

Minutes of: COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 17 January 2024

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor , in the Chair)
Councillors A Arif, S Arif, N Bayley, R Bernstein, C Birchmore, C Boles, A Booth, N Boroda, R Brown, 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, 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, S Thorpe, D Vernon, S Walmsley, M Whitby and Y Wright

Apologies for Absence D Berry, C Cummins, J Mason, T Tariq and M Walsh

Public Attendance: ## members of the public attended Part 1 of the meeting.
members of the public attended Part 2 of the meeting.

C. 46 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Rafiq, Birchmore and M Smith declared personal interests in the Radcliffe First Notice of Motion as landlords of private properties in the Borough.

C. 47 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported to those present, duties undertaken as Bury's first citizen since the last Council meeting.

C. 48 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2023 were approved and signed by the Mayor.

C. 49 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Notice had been received of the following 2 questions:

Questioner	Topic	Responding
Rebecca Jackson	Suicide prevention	N Boroda
Andrew Luxton	Planning applications	E O'Brien

There were no questions raised at the meeting.

C. 50 RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES

[Meeting of Locality Board 8th January 2024 – Locality Plan – Terms of Reference](#)

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

Council approved the revised Locality Board Terms of Reference.

Cabinet 10th January 2024 – Children and Young People’s Directorate – Senior Management Structure

It was moved by Councillor Boroda and seconded by Councillor O’Brien and it was agreed:

The vacant post of Director of Social Care Practice (Chief Officer Band E, £93,102-£101,596) be redesignated as Director of Social Care & Early Help, evaluated as (Chief Officer Band F, £103,767-£112,636) to reflect the

C. 51 POLLING PLACE AND POLLING DISTRICT REVIEW JANUARY 2024

It was moved by Councillor Rafiq and seconded by Councillor O’Brien and it was agreed that

1. The Council notes the comments received during the consultation period.
2. The Council approves the Acting Returning Officers recommendations that:
 - The use of mobile cabins for polling stations continues but is reviewed regularly by the electoral services team
 - Polling districts 1GD and 1GDA are merged together and named 1GD
 - Polling district 1HD is renamed 1HC
 - Polling district IHE is renamed IHD
3. The Council requests the Electoral Registration Officer makes the necessary amendments as outlined in Appendix A to polling districts for the publication of the revised Electoral Register.
4. 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 in consultation with ward councillors, group leaders.

C. 52 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LOCAL RETURNING OFFICER FOR COMBINED AUTHORITY MAYORAL ELECTIONS

See above.

C. 53 COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT

It was moved by Councillor Rafiq and seconded by Councillor Gold and it was agreed that

1. the scheme continues in its current form for the year 2024/25
2. the current disregard of all War Widow’s/Widower’s Pension or War Disablement Pension is continued
3. the performance of the scheme continues to be closely monitored and will be reviewed and amended as appropriate on an annual basis.

C. 54 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 Quinn	Pilsworth South Landfill operator
2	Cllr Moss	Cllr O'Brien	Let's Fix It Together
3	Cllr Pilkington	Cllr A Quinn	Flooding
4	Cllr Vernon	Cllr A Quinn	Pilsworth South landfill
5	Cllr M Smith	Cllr Gold	Level of cover offered by statutory services
6	Cllr Fitzgerald	Cllr O'Brien	Plans for Whitefield
7	Cllr Staples-Jones	Cllr Gold	Let's Do It Community Fund
8	Cllr Dean	Cllr Rafiq	Sickness levels in waste management
9	Cllr Farooq	Cllr Gold	Funding of councils

Due to the lack of time to answer questions 10 to 19 inclusive, the Leader gave an undertaking that copies of those questions and responses will be circulated to all Councillors. The Leader also gave an undertaking to make these available on the Council Web Site.

b) Verbal Questions

Questioner	Cabinet Member	Topic
Cllr Ryder	Cllr O'Brien	Places for Everyone
Cllr Hayes	Cllr Quinn	LED street lights
Cllr McBriar	Cllr O'Brien	Temporary traffic lights at Turton Road
Cllr Bayley	Cllr L Smith	Childrens services
Cllr Green	Cllr O'Brien	Pressures on housing services
Cllr Brown	Cllr O'Brien	Parking at Fairfield Hospital
Cllr Fitzgerald	Cllr Quinn	HS2
Cllr Wright	Cllr Quinn	Street lighting

C. 55

COMBINED AUTHORITY REPORT AND QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL'S COMBINED AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES

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

Questioner	Combined Authority Member	Topic
Cllr Moss	Cllr Bayley	Tranche 2 of bus franchising
Cllr D Quinn	Cllr Gold	Greater than Violence Strategy
Cllr Rydeheard	Cllr Gold	GMP officers sent to suspected violent incidents
Cllr Rizvi	Cllr Bayley	Speed camera criteria

Cllr Harris	Cllr Gold	Operation Limit
Cllr Dean	Cllr Gold	FOI requests received by GMP

C. 56 NOTICES OF MOTION

A motion had been received 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 :-

Houses in Multiple Occupancy (HMO) have become a significant part of the rental sector and can provide accommodation at a cheaper rate than renting a whole house or flat. This is useful for people who have limited housing choices or looking for short stay accommodation, such as migrant workers or young professionals.

Many landlords offer well maintained homes. However, there are still a number of landlords who rent sub-standard, overcrowded and potentially dangerous accommodation to vulnerable people. Many of these are not considered as 'Large' HMO's and therefore do not require a licence.

The growth of HMO's also has an impact on the local community Eg waste management, health and safety, social care, access to health services and property availability for first time buyers.

Licensing has largely been successful in helping to drive up standards in order that HMO's are safer places to live. All properties used as HMO's, housing five people or more in two or more households, sharing facilities come under legislation and will require a licence. The licence includes minimum room sizes (6.5sqm single person, 10.2sqm for 2 people, 4.6sqm child under 10years old) and requirements for landlords to provide adequate bins and waste storage.

Bury MBC is required to maintain a register of large HMO's. There are currently 105 such properties: 63 in Bury; 12 in Prestwich; 17 in Radcliffe; 0 in Ramsbottom; 3 in Tottington and 10 in Whitefield. Ten of the properties on the published register are out of their licence period.

This Council therefore resolves :-

- To update the website to state a review of the HMO register is in process and will be published when complete
- To inspect as appropriate applications to ensure a good standard of safety and maintenance and carry out appropriate enforcement of those that do not meet the standard.
- To explore the possibility of expanding the Article 4 Directive (remove permitted development rights), to other areas of the Borough, if and when such areas are identified.
- To explore Council Tax rules available to us and where possible ensure that landlords are paying appropriate tax for their business.
- To explore the potential of additional funding to be made available to the Licensing and Enforcement teams during the budget setting process

On being put with 44 Members voting for, 0 Members voting against and the Mayor Abstaining, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

Council considered a notice of motion received from 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, Thorpe, Walmsley, Whitby.

In 2010 60,000 people were using food banks in the UK, in 2023 2.9 million people had to use foodbanks. Over 13500 children qualify for free school meals in the Bury borough alone. Many residents are struggling with recent high inflation, high mortgage interest rates and a doubling of fuel bills in the last 2 years. The government's household support fund went part of the way to enable councils to support the worst hit residents when it was introduced in 2021. Now, the Government's Household support fund is set to end on 31st March, 2024.

This council believes that everyone is entitled to the basic physical needs, to be warm, dry, clean and fed.

This council recognises that in the last 12 months the Household support fund, (HSF) administered by Labour-ran Bury council;

- Provided free school meals in the holidays for those who need it
- Payments to those in food and fuel poverty
- Grants to our Bury food support network
- Community grants to organisations tackle the cost of living crisis
- Discretionary housing payments for those at risk of homelessness
- funded the Citizens advice bureau
- and many more projects supporting those who most needed it.

Withdrawal of this grant, at a time when council's face such financial hardship, will only leave 1000s of bury residents to struggle even more.

This council resolves to

- Continue to execute our Cost of living and Anti-poverty strategy.
- Work with communities and partners to make sure we help those most vulnerable in the borough
- Call for a reinstatement of the HSF in our boroughwide Let's fix it campaign
- write to our two local MPs asking them to support our calls to keep the HSF
- Write to the Prime Minister and the chancellor of Exchequer asking them to keep the fund in their budget in March.

Members considered an amendment moved by Councillor Bernstein and seconded by Councillor McBriar that:

In 2010 60,000 people were using food banks in the UK, in 2023 2.9 million people had to use foodbanks. Over 13500 children qualify for free school meals in the Bury borough alone. Many residents are struggling with recent high inflation, high mortgage interest rates and a doubling of fuel bills in the last 2 years. The government's household support fund went part of the way to enable councils to support the worst hit residents when it was introduced in 2021. Now, the Government's Household support fund is set to end on 31st March, 2024.

This council believes that everyone is entitled to the basic physical needs, to be warm, dry, clean and fed.

This council recognises that in the last ~~12 months~~ 3 years the Household ~~support fund, (HSF)~~ administered by Labour ran provided by the conservative government to local authorities generally including Bury council;

- Provided free school meals in the holidays for those who need it
- Payments to those in food and fuel poverty
- Grants to our Bury food support network
- Community grants to organisations tackle the cost of living crisis
- Discretionary housing payments for those at risk of homelessness
- funded the Citizens advice bureau
- and many more projects supporting those who most needed it.

~~Withdrawal of this grant, at a time when council's face such financial hardship, will only leave 1000s of bury residents to struggle even more.~~

None continuation of this grant will require councils such as this to deliver much improved financial management if it chooses to continue to support the activities listed above

This council resolves to

- ~~• Continue to execute our Cost of living and Anti-poverty strategy.~~
- Review our cost of living and anti-poverty strategy in light of the encouraging economic improvements
- Work with communities and partners to make sure we help those most vulnerable in the borough
- ~~• Call for a reinstatement of the HSF in our boroughwide Let's fix it campaign~~
- ~~• write to our two local MPs asking them to support our calls to keep the HSF~~
- ~~• Write to the Prime Minister and the chancellor of Exchequer asking them to keep the fund in their budget in March.~~
- Write to the chancellor of the exchequer and seek his view as to whether due to the improving economic situation and local financial settlement the household support fund needs to be continued.

Members moved to vote on the amendment.

On being put with 11 Members voting for, 34 Members voting against and the Mayor Abstaining, the Mayor declared the motion lost.

Members voted on the substantive motion:

On being put: with 34 voting for, 0 voting against, 11 including the Mayor abstaining, the motion was carried.

Council considered a notice of motion received from COUNCILLORS ARIF, BERNSTEIN, BROWN, DEAN, GARTSIDE, HARRIS, HUSSAIN, LANCASTER, McBRIAR, RYDEHEARD, VERNON

The communities of Bury stand together with our friends in Ukraine.

From the darkest moments of the war we have supported the Ukrainian people as they fight against the illegal and unjustified invasion of Ukraine by Russia. This Council has been moved by the strength of feeling in this country to support Ukraine

Many people from Bury have given aid to Ukraine and have supported the humanitarian effort.

We have opened our doors to Ukrainian people through the Homes for Ukraine scheme and seen their wonderful culture first hand.

After the Second World War, the last time that Europe was ravaged by needless war, towns and communities across Europe twinned. It was done to share cultural ties and further express our shared culture and values.

We now stand with the spirit of twinning and exchanging culture across Europe, which is ever more important since the Russian full scale invasion of Ukraine and aim to forge a new twinning relationship with a town, region or city in Ukraine.

Therefore, this Council resolves that:

1. Bury resolves to seek to twin with a town, region or city in Ukraine to highlight the Council's strength of support for Ukraine.
2. The Council resolves to work with the UK Friends of Ukraine to find a suitable town, region or city in Ukraine to twin with.
3. The Council requests that officers come back to the next Full Council with a report on a formal twinning with a town in Ukraine and the next steps in a creation of a Twinning Association.

On being put with 45 Members voting for, 0 Members voting against and the Mayor Abstaining, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

C. 57 FOR INFORMATION *COUNCIL MOTION TRACKER
C. 58 SCRUTINY REVIEW REPORTS AND SPECIFIC ITEMS "CALLED IN" BY
SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

There were no scrutiny review reports and specific items "called in" by scrutiny committees

C. 59 QUESTIONS ON THE WORK OF OUTSIDE BODIES OR PARTNERSHIPS

There were no questions on the work of outside bodies or partnerships

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR

(Notes: Part 1 of the meeting started at 7.00 pm and ended at 3.00 pm
Part 2 of the meeting started at xxxx pm and ended at 10.20 pm)