

Lynne Ridsdale
Chief Executive

Our Ref JG
Your Ref C/JG
Date 14 November 2023
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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, B Ibrahim, 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, M Rubinstein, J Rydeheard, L Ryder, L Smith, M Smith, G Staples-Jones, 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:-

Date:	Wednesday, 22 November 2023
Place:	Council Chamber - Bury Town Hall, Knowsley Street, Bury, BL9 0SW
Time:	7.00 pm
Briefing Facilities:	If Members require briefing on any particular item on the Agenda, the appropriate Director/Senior Officer originating the related report should be contacted.
Notes:	

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

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

Chief Executive

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

AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3 MINUTES (Pages 15 - 22)

Minutes of the meeting held on 13th September are attached.

4 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.

5 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (Pages 23 - 30)

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 RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES (Pages 31 - 154)

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

Committee/ Date	Subject	Recommendation
Cabinet – 5 th October 2023	Youth Justice Plan	Cabinet commended the adoption of the Youth Justice Plan to Council
Licensing and Safety Committee 19 th October 2023	Proposed Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Policy Revisions following Public Consultation	Full Council is requested to adopt the proposals following the decision of the Licensing and Safety Committee on the 19 October 2023 and confirm the delegated authority to amend the implementation date of any of these standards to the Head of Public Protection in conjunction with the Chair of Licensing & Safety Committee. Any changes to the amendment dates would be reported to the Licensing & Safety Committee.
Audit Committee 12 th October 2023	· Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy · Fraud and Corruption	The updated suite of policies, as presented to Audit be approved and included in the Council's Constitution. (See links to Audit papers below).

	Prosecution Policy . Whistleblowing Policy . Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy . Anti- Money Laundering Policy	
Democratic Arrangements Forum – 2 nd November 2023	Changes to the Constitution	<p>Council to approve the following amendments to the Council Procedure rules: Invite CA appointed representatives on a rotational basis to present an update on their area of responsibility. Allowing 5 minutes to present and 5 minutes for verbal questions. 10 minutes for all other questions to the CA.</p> <p>The GM Mayor will attend once a year a meeting of Full Council.</p> <p>Youth Cabinet to submit, once a year, a Notice of Motion. This notice of motion will be the first item on the agenda following public question time.</p> <p>Amendments to the timings for speakers: State of the Borough – Opposition group Leaders have a right of reply 5 minutes Leaders statement - Opposition Group Leaders 2 minutes right of reply and a question.</p>
Cabinet – 7 th November 2023	Mid-Year Treasury Management Report	Council approves the mid-year treasury management report.
<p>Employment Panel – 16th November 2023 Establishment of Post Employment Panel – 20th Nov 2023 Recruitment</p> <p>Council is recommended:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree the termination of the Council's joint financial leadership arrangements with NHS Greater Manchester and the disestablishment of the post of Joint Executive Director of Finance, Chief Officer Band H (£127,377 - £139,067). 2. Agree the establishment of a new role of Executive Director (Finance) evaluated at Chief Officer Band H (£127,377 - £139,067) and that this post be designated as the Council's statutory Section 151 Officer 		

3. Agree the recommendation from Employment Panel that Paul McKevit is appointed to the role of Interim Executive Director (Finance), Section 151 Officer with immediate effect for an initial period of six months, with the ability to agree a further six month extension delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs & HR and Cabinet Member for Finance and Communities.
4. Note the deletion of the role of Director of Housing Chief Officer Band F (£103,767 - £112,636).
5. Agree the establishment of the post of Director of Housing Operations evaluated at Chief Officer Band F (£103,767 - £112,636).

Audit Papers:

<https://councildecisions.bury.gov.uk/documents/s37343/Agenda%20Item%20-%20Fraud%20Plan%20and%20update%20for%2012.10.2023.pdf>

<https://councildecisions.bury.gov.uk/documents/s36570/Agenda%20Item%20-%20Bury%20Anti-Fraud%20Corruption%20Strategy%20and%20Annual%20Fraud%20Plan%20July%202023.pdf>

7 CONSTITUTIONAL UPDATE REPORT - UPDATED FINANCIAL REGULATIONS
(Pages 155 - 214)

Report attached. (Please note tracked changes have been deliberately included).

8 LEADER' STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME (Pages 215 - 252)

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)

9 COMBINED AUTHORITY REPORT AND QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL'S COMBINED AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES (Pages 253 - 272)

(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.

10 NOTICES OF MOTION

(i) COMMUNITY COHESION IN BURY

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

THIS COUNCIL NOTES THAT:

Bury is home to wide diverse multifaith and multicultural communities and as a Borough we are proud of our record of social cohesion.

As Councillors, we strive to provide leadership to all our communities. We believe in working together to ensure that all members of all communities feel secure within Bury and can go about their daily lives safely and without fear of intimidation.

Significant world events have taken place over the past few weeks that have had a major impact on communities in Bury.

THIS COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGES THAT;

We want to work to reaffirm our commitment to ensuring the safety and support of all parts of the Bury community. As community leaders, we acknowledge the importance of creating an environment where everyone feels safe and supported in their daily lives.

We believe organisations that receive public funding should remain politically neutral.

The events in Israel and Gaza are a great tragedy and have caused significant anxiety in all communities. We recognise there is a great deal of suffering on both sides.

As Local Councillors, we cannot affect the international situation but we need to be mindful of the impact our actions have on community relations here in Bury.

THIS COUNCIL RESOLVES:

To support the UK Government position on a Two State solution.

To support all sovereign nations right to defend itself against all unprovoked attacks

Write to both the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition supporting their calls for humanitarian pauses in the ongoing conflict as part of the International humanitarian effort to support innocent Palestinians.

To explore with the Multi- Faith Forum what action can be taken collectively by the communities of Bury to ensure we can all stand together during challenging times such as the present.

Form a cross-party group of councillors to examine how the Council can co-ordinate local efforts to provide aid and any other humanitarian support to the region. To liaise with charities, NGO's and others who are active in the region to assess what actions if any this Council can take to support their work.

To agree organisations who are not politically neutral should not be publicly funded.

(ii) Addressing the impact of branded, non-standard trimmings and fabric pattern specific items on the cost of secondary school uniforms

Proposed by: Cllr Carol Birchmore, Cllr Donald Berry, Cllr Andrea Booth, Cllr Des Duncalfe, Cllr Glyn Marsden, Cllr James Mason, Cllr Mike Smith and Cllr Mary Walsh

As the cost-of-living crisis bites further parents are now facing the additional costs of ensuring that their children are clothed in the correct uniform. This is an additional drain on resources that parents struggling to put food on the table cannot afford.

In May 2023 the Children's Society estimated that parents spend around £422 per year on their child's school uniform. A look at websites of Bury MBC schools shows disparity between costs at different schools. One of the issues driving up the price of school uniforms is the inclusion of school branded items. These branded items are not restricted to simply the blazer and tie but also include branded and specified fabric pattern skirts (often tartan) and branded items of PE kit. The use of branded items is not restricted to private schools or academies but includes local authority schools. Several schools are listing a preferred supplier for the uniform. The most expensive badged blazer was one for a local authority school which was listed as costing £48.75 with a school skirt for the same school costing £30. Branded/specific fabric skirts typically cost around £22. Compulsory branded games T shirts cost between £15 and £20 and shorts/skorts ranging between £10 and £20 depending on the school.

With an increasing cost of living crisis many parents are struggling to afford uniforms especially for year 7 pupils who require full kitting out. The Government recognised school uniform costs as an issue and the Department for Education issued statutory guidance on the "Cost of School Uniforms" issued November 2021 and further non statutory guidance on school uniforms updated June 2023 designed to support schools in developing and implementing their school uniform policy. This guidance should be read in conjunction with "Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021. This guidance states that:

"Parents should not have to think about the cost of a school uniform when choosing which school(s) to apply for. Therefore, schools need to ensure that their uniform is affordable."

And with regards to branded items:

"Schools should keep the use of branded items to a minimum."

The difficulty with the legislation is that it fails to clearly define what exactly the term "affordable" means and in terms of keeping branded items to a "*minimum*", what would be a considered acceptable minimum.

While offering school uniform grants can help some sectors it does not have the universal impact that reducing the overall cost of uniform purchase would have.

While the work of groups such as FRGS at Gigg Lane and school's own uniform swaps is much appreciated, needed and should be encouraged with its significant economic and environmental advantages it would be great to ensure that "affordable" new uniforms are exactly that, irrelevant of parental income.

In recent correspondence with the Department for Education in response to a request for guidance on the issue they stated that:

“The school's governing body will want to consider, when developing their uniform policy, why each individual branded item is considered necessary and whether the overall number of branded items in that policy can properly be described as the minimum necessary.”

And also, that, with regards to the guidance on school uniforms issued in November 2021:

“The guidance is clear that cost and value for money for parents should be the most important consideration for governing boards when considering how school uniform should be sourced. Parents should be able to purchase generic items of uniform from a range of retailers, giving them choice and value for money. Schools should be able to demonstrate that they have obtained best value for money from their suppliers and how the views of pupils and parents have been considered in their decision.”

Correspondence Department for Education, Ministerial and Public Communications Division, 9th October 2023

This council resolves to:

Ask the relevant Cabinet Portfolio holder to write to all Bury schools requesting:

- They review their uniform policy in line with the DfE November 2021 guidance to ensure that they are fully complying with the required guidelines when developing their uniform policy.
- They reconsider the use of mandatory branded school uniform items where unbranded items can be bought at more affordable prices.

Also, we ask the council to write to secondary schools within Bury MBC to request:

- Schools look at ways to ensure effective communication with parents and pupils when designing their uniform policy or when making any significant changes. They should consider these views when determining uniform policy.
- Schools undertake an audit of uniform policy and report back on identified means of reducing/minimising the cost of the school uniforms to make them affordable to all parents.
- Schools commit to choosing a PE kit which is practical, comfortable and affordable, minimising the use of branded items e.g. choosing non branded socks and shorts/skorts and games socks.

(iii) Health Inequalities

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

Across the country, there are significant health inequalities that result in people living a poorer quality of life, and often reducing life expectancy.

The NHS states that health inequalities are unfair and avoidable differences in health across the population, and between different groups within society. These include how long people are likely to live, the health conditions they may experience and the care that is available to them.

The conditions in which we are born, grow, live, work and age can impact our health and

wellbeing. These are sometimes referred to as wider determinants of health.

The Marmot Review and the Public Health white paper 'Healthier Lives, Healthy People' (2010) both recommend that planning, transport, housing, environment, and health systems should be fully integrated to address the social determinants of health.

This council acknowledges this and the upcoming Bury Health Inequalities paper will adopt this into the Bury system, subject to a formal launch next month. The council resolves to build on this work by becoming a Marmot area/place.

A Marmot place is one which has a significant commitment to tackle health inequalities through action on the social determinants of health - the social and economic conditions which shape our health - and has strong and effective plans and policies to achieve these reductions in health inequalities.

This council notes:

- Government spending has decreased most in the most deprived places and cuts in services outside health and social care have hit more deprived communities hardest.
- Approximately 16.6%% of children aged 0-15 in Bury (an estimated 6400 children) live in income deprived homes , with this percentage rising to almost 31% in some of the most deprived wards: well above the regional or national averages. Poverty and deprivation can damage the health and wellbeing of children and young people and have severe impacts on 'life chances'.
- Life expectancy is 10 years lower for men and 8 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Bury than in the least deprived areas.
- The Marmot review into health inequalities of 2020 found that Covid 19 death rates were a quarter higher in Greater Manchester than the rest of England. The more impoverished a local authority, the higher its mortality rate.

Therefore this council resolves to:

- Ensure Bury aligns its approach with a 'Marmot Town' and joins a growing number of 'Marmot Places', which include cities, towns and regions (including Greater Manchester), that are working with UCL Institute of Health Equity to reduce health inequalities.
- together with its partner organisations, be required to establish innovative ways of tackling inequalities within existing resources, working in partnership with communities using a coproduction approach.
- through the Health Scrutiny Committee, and the Health and Wellbeing Board, hold the leaders across the health and care system to account for looking beyond the interests of their own organisations and driving forward improvement in health and wellbeing outcomes for the residents of Bury, leading a cultural change to a health and care system in which different organisations work together to narrow the gap in inequalities across the town.
- set itself an ambition to integrate preventive action into all decision making to tackle inequalities utilising a "Health in all Policies" approach.

11 ***** FOR INFORMATION *** COUNCIL MOTION TRACKER (Pages 273 - 280)**

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

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

13 **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).