

**Lynne Ridsdale**  
**Chief Executive**

*Our Ref* JG  
*Your Ref* C/JG  
*Date* 9 July 2024  
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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, R Brown, C Cummins, D Duncalfe, U Farooq, E FitzGerald, N Frith, I Gartside, R Gold, D Green, J Grimshaw, S Haroon, J Harris, M Hayes, J Hook, 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, M Rahimov, I Rizvi, M Rubinstein, J Rydeheard, L Ryder, K Simpson, L Smith, M Smith, J Southworth, G Staples-Jones, T Tariq, S Thorpe, D Vernon, S Walmsley, M Walsh 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, 17 July 2024
<b>Place:</b>	Bury Art Gallery, Moss St, Bury BL9 0DR
<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 that reads "Widdale".

**Chief Executive**

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

## AGENDA

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**3 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**4 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (Pages 11 - 16)**

**5 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

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**

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

Committee/Date	Subject	Recommendation
Cabinet 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Budget Update Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approve the increase to the fees and charges as set in section 21 and Appendix 1 totalling £444k.</li><li>• Note the updated Net Revenue Budget of £224.480m and £1.982m reduction in the use of reserves, from £15.131m to £13.149m.</li></ul>

<p>Cabinet 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024</p>	<p>Housing Revenue Account – Proposed Capital Works Programme 2024/25</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acknowledge the proposed Capital Programme to be funded within the HRA, estimated at £19,841,760 and recommends to Council that it be approved.</li> <li>• Subject to Council approval, authorises external competitive procurement to be commenced in respect of the respective schemes identified within the Capital Programme on a compliant basis in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules 2022.</li> <li>• Requests reports back on the individual schemes with recommendations as to contract awards at the conclusion of the respective procurement processes.</li> <li>• Notes that whilst the target completion date for the respective contract works is the end of the current financial year, the duration of some contracts and the associated expenditure will run into 2025/26 and that further updates will be provided to Cabinet as part of the Budget reporting process.</li> <li>• Approves payments to Green Grants Install Limited for decarbonisation works under the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) Wave 1 and 2 programmes grant</li> </ul>
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		<p>funded by the GMCA and delegates to the Director of Law and Gove</p>
<p>Cabinet 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024</p>	<p>Implementation of the Children's Services Leadership Structure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note the update on the Children &amp; Young People's Department Senior Management Restructure, including work to implement the new structure following conclusion of staff consultation.</li> <li>• Recommend that Council approve in principle the release of the Strategic Lead (Schools System) and disestablishment of their role following their request for Voluntary Early Retirement with Severance submitted through the consultation process. – This would attract severance costs of £37,409 (which will be met by the Department) and capital costs of £101,325 related to the early release of pension benefits (which will be met centrally by the fund held by the Greater Manchester Pension Fund on behalf of the Council for this purpose). (These costs will vary very slightly dependant on the exact leaving date).</li> <li>• Delegate to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Executive Director of Children and</li> </ul>

		<p>Young People, Director of People &amp; Inclusion and the Cabinet Members for Children's Services and HR and Corporate Affairs, final approval and the specific timing of redundancy linked to the completion of a number of strategic deliverables.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommend that Council approve the redesignation and revaluation of one of the two Assistant Director (Regeneration Delivery) roles (Chief Officer Band D, £83,865-£90,992) to Director of Regeneration and Project Delivery (Chief Officer Band E, £93,102 - £101,596) to reflect the transfer of responsibility for Schools' Capital Development to this role and also an expanded remit in relation to housing growth and development following the departure of the former Director of Housing.</li> </ul>
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a **Budget Update Report** (Pages 17 - 34)

Report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation is attached.

b **Proposed Major Works Programme for the Councils housing stock 2024/25** (Pages 35 - 42)

Report of Cabinet Member for Housing Services attached.

c **Implementation of the Children's Services leadership restructure** (Pages 43 - 52)

Report of Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR attached.

7 **LEADER' STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME** (Pages 53 - 70)

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)

## 8 **COMBINED AUTHORITY REPORT AND QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL'S COMBINED AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES** (Pages 71 - 108)

- (A) A combined authority update report is attached, for information. The focus of this update is the Greater Manchester Waste Authority.
- (B) The GMWA representative will then be invited to present a verbal update on the work of the Authority (5 minutes).
- (C) Members will be allowed to ask verbal questions on the verbal update (5 minutes).
- (D) 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 minutes)

## 9 **NOTICES OF MOTION**

**Council considered a notice of motion received from Councillors** Carol Birchmore, Donald Berry, Andrea Booth, Des Duncafe, Glyn Marsden, Mike Smith, Mary Walsh and Ken Simpson:

### **Motion – Reducing discharges from combined storm overflows (CSOs)**

Councillors Carol Birchmore, Cllr Donald Berry, Cllr Andrea Booth, Cllr Des Duncafe, Cllr Glyn Marsden, Cllr Ken Simpson, Cllr Mike Smith and Cllr Mary Walsh.

Combined sewer overflows (CSOs) have been seen by the water sector as a necessary 'safety valve' in the sewer system to prevent sewage backing up during periods of extreme rainfall.

Experts within the water sector disagree on the level CSOs are being used within their permitted conditions, and how much they are abused as a cheap alternative to treating sewage.

CSOs combine raw sewage with other pollutants in rainfall runoff from pavements and roads, they discharge a wide range of contaminants such as faecal pathogens (including bacteria resistant to antibiotics), industrial chemicals, sanitary products, pharmaceuticals, microplastics, heavy metals, oils, and solids such as wet wipes. This cocktail, discharged into our rivers, has negative impacts including:

- Risk to public health through contact recreation in rivers and potential risk via airborne bacteria and pathogens.
- Chronic and acute effects upon aquatic wildlife.

The Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan updated: 25 September 2023, relating to the Water Industry Act 1991, presents a target that water companies will only be permitted to

discharge from a storm overflow where they can demonstrate that there is no local adverse ecological impact. It is difficult to believe that you can discharge into any body of water without an “adverse ecological impact”, and it is important that this stipulation is not seen to only apply to rural idyl sites but rather to assign ecological importance to all water bodies. The report gives a target as limiting pollution, to ensure that all storm overflows would only be used in the rare case of unusually heavy rainfall, if at all.

In December 2023 the Government reported that 100% of storm overflows across the water network in England have now been fitted with Event Duration Monitors (EDMs). As a result of the monitors being fitted, the Environment Agency is now able to provide data for each of the CSOs. They can identify number of spills (discharges) and the total number of hours the spills lasted. The map makes it easy to view the data and it provides the location of each of the CSOs. The map shows that there are around 27 frequently used CSOs within Bury MBC which includes around 8 in Radcliffe positioned along the River Irwell. The data for 2023 shows increasing discharges compared to 2022, and 2021 when monitoring of CSOs was first introduced.

The data from the EDMs shows that the number of “spills” in 2023 from CSOs at Blackford Bridge WTW and the CSOs along the River Irwell in Radcliffe is 702, for a total duration of 6,845 hours, which is equivalent to 285 days or 78% of the time. Despite the weather in 2023 being wet, this does appear to be excessive and very worrying. It almost feels as though the River Irwell is being treated as an open sewer.

Unfortunately, The Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan appears to concentrate on areas where open swimming takes place, giving them top priority status but surely it is not acceptable to ask residents in densely populated areas to endure such high levels of pollution in our rivers.

The recent actions of the councillors in Rochdale regarding the Pilsworth Landfill site show that Councils can raise awareness of environmental issues and ask large companies for action plans to address them. Through this motion we would like to achieve the same level of public consciousness of this issue and prompt the Government and other stakeholders to ask for action on this issue.

**This Council resolves to:**

- Request a meeting with United Utilities and local councillors to discuss concerns and explore local solutions to the discharging of sewage into rivers which either flow through or feed into rivers that flow through Bury MBC.
- Write to our two local MPs outlining the concerns raised about the effective regulation of United Utilities and continued spills/discharges from CSOs.
- Write to the Regulator the Environment Agency asking that priority is given to addressing the discharge into all rivers not simply those in river bathing areas.
- Write to the Regulator the Environment Agency requesting direct engagement between concerned members to establish what they are doing to improve water quality in our Borough and prevent further unnecessary spills.

**Council considered a notice of motion received from Councillors: A Arif, Bayley, Boles, Cummins, Farooq, Fitzgerald, Frith, Gold, Green, Grimshaw, Haroon, Hayes, Hook, Ibrahim, McGill, Morris, Moss, O'Brien, Pilkington, Quinn Alan, Quinn Deborah, Rafiq, Rahimov, Rizvi, Rubinstein, Ryder, Smith Lucy, Southworth, Staples-Jones**



**Gareth, Tariq, Thorpe, Walmsley.**

## **Request the mandatory conditioning of Swift Bricks into new developments in Bury**

This Council notes:

Swifts are an iconic migratory species that grace our skies each summer with their thrilling acrobatic flight displays, they have nested alongside us for centuries, thus providing opportunities for people to engage with nearby nature, which is now well recognised to be of great value to our well-being.

Swifts and House Martins are “building-dependent” species, House Sparrows and Starlings partially so. However, as the new Biodiversity Net Gain Metric does not consider buildings as habitat, provision for them is not counted within the metric. It is, however, encouraged by the Design Codes thus these species require specific inclusion within Local Planning Policies.

A further challenge in that modern housing is designed to ensure properties lack any gaps or spaces, such as would be used as for breeding sites by urban bird species and bats too.

When combined with the continued reduction of potential nest sites on existing buildings caused by refurbishment and repairs, this overall loss of breeding opportunities has resulted in a long-term dramatic decline of urban birds. Swifts, House Sparrows, House Martins and Starlings, all now red-listed, by the British Trust for Ornithology, indicating species of high conservation concern. Thus, without proactive policy we stand to lose many species, causing further deprivation of nature in urban areas.

It has been recognised that integrating nest bricks into the structure of the new buildings is a much-preferred solution over bird boxes; they are a permanent feature of the building, require zero maintenance, are aesthetically integrated within the design, less vulnerable to vandalism and have better thermal regulation with future climate change in mind.

Furthermore, analysis of breeding records from new housing estates built with integrated Swift bricks has shown that these spaces are readily used by both Swifts and other urban bird species, particularly House Sparrows; thus, Swift bricks are a universal nest brick for small bird species.

Best-practice guidance has recently been made available with the publication of British Standard BS42021:2022 Integral Nest Boxes – selection & installation for new developments

<https://knowledge.bsigroup.com/products/integral-nest-boxes-selection-and-installation-for-new-developments-specification-1/standard>

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

- 1) Request that the Council accepts that best practice, in the form of British Standard 42021:2022, should be proposed and adopted within the new Bury Local Plan.
- 2) Ensure that any plans to re-roof Bury’s Council Housing stock be seen as an opportunity to install Swift nesting boxes, especially if there is evidence of existing nests.

**Council considered a motion received in the names of Councillors Arif, Bernstein, Brown, Gartside, Harris, Hussain, Lancaster, McBriar, Rydeheard, Vernon.**

**PROMOTING AN INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE ENVIRONMENT TO IMPROVE THE**

## **LIVES OF BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED PEOPLE WHO LIVE AND VISIT BURY**

### **THIS COUNCIL NOTES THAT:**

Ensuring an inclusive and accessible environment is not just a matter of compliance but a fundamental right and a testament to our community's values some of which are embedded in the Let's Do It Strategy.

There are several actionable strategies which this Council can implement to improve the quality of life for blind and partially sighted people who both live and visit our Borough.

### **THIS COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGES THAT**

The actionable strategies include;

Accessibility to and improvements on public transportation

Enhancing the role of technology and digital accessibility

Improve community awareness and education

Improve accessibility to and inclusivity of employment opportunities

Ensure social and recreational opportunities for blind and partially sighted people are accessible

### **THIS COUNCIL RESOLVES**

To undertake a feasibility study to consider all matters that need to be considered to improve accessibility and inclusiveness for blind and partially sighted people living and visiting our Borough.

The feasibility study to include contributions from all partners and interested parties

For the Chief Executive to report back on this matter by January 2025 Council.

#### **a      LABOUR AMENDMENT TO THE RADCLIFFE FIRST NOTICE OF MOTION (Pages 109 - 112)**

Attached.

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

None.

#### **11      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).