which wards and constituencies may be sub-divided.
------------------	--

Polling Place Buildings or areas designated by the council where electors in a polling district go to vote in person.

Polling Station The number of issuing desks in the building or area that is the designated polling place.

- 1.2. Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, the council has a duty to divide its area into polling districts and to designate a polling place for each district.
- 1.3. The Electoral Administration Act 2006, as amended, introduced a duty on all local authorities in Great Britain to review their polling districts and polling places at least once every five years.
- 1.4. Under Section 18C of the Representation of the People Act 1983, the next compulsory review must be undertaken within a 16-month window between 1 October 2023 and 31 January 2025.
- 1.5. The intention of the legislation was to reviews would be completed by the January before a UK parliamentary general election. However, since the repeal of the Fixed Term Parliaments Act 2011, there is no longer any certainty as to when the next general election will be.
- 1.6. The Dissolution and Calling of Parliament Act means:
  - The UK Parliament can be dissolved by the King on request of the Prime Minister at any time with the 5 years of the life of the Parliament.
  - The next general election must take place before Tuesday 28 January 2025, but it could happen at any point before then.
  - There is no longer a link between the timing of the compulsory polling district and places review falling in a 16-month period ending 3 months before a scheduled general election.
- 1.7. In addition, the Boundary Commission for England is currently undertaking a review of parliamentary constituency boundaries. The Commission has now published its final recommendations, and Orders for the new parliamentary constituency boundaries will be made by 1 November 2023.
- 1.8. Once the Orders for new parliamentary constituencies have been made the new boundaries will be used for the next general election.
- 1.9. If a parliamentary election is called in the meantime, it would be run on existing boundaries.
- 1.10. These issues mean it is important that the polling district and places review is carried out as early as possible, so that Bury Council has agreed polling districts and places to be used at the next parliamentary election as well as the scheduled Local and greater Manchester Mayoral elections in May 2024 and has a polling scheme in place which reflects the new constituencies.

**2. Timing of the polling district and places review**

- 2.1. As highlighted above, it is important to complete the review as soon as possible so the polling districts and places for future elections can be agreed in time for the next general election and scheduled elections.
- 2.2. Section 18C of the Representation of the People Act 1983 does not allow the review to commence before 1 October 2023.
- 2.3. It is recommended that the compulsory polling district and places review commences on Monday 2 October 2023.

**3. Review timetable**

- 3.1. Although the review itself cannot commence earlier, there is a degree of preparatory work which can be undertaken prior to the review as well as informal preliminary consultation.
- 3.2. It would be desirable for any changes in polling districts to be reflected in the electoral register published on 1 December 2023. However, due to desirability for a six week consultation period, it is unlikely that the review will be completed until January 2024.
- 3.3. This would mean the electoral register would need to be republished to take account of any changes to polling districts:

Preparatory work	Started July 2023
Resolution from council providing for commencement of review	13 September 2023
Preliminary review – including informal consultation	July to 1 October 2023
Notice of review published	Monday 2 October 2023
Councils proposals published	Monday 2 October 2023
Commencement of formal consultation	Monday 2 October 2023
End of formal consultation	Friday 10 November 2023
Consider responses	By 24 November 2023
Publish electoral register	1 December 2023
Final proposals published via meeting agenda papers and website	10 January 2024
Committee/Cabinet/Council meeting	17 January 2024
Conclude review	By end January 2024
Republish electoral register (if any new or amended polling districts)	1 February 2024
Scheduled elections on new polling districts, places and stations scheme	2 May 2024

#### **4. Review process**

##### **4.1. Legal requirements**

4.1.1. The process for a polling district and places review is set out in Schedule A1, Representation of the People Act 1983.

4.1.2. The Council must:

- Publish a notice of the holding of a review.
- Consult the (Acting) Returning Officer ((A)RO) for every parliamentary constituency which is wholly or partly in its area.
- Publish all recommendations made by an (A)RO within 30 days of receipt by posting a copy of them at the local authority's office and in at least one conspicuous place in their area, and, if the authority maintains a website, by placing a copy of the authority's website.
- Seek representations from such persons as it thinks have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for person who have different forms of disability. Such persons must have an opportunity to make representations and to comment on the representations made by the (A)RO.

4.1.3. On completion of the review, the council must give reasons for its decision and publish:

- All correspondence sent to the (A)RO in connection with the review
- All correspondence sent to any person whom the authority thinks has particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability.
- All representations made by any person in connection with the review.
- The minutes of any meeting held by the council to consider any revision to the designation of polling districts or polling places within its area as a result of the review.
- Details of the designation of polling districts and polling places within the local authority area as a result of the review.
- Details of the places where the results of the review have been published.

##### **4.2. Preliminary review**

4.2.1. Electoral Services are also carrying out a preliminary review of the current polling districts and places in the borough to assess their suitability.

4.2.2. This involves:

- Compiling details of current polling places with a summary of their suitability
- Checking the continued availability of polling places
- Reviewing feedback from stakeholders at previous elections
- Identifying potential alternative buildings where appropriate
- Ensuring that polling places can support the requirements of the Elections Act, for example with sufficient space to undertake Voter ID checks, and to accommodate equipment to assist disabled voters
- Seeking advice and guidance from local disability groups and local authority experts around accessibility

- Preparing council proposals and drafting (A)RO comments, including explanations for “no changes”

4.3. Informal consultation

4.3.1. Electoral Services are also carrying out informal consultation with interested groups in preparation for the review.

4.3.2. This involves:

- Seeking the views of organisations with a special interest/expertise in disabled access
- Informal consultation with group leaders/local political parties
- Getting advice from relevant council officers (for example Property Services, Equalities Officers)
- Inviting comments from Presiding Officers and Polling Station Inspectors

4.3.3. It will be important to do as much preparatory work as possible before the official commencement of the review, to ensure its early completion.

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**Legal Implications:**

The Polling District and Polling Place review is a statutory requirement as set out in the body of the report.

---

**Financial Implications:**

There are no financial implications.

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

<b>Term</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
A(RO)	(Acting) Returning Officer
ERO	Electoral Registration Officer
Polling District	Geographical electoral areas into which wards and constituencies may be sub-divided
Polling Place	Buildings or areas designated by the council where electors in a polling district go to vote in person.
Polling Station	The number of issuing desks in the building or area that is the designated polling place.

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<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Decision Type:</b> Non-Key
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<b>Report to:</b>	Council	<b>Date:</b> 13 September 2023
<b>Subject:</b>	Appointment of Local Returning Officer at the Combined Authority Mayoral Elections	
<b>Report of</b>	Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR	

### Summary

1. The Combined Authority (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 formally requires that each constituent Council shall appoint an Officer of the Council to be the Local Returning Officer for the election of a Combined Authority Mayor

### Recommendation(s)

2. The Council is requested to appoint the Chief Executive, Lynne Ridsdale as the Returning Officer for Bury Council at the Combined Authority Mayoral elections.

---

### Report Author and Contact Details:

*Name:* Rachel Everitt  
*Position:* Election Manager  
*Department:* Elections  
*E-mail:* [r.everitt@bury.gov.uk](mailto:r.everitt@bury.gov.uk)

---

### Background

3. Under Section 35 (1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983, Councils are required to appoint an Officer to be the Returning Officer for local elections. The Chief Executive is appointed for these purposes.
  4. In the version of the Combined Authority (Mayoral Elections) Order 2017 circulated prior to the draft Order being formally laid before Parliament, the Returning Officer at local elections was automatically the Returning Officer at Combined Authority Mayoral elections.
  5. In the final legislation which became law on 31 January 2017, Section 35 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 has been modified by paragraph 1 (5) of Schedule 2 of the 2017 Order, so as to provide that a separate Returning Officer appointment should be made for the Combined Authority Mayoral Election.
  6. It is therefore requested that a specific appointment of a Returning Officer for the Council at Combined Authority Mayoral elections is made, in line with the recommendation at the beginning of this report.
-

**Legal Implications:**

7. This is a statutory requirement as set out in the body of the report.

---

**Financial Implications:**

8. There are no financial implications





<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Decision Type:</b> N/a
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<b>Report to:</b>	Audit Committee Council	<b>Date</b> 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2023 <b>Date:</b> 13 September 2023
<b>Subject:</b>	Constitution Update Report	
<b>Report of</b>	Executive Director of Finance	

### Summary

1. The Council's constitution was reviewed and updated during the municipal year 2020/21 and the last annual update report was presented at the 24 May 2023 Council meeting. As and when Council policies are reviewed and updated, amendments to the Constitution are required to align the policies.

### Recommendation(s)

**Audit Committee is requested to approve, for onward submission to Council on the 13 September 2023, the:**

2. Proposed amendments to the Constitution in relation to the authorised debt write-off thresholds set out in the report.

---

### Report Author and Contact Details:

Name: Simon Peet  
Position: Chief Accountant  
Department: Corporate Finance  
E-mail: [s.peet@bury.gov.uk](mailto:s.peet@bury.gov.uk)

---

### Introduction

3. The Constitution sets out how the Council operates; how decisions are made and the procedures which are followed to ensure that these are efficient, transparent and accountable to local people. The Council has a legal duty to publish an up-to-date Constitution and review regularly.

### Background

4. A refresh of the Council Write-off Policy and Procedure (appended to this report) has been undertaken, the updated policy proposes uplifting the current authorised debt write-off thresholds that have been in place since 2004, as set out in the table below:

Value	Approval Required	Reported to
Up to £1,000	Responsible Budget Holder	Director

In excess of £1,000 but not more than £10,000	Responsible Director in consultation with the Chief Accountant	Section 151 Officer
In excess of £10,000 but not more than £50,000	Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Monitoring Officer	Relevant Cabinet Member
In excess of £50,000	Cabinet	

The proposals set out in the table above require amendments to the Council Constitution.

### Sections to be Updated

5. The following sections of the Constitution require amending to align with the updated Council Write-off Policy and Procedure.

#### Part 21 Section 7 – Officer Functions

##### Appendix 1: Delegations to Specific Officers

##### Section 151 Officer

*From:*

*13. The writing off of debts from £2,001 to £5,000*

*To:*

*13. The writing off of debts from £10,001 to £50,000*

#### Part 28 Section 7 – Financial Regulations

##### 4.7.3.5 The Statutory Officers: Chief Finance Officer

*From:*

*(j) the writing-off of debts from £2,001 to £5,000 with the Head of Revenues and Benefits being authorised to write-off debts of less than £2,000*

*To:*

*(j) the writing-off of debts from £10,001 to £50,000, with Directors being authorised to write-off debts from £1,001 to £10,000 and budget holders up to £1,000.*

##### 4.7.6.4. Income

*From:*

*The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for writing off irrecoverable debts from £2,001 to £5,000; with the Head of Revenues and Benefits writing off debts of less than £2,000; and with write-offs above £5,000 being subject to approval by the Cabinet.*

*To:*

*Budget Holders responsible for writing off irrecoverable debts up to £1,000; Directors responsible for writing off irrecoverable debts from £1,001 to £10,000; The Chief Finance Officer responsible for writing off irrecoverable debts from £10,001 to £50,000; and with write-offs above £50,000 being subject to approval by the Cabinet.*

---

**Links with the Corporate Priorities:**

6. An up-to-date Constitution will ensure decision are taken lawfully and in an open and transparent manner.

---

**Equality Impact and Considerations:**

7. An up-to-date Constitution will ensure decisions contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying ‘due regard’ in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.

---

**Environmental Impact and Considerations:**

8. N/A

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**Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:**

<b>Risk / opportunity</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
Legal challenge	An up-to-date Constitution will ensure decisions are taken lawfully and in an open and transparent manner.

---

**Legal Implications:**

*To be completed by the Council's Monitoring Officer.*

9. Section 9P of the Local Government Act 2000 as amended sets out the duty of the Council to prepare and keep up to date its constitution as follows:
- (1) A local authority must prepare and keep up to date a document (referred to in this section as its constitution) which contains—
- (a) a copy of the authority's standing orders for the time being,
  - (b) a copy of the authority's code of conduct (if any) for the time being under section 28 of the Localism Act 2011,
  - (c) such information as the Secretary of State may direct, and
  - (d) such other information (if any) as the authority considers appropriate.

A local authority must ensure that copies of their constitution are available at their principal office for inspection by members of the public at all reasonable hours. A local authority must supply a copy of their constitution to any person who requests a copy and who pays to the authority such reasonable fee as the authority may determine. The Bury constitution is made available on our public website.

It is for the Monitoring Officer to monitor and review the operation of the constitution on an ongoing basis and where necessary bring forward amendments to Council.

**Financial Implications:**

10. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

**Background papers:**

11. None.

**Appendices:**

Appendix 1: Bury Write-off Policy and Procedure

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

Term	Meaning

# Bury Council write off policy and procedure

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## Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide details of the policy for when debts will be considered for write off and procedures that will be followed in these circumstances.

It relates to officers within Bury Council and Six Town Housing when they are considering if it is inappropriate to continue to collect and enforce the recovery of Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rates (business rates), Sundry Debts, Housing Benefit Overpayments and Current and Former Tenant Arrears (Housing Rents).

This document was last reviewed in June 2023

Following the Policy being reviewed by Audit Committee on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023, the Committee requested amendments to the Policy regarding Voluntary Arrangements & Administration Orders as well as timescales for tracing debtors.

The Policy was subsequently reviewed, and amendments were included in the Policy and approved by the Chair of Audit Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

## Authority to make decisions

In accordance with Financial Regulations and delegated powers, at Executive on 22 September 2004 (min EX 380), it was resolved to recommend to Council, that the role of writing off irrecoverable debts is delegated to specified officers within Bury Council and Six Town Housing.

This recommendation was ratified by Council (Min C 573) on 3 November 2004.

This decision was reviewed in March 2021 and the authorised officers and write off threshold levels were updated.

## Authorised officers

In respect of an individual debtor the following officers will be authorised to write off the following amounts of debt.

Value	Approval required	Reported to
Up to £1,000	Responsible Budget Holder	Director
In excess of £1,000 but not more than £10,000	Responsible Director in consultation with the Chief Accountant	Section 151 Officer
In excess of £10,000 but not more than £50,000	Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Monitoring Officer	Relevant Cabinet Member
In excess of £50,000	Cabinet	

Debts relating to individual debtors in excess of £50,000 will be reported to the Executive at regular intervals stating the name of the debtor, the period of debt, the amount of debt and the reason the debt is irrecoverable.

A Corporate Bad debt provision will be made and reviewed each year, with bad debts determined in accordance with audit guidance (detailed in policy under Bad Debt Provision) and write offs made against the appropriate provision. In the case of Sundry Debts, all debts to be submitted for write off will be advised to the relevant department to ensure that there is adequate bad debt provision to enable the write off.

In line with good accounting practice, write-off schedules should be prepared and submitted regularly. Schedules should be submitted for authorisation as a minimum quarterly but ideally monthly, and in good time to enable the accounts to be written off by the 31st March in any year.

## General collection policy

It is Council policy to pursue the collection of all debts owed to the Council as vigorously as possible. Where it is appropriate that a debt is written off, a record will still be retained on file and should further information come to light that will enable recovery processes to be resumed, debts will be re-introduced, and recovery action taken.

It will also be appropriate for the Council to retain discretion in the pursuance of debts and working with the resident and/or debtor to link into any anti-poverty work being carried out directly or involving other agencies.

## General write off policy – all debt types

It may necessary to write off irrecoverable debts in a variety of circumstances.

Policies specific to the individual departments are presented in the appendices.

## Mandatory write offs

Although the amount of the debt would normally dictate the amount of time and resource allocated in trying to collect the various debts, in some of the circumstances the debt must be written off irrespective of the amounts involved.

## Bankruptcy

Upon notification, a proof of debt will be completed covering all charges covered within the bankruptcy period and submitted to the trustee in bankruptcy. Once a claim has been issued the total debt will be submitted for write off.

The debt types as listed, rank as unsecured debts and in the very unlikely event of payment being received in full or part from the bankrupts' estate, this money will be credited back to the relevant account and the appropriate payment written back on.

If no Trustee in bankruptcy has been appointed a proof of debt should be sent to the official receiver



### Voluntary Arrangements/Administration Orders

This is an alternative course of action for an individual wishing to avoid the restrictions placed by a bankruptcy order being made. It involves the debtor making an offer to all creditors, which is less than the full amount of the debt outstanding to be repaid over a period of time in full and final settlement. If 75% of creditors agree to the offer, an insolvency practitioner administers the Voluntary Arrangements with Administration Orders administered by the County Court.

These cases will be monitored periodically for payment, with regular communication with the administrators carried out where payment is not forthcoming in an attempt to instigate repayment. After a 12 month period and in the absence of any payments and all communication attempts having been exhausted, in line with good accounting practice the debt will be written off and written back on if any payments or communications are subsequently received.

### Liquidation

This applies to Limited companies or PLC's (Public Limited Companies) and LLP'S (Limited Liability Partnerships)

Upon notification, a proof of debt will be completed covering all charges covered within the liquidation period and submitted to the liquidator. Once the final payment has been issued, the remaining debt will be submitted for write off.

### Company Voluntary Arrangements

This course of action is an alternative course of action available to a company wishing to avoid the making of a winding up order. It involves the directors making an offer to all creditors, which is less than the full amount of the debt outstanding to be repaid over a period of time in full and final settlement. If 75% of creditors agree to the offer as an alternative to winding up proceedings, an insolvency practitioner administers the Voluntary Arrangements.

Whilst these cases will be monitored periodically for payment, it is accepted as good accounting practice that after a period of 12 months if no payments have been received then the debt should be written off and written back on if any payments are later received. If payments are received in the initial 12 months then keep under review for 5 years or until payments end and then if no further payments are received write off any remaining balance at the end of the 5 year period.

### Administrative Receivership

This involves an individual being appointed by a lender, usually a bank, which holds a debenture as security over a floating charge over assets of the company, and usually takes effect where the company is in default of agreed lending terms.

It involves an insolvency practitioner taking control of the company in an attempt to sell it as a going concern. Although remaining in occupation, no

action can be taken against the receivers appointed to enforce payment of previous or on going rate charges.

In Administrative Receivership cases the debt is only submitted for write off when the Council receives confirmation either that there is no dividend payable, or no prospect of a dividend to non- preferential debtors.

### Debts where the debtor is deceased, and the estate is insolvent

Where a debtor has died and the estate is insolvent (has no assets or value), the debt will be recommended for write off provided either:

1. the Executor has produced letter/evidence confirming that there are no assets in the estate from which to discharge any outstanding liability; or
2. The Council is satisfied that there is unlikely to be any estate.

It is recommended that a probate search is carried out based on the size of the debt before a deceased account is submitted for write off.

Write off should not automatically be considered where there may be an estate of value, but no probate has been granted. Such cases should be referred to Legal for advice as action may be available to recover or secure the balance due.

### Discretionary write offs

There will be instances where recovery cannot be enforced because:

- the debtor cannot be traced
- it is deemed inappropriate to recover the monies on the grounds that it is uneconomical to collect based on the value of the debt or on the grounds of an individual's personal circumstances.

### Finalised accounts where no forwarding address is known

For any finalised account with a balance under £100, basic checks will be made of Council systems and known third parties such as solicitors or letting agents. But we will not undertake additional ad-hoc checks or issue further documentation. If after a 3-month period, a new address is not advised, the debt will be submitted for write off.

For any finalised account with a balance of £100 or over more comprehensive tracing measures will be undertaken – see 'Tracing debtors' section later in this document. If after all enquires have been completed and a forwarding address has not been established, the amount will be recommended for write off.

Finalised accounts where a forwarding address is known

Prior to billing, every debt of less than £1 will be written off automatically to prevent bills being issued for small debts.

For any finalised account with a balance between £1 and £25, a final bill will be issued requesting immediate payment. If after the bill has been issued the account remains unpaid, no further notices will be sent and the debt will be submitted for write off.

For any finalised account with a balance between £25 and £100, the recovery process will continue in an attempt to recover the debt. If after the reminder notice or final notice the debt still remains outstanding, then the monies will be considered for write off. However, consideration will be given to further recovery action if a person has multiple small debts which consolidate to an amount above £100

### Inappropriate to continue recovery action

Each potential write off on the grounds of reasonableness will be considered by the appropriate authorising officer on its individual merits taking into account the person's age, health and financial position.

On rare occasions, it may be considered inappropriate to proceed with high profile enforcement action, such as enforcement agents or committal to prison. This could be because to do so would cause considerable hardship or because the personal circumstances of the individuals concerned may result in unnecessary media attention. By enforcing recovery on those whose circumstances render them already vulnerable, such actions may cause unacceptable hardship and this raises moral as well as cost questions.

It is important to remember that the term hardship does not purely relate to an individual's financial position, and it can also refer to their age, state of health, emotional or mental condition. As the circumstances of individuals vary greatly so there is no definitive list.

In these circumstances, if it is considered that all reasonable recovery attempts have failed, then irrespective of the amounts involved, the debt will be considered for write off.

Examples may be where a person:

- is now permanently exempt from payment of the Council Tax for example because they are severely mentally impaired, but a liability accrued prior to this exemption
- is now receiving care in a nursing home, previously having lived in rented accommodation, and has no assets to pay any outstanding Council Tax.

### Debts where a company has ceased to trade

On occasions, registered companies will cease to trade, but they will not go through the formal process of winding up due to both legal and cost implications.

After a period of inactivity, the Company will be dissolved by Companies House at which point it will no longer exist.

Where this occurs but the Company has assets, the account should be referred to Legal to consider steps to officially put the company into compulsory liquidation or secure the debt (if it has simply ceased to trade) or consider restoration of the Company or application to the Crown Solicitor (Bona Vacantia Division) in the event of dissolution.

In circumstances where the Council has failed to recover monies due and there are no known assets or low value assets on which an enforcement agent (bailiff) may levy distress or against which the debt can be secured, the debt should be considered for write off as further action is unlikely to recover the debt.

### Debts which cannot be legally enforced

Certain debts will fall outside of legal jurisdiction either because the debtor has left the country, or 6 years may have passed before recovery action has been instigated against an individual since the debt was acknowledged.

Where contact in writing has failed to result in payment or an arrangement to pay, the debt will be considered for write off.

## Write off working practices

### Tracing debtors

Where the service is notified or identifies that a debtor is no longer resident within the property, internal checks will be undertaken within 10 working days of the notification in an attempt to establish the debtor's new residence and reinstate recovery.

Should these internal checks prove unsuccessful, the account will be sent to an external enforcement agency within 1 month of the checks being completed, in order for Trace or Trace and Collect work to be undertaken by the agency – the pathway being dependant on whether the service has previously obtained a court order for non-payment.

In the event that tracing is still unsuccessful, the account will then be subject to two further rounds of internal checks at 3 month intervals.

Where tracing has not been possible following the above measures, in line with good accounting practice the debt will be written off and written back on should the debtor's residence be subsequently re-established.

The following internal checks may be undertaken depending on the type of debt and the circumstances of the debtor:

- check Council Tax database to identify if the person has re-registered at another address within the borough.
- check with Six Town Housing if council owned housing.
- check with the Department for Work and Pensions if the account holder is receiving a state benefit.
- contact landlord or letting/estate agent

- if the property has been repossessed, check with the Land Registry or the mortgagor
- if a limited company, check at Companies House
- check directory enquiries/telephone book – may have taken their phone number with them, or new occupier may have a forwarding address if retained the same number
- Check websites of businesses for contact information or alternative addresses
- contact neighbouring local authorities
- check using Experian/LoCTA system or any systems available to us
- if a single occupier or member of a household, check for previous addresses/family home.
- check electoral register.
- undertake visits to property where considered appropriate.

In some cases, the forwarding address will not be the debtor's permanent home address. It may be their solicitors, parents, relatives or employers address. Further enquiries should be made to try to identify a permanent home address for the debtor.

In the case of bankruptcy or liquidation there is no further action which may be taken against the debtor. Therefore, a claim form will be submitted to the receiver/liquidator. In the event of there being no dividend, as the debt is unsecured and non-preferential, or only a small dividend of so many pence in the pound, any remaining balance should be submitted for write off using the appropriate form.

### Recording written off debts

Once all appropriate trace activities have been carried out, then the debt may be considered for write off. The write off document should show the year, account number, name, address, type of debt, the amount and the reason for write off such as deceased, no estate, no trace, or emigrated to.

### Bad debt provision

The Council's external auditors have recommended that the Authority should ensure a methodology for calculating the bad debt provision is adopted for all categories of debt and that the calculation is supported by working papers for audit.

The Statements of Recommended Practice (SORP) guidance notes for practitioners regards the procedure for provision for bad debts as identifying a proportion of the authority's debtors that should have their value adjusted to the probable recoverable amount of zero. All debts should be reviewed and a judgment made on the probability of collection for each, but it should be possible to broadly establish a percentage for each type of debt that will eventually be recovered. Working papers should be prepared and retained setting out the reasoning used, and if any material differences occur, then the procedure should be reviewed, having regard to past experience and current knowledge.

In practice, departments raise debtor accounts for a number of the services they provide. Debtor balances are maintained for the different types of debt and an annual review of the likely level of bad debt is undertaken for each type of debt. The review will consider:

- value of debt raised
- age of debt outstanding at year end
- past experience of collection of the specific type of debt (normally by reference to % collection rates)

Where there are any known circumstances which are likely to affect the probability of collection of specific debts of material value then separate provision is made for the potential bad debt, separately from the general calculations.

Working papers for the calculation of bad debt provisions are retained on the final account files for the relevant service.

## Post write off procedure

Following write off, a record of each debt will be held for a period of 6 years along with all supporting papers. Should a debtor be traced or new information come to light material to the original decision, the debt will be written back and recovery action commenced as appropriate.

## Appendix 1 - Write off policy specific to Council Tax and business rates

### Committal proceedings where the debtor has served a custodial sentence

If a case is subject to Committal Proceedings and a debtor has been imprisoned for non-payment of Council Tax or business rates, whilst monies outstanding are not legally remitted on imprisonment, the authority cannot enforce the debt again through the court system in the event of continued non-payment.

It is, therefore, accepted as good practice to write off the monies as irrecoverable.

### Debts remitted by the Courts due to hardship

Where there is an application to request the committal of a debtor to prison, one option available to the Magistrates is to remit monies on the grounds of hardship. In order to determine this, the Magistrates must be satisfied that there is an inability to pay.

These debts will be written off in the normal way, but they do not fall under financial regulations, as the Council has no discretion to overrule the decision.

### Debts which cannot be legally enforced (The "Encon" case)

There may be occasions where an account may be submitted for write off because of a substantial delay in billing. In *Encon Insulation Ltd v Nottingham*

City Council (1999) (Queen's Bench Division) Rating Appeal 382, it was confirmed that a council has to ensure that a bill is issued "as soon as is reasonably practicable", otherwise the charge may be irrecoverable.

## Appendix 2 - Write off policy specific to Housing Former Tenant's Arrears

The recovery of housing rent arrears that are outstanding following the termination of a tenancy are known as Former Tenant's Arrears (FTA).

The general write off policy applies to FTA accounts, however special consideration needs to be given where cases are returned from collection agencies as uncollectible (above £50 where a forwarding address is known). This is because the collection of FTAs is recognised as a very difficult debt to collect, often, the threat of eviction has failed to recover outstanding rent, whilst the tenancy was ongoing and now that it has ended the only recourse available is by pursuing action in the County Court.

Often, former tenants are homeless or in temporary accommodation with either no or very little assets to distrain upon. So even if the Council were to obtain a County Court Judgement distress would unlikely to be successful. Equally people who rely upon social housing are often in the most vulnerable of groups, dependant upon state benefits or in low paid employment making the prospects of enforcing a County Court Judgement by direct deductions even more remote.

If the agency is, therefore, unable to collect, they will return the case as uncollectible. Where a case has been returned as uncollectible, it should be reviewed and consideration given to referring to an alternative debt collection agency, referral to Legal Services for County Court action or recommended for write off. Unless there is a good prospect of recovery via the County Court, for instance if it is suspected that the former tenant has sufficient income to pay the arrears but is refusing to do so, then given the costs incurred, the poor collection rate historically and all previous efforts to collect, it is unlikely that large numbers of cases would be passed for legal action and cases would be considered for write off.

Any debts/credits under £50 and irrecoverable will be considered for write off. This measure will enable low value debts to be debited in line with financial regulations, at an appropriate level.



## Appendix 3 - Write off policy specific to Customer Accounts (Sundry Debts)

The general write off policy applies to Customer Accounts invoices, however, special consideration needs to be given to the treatment of low value debts (below £100). This is because many departments' invoices raised are for regular, small amounts, which if they are written off automatically under the general policy, will have a detrimental effect upon the budgets of individual departments. Consideration should therefore be given on an individual basis towards referral of low value debts to collection agencies where other methods of collection have already failed.

Invoices under £300 are usually referred to an outside agency for collection. If the agency is unable to collect, they will return the case as uncollectible. Where a case has been returned as uncollectible (whatever the value), it will be reviewed individually. For debts under £100, consideration may be given to referring them to an alternative debt collection agency, or for write off, depending on the facts of each case. Any debts over £100 are usually referred to Legal Services for County Court action. Each case should be considered on its own merits and in consultation with the relevant department responsible for raising the invoice.

In the case of "Housing Rechargeable Works", reference should also be made to Six Town Housing's Recharge Policy, especially in terms of action to be taken when the debtor is deceased.

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<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>The Council</b>
<b>Meeting date:</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> September 2023</b>
<b>Title of report:</b>	<b>Leaders' Report</b>
<b>Report by:</b>	<b>Leader of the Council</b>
<b>Decision type:</b>	<b>Non key decision</b>
<b>Ward(s) to which the report relates:</b>	All Wards.
<b>Summary:</b>	To provide a summary of the work of the Cabinet since this last report, an update on progress against the corporate plan, and a statement from the Leader of the Council.

## **1 Leader's note**

- 1.1 I am pleased to provide Council with my report covering the period from 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023 to 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023. I hope the members of this council have had an enjoyable recess. Despite the summer break for members, the council continues to be hard at work progressing and delivering on our regeneration plans for the borough.
- 1.2 Over the summer Bruntwood, along with ourselves, have been carrying out consultation to discuss future plan for the Mill gate, which is part of the wider Bury Town Centre Masterplan. It was great to see so many of our residents getting involved and sharing their thoughts on what the future of the shopping centre should be. I eagerly await the findings of the consultation.
- 1.3 As members of this council will already know we have a focus on wellbeing as a route to improving our residents health and wellbeing. We were pleased to announce recently that four more outdoor gyms have been installed in Burys Parks, taking the total to 11. These have been installed using capital funding provided by the Council and enables us to provide another offer for local communities to increase their health, close by.
- 1.4 While we are on the topic of health and wellbeing I must mention the Tour of Britain cycling event which passed through Ramsbottom earlier this month. It is always great for these events to pass through and recognise the beautiful surroundings and great roads in our borough. It is events like these which can inspire the future generations of athletes in our borough, and it is something we should be proud of.

- 1.5 In August we stood alongside Ukrainians celebrating Ukrainian Independence. It was a significant day for Ukrainians across the globe and for those in Bury. I am proud to say that since the start of the war our borough has welcomed over 200 refugees and we continue to support and stand with Ukraine in their time of need.
- 1.6 I would also like to update members on developments to Six Town Housing. Following an independent review of the service and structure of services currently provided by Six Town Housing, the Council have taken an in-principal decision to bring the council housing service back in-house. This decision will be finalised later in the year after the views of residents have been considered. The process of seeking residents' views is called the test of opinion. In August the Council wrote to all residents and providing a range of information that will help everyone understand what the proposals mean, and what residents can expect from a new service being run directly by the Council. The Council will also ask and encourage Residents to give their opinion on their proposals.
- 1.7 I am, as always, delighted to report on the progress being made on our regeneration and levelling-up plans. In August we took big steps forward in our plans to boost Bury Market when the planning committee approved designs for a new flexi-hall and roofing for the market. The council is putting unprecedented levels of funding into town centres across the borough, augmented by our successful bids to the Government's Levelling Up Fund.
- 1.8 Finally, over the summer it was fantastic to see the return of the men's team to Gigg Lane. This is a result of an outstanding joint effort from fans, Government, Bury Council, GMCA and many other stakeholders. In line with previous decisions of cabinet the council is keen to work with the newly elected board to deliver our committed investment of 450k and support the wider club to thrive

## 2 Reporting progress against stated commitments in Corporate Plan

- 2.1 The following table provides a brief summary of the Council's progress against the priorities set out in our Corporate Plan covering Q1.

### Childrens

Priority	Q1 Update
<b>Stable permanent workforce, with reduced</b>	The first cohort of international social workers commenced in post on 12th June, and their induction is progressed as planned. First 3 project teams have exited, 1 remains pending recruitment to FS Team 5 which we hope to take place in Q2/3.

<b>reliance on agency</b>	Early Help restructure is completed, and new Family Resource Manager is now in post
<b>Implement Family Safeguarding model of practice</b>	Family Safeguarding workbook launched, with oversight of the number of open workbooks through performance data. Team Structure is in place. Multi-agency soft launch event took place on 5th June - positive feedback from Hertfordshire who were in attendance.
<b>Strengthen corporate parenting for children in care and care leavers</b>	<p>Corporate Parenting session for Exec Members took place on 12th June, with 2 sessions held (afternoon &amp; twilight) held to maximise attendance. Approx 30 Exec Members attended in total. The session for our Exec Team was delivered on 19th May. External review of Care Leavers Service led by Mark Riddell took place on 30th/31st May. Workshops to develop Local Offer for Care Leavers have now been confirmed to take place in September.</p> <p>DWP has been reviewed by the service and is pending final DCS approval.</p> <p>Children in Care Council - an average of 6-10 young people attend each session, and 3 young people have attended the Care Leavers forum. We are currently looking at how we increase participation within the Care Leavers forum as engagement is not as good as CICC. There are CYP that attend CICC that are care leavers but prefer to remain in CICC and not move to the Care Leavers Forum. This is a further area of development within the service</p>
<b>Launch of East Bury family hub and scope of scaled-up model including review of council early help offer</b>	<p>Building work is now underway and part completed. Due for completion end of July possibly beginning of August.</p> <p>Meeting arranged with strategic execs to review estates across neighbourhoods to look at the possibility of a venue for Radcliffe. The children's network and leadership team is starting to meet in Radcliffe over summer to develop the approach of neighbourhood family working there.</p> <p>The data and impact of team around the school has been reviewed and there is evidence of impact with over 70% schools now using a team around approach. A small internal restructure in early help is being progressed to re-shape the teams in response to the review and move to a team around approach to more of team around place approach which reflects the family hub approach and wider PSR.</p>
<b>Rebuild the early years universal offer</b>	A small delivery board is now established and meeting and has a bespoke plan for EYs linked to project safety valve. This sits within the wider Starting Well and Early Help plan

	<p>which reports into the Childrens Strategic Partnership Board. The family offer being developed through the work of the family hub is focused on developing the early years universal offer. Additionally the restructure in EYs has built back a small cohort of dedicated EYs offer to support delivery.</p>
<b>Delivery of PSV plan</b>	<p>DSG Management Plan has largely been completed and is currently being amended following first review by the DfE, pending final submission on July 18th, which includes full financial modelling plan.</p> <p>Revised PSV Delivery Board has been constituted and met and refreshed governance (across PSV and SEND) has been signed off by the CSPB.</p> <p>Finance panels are now in place, with senior representation from the service, finance and commissioning.</p> <p>Desktop reviews of all out of borough EHCPs have begun, with a focus on children at educational transition points.</p> <p>Refreshed delivery plan is in place.</p>
<b>SEND transformation &amp; improvement</b>	<p>JSNA has been refreshed and is available online, with conclusions refreshed and agreed via the SEND Board. Joint Commissioning Strategy has been agreed.</p> <p>Graduated approach training has been developed and shared with schools, but the formal delivery to SENCOs is scheduled is for the start of the school year, and is an ongoing 2 year plan supported by Manchester University EP Service.</p> <p>Revised EHCP Process in place.</p> <p>JSNA outcome framework is drafted.</p> <p>SALT review (balanced system) complete and this has resulted in 2 additional SALT posts.</p> <p>Short breaks consultation now deferred to September following advice from CDC who felt better to wait until after Summer break.</p> <p>14-25 project board up and running with agreed ToR.</p> <p>Agreed timeline for consultation and delivery of new offer.</p>
<b>Improve proportion of schools that are good or better</b>	<p>Well attended Headteacher conference with a focus on educational research and school improvement. The trajectory of improvement has continued, 83% of Bury primary children attended a good or better school in May 2021, and now 91% of primary children attend a good or better school. In addition, there has been an improvement in proportion of good or better secondary schools with 65% of our secondary pupils now attending a good or better school, an improvement from 46% earlier in the year. Three</p>

	<p>secondary schools inspected have had their inspection reports published this quarter. Hazelwood Secondary school and St Gabriels High School have been judged to be good schools after being judged inadequate and Parrenthorn High School is now good previously judged to Require Improvement.</p> <p>Academisation Strategy. Presentation given to Bury Governors association. The Strategic Education partnership has agreed the principles of school-to-school support including for those schools with a Directive Academy order. Five schools have a Directive Academy order; the North West Advisory Board have agreed eight academy orders for converting academies, including six schools who were formerly part of the Beacon Alliance and have been successful in the establishment of the Collective Learning Partnership Mutli-Academy Trust.</p>
<p><b>Ensure increased effectiveness of education statutory functions so as to increase attendance, reduce exclusions and improve efficacy of safeguarding around CME &amp; EHE</b></p>	<p>The consultation has concluded, and final structure is agreed</p> <p>Virtual school HT conference taking place on 13th July.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved attendance</li> </ul> <p>Improving attendance has been a focus of Children's Social Care Teaching Tuesday and the Virtual School Head conference. Over 150 delegates attending an inspiring conference focusing on inclusion including attendance. Attendance has also been a focus of Childrens Engagement Events. A new lead for the Attendance and Exclusions has taken up position this quarter and attendance is at national average. Improving attendance and particularly reducing Persistent absence is a key priority as is reducing exclusions. Following the publication of the exclusion protocol including a toolkit and discussions with Headteacher groups on attendance and exclusions there has been a 25% reduction in permanent exclusions this academic year.</p>
<p><b>Ensure skills strategy is in place and impacting on most vulnerable</b></p>	<p>Forum has met twice and will continue to meet 6-weekly (pausing over Summer). Consulting with partners is underway, we have formed sub-groups and linking in with BGI on the economic strategy.</p>

<p><b>Ensure sufficiency of high quality school places</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report to Cabinet 12 July requesting approval to enter into Pre-Construction Services Agreements relating to the expansion of Millwood and the adaptations required for Spurr House. Feasibility studies being undertaken regarding possible alternative sites for Spring Lane PRU pending Spurr House completion</li> <li>• Special Free School 1 (secondary ASC) – DfE/Shaw Trust to confirm opening date of new school</li> <li>• Special Free School 2 (Secondary SEMH) – DfE confirmed sponsor and will commission site feasibility studies. Council to agree provisional terms for lease of site.</li> </ul> <p>• Radcliffe School build commences. DfE has confirmed a provisional opening date of September 2024. The approval letter from that the Secretary of State confirms that the department is planning for the school to open on a permanent basis on Spring Lane, Radcliffe initially on a temporary basis in September 2024 on the same site.</p> <p>This confirmation is subject to the necessary planning permission being obtained for both the temporary and permanent accommodation. Following the approval letter we have been granted permission to confirm to prospective parents and others that the provisional opening date and site have been agreed with the department. This approval is an important milestone to opening the school</p> <p>Morgan Sindall continue to develop the design – expect to complete to RIBA stage 3 within the next few weeks. This will include an updated programme. Public engagement on design prior to planning – Star identifying venues. Meeting with elected members &amp; MP. Largely online engagement but with material available through the regeneration office. Dependent upon time, inclusion within Radcliffe newsletter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On track for planning submission 11th August – two applications – modular and permanent build.</li> </ul>
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**BGI**

<p><b>Priority</b></p>	<p><b>Q1 Update</b></p>
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<p><b>Bury Town Centre Masterplan</b></p>	<p>Bury Flexi Hall - The scheme's technical designs (RIBA 4) and associated cost estimates were issued by Vinci to the Council last Friday (7th July '23). These are now being reviewed by the Council and being discussed at the Regeneration Board at its meetings on 18th July and 3rd August. The Planning application for the scheme is due to be considered by Planning Committee at the end of August. The fit out works at 12 Princess Parade (the vacant Mega Bet unit) which will be temporary home for the Bury Markets Team, is due to be completed over the next couple of weeks. The Market Team is due to move out of its old offices mid-August in readiness for the building's demolition beginning early January 2024. The Flexi Hall will be built in this location. Further Bury Market Trader and public engagement is currently being planned and due to take place later in August and September. Dates are still to be confirmed, and expected to involve public drop in sessions in the Market (these will be along similar lines as the successful drop in sessions held earlier in January 2023). A meeting with Bury Market Traders Association is taking place on 9th August to discuss the engagement plans.</p>
<p><b>Borough Transportation Strategy</b></p>	<p>Consultation finished on strategy at the end of June. TfGM colleagues working on OBC work - but not actually procured consultants yet.</p>
<p><b>UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) - Communities &amp; Place (E1, E3, E6) (Saving BGI 1)</b></p>	<p>Whitefield - A visit took place by The High Streets Task Force on 23rd June 2023 to support development of the Town Plan. It's expected that a first draft for further consultation will be ready for the end September 2023 Ramsbottom - Focus consultants have just finished a piece of work funded by Evergreen Surplus that is looking at the market chambers and civic hall buildings being transformed into an enterprise centre/business space for local businesses, including indoor events space. Further consideration of the public space proposals in the plan (including Square Street) is in progress. Bury Town Centre Public Realm - Concept designs in progress for development of Lion Gardens as sensory garden/performance space.</p>
<p><b>UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) - SME Prioritisation (E22) (Saving BGI 1)</b></p>	<p>Focus Consultants appointed to develop draft feasibility study for Enterprise Centre. Options for relocation of library drafted. Revised programme shared with GMCA. Surveys instructed - dates to be agreed.</p>

<b>Town Hall Modernisation</b>	Early consultation complete. LK Group preparing tender brief for works to RIBA stage 2. Surveys commissioned to include H&S assessment work. Report scheduled for Sept cabinet
<b>Business Space Development</b>	Bury Business Centre & Ramsbottom Enterprise Centre - Draft feasibility reports received and under review.
<b>Elton Site</b>	The PFE Examination had to re-open the hearing sessions, which has pro-longed the process and progress of the plan in terms of adoption. However, Panel's initial reporting indicates that the plan will be found sound with some modifications.
<b>New Building Control Regulations</b>	Building Control service still engaging regionally and nationally but issues within the Government in terms of secondary legislation still to go through parliament. Current implementation date is still April next year (but need to be prepared in Oct this year). But lack of understanding / asks is a concern within the industry. HSE still indicating that the dates will remain but may be that the dates are pushed back given lack of clarity at this late stage.
<b>Housing development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Street (132 apartments, 92 affordable) contracts exchanged. Planning approved June 2023,</li> <li>• Seedfield (84 new homes, including 21 affordable homes) planning approved June 2023</li> </ul> <p>Homeless complex needs options assessment in progress Former Police station Care home for adults with complex needs, £1.275M capital receipt. Cabinet approved sale June 2023</p> <p>Fletcher Fold (44 new supported homes) preferred Registered Provider selected, approval in progress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wheatfields (30 new homes) completion December 2024</li> <li>• Willow Street -13 supported housing complex needs – Full planning submitted April 2023 determination expected Aug 2023</li> </ul> <p>William Kemp Heaton (43 new supported homes) Planning approved June 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ELPM Island site (27 new homes) on site</li> <li>• The Brownfield Land Release Funding 2 launched January 2023; bid for £1.73M the outcome of the bid is expected September for @148 new homes at Pyramid Park, &amp; Townside Close, including 24 homes for older people.</li> <li>• Young People and Complex Needs in progress</li> </ul> <p>General commentary, significant progress has been made to progress delivery of the Housing Growth Programme.</p>

## Corporate Core

Priority	Q1 Update
<p><b>Enabling support to deliver departmental priorities</b></p>	<p><b>Anti Poverty</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Third partnership Cost of Living summit held in May which informed submission to DWP on Bury's allocation of Household Support Funding for 23/24 including continuation of Free School Meals during June half term. Let's Help In Tough Times materials updated to reflect local/national offer.</li> <li>• Review of Money Advice Referral Tool with Greater Manchester Poverty Action</li> <li>• Bury Market became a Healthy Start voucher destination</li> <li>• Veterans and Cadets community fund launched</li> </ul> <p><b>PSR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Service Leadership Teams meeting in every neighbourhood with monthly updates to PSR Steering Group</li> <li>• Promotion of voluntary sector and volunteering through Team Bury away day in Bury Art Museum, Big Help Out through over the Coronation Weekend and promotion of national volunteer week</li> <li>• Joint engagement at Radcliffe and Prestwich carnivals including with Six Town Housing, GMP, Public Health and Calico</li> <li>• East Bury Family Hub network developed</li> <li>• Joint community safety activity within Operation Avro in April and Team Bury ASB session in June</li> <li>• Development of Let's Do It Challenge</li> <li>• Continuation of Improving Adult Lives pilot and extension to East neighbourhood.</li> </ul> <p><b>Education Transformation</b> - Restructure consultation complete and implementation commenced</p> <p><b>Children's Social Care Transformation</b> - First 4 International Social Workers commenced in post</p>
<p><b>Inclusion Strategy</b></p>	<p>Inclusion working group engagement on care leaver's year of focus as well as dedicated Staff Brief and SMF sessions. Approach to BAME and Disabled VCSE group engagement agreed in principle with VCFA</p> <p>Contribution to GM work on local authority workforce representation with plan submitted to GM WLTT</p> <p>Some delays given vacancy in EDI Manager post. - Appointment made and will start in post in August</p>
<p><b>HR Improvement Programme (savings Core 1)</b></p>	<p>New Occupational Health service in implementation</p> <p>HR restructure consultation complete and moving to implementation</p> <p>Itrent go-live with holiday pay and onboarding (including support to elections). - Expenses module in final testing</p>

<b>People Strategy Development (LET'S)</b>	Apprenticeship Strategy refresh agreed Pulse Survey 4 delivered, outcomes communicated and plan for 23/24 agreed On track to launch LET'S Challenge including opportunity to gather feedback to inform People Strategy
<b>Digital Customer Transformation</b>	website - leisure, Bury Market microsites launched. Bury Safeguarding Partnership ready for go live. Visit Bury and Bury Means Business content drafted. One Account - initially for online reporting of bins only. Now extended to 19 other services. Reception - new furniture in situ and pilot with Six Town Housing underway.
<b>Comms Strategy Refresh</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comms, Engagement and Marketing restructure drafted ready for S188 in August (savings Core 1)</li> <li>• Annual campaign plan of communications underway based on corporate plan</li> <li>• Updated council branding implemented including brand guidelines, brand framework and audit / replacement of old branding</li> </ul>
<b>Delivery of Corporate Savings</b>	Workforce Savings (annual leave purchase) delivered HR service savings delivery on-track

## Health & Care

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Q1 Update</b>
<b>Modernizing Learning Disabilities (savings OCO 4 &amp; 5)</b>	Transitions Programme Board established, and new Transitions Clinic process commenced. Disability employment forum rescheduled to Q2 to strengthen employer involvement. High needs review training for staff completed and team established.
<b>Delivering Excellence in Social Work (saving OCO 16)</b>	Policy portals live with all relevant policies available to staff. CHC training for ASC staff completed. CHC customer reconciliation underway. Review of existing lived experience networks underway.
<b>Superb Intermediate Care (saving OCO7)</b>	Training needs analysis completed, blended roles implemented. Assistive Tech service specification and outcomes framework approved. GP Fed are now funding the Staying Well service with single line management from Bury Council. East PCN have not signed up to Staying Well. Contractual arrangements in process. Remodelled DFG funding and Policy approved at Cabinet. Physical Disabilities network to be picked up when EDI Manager.

<b>Making Safeguarding Everybody's Business</b>	Relevant policies uploaded on to new published Policy Portal. Safeguarding procedures in final draft and audits in place for DoLS. Safeguarding annual report first draft underway.
<b>Local and Enterprising Care Market (saving OCO 1, 2 &amp; 8)</b>	Self-assessment of the market shaping statutory guidance drafted. Shared Lives publicity drive underway to recruit into the scheme with real-time tracking in place for Council and Persona. Housing scheme for 3 complex people opened. S22 Care Act medication visit analysis completed with a report drafted for ASC SLT.
<b>CQC Assessment Readiness</b>	Peer Challenge recommendations reviewed with ASC SLT and Policy Advisory Group briefed. Updated LGA/ADASS self-assessment recently published and being reviewed and project plan in preparation.
<b>Persona</b>	Options being explored with Persona incl. new build extra care services on an existing site.
<b>Reducing the life expectancy gap by focusing on preventing and reducing the impact of the 3 key contributors CVD, Cancer and Liver Disease.</b>	A plan of delivery has been co-designed and agreed between the GP Fed and public health which will increase secondary prevention working with all GP Practices across Bury. The wellness structure and priorities have been developed and the role out of the new way of working particularly linking with PCNs has begun. The first version of the JSNA has been completed and it is currently being socialised with all partners to ensure ongoing developments can be made to meet partners needs.
<b>Narrowing the school readiness gap.</b>	Extensive work has been ongoing with the NCA to understand the current position and work up a proposition business case based on community needs and ensuring we meet statutory requirements. A range of options are now being finalised which once agreed will go to the relevant boards for decision.
<b>Health and Care Transformation - place based leadership of the Bury Integrated Care Partnership and the particular NHS priorities that impact on Council Corporate plan priorities.</b>	
<b>Intermediate Care sizing</b>	Funding secured and lead officer commenced
<b>Complex Care programme</b>	ADAM utilisation on going - joint programme of work on complex care in development. Joint funding agreement between council children's and CHC team being finalised.
<b>Leadership of Portfolio of programmes and management of the Locality Board and IDCB</b>	Paper to Locality Board 3/7/23 confirming this - fully approved.

<b>GP Services</b>	Bury GP Strategy, and alignment to national and GM blueprint presented to Locality Board 3/7/23. Work on going with partners around Whitefield.
<b>Public Service Capacity alignment to 5 footprints</b>	Family hubs confirmed as predicated on neighbourhood footprints. Model of neighbourhood working as it relates to wider public services on going. Public Service leadership teams in each neighbourhood underway.
<b>Programme of Risk Stratification and targeted/preventative intervention</b>	Initial mapping of risk stratification developed for consideration at July PSR Board (7/7)
<b>Community Asset appreciation and investment</b>	Mapping of the different models of strengths based working across all partners not commenced - although as part of Lets Do it the Lets Do It experience in the summer has been made available to key partner agencies
<b>Contribution to the Childrens Services Improvement Plan and PSV Recovery Plan</b>	
<b>Childrens Health Services Contribution to Childrens Directorate priorities</b>	Extract of children's improvement board plan and SEND improvement plan relating to NHS services has been developed and is being implemented. Paper on first 1000 days endorsed by CSPB and Start Well sub group asked to co-ordinate - including links established with maternity services.

## Finance

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Q1 Update</b>
<b>Restructure &amp; Innovation (savings Fin 2)</b>	The restructure is completed and the review planned and will happen during Q2. The review was to take place 6 months after the 'go live' date in January & February

<b>Staff development &amp; training</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18 staff have now registered for formal training but in some incidences this does not commence until September.</li> <li>• The review of qualifications will be undertaken during the review of the restructure with work done to future proof the service</li> <li>• Bitesize has continues with focus on forecasting</li> <li>• A further 6 staff have signed up for the management development course next intake</li> <li>• 4 finance modules have been delivered the most recent was 10th July. feedback has been extremely positive from this.</li> <li>• all apprentices have been allocated a mentor/buddy, manager and are nearly completed their inductions.</li> </ul>
<b>Debt Recovery</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Council Tax and Business Rates Debt has collection targets set.</li> <li>• Review of all debt has been undertaken with Reports written</li> <li>• Review and proposed changes to the constitution has been undertaken to allow for the writing off of debt outside of quarterly reporting</li> </ul>
<b>Process review</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• review of all processes planed for Q2 due to staff illness</li> <li>• services received copies of annual budgets and commenced forecasting.</li> <li>• Work has commenced on standard pack of budget statements but has been halted due to U4 issues which need to be considered before work commences again</li> <li>• Bitesize on forecasting has been undertaken</li> </ul>
<b>Recharges</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• lack of capacity has seen this moved to Q2-Q3</li> </ul>
<b>Procurement function review</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of procurement function has commenced and report is currently being drafted.</li> </ul>
<b>Development of Unit 4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and consideration of our finance system has been at the forefront of many of our discussions.</li> <li>• Support for the BAU system and the development phase is being considered.</li> </ul>
<b>Production of Annual Accounts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft statement of accounts were produced before the 31May deadline</li> </ul>
<b>Revenues and Benefits Service</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant improvements have been made to the processes and systems within Revenues &amp; Benefits including significant reductions in outstanding post</li> </ul>

<b>Raise profile of Risk Management Across the Organisation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk Manager has attended SLT for both finance and the wider organisation and ran workshops.</li> </ul>
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## Operations

Priority	Q1 Update
<b>Health and Safety Review – Whole Operations Approach</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Protection, Architects and Admin Buildings: Full section meetings with focus on H&amp;S including review of Risk Assessments and training.</li> <li>• Attending Bury Water Safety Partnership (Leisure and Parks &amp; Countryside)</li> <li>• A further ROSPA report being discussed to consider other water bodies in Bury.</li> <li>• Separate meeting between Leisure and Education to discuss number of schools and their pupils achieving statutory 25m swimming requirements and further analysis and work to be done in July onwards.</li> <li>• Signage being installed at key water body sites assessed in the initial ROSPA report.</li> </ul>
<b>Carbon Neutrality 2038 Programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phase 2 - Installation work is going well, though there have been interruptions on some of the bigger schemes such as Manchester Road.</li> <li>• Phase 3 - The tender process is in its final stages with the contract being awarded shortly.</li> <li>• An onsite survey, cross referenced against the current database, is nearing completion.</li> <li>• The 2nd Quarter lanterns have been delivered so that the successful bidder can start work without delay.</li> <li>• A project manager has been identified from the TfGM Framework and a meeting will take place shortly to discuss requirements.</li> </ul>
<b>Parks, Countryside &amp; Outdoor Sports</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contract awarded for Skate Park and works due to be completed in early October.</li> <li>• Green Flag Park judging complete - awaiting outcome.</li> <li>• ToB Steering Group established to plan this year's event on 3rd September.</li> <li>• 2nd stage tender and planning conditions for Radcliffe 3G are now complete - contract to be awarded by end of July.</li> </ul>



<b>Leisure Transformation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Leisure MIS went live on 17/04, website went live on 28/06 and the access control went live on 05/07. New App for customers to go live end of August.</li> <li>• New front of house model to be fully implemented.</li> <li>• Decommissioning plan established for Radcliffe Leisure Centre and in the process of finalising interim plans before any wider public announcement, also connected via the Regen Board.</li> </ul>
<b>Wellness Model</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wellness Strategy finalised.</li> <li>• Funding secured for proof of concept for the next 18 months.</li> <li>• Ongoing conversations with Sport England about the evaluation of the proof of concept.</li> <li>• S188 meeting scheduled for 06/07 regarding proposed restructure.</li> <li>• Full savings achieved for 23/24.</li> <li>• Meeting on 31/07 - site visit to LiveWire in Warrington to consider Wellness Centre Models.</li> </ul>
<b>Annual tree maintenance schedule (Year 1 of 5)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removal of dangerous trees commenced across the borough.</li> </ul>
<b>Highways Improvement Plan and CRSTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HIS3 Schemes completed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bye Road</li> <li>- Ribble Drive</li> <li>- Gigg Lane</li> <li>- St Anns Road</li> <li>- Ringley Road</li> <li>- Wash Lane</li> <li>- Turton Road</li> <li>- Hathaway Road</li> <li>- Linksway Drive</li> <li>- Wensleydale Close</li> <li>- Burndale Drive</li> <li>- Bleasdale Close</li> <li>- Manchester Road</li> <li>- Hollins Brow</li> <li>- Bury New Road</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Introduction of a Clean air zone for Greater Manchester</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial evidence submitted and TfGM working to provide further clarification on specific issues.</li> </ul>

<b>Review of current Architects and Admin Buildings structure and creation of a new Facilities Management Model</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design for a new FM model to support the management of 26x buildings still in progress.</li> <li>• All building compliance data for the 26x buildings organised and saved in M365.</li> <li>• Building Managers currently in the process or completing compliance checklist.</li> <li>• Further work required to develop the detail in relation to requirements for building condition surveys across the 26x buildings.</li> <li>• STH are working on the detail around how the capital programme could be managed going forward using the National Housing Federation Schedule of Rates.</li> </ul>
<b>Enforcement of Housing standards (damp &amp; mould compliance)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment and appointment of PRS Enforcement Mat Cover (due to start on 3/7/23).</li> <li>• Commencement of (2+1 year) Housing Enforcement Officer Apprentice - [Ends Apr 26]</li> <li>• Additional staff should help reduce response times to complaints.</li> <li>• Work continues on the transition and implementation of new database.</li> </ul>
<b>Commercial Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attended Town Centre Board meetings.</li> <li>• Implementation of the Healthy Start Initiative in progress.</li> <li>• Bury Market occupancy levels remain high.</li> <li>• Starting to plan a Food and Drink Festival as part of the Culture Strategy.</li> </ul>
<b>Commercial Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing monitoring of school meals and catering budgets.</li> <li>• Continuing with roll out of school Grid IT Project.</li> <li>• Review of Process Re-engineering budget saving underway with £50K savings achieved through alternative procurement.</li> </ul>
<b>Public Protection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial engagement with GMP and agreed commitment for operational officers to meet to confirm process flow for use of GMP Powers</li> </ul> <p>GMP used s.61 powers successfully to remove encampment within 24 hours of reported ASB issues.</p>

<b>Recycling, Waste Management and Transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following approval to restructure waste and recycling, vacant positions have been advertised and will be interviewed and appointed to by the end of July.</li> <li>• Work is still underway to finalise waste and recycling routes.</li> <li>• The in-cab technology has been procured and we are now in initial talks with the provider on next steps.</li> <li>• Street Cleansing restructure has been drafted, job descriptions are currently being refreshed.</li> <li>• Communication to staff is improving. A monthly bulletin is being pulled together to go out to all waste and street cleansing staff.</li> <li>• Review of comms to residents is ongoing.</li> <li>• Progress on the transport audit has been made, awaiting additional support on finance and unit 4.</li> <li>• Awaiting design for litter bags and high-vis for volunteer groups.</li> <li>• Agreed with Bolton Council to undertake some repairs on their behalf. Awaiting a start date.</li> <li>• Monthly monitoring of waste budget is ongoing.</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Successful launch of Cultural Strategy at Bury Market.</li> <li>• Funding bid of £500K awarded from UKSPF NP to update</li> </ul>

### 3 Additional reports

- 3.1 Attached as an appendix to this report are a summary of Cabinet decisions and urgent decisions taken since the last ordinary council meeting.

#### List of Background Papers:-

None identified

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**(i) Urgent Cabinet Decision – August 2023  
Re. Approval of contract renewal for Civica Open Revenues system**

**Decision taken:**

To renew the contract with the existing provider and maintain the existing system.

*Full details including costs are included in a confidential report.*

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

The cost of the renewal has been budgeted for, and all other procurement requirements met. It is necessary to expediate this process to alleviate any potential financial and reputational impact to the Council.

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## **GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 JULY 2023**

### **THE COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL POSITION - 2022/23 OUTTURN**

1. Councillor Richard Gold, Cabinet Member for Finance and Communities, presented the report which set out the final financial position for the Council for 2022/23, both revenue and capital and provided an analysis of the variances, both under and overspending. It was noted that the Treasury Management Strategy appended to the report would be presented to Full Council, in accordance with regulation.
2. Members noted that at quarter 3 the revenue budget overspend was forecast to be £3.958m therefore the financial position has improved by £1.629m during the last quarter of the financial year. The largest individual departmental overspend was on Children and Young People around agency costs for social care and safeguarding, an increase in demand for children's residential placements including Independent Foster Agency costs and increased costs for home-to school transport.
3. Members discussed the challenging context nationally and noted that capital developments were progressing and would be delivered but required reprogramming. Councillor Lucy Smith highlighted the challenges in Children's Services, and advised on a number of initiatives to improve outcomes for young people would secure future savings.
4. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

### **COMMISSIONING NEW MENTAL HEALTH HOUSING**

5. Councillor Tamoor Tariq, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, presented the report which sought approval to commission the necessary care services for two new mental health supported housing schemes. These had been supported by the Mental Health Housing Group, and would offer 'step-down' supported accommodation to support people in their mental health recovery. Members voiced their support for this and noted its close links to the Housing Strategy.
6. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

### **PROPOSALS TO ALTER THE UPPER AGE RANGE AT MANCHESTER MESIVTA SECONDARY SCHOOL**

7. Councillor Lucy Smith, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, presented the report which sought approval for a prescribed alteration to change the age range of Manchester Mesivta Secondary School.
8. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

### **TENDER FOR INCLUSION ON BURY COUNCIL'S FLEXIBLE PURCHASING SYSTEM FOR ALTERNATIVE PROVISION (OF EDUCATION)**

9. Councillor Lucy Smith, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, presented the report which sought approval to tender for the re-design of the Alternative Provision Offer for children and young people in Bury. The new supplier framework and directory of provision was required for September 2023 so that the Council and

schools can refer to high quality provision with choice; this required the tender to go live and be evaluated over the summer 23.

10. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

#### **CHILDREN'S SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

12. Councillor Lucy Smith, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, presented the report which provided an update on three capital projects: Spurr House, Millwood Special School, and Specialist Resourced Provision Units.

13. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

#### **PROJECT SAFETY VALVE UPDATE AND DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT DEFICIT RECOVERY**

14. Councillor Lucy Smith, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, presented the report which provided an update on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficit position and the next steps required to reduce the deficit through General Fund contributions. In response to questions, Members confirmed their confidence in the delivery, despite financial pressures, and discussed the issues from the national system and need for reforms to ease pressure in SEND services.

15. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

#### **BURY CORPORATE PLAN 2023/24**

16. Councillor Tahir Rafiq, Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR, presented the report which provided details of the Council's corporate priorities for 2023/24, aligned to the planning framework set out in the "3Rs" commitment of Response, Recovery and Renewal. It detailed some of the key deliverables by quarter and the key performance indicators that are monitored throughout the year. Members noted this had been considered at Overview and Scrutiny Committee and, in response to questions, it was noted that financial monitoring would be included in quarterly monitoring reports and that savings were a collective responsibility for Cabinet Members and for Executive Officers.

17. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

#### **RESTRUCTURE OF THE HR DEPARTMENT - APPROVAL OF REDUNDANCY COST**

18. Councillor Tahir Rafiq, Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR, presented the report regarding the proposed redundancy of the post of Strategic Lead (Human Resources) as part of the restructure of the wider HR Service.

19. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

#### **HEALTH AND SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT & POLICY**

20. Councillor Tahir Rafiq, Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR, presented the report which set out key health and safety activity over the 2022/23 financial year alongside a summary of reported health and safety incidents, and proposed a set of Health and Safety Priorities for the 2023/24 financial year. He also advised that, as part of the annual reporting process, the Council's Health and Safety Policy had also been reviewed in-line with HSE Best Practice and was recommended for approval.



Both the Annual Report and the Policy had been considered by the Health and Safety Joint Consultative Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

21. In response to Members' questions, Councillor Rafiq confirmed his confidence that learning from incidents was being disseminated effectively, and that an external review of Health and Safety practices had been carried out, the results of which would serve to strengthen this learning. Members thanked officers for the reports and agreed that a health and safety culture was being developed to ensure officers remained empowered to report incidents and near misses.
22. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

#### **RENEWAL OF THE COUNCILS CORPORATE WATER SUPPLY CONTRACT**

23. Councillor Tahir Rafiq, Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR, presented the report which sought approval to use the YPO water supply framework for the period 1 October 2023 to 24 October 2024, and further to enter into YPO's new water supply contract for the period 2024 to 2028, once a new framework has been established.
24. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

#### **ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE (EVCI) TO SUPPORT RESIDENTS WITHOUT ACCESS TO OFF-STREET PARKING**

25. Councillor Alan Quinn, Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Operations, presented the report which sought approval for a procurement exercise to appoint a supplier to install, operate, and maintain a network of EVCI aimed at supporting residents who do not have access to off-street parking.
26. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

#### **PRESTWICH VILLAGE REGENERATION - PROGRESS UPDATE AND DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

27. Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth, presented the report which set out the general principles and direction of travel set out in the Draft Phase 1 Development Plan, Interim Partnership Business Plan, and the RIBA Stage 2 Masterplan and supports further development of these proposals. These documents were not final and will evolve alongside design and business case development activity and further engagement work. In response to questions, Members noted that this was a complicated project and would require decant and alternative provision of businesses, but confirmed their confidence in the timescale noting that the final stage of design development (RIBA Stage 4) was anticipated for October 2024.
28. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

#### **MILL GATE SHOPPING CENTRE & ESTATE: JOINT VENTURE UPDATE AND DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES**

20. Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth, presented the report regarding engagement with local stakeholders to communicate

the emerging development vision prior to further design development activity. This will be based on a Strategic Regeneration Framework (SRF) approach which provides a greater level of structure and flexibility to govern the development process for Mill Gate as a whole when compared with a phased ('plot by plot') approach.

21. Members discussed the long timeframe for the project, noting this would enable extended consultation to ensure residents and businesses were committed to the development. The Mill Gate was a successful development and the Council were looking to make improvements to ensure that success would continue in the future, rather than there being problems to fix.
22. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

#### **RADCLIFFE HUB PROJECT - MAIN WORKS CONTRACT**

23. Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth, presented the report regarding the works packages that, in accordance with the Radcliffe Hub project programme, now need to be instructed via the Main Works Contract.
24. Cabinet agreed to recommend approval to Council.

#### **THE BEE NETWORK - IMPROVING GREATER MANCHESTER'S TRANSPORT GOVERNANCE**

25. Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth, presented the report which sought approval of new GMCA governance arrangements to enable a more coordinated and integrated approach to transport governance. It was noted that this approach would amplify Bury's views and ensure that Councils had more direct control over the development and improvement of transport in Greater Manchester.
26. Cabinet agreed to recommend approval to Council.

No.	Party	Questioner	Question	Response	Response
1	<b>Con</b>	Cllr L McBriar	Please could the relevant Cabinet Member advise as to why Bury Council did not adopt the SEND Code of Practice when it was published in 2014 and only adopted the code in 2022?	Cllr Smith	<p>While Bury was a somewhat late adopter of the SEND Code of Practice, progress against some of the recommendations was recognised in the 2019 revisit with further action progress needed within joint commissioning and the Education, Health and Care Process.</p> <p>Since 2021 Bury Council and partners have been consistently working to ensure Bury's compliance with the SEND Code of Practice. A key pillar of the Code of Practice is that we work collaboratively with parents and carers in developing systems and service so the full implementation of all areas of the code of practice require detailed coproduction. This work has been accelerated since 2022. An example of this is the Graduated Approach and the revised Local offer. The Graduated Approach is recognised as an example of good practice with GM. Over the last 2 years we have been systematically embedding the SEND Code of practice so that we are now compliant. Examples of this work include the introduction of the Banding Criteria, full rebuilding of the EHCP Teams, development of SEND Support offer and more recently the full restructure of the education Dept.</p> <p>We are now in a position where can see the benefits of all this work in terms of our data e.g. timeliness of assessment being up to 70% for all new assessment within 20-weeks from a position in 2021 of 27%</p>
2	<b>Labour</b>	Cllr E Moss	The cabinet recently approved the Bury Economic Development Strategy. Can the Leader outline to council why this strategy is so important for our borough?	Cllr Morris	<p>The Economic Development Strategy forms a vital part of the Borough's response to the economic impacts of the pandemic and the current cost of living crises and has been developed in partnership with stakeholders to articulate a shared set of priorities and actions to address both the economic challenges but also the economic opportunities identified for Bury. It drives forward priorities around the three pillars of Place, People and Business and the Economy and will help to deliver the ambitions of our Let's Do It! Strategy. It is progress on these actions and priorities over the next decade that will form the basis for assessing the impact of the EDS. Some of these actions will be intensifying local focus of existing activity, e.g., delivery of externally funded projects, delivery of town centre plans and further regeneration activity across the borough. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund projects and future devolved activity through the GM Trailblazer deal will also bring forward new actions for delivery. It is important to acknowledge that other strategic plans will have invaluable contributions to achieving the cross cutting workstreams identified within the EDS such as our Housing Strategy, the Climate Action Strategy, the Transport Strategy and the Places for Everyone Plan.</p>

3	<b>Labour</b>	Cllr G Staples-Jones	Could the Leader update this council on the improvements made to Chapelfield Nature Reserve?	Cllr Quinn	<p>Earlier this year the Council applied for and was awarded a grant of £40K from the Greater Manchester Environment Fund.</p> <p>The grant, together with £27k of Section 106 money will be used to create new footpaths, install a boardwalk to cover boggy walkways, treat invasive Japanese Knotweed and undertake woodland management works. There are also plans to repair culverts carrying the stream, remove debris, plant more fruit trees in an orchard, and make the entrance ways more welcoming to visitors.</p> <p>The works will be tendered in the next few months and it is hoped to complete the project this winter.</p> <p>Part of the project will be delivered by volunteers and anybody who would like to help out should contact the Parks and Countryside Team.</p>
4	<b>Con</b>	Cllr J Rydeheard	Can the relevant Cabinet Member please provide the number of trees that are in the backlog to be pruned or removed?	Cllr Staples-Jones	<p>We currently have a backlog of 512 highway and parks tree jobs. It is worth noting that between the months of April and October, due to trees being in leaf, approximately two-thirds of our complaints are generated, so this number should be near the annual peak. In this years budget we allocated an additional £125,000 to help manage the tree backlog and a further £50,000 to deal with trees that have succumbed to Ash Die Back. Thanks to this additional funding we have managed to reduce the backlog of high priority health and safety tree work by approximately 20%.</p>
5	<b>Radcliffe first</b>	Cllr M Smith	How many schools in Bury will be affected by the RAAC issue?	Cllr Smith	<p>The LA has provided information, advice and guidance to all schools and academies over the last two years. Amongst other things, this advised on the need to carry out visual inspections to verify the presence of RAAC. In addition, in late 2022, the LA commission intrusive surveys of all maintained and Voluntary Schools for which it is the responsible body. These surveys, completed by May 2023 confirmed that none of those schools had RAAC present. Trusts and Diocesan Authorities are the Responsible Bodies for Academies and Voluntary Aided Schools, and are required to report directly to the Department for Education. The LA has been made aware of two schools that were suspected of having RAAC, but have now been confirmed to be free from the material.</p>

6	Labour	Cllr J Grimshaw	Following the work that the Council undertook on developing a Race Equality Strategy what is the Council planning for Black History Month and how will this assist with wider community cohesion?	Cllr Gold	<p>During Black History Month in October will be raising the awareness of, and celebrating our local communities, with the most recent census data showing a doubling of black population over the past decade.</p> <p>The theme for Black History Month this year is Saluting Our Sisters. To mark the month a number of activities are being arranged including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Showcasing community organisations led by, and predominantly working with Black communities in Bury, including visits by senior officials within the Council</li> <li>• Bury Art Museum is hosting “AM I NOT A WOMAN AND A SISTER”, a film installation in partnership with national charity City Hearts.</li> <li>• Bury Libraries will have a special collection on Borrowbox</li> <li>• Derby High School are producing a pupil-led piece of work that will be displayed in school</li> <li>• The LGBTQI+ Forum has organised a special workshop focusing on hate crime against black LGBT people on 25th October 2023.</li> <li>• Promotion of the work of the Inclusive Public Services approach hosted by the Council which has a focus on inclusive recruitment and mutual mentoring.</li> <li>• The Met have a performance by Malawian performers Gasper Nali &amp; Michael Mountain.</li> </ul> <p>Information on events and the sharing of stories including from our Inclusion Working Group will be available on the Council’s website and promoted through community networks in the coming weeks.</p>
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7	<b>Labour</b>	Cllr I Rizvi	Can the Leader provide an update on the second phase of consultation Prestwich Village Regeneration Plans?	Cllr O'Brien	<p>The Council and Muse have launched a second community conversation on the future of Prestwich Village, unveiling new CGIs and an updated masterplan following record levels of engagement in the previous conversation earlier in the year.</p> <p>The CGIs and updated masterplan highlight how the joint venture has used community feedback from the first conversation to further shape the regeneration plans.</p> <p>The second phase consultation is now live and closes on Sunday 8th October 2023. There are plenty of opportunities for people to take part and have their say:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online questionnaire at <a href="http://www.yourprestwich.com">www.yourprestwich.com</a></li> <li>• Freepost questionnaire in the newsletter that is being delivered to all Prestwich addresses</li> <li>• Email <a href="mailto:info@yourprestwich.com">info@yourprestwich.com</a> or call 0800 689 1095</li> <li>• Write to 'Freepost HAVE YOUR SAY'</li> <li>• Drop-in sessions hosted by the team on Saturday 16 September 2023, 11am – 3pm and Wednesday 20 September 2023, 5pm – 8pm at Prestwich Library</li> <li>• A quiet hour is being held for residents that have neurodiverse conditions on Saturday 16 September 2023, 10am – 11am at Prestwich Library</li> <li>• Sign up for an online Q&amp;A at <a href="http://www.yourprestwich.com">www.yourprestwich.com</a> on Monday 25 September 2023, 6:30pm – 7:30pm where you can learn more about the plans and ask the project team questions</li> <li>• Follow on Instagram and Facebook: @YourPrestwich</li> </ul> <p>The Council and Muse are using the variety of consultation methods to ensure the consultation is as inclusive as possible.</p>
8	<b>Con</b>	Cllr D Vernon	It has been reported that Bury Council is seeking to install ANPR cameras at sites across the Borough and be given powers to enforce moving traffic offences. How would this be operated and what is the anticipated cost of setting up such a scheme and the staffing numbers and ongoing costs to run it?	Cllr O'Brien	<p>Bury Council is applying to the DfT for powers to enforce moving traffic offences. If we are granted these powers, it will allow us to enforce offences including entering a yellow box junction when the exit is not clear. Enforcement of this type of offence will improve road safety and traffic flows on the borough's highway network.</p> <p>A statutory six-week consultation is being held, which is due to end on 2nd October, details of which are available on our website.</p> <p>Subject to approval, moving traffic offence enforcement will be operated by our Parking Services Team. Staffing numbers and ongoing costs are yet to be determined. I should note that all GM districts are proposing to go ahead with this scheme.</p>

9	<b>Labour</b>	Cllr N Frith	I recently attended Burrs Live in Burrs Country Park. It was a brilliant event that showcased one of our boroughs best outdoor spaces and our fantastic cultural partners, with The Met organising the event and the ELR providing a stunning backdrop to the main stage. Can the Leader outline what role the council played in making this event happen?	Cllr Morris	<p>The Council funded the family and community elements of Burrs Live with £10k of UKSPF funding. This funded a family area called the campfire stage and the family tent. There was a family picnic for HAF families from the Sunnywood Project, storytelling, yoga, circus skills and live music for families. There was an opportunity to speak with individual families including feedback through the experience of autistic children on site. The family tent had storytelling, mask making and family theatre events.</p> <p>A range of Council services provided additional support including the Bury Art Museum which ran workshops on site and some of the UKSPF funding was used to create access packs to enable families with additional needs to take part. The Parks Team also supported by putting in some ground works, creating a road to enable heavy vehicles to cross the fields and worked with volunteers to cut back some of the more overgrown areas. They also organised the supply of woodchip to soak up some of the muddier areas and introduced The MET to suppliers and other stakeholders. The Event Advisory Group also provided support.</p>
10	<b>Labour</b>	Cllr G McGill	What has the Council delivered over the summer holidays to support families facing hardship due to the cost of living crisis and what is planned to support vulnerable residents planning for winter months?	Cllr Gold	<p>In addition to the ongoing provision of immediate hardship welfare support, over the summer months Bury Council, with our partners across the public and voluntary sector have continued to support household as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 6,900 young people received food provision weekly over the school summer holiday period alongside the opportunity to access 4 weeks of youth activity through the Holiday Activity Fund.</li> <li>• Opportunities have been promoted for community groups to apply for cost of living support, locally through Bury's own community grant scheme, National Lottery support and most recently through the ASDA Foundation.</li> <li>• Promotion of cost of living support through Six Town Housing Roadshows, at community events including the Mela, and engagement with Bury Older People's Network.</li> </ul> <p>In the coming months support, shaped through the partnership Anti Poverty Steering Group, will include an employment &amp; Skills bootcamp in Radcliffe; IT development sessions through Bury Adult Learning Centre; Community engagement sessions by Citizens Advice Bury through a dedicated neighbourhood based advisor; Delivery of face-to-face energy efficiency and retrofit advice, advice and a tailored Cost of Living Support showcase at Sedgley Children's Centre in partnership with the Jewel Foundation on 28th September</p>

11	<b>Con</b>	Cllr J Lancaster	Why are concerns of Councillors and residents in relation to planning applications not passed on to the Planning Inspectorate?	Cllr O'Brien	The Planning Inspectorate does not determine local planning applications and therefore representations on planning applications are not sent to the Planning Inspectorate. The determination of planning applications is the statutory function of the Council as the Local Planning Authority. The primary role of the Planning Inspectorate is to determine Planning Appeals when these are submitted against refusals / non-determination of planning applications and also to Examine statutory Development Plans, when these are submitted for consideration by an appellant. In both instances, all correspondence is provided to the Planning Inspectorate as part of these processes – including all representations made in respect of the applications or plans.
12	<b>Labour</b>	Cllr M Whitby	Can the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People provide the latest information on any school in Bury impacted by RAAC?	Cllr Smith	The LA has been pro-active in ensuring the safety of children and young people. Late last year it commissioned surveys for all Community Maintained and Voluntary Schools that has enabled the LA to confirm that RAAC is not present in any of those school. Trusts and Diocesan authorities have responsibility for Academies and Voluntary Controlled school. The LA has provided information, advice and guidance to those academies and schools. Whilst two of these schools were initially suspected of having RAAC, it has now been confirmed that there is no RAAC present.



13	<b>Labour</b>	Cllr D Green	Can the Leader update the council on potential changes to taxi and private hire licensing standards in Bury?	Cllr Morris	<p>Following extensive and ongoing engagement with the taxi trade, the Licensing Service have listened and sought approval to conduct a public consultation relating to considerations regarding revisions to Council Policy. On the 20 July 2023, the Licensing and Safety Committee considered a report relating to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy Revisions which requested permission to consult on specific policy revisions which would not have a detrimental impact on Public Safety. This included:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To modify the requirement for Operator stickers on private hire vehicles to replace all existing operator signage with new Passenger Side Windscreen signage (w10.5cm x h8.5cm) indicating operator, which must be updated and changed to reflect the operator.</li> <li>2. To remove the future requirement for bonnet stickers on private hire vehicles.</li> <li>3. To modify the requirement for the current rear passenger door sticker "Private hire vehicle (not a taxi) The driver can only take passengers who have pre-booked with this company" to be replaced with a new Council issued sticker which is to be displayed on the rear door of a private hire vehicle stating, "Private hire vehicle not insured unless pre booked with operator" (magnetic signage is not permitted).</li> <li>4. To modify the current knowledge test for the hackney carriage and private hire drivers.</li> <li>5. To modify the requirement from mandatory to advisory for the provision of a fire extinguisher and first aid kit and modify the Council's vehicle compliance testing manual.</li> <li>6. To remove the requirement for front plates on Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles and replace with Council issued windscreen signage which must be displayed at all times.</li> <li>7. To remove the pre-requisite requirement of driving standards assessment before making an application to the Licensing Authority.</li> <li>8. To introduce a re-application policy in relation to breaks in licence for the pre-requisites and Knowledge tests only.</li> </ol> <p>On 20 July 2023 the Licensing and Safety Committee noted the report and requested that Officers commence a public consultation on the considered policy revisions. A public consultation is currently taking place and commenced on 7 August 2023 and runs until 15 September 2023. Once completed and evaluated a report will be brought before members of the Licensing and Safety Committee in October 2023 for their consideration. The Licensing team continues work with the trade to promote the consultation and encourage active participation.</p>
14	<b>Con</b>	Cllr L Dean	All Councillors received an email recently from a resident in Sedgley regarding a council tax rebate scheme and the non-collection of brown refuse bins. Is this something that is being considered in the	Cllr Staples-Jones	This is not something the council would do. Sometimes we do have missed bins but are not always the fault of the teams. These can include, residents not putting bins out before the collection time, block access, parking and roadworks etc. Where these instances occur, we do endeavour to return to these properties as quickly as possible and within 2 working days. We are currently emptying 95% of the waste and recycling bins on collection day.

			Sedgley Ward as a pilot scheme?		
15	<b>Con</b>	Cllr K Hussain	Could the relevant Cabinet Member please provide information on the measures and plans in place to manage surface water drainage along Bolton Road in Hawkshaw Village, ensuring the prevention of flooding and the maintenance of road safety?	Cllr Staples-Jones	Highways operate a cyclic gully cleansing regime and endeavour to check each of the 42,000 gullies on the adopted highway network annually, including the gullies in Hawkshaw which are due to be checked in October. For efficiency we try not to deviate from this cyclic regime to attend to blocked gullies unless there is a risk of flooding to adjacent properties or to the highway in a manner that endangers road users. Officers have commissioned CCTV survey of drainage system near Bleaklow Close to determine the cause of the localised flooding in the area. This survey is scheduled to be carried out in November.
16	<b>Con</b>	Cllr I Gartside	Can the relevant Cabinet Member please give a full update on the progress being made on the restoration of Island Lodge in Tottington?	Cllr Staples-Jones	Capital Funding has been secured for 23/25 Programme to support the restoration of the Island Lodge Reservoir. £50k for this 23/24 financial year to allow us to undertake advanced design and enabling works, and then in £450k in 24/25 for a full restoration programme. A contractor has been identified via the Greater Manchester Framework to undertake the restoration programme. The Council are working closely in partnership with the Save Island Lodge Group and other interested groups.

17	<b>Con</b>	CllrS Arif	I would like to raise concerns about the ongoing issues of anti-social behaviour and littering around Whitehead Park. What measures are being taken to address these problems and improve the overall in experience in the park?	CllrGold	<p>Whitehead Park is one of the Borough's 14 Green Flag awarded parks and green spaces, recognising well managed and high quality green spaces – indeed Whitehead Park has been a Green Flag winner for the past 19 years. The Park benefited from a refurbished play area in 2021 and having a site has a grounds maintenance depot operating with the park which helps reduce anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Whilst there haven't been any recent reports of ASB received into the Council's ASB caseworkers, the Park and its surroundings will be added to the security briefing for additional patrols to be carried out, similarly detached youth outreach provision will include within their sites to visit. If repeat offenders are identified then engagement and enforcement measures will be taken, such as anti-social behaviour contracts or protection notices.</p> <p>If residents are experiencing Anti-Social Behaviour, either at the Park, this should be reported, as set out in the recently refreshed Anti-Social Behaviour Policy Handbook available on the Council website anti-social-behaviour-policy-handbook (bury.gov.uk) and Ward Councillors are encouraged to support such reporting.</p> <p>Similarly, littering and fly-tipping can be reported online at <a href="https://www.bury.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/street-care-and-cleaning">https://www.bury.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/street-care-and-cleaning</a> and residents are encouraged to do so to allow targeting of activity to respond to incidents and collation of evidence to support enforcement activity.</p>
18	<b>Ind</b>	CllrY Wright	Walshaw has a hospital, nursing home , 2 schools , a church , cenotaph ,pubs, restaurants, several businesses, and thousands of residents but no signage . Early this year after a prompt from a constituent I requested " Welcome to Walshaw" signs but informed by Officers that no funding available , however I was advised that I should consult with residents which I promptly did and received only positive responses . I submitted a draft of the simple sign as at	Cllr Staples-Jones	<p>The "Welcome to Walshaw" sign initially proposed did not include sponsorship signage. Signs without sponsorship can be installed on normal traffic sign poles, however sponsorship signs are installed on hooped poles as standard.</p> <p>The "Welcome to Brandlesholme" sign was funded by a local group and not Bury Council. I will raise the matter with officers and ensure that a quotation for sponsorship signs for Walshaw is sent to you as a priority.</p>

			<p>Brandlesholme and Officers emailed me the costs .I then networked with Walshaw businesses and within a week I had pledges for sponsorship for 4 signs which I submitted to Officers .</p> <p>Then came a U turn and I was informed that this design of sign was not possible at Walshaw and only hooped design signage allowed .Why is this simple signage acceptable at Brandlesholme and not Walshaw ?</p> <p>I have now lost count of how many mails I have sent for a quote for the cost of a sponsored hooped sign which I realise will be considerably more .</p> <p>I would like to progress this issue with Cllr Quinn's help and also make the point that when 5 townships are planned to have vast financial investment which I support , is it then just and fair to my constituents that Walshaw in the 6 th Township can't even have signage from Council coffers?</p>	
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<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>The Council</b>
<b>Meeting date:</b>	<b>13 September 2023</b>
<b>Title of report:</b>	<b>Update on Greater Manchester Joint Authorities Activity</b>
<b>Report by:</b>	<b>Leader of the Council</b>
<b>Decision type:</b>	<b>Non key decision</b>
<b>Ward(s) to which the report relates:</b>	All
<b>Summary:</b>	This report provides an update on the activity of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

## **1 Background**

1.1 This report provides an update on work of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and other Greater Manchester joint authorities following an update to Council in July 2023.

1.2 Since the last update there has been four meetings of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

## **2 Greater Manchester Integrated Technical Education City Region**

2.1 At the [28<sup>th</sup> July 2023 meeting of GMCA](#), members agreed:

2.2 That the update be welcomed and that the next steps over the coming months, as set out in paragraph 4, be noted as follow:

2.3 Analysis of the stakeholder consultation and public poll responses will be completed and will inform the further development of the technical education/MBacc proposals.

2.4 Framing of the seven Employer Boards (one per career gateway) to help employers shape clear pathways for young people into the jobs of the future and understanding the areas of study needed for these pathways. In this way it will create the same clarity around the technical education route as already exists around the university route.

These Employer Boards will sit within the wider governance and accountability landscape linked to the Devolution Deal, including arrangements for implementing the LSIP recommendations. These Boards will be established in the early Autumn.

- 2.5 That it be noted that that developmental work will continue over the summer and further details will follow with the intention to submit proposals for the new governance arrangements to the GMCA in September 2023 for consideration and approval.
- 2.6 That feedback from public polling be submitted to a future meeting of the GMCA.

### **3 Local Area Energy Programme - Strategic Outline Business Case**

- 3.1 At the 28th July 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 3.2 That the report and the proposed approach to delivering the outcomes from the GM Local Area Energy Plan be noted.
- 3.3 That the investigation and development of outline business cases to accelerate inward investment and delivery be noted.
- 3.4 That the development of regional delivery structure, operating model and required capacity be endorsed.
- 3.5 That the need for additional dedicated resource to support development of new commercial and finance solutions, the approach to which will be set out in a further report in relation to further work following agreement to the Strategic Outline Business Case, be endorsed.
- 3.6 That the submission of a circa £5m bid to Innovate UK Net Zero Living: Pathfinder Places, to support delivery of the above, with the GMCA to act as the accountable body, be approved.
- 3.7 That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA and TfGM and GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Leader, Green City Region, to finalise the bid, receive and defray funding if successful.

### **4 Domestic Local Energy Advice Demonstrator Project**

- 4.1 At the 28th July 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 4.2 That the forthcoming opportunity presented by the LEAD funding be noted.

- 4.3 That the proposed approach, with the GMCA acting as the accountable body for the LEAD programme, be approved.
- 4.4 That authority be delegated to GMCA Treasurer and GMCA Solicitor & Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Lead Portfolio Lead for Green City Region to:
  - 4.4.1 Sign a grant funding agreement with the DESNZ to receive grant funding for a GM LEAD project up to £2.14m.
  - 4.4.2 Expend the awarded grant funds by defrayed agreements via the funding partners i.e., 3 Local Authorities, 2 Social Enterprises, 2 private business and a cooperative.

## **5 Atom Valley Business Plan**

- 5.1 At the 28th July 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 5.2 That the Atom Valley MDZ Business Plan 2023 - 2024 be approved.

## **6 UKSPF - Communities And Place Wigan Council Phase 2**

- 6.1 At the 28th July 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 6.2 That Wigan Council be granted up to £1,958,294 of GM's UKSPF allocation over 2 years to deliver the activity, expenditure, outcomes and outputs set out in their UKSPF Communities and Place Phase 2 proposal by March 2025, taking the Wigan Council Communities and Place UKSPF investment across Phases 1 and 2 to a maximum of £3,008,294.
- 6.3 That the additional impact of the Wigan Council Phase 2 proposal to the collective impact of the currently approved ten Local Authority proposals, in exceeding the majority of outcomes and outputs for the Communities and Place Investment Priority as set out in the GM UKSPF Investment Plan, be noted.

## **7 Proposal for the Commissioning Of Support For The Social Economy**

- 7.1 At the 28th July 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 7.2 That the recommendations of the GM UKSPF Local Partnership Board on the strategic fit and deliverability of the UKSPF proposal for the creation of an Inclusive Ownership Platform and associated business support activity be approved.

- 7.3 That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for the Economy, Business and International and Portfolio Lead for Resources and Investment, to approve the procurement method and subsequent award of contract(s) worth £825,000 across the following indicative allocations:
- 7.4 £460,000 for specialist support activities which address gaps or weaknesses in the current support available to inclusively owned businesses: and
- 7.5 £365,000 for the creation and management of the GM Inclusive Ownership Platform, delivering the UKSPF outputs and outcomes described in this report.

## **8 GMCA Revenue Update Quarter 1 2023/24**

- 8.1 At the 28th July 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 8.2 That an increase to the Mayoral budget of £500k funded from Mayoral reserves towards the cost of additional extended rough sleeper provision provided through Manchester City Council be approved.
- 8.3 That an increase to the revenue grant to Transport for Greater Manchester of £7.8m funded from the Capital Programme Reserve to fund capital financing costs that are unable to be met from Metrolink revenues be approved.
- 8.4 That the intention to re-allocate £15m of Bus Service Improvement Programme (BSIP) grant funding previously awarded by Department for Transport to support bus services, with £7.5m of this re-allocation to be utilised in 2023/24 and £7.5m in 2024/25 be noted.

## **9 GMCA Capital Update Quarter 1 2023/24**

- 9.1 At the 28th July 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 9.2 That the current 2023/24 forecast of £681.3m compared to the 2023/24 budget of £591.8m be noted and changes to the capital programme, as set out in the report, be approved.
- 9.3 That an increase in the Transport capital budget, approved by GMCA in June 2023 as part of the Transport Capital Programme report for the City Region Sustainable Transport schemes of £41.4m, as outlined in section 2.9, be noted. That the inclusion within this figure of Greater Manchester's (GM's) share of the national Additional Maintenance (Pothole) Funding of £6.2m within the 2023/24 forecast, as outlined in section 2.9.4 of this report, also be noted.



- 9.4 That other increases in capital budget over £500k be approved as follows:
- 9.4.1 Active Travel Fund 4 (ATF4) capital funding of £3.6m
  - 9.4.2 Access for All of £2.8m
  - 9.4.3 GM One Network of £1.8m
  - 9.4.4 Regional Growth Fund Loans of £3.9m
  - 9.4.5 Growing Places of £9.3m
  - 9.4.6 Housing Investment Loans Fund of £9.6m
  - 9.4.7 Brownfield Land Fund of £16.4m
  - 9.4.8 Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme funding of £1.8m
  - 9.4.9 UK Share Prosperity Fund carry forward of £1m unspent approvals from 2022/23
  - 9.4.10 Social Housing Decarbonisation funding of £26.7m
  - 9.4.11 Social Housing Quality Fund of £15.0m
  - 9.4.12 Homeless Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme of £2.1m outlined at section 3.13 and Fire and Rescue Services of £4.0m

## **10 Greater Manchester Investment Framework - Request For Delegation**

- 10.1 At the 28th July 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 10.2 That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM and the GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Investment and Resources, to approve projects for funding and approve urgent variations to the terms of funding in the period 29 July 2023 to 28th September 2023
- 10.3 That it be noted that any recommendations that are approved under the delegation will be reported to the next available meeting of the GMCA.

## **11 Greater Manchester Housing Investment Loans/ City Deal Receipts / Greater Manchester Brownfield Programme**

- 11.1 At the 28th July 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 11.2 That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Housing, to approve projects for GMHILF and/or City Deal Receipts funding and agree urgent variations to the terms of GMHILF and/or City Deal Receipts funding, in the period 29 July 2023 to 28 September 2023.
- 11.3 That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Housing, to approve

further allocations of brownfield funding, that has been devolved to GMCA, in the period 29 July 2023 to 28 September 2023.

- 11.4 That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer and the GMCA Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, to prepare and effect the necessary legal agreements.
- 11.5 That it be noted that any recommendations that are approved under the delegation will be reported to the next available meeting of the Combined Authority.

## **12 Delivering The Bee Network: Fares And Products**

- 12.1 At the 28th July 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 12.2 That the proposed range of fares and products that will be available to customers travelling on franchised bus services from 24th September 2023 be approved.
- 12.3 That the recommendations and feedback from the GM Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Bee Network Committee be noted.

## **13 Greater Manchester Bus Strategy: Better Buses for the Bee Network**

- 13.1 At the 28th July 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 13.2 That the draft Greater Manchester Bus Strategy be approved.
- 13.3 That the recommendations and feedback from the Bee Network Committee be noted.
- 13.4 That the principle of the replication of the Bee Network Committee model at a district level to better control and coordinate the deployment of Bus Services be endorsed.

## **14 Metrolink Contract Extension**

- 14.1 At the 28th July 2023 meeting of GMCA, members agreed:
- 14.2 That the contents of the report be noted.
- 14.3 That the recommendations and feedback from the Bee Network Committee be noted.
- 14.4 That the proposed terms of an extension to the MOMA with KAM from 21 July 2024 to 25 July 2027 be approved.

- 14.5 That it be noted that a large-scale review of the vision for Metrolink will be undertaken late 2024/ 2025, noting the review will include any potential Metrolink network expansion and the current financial compensatory arrangements in place for those authorities who do not currently have a Metrolink service.

## **15 Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) Update**

### **15.1 EV taxi and PHV charging points soft launch**

- 15.2 Across Greater Manchester, TfGM is introducing 60 rapid charging points dedicated for EV private hire vehicles (PHV) and hackney vehicles licensed by one of the ten GM local authorities. On 29 August, the first seven charging points went live in Bury, Manchester, Rochdale, Salford and Stockport, with the remainder to come online over the next few months.

### **15.3 Less than one month to go - Bee Network**

- 15.4 With less than one month to go before Greater Manchester brings buses under local control, the Mayor of Greater Manchester joined the Transport Commissioner, Vernon Everitt, and Local Authority leaders to make a number of announcements. These announcements set out the benefits of the Bee Network for passengers and include:

- 15.4.1 Service improvements
- 15.4.2 New TravelSafe Officers and Enforcement Officers
- 15.4.3 Bee Network App and website
- 15.4.4 GM Customer Commitments and Rate Your Journey
- 15.4.5 Further details of zero-emission bus roll-out

- 15.5 Following the introduction of franchised bus services on 24 September, improvements are planned in Bolton, Wigan and parts of Bury, Salford and Manchester – the first to be brought under local control – that will see them run earlier and later, better integrating them with first and last train and tram services. This includes:

- 15.5.1 Enhancements to the 471 Bolton-Bury-Rochdale service and 362 Standish to Wigan buses and will be reflected in other areas of Greater Manchester as franchised services roll out across the region;
- 15.5.2 Increased daytime services on the V1 and V2 services on the Leigh Guided Busway, with eight buses in each direction every hour.
- 15.5.3 In addition, V2 services from Atherton to Manchester Royal Infirmary (MRI) will be reinstated as soon as possible.

### **15.6 New TravelSafe Support and Enforcement Officers**

- 15.7 To provide passengers with reassurance and help tackle anti-social-behaviour, 30 new TravelSafe Support and Enforcement Officers (TSEOs) will be patrolling franchised bus services, interchanges and bus stations from 24 September.
- 15.8 While TSEOs will focus on customer support and providing a reassuring presence, they will also carry out ticket inspections on buses. Money generated from ticket sales is reinvested back into public transport services for the benefit of all passengers, and the new TSEOs are being introduced as part of a broader strategy to tackle fare evasion across all modes of public transport in Greater Manchester, with financial penalties – known as the Standard Fare – set to increase from £100 to £120 in the Autumn for anyone found travelling without a ticket on Metrolink or Bee Network bus services. The team will expand their operations as the Bee Network rolls out and will be patrolling all bus services, stations and interchanges by 2025.
- 15.9 Bee Network App and website
- 15.10 To help customers plan their journey, buy tickets and give feedback on an operator’s performance, a new Bee Network app and website will launch from 18 September. Through the Bee Network app (available via the Google Play Store and the Apple App store) customers will be able to:
- 15.10.1 Get live departure times for nearby bus, tram and train stops and stations.
  - 15.10.2 Buy Metrolink tickets.
  - 15.10.3 Buy Bee AnyBus and Bee AnyBus + Tram tickets from 24 September 2023.
  - 15.10.4 Access the new Rate Your Journey survey.
- 15.11 From 24 September, customers will also be able to use the app to buy a range of Bee AnyBus tickets, including the recently announced Bee AnyBus + Tram tickets which will make combined bus and tram travel around 20 percent cheaper when compared to buying products separately. Capped daily bus fares have also been extended for another year to September 2024. In time we will roll out additional features, including journey planning and disruption information, making the Bee Network app the one-stop shop for public transport in Greater Manchester. Meanwhile, A new look Bee Network website – [beenetwork.com](http://beenetwork.com) – will enable customers to:
- 15.12 Easily find the bus or tram ticket for them on the Bee Network website
  - 15.13 Check travel alerts and see any affected bus and tram journeys
  - 15.14 Use the site more easily, with a fresh Bee Network look

- 15.15 Find timetables and live departure times for Bee Network and all Greater Manchester buses
- 15.16 Report any lost property on a Bee Network bus
- 15.17 **Further details of zero-emission bus roll-out**
- 15.18 To mark the one-month-to-go milestone, the first fleet of 50 new, Zero Emission, Bee Network-branded buses for Greater Manchester was unveiled by Mayor Andy Burnham and Transport Commissioner Vernon Everitt during a visit to the depot in Wigan where they are being stored.
- 15.19 Additional electric buses, along with a range of new Euro VI buses, will start to be delivered within six months of 24 September. The zero-emission electric buses are fully accessible and offer a range of customer improvements including two bays for wheelchair-users, hearing induction loops, audio and visual announcement systems and anti-slip flooring.
- 15.20 Fifty more ZEBs will be delivered in March 2024. This is to support the ongoing roll-out of bus franchising, with services in Bury, Rochdale and Oldham and parts of Manchester, Salford and Tameside coming under local control from 24 March 2024. While a further 170 electric buses – jointly funded by Stagecoach and local and national government through the Zero Emission Buses Regional Area scheme – have also been ordered. Greater Manchester aims to have an all zero-emission bus fleet by 2032.
- 15.21 Alongside the unveiling of the Zero Emission Buses (ZEB), two stakeholder events also took place today (24 August) at Bolton Interchange, giving equality groups – who helped inform the ZEB designs – local leaders and businesses the opportunity to explore a ZEB and engage in a Bee Network app demonstration. Invites were shared with LA leaders, Transport Executive Members, the Bee Network Committee and Tranche 1 MPs and business leaders. Transport Commissioner, Vernon Everitt, was present at both events to show some of the new on-board features and respond to questions.
- 15.22 **GM Green Summit 2023**
- 15.23 Residents, businesses, policy makers and community groups are being invited to take part in the Greater Manchester Green Summit, which takes place on Monday 2 October at The Lowry, Salford Quays.
- 15.24 The summit will provide a first look at the ambitions and challenges included within the upcoming Five-Year Environment Plan for Greater Manchester 2024 – 2029, with an additional focus on understanding the behaviours and motivations of people living and working across the

city-region to help partners support and drive positive change for the environment.

- 15.25 First established in 2018 by Mayor Andy Burnham, the Green Summit offers a great opportunity to meet and network with people who are determined to drive change and help the city-region meet its ambitious goals for the environment. The Green Summit will feature, talks, exhibition stands and interactive sessions based around key themes including the nature recovery, transport, low carbon energy and buildings, and sustainable production and lifestyles, with speakers, exhibitors and delegates coming together to consider how we can all better collaborate on innovative solutions.

## **16 Recycle for Greater Manchester (R4GM)**

### **16.1 In Community Fund**

- 16.2 The Recycle for Greater Manchester Community Fund recently announced the successful applicants in this year's round of funding. Four groups were funded for programmes of work taking place in Bury. Two are projects operating exclusively in Bury:

- 16.3 Fair Futures CIC are running a project called Reuse, Re-read, Re-wear. This project will collect and reuse unwanted books and textiles, to sell, redistribute to local families in need and repurpose for educational and social support activities. The project will also create training and volunteering opportunities for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and develop education on waste reduction.

- 16.4 Bury College have been awarded funding to run a student community recycling project. This work will promote positive behaviour change in individuals across Bury by promoting recycling and reducing household waste. This will be achieved through delivery of training and education activities in partnership with Wheeldon Brothers and carrying out community litter picks across Bury in partnership with Bury Litter Picking/Clean Teams.

- 16.5 Two additional projects received funding for activities across Greater Manchester, including Bury. So the City will be creating opportunities for local plastic recycling within communities and Humans MCR will be rolling out their Community Grocers On-Wheels, using food destined for waste to provide clients in Greater Manchester with a full weekly shop of their choice.

- 16.6 The R4GM Community Fund comes from money that is raised via the Renew Shops and online store. Every year, £220,000 is available for community and voluntary projects.

- 16.7 **#BeBatteryAware**

- 16.8 In August, Recycle for Greater Manchester launched our #BeBatteryAware campaign to tackle the growing issue of battery fires in bins and at Household Waste Recycling Centres. This campaign was created jointly with our colleagues at Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS).
- 16.9 From April 1 to June 30, GMCA's waste management contractor; SUEZ reported 37 fire-related incidents due to lithium batteries alone. The campaign reminds residents that batteries should never be disposed of in bins as they can cause fires, putting staff and residents in danger.
- 16.10 #BeBatteryAware focuses on three different types of batteries; traditional batteries, hidden batteries in items such as laptops, phones, Bluetooth devices, gaming consoles etc. as well as vapes and electronic cigarettes.
- 16.11 The campaign launched in early August with content across social media on R4GM, GMFRS and partner channels. We created a dedicated webpage, featuring safety messages and offering alternative methods for residents to dispose of their batteries. There was also advertising in local newspapers across Greater Manchester, including The Bury Times.
- 16.12 The next phase of the campaign will target areas that have seen incidents of battery fires through bespoke digital advertising. We're currently working with waste colleagues in Bury to establish key target areas for this stage of the campaign.
- 16.13 As well as this campaign, we've also been sharing Recycle Your Electricals messaging to recycle batteries correctly in order to protect the precious materials contained within them and a helpful link for residents to find their nearest recycling point.
- 16.14 **Suez Communities Fund**
- 16.15 The next deadline for the SUEZ Communities Fund 2023 is approaching. This fund is separate from the R4GM Community Fund and is part of the landfill tax, providing grants of up to £50,000 to not-for-profit organisations for capital infrastructure improvements.
- 16.16 Greater Manchester is one of the active funding zones. Applications for capital projects, i.e. those that focus on physical improvement at an identified site, will be considered. Funding is typically awarded for the purchase of materials and equipment and the appointment of a contractor to undertake the improvement work.
- 16.17 Two projects in Bury were funded as part as part of the most recent application period. These were Tottington St John's Cricket Club who received £27,200 and Creating Future Lives CIC received £50,000 in April.
- 16.18 There are four application deadlines each year, with the next one on 13th September.

### 16.19 Recycling Centre Rates - June 2023

Site	Month (%)	Year to date
Cemetery Rd, Radcliffe	60	58
Every St, Fernhill	60	57

## 17 Recommendation

- 25.1 That Council note the updates from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Transport for Greater Manchester, and Recycle for Greater Manchester, with further updates to be presented to future Council meetings.

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### List of Background Papers:-

None identified

### Contact Details:-

**James Mulvaney**  
**Executive Policy and Research Advisor**  
[j.mulvaney@bury.gov.uk](mailto:j.mulvaney@bury.gov.uk)  
**0161 253 5105**



## GMCA QUESTIONS

1. Across the country there has been several vetting breaches that have occurred within the police service. Have any taken place within GMP?  
**(Councillor Brown)**

The term 'vetting breaches' is open to interpretation and a fuller answer can be provided if the Councillor could provide examples of that they are specifically referring to.

In the first instance any breach of the police standards of professional behaviour concerning a GMP officer or member of police staff, that would also include matters that call into question the continued holding of vetting clearance, would be brought to the attention of the Professional Standards Branch (PSB) for initial assessment and recording. Information from the PSB Management Information Officer has been requested and will be shared at the earliest opportunity.

2. Can TfGM provide an update on the development of the Greater Manchester Bus Strategy? **(Cllr G McGill)**

[The Greater Manchester Bus Strategy](#) has now launched, following GMCA approval on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023. It sets out Greater Manchester's vision for the future bus network, namely, to make the bus the first choice for more journeys as part of the Bee Network: the city region's integrated transport system. It also establishes specific targets for the bus system to aim towards by 2030, including a 30% growth in patronage. The document also sets out the process for multi-modal network reviews, which will support the Bee Network's development over the coming years.

3. The GMCA has recently launched a new campaign through the Gender Based Violence Executive. What are GMCA doing to help change the behaviour of men in terms of reduce violence against women and girls and how will Bury continue to benefit from this activity? **(Cllr B Ibrahim)**

#Isthisok? is the core promotional campaign of the Gender Based Violence (GBV) Strategy, of which Bury plays an active part on the GBV Executive. The campaign, featuring a number of powerful videos highlighting the experiences women and girls experience in their daily lives is aimed at men and boys – challenging their behaviours to tackle sexual harassment and misogyny. The film series has been watched over 850,000 times across the bespoke campaign social media channels.

On 6<sup>th</sup> September the campaign launched a series of podcast videos, showcasing honest discussions between men about their views and experiences of gender-based violence, with promotion via Spotify and YouTube. The film series was trailed at ParkLife festival in Heaton Park earlier in the summer and has been showcased at recent meetings of the Bury Faith Forum and Bury Community Safety Partnership this month.

The GMCA GBV Communications Manager is a member of Bury's Women & Girls Safety group which locally is co-ordinating engagement and activity, from healthy behaviours and relationships in school settings and colleges; to promotion through sports as part of local White Ribbon activity to tackle GBV in the Borough.

**4. What is the current GMP performance for burglary, robbery and vehicle theft?  
(Councillor Harris)**

Responding to, reducing, and combating neighbourhood crime (burglary, robbery, vehicle theft) is a key focus for Greater Manchester Police as a Force and for the district command here in Bury.

In the 12 months to July 2023, GMP recorded 49,446 neighbourhood crimes, a reduction in 10.8% on the previous year. Of this there was a 26.5% increase in GMP recorded solved outcomes in relation to neighbourhood crime.

By neighbourhood crime type:

- Residential burglary: 13,904 crimes recorded, a reduction of 24.1%, with an increase in solved outcomes of 32.8%
- For personal robbery GMP recorded 4,585 crimes, an annual reduction of 4.1% with an increased in solved outcomes of 19.9%
- For theft from motor vehicle, GMP recorded 12,686 crimes, a 7% reduction on the previous year, with an increase in solved outcomes of 29.4%
- For theft of motor vehicle GMP recorded 6,693 crimes, a reduction of 11.4% on the previous year, with an increase in solved outcomes of 32.0%

Local neighbourhood crime figures remain low and below rolling averages from previous years.

5. Is there any information available to determine whether the £2 capped bus fare has had a positive impact for Bury residents? **(Councillor Rydeheard)**

An annual review of the £2 capped bus fares in GM was undertaken earlier this year: [Delivering the Bee Network: Annual Review of Capped Bus Fares](#). The evaluation was GM-wide and does not breakdown results below city region level. However, key findings of the evaluation have shown significant positive impacts for many bus users:

- The introduction of the maximum bus fares has reduced the average cost of travel for bus users by almost 20%.
- The maximum bus fares offered have contributed to an increase in bus patronage of 12%.
- Residents surveyed continue to feel the new fares save them money (76%) and that they have been helpful to combat the cost-of-living crisis (72%).
- There has also been a positive impact on travel horizons, as two thirds of those responding to the survey agreed that the new fares mean that they can travel more often, to more places and as often as they want.
- 55% of respondents that have used one of the new maximum fare products say that the offers have meant they have travelled by bus more.

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“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 to cuts of~~ nearly £150m in reduced core funding since 2010. However since 2019 in excess of £100 million has been allocated to Bury to spend on agreed projects as well as Bury Council received in excess of \$79 million additional support during the COVID pandemic.
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. However it should be noted that some BBC investigations historically have not followed best practice.
5. SIGOMA (Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities), (whose leadership is all Labour Councillors and a Labour MP) 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~~ Write an all party letter to the Secretary of State for Levelling up Housing and Communities calling on the Government to fix the broken system of local government finance and give Bury what it needs and deserves to undertake a Local Government Fair Funding Review.
2. ~~Highlight as part of this campaign~~ what the Council and residents can do to support reducing costs and demands on local services.
3. Recognise the Government’s commitment through the GM Devolution Trailblazer deal to give GMCA single capital and revenue funding settlements at the next spending review, agreed directly through a single process with the government.
4. Accept the opportunity the single funding settlement will give to enable the council to have more accountability for its spending.
2. —
- 3.5. Write to our Members of Parliament GM Mayor and nine other GM Leaders urging them to ensure Bury receives an equitable share within any single funding settlement, requesting they support our campaign and lobby Ministers for a fair deal for Bury.

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The Council in its Role as a Corporate Parent [Alteration](#)

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

Add 'Ensure Corporate Parenting champions are on all council committees in order for all decision made by Bury Council to be consulted on with our looked after children and young people.'



Motion	Resolved	Lead Officer	Update/commentary
<p data-bbox="205 232 558 302"><b><u>B) Support Bury Mortgage Holders Now</u></b></p> <div data-bbox="277 378 336 440">  </div> <p data-bbox="205 444 415 496">Bury Labour NOM Draft V2 - Mortgage</p> <hr data-bbox="205 509 415 513"/>	<ol data-bbox="667 232 1010 1365" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support the Labour Party's 5-point plan to respond to the mortgage cost crisis, which includes:</li> <li>2. requiring banks to allow borrowers to switch to interest-only mortgage payments;</li> <li>3. requiring banks to allow borrowers to lengthen the term of their mortgage period;</li> <li>4. requiring lenders to reverse any support measures when the borrower requests;</li> <li>5. requiring lenders to wait a minimum of six months before initiating repossession proceedings;</li> <li>6. instructing the FCA (Financial Conduct Authority) to urgently issue consumer guidance to prevent the changes from</li> </ol>	<p data-bbox="1045 232 1304 269"><b>James Mulvaney</b></p>	

	<p>impacting credit scores.</p> <p>Write to the Bury North and Bury South Members of Parliament, asking them to support the above 5-point plan in response to the mortgage cost crisis facing their constituents.</p> <p>Promote further the provisions within the Bury Labour budget amendment around cost-of-living support, especially the £100k discretionary Council Tax Support Fund for those not traditionally eligible for financial support.</p>	<p><b>Chief Executives Office</b></p> <p><b>Chris Brown (Revs and Benefits)</b></p> <p><b>Chris Woodhouse</b></p>	<p><b>Residents ineligible for Council Tax Support who are struggling with their Council Tax payments are now being identified and Council Tax Discretionary Support Fund being Awarded.</b></p> <p><b>Greater accessibility and visibility around the council's Welfare Support offer is currently being pulled together to provide clarity and ease of access to residents, members and partners regarding the support available.</b></p>
<p><b><u>C) Promoting a Safe and Drug-Free Environment in Schools</u></b></p>	<p>Reiterate our zero-tolerance approach to drugs and illicit substances in our Borough's schools,</p>	<p><b>Isobel Booler</b></p>	



Tory amendment  
July23 v0.3 (003).doc

as part of our Inclusion strategy to ensure consistency of approach to sanctioning young people.

Write to all school Head Teachers in the borough, stating our resolve to support initiatives to highlight

- the long-term health effects of alcohol consumption,
- drugs use and vaping, together with the environmental impact of the disposal of vaping materials and nitrous oxide paraphernalia.

The Council works with public health to ensure schools have access to all relevant and effective materials and resources to support schools.

Ask police and Council enforcement to work within

**Isobel Booter**

**Jon Hobday and Isobel Booter**

**CSP – Chris Woodhouse**

See below

Partnership activity continues through the Drug & Alcohol Subgroup of the Community

	<p>communities to identify and prosecute retail outlets selling vaping materials and e cigarettes to young people under 18.</p> <p>Encourage the involvement of student groups, youth organisations, and student councils to actively participate in awareness campaigns and share their perspectives on substance abuse prevention.</p>	<p><b>Isobel Booler And Heather Walton via Youth cabinet</b></p>	<p>Safety Partnership and Partnership Licencing meetings with Trading Standards colleagues through which insight from communities is helping shape and add input into investigations, with joint visits and seizures taking place, and investigations continuing to build cases for prosecution as appropriate. If anyone has particular evidence or insight into illegal activity this can be reported online through GMP, anonymously through Crimestoppers or if it relates to a specific retail outlet to <a href="mailto:tradingstandards@bury.gov.uk">tradingstandards@bury.gov.uk</a></p> <p><b>Public health are currently liaising with Early Break around appropriate material to be included in a 'schools pack' which can then be circulated to schools. In addition, Public health, Early Break, School Nursing and Trading Standards are also meeting to discuss and develop the vaping offer to schools, so that this done</b></p>
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	<p>Council to write to Bury MPs to examine the case for an outright ban on disposable vapes.</p> <p>Review the impact of the actions outlined by no later than the end of 31 July 2024.</p>	<p>Chief Executive Office</p> <p>Isobel Booler</p>	<p>in a collaborative way and in line with work that already exists in schools</p> <p>Young people from Youth Cabinet have had a number of discussions about how they feel substance abuse can be prevented and their thoughts have been captured for the steering group looking at developing the policy for schools.</p>
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## **Follow-up question: criteria for decisions on the positioning of average speed cameras**

### **Response**

The GM Safety Camera Project aims to replace existing spot speed safety cameras with newer technology to enhance the benefits of the safety cameras. In the case of Bury and the proposed average speed routes, a meeting was held between TfGM and Bury officers in late 2019 to review the existing speed safety cameras. This meeting identified the two routes (described in the original answer for full council and in the attached map) as being suitable for replacing with average speed, rather than spot speed, technology.

For the proposed average speed cameras, the exact positioning will depend on factors including the technical requirements of the chosen supplier. However, the principle agreed with Greater Manchester Police (GMP) is to use a location – the route section or “monitoring buffer” - relating to the location of the existing speed cameras.

In terms of the process for requesting new locations, the criteria used is based on the Department for Transport’s guidance which requires consideration of:

- The number of Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) collisions or the number of collisions of “slight” severity.
- The length of the road and collisions per km.
- 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speeds: whether this speed is at or above the National Police Chiefs’ Council enforcement threshold.

In addition, the Highway Authority must undertake a survey demonstrating the following:

- The speed limit has been reviewed confirming that it is appropriate for the nature of the location and that camera enforcement is the right solution.
- Analysis of the causes of collisions shows that camera enforcement is the correct solution.
- There is no other cost-effective engineering solution that is more appropriate.

Other considerations by the Highway Authority include:

- For fixed and red light enforcement: that loading and unloading/maintenance of the camera can take place safely.
- For mobile enforcement: that the location is easily accessible and there is space for enforcement to take place in a visible, legal and safe manner.

Once the above information has been gathered, TfGM can facilitate further discussions with GMP if the criteria has been met.

In order to establish a new fixed safety camera location, Local Authorities are required to secure an appropriate source of funding to enable procurement, installation and commissioning of roadside equipment and integration with GMP’s systems.

### **Ben Blackburn**

Senior Public Affairs Manager  
Transport for Greater Manchester  
07767 440917

[tfgm.com](http://tfgm.com)

TfGM supports working flexibly. If I contact you outside your usual working hours then please reply when it’s convenient for you

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4 September 2023

Christian Wakeford MP

Letter sent by email.



**Reference: Council Motion on Supporting Safe and Drug-Free Environments in Schools**

Dear Christian Wakeford MP,

Bury Council at its Full Council meeting on 19 July 2023 debated and passed a notice of motion in relation to supporting safe and drug-free environments in schools.

In this motion, the Council acknowledged that sales of e-cigarettes and vaping liquids, including disposable vapes is illegal to anyone aged under 18 years, yet usage has drastically increased in recent years.

In particular, members raised concerns about the increasing use of e-cigarettes by school aged children in recent years and have called on me to write to yourself and the MP for Bury North to examine the case for an outright ban on disposable vapes.

I hope you will be able to consider the issues raised to me by council and get back to me in due course.

I look forward to hearing your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynne Ridsdale". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light grey dotted rectangular area.

Lynne Ridsdale

Chief Executive, Bury Council

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James Daly MP

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4<sup>th</sup> September 2023

James Daly MP  
Letter sent by email

**Reference: Council Motion on Supporting Bury Mortgage Holders**

Dear James Daly MP,

Bury Council at its Full Council meeting on 19 July 2023 debated and passed a motion in relation to supporting Bury mortgage holders. The Council believes that following the latest announcement of a hike in interest rates from the Bank of England, with the prospect of even higher interest rates to follow, there is a crisis facing mortgage holders in our borough and across the UK. This crisis will not stop at those with mortgages, it will, and already is, hitting those in the private rented sector too, and action must be taken now to support our residents with this mortgage cost crisis.


**The Council resolved to:**

- 1) Support the Labour Party's 5-point plan to respond to the mortgage cost crisis, which includes:
  - requiring banks to allow borrowers to switch to interest-only mortgage payments;
  - requiring banks to allow borrowers to lengthen the term of their mortgage period;
  - requiring lenders to reverse any support measures when the borrower requests;
  - requiring lenders to wait a minimum of six months before initiating repossession proceedings;
  - instructing the FCA (Financial Conduct Authority) to urgently issue consumer guidance to prevent the changes from impacting credit scores.

Accordingly, Council asked that I write to you requesting your support to the above 5-point plan in response to the mortgage cost crisis facing your constituents. I am writing in similar terms to the MP for Bury South.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Lynne Ridsdale

Chief Executive, Bury Council

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