

**Lynne Ridsdale  
Chief Executive**

*Our Ref* JG  
*Your Ref* C/JG  
*Date* 3 September 2024  
*Contact* Democratic Services  
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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, 11 September 2024
<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', written in black ink.

**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 11 - 16)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the last Meetings of the Council held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024. (Copy attached).

### 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

Committee/Date	Subject	Recommendation
Cabinet 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	TREASURY MANAGEMENT UPDATE	Cabinet notes and approves for onward submission to Council on 11 September the: o 2023/24 Prudential and Treasury Indicators o Treasury Management 2023/24 Outturn Report.
Licensing and Safety Committee 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	REVIEW OF TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR EXISTING HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES IN RESPECT OF EMISSIONS STANDARDS	It was agreed that the Licensing and Safety Committee considered and adopted the amendment (1, 2 and 3) to the existing standard and recommended to Full Council amendment (1, 2 and 3) be adopted. Amendment 3 was slightly amended as it had been proposed in the Licensing and Safety Committee report included in the agenda.  <i>For existing vehicle licence proprietors of a non-complaint vehicle:</i>  1. A vehicle proprietor of a hackney

		<p>and private hire vehicle licence that is due for renewal after the 1 January 2025 which is non-compliant with emission standards (EURO 4 Petrol vehicles and EURO 6 diesel vehicles) is permitted to make an application to renew the vehicle licence and provided the vehicle passes its compliance test it will be issued with a 12-month vehicle licence. The vehicle licence would be granted subject to a condition that the non-compliant vehicle is removed from the fleet and replaced with a Euro 4 or 6 compliant vehicle by the 31 December 2025.</p> <p>2. To delegate powers to the Head of Public Protection/Licensing Unit Manager and/or the Deputy Licensing Officer to suspend any vehicle licence that has been issued after the 1 January 2025 where the vehicle proprietor(s) have not complied with the condition to replace the non-compliant vehicle with a compliant vehicle by the 31 December 2025.</p> <p>3. In the event that a scheduled committee meeting of the Licensing &amp; Safety Committee &amp; Full Council would not permit a change. Delegation to the Assistant Director of Operations, Head of Public Protection/Licensing Unit Manager in written agreement with the Chair of the Licensing and Safety Committee to make amendments to Council Policy that relates to the transitional arrangements for existing vehicle proprietors who own non-compliant (emission standard) vehicles to enable expedient access to the clean taxi fund if it becomes available. Any decisions made would be reported in the Operational Report at the next meeting of the Licensing and Safety Committee.</p>
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a **TREASURY MANAGEMENT UPDATE** (Pages 17 - 34)

Report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation attached.

b **REVIEW OF TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR EXISTING HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES IN RESPECT OF EMISSIONS STANDARDS** (Pages 35 - 48)

A report from the Executive Director (Operations) is attached.

7 **LEADER' STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME** (Pages 49 - 78)

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 79 - 94)

(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.

9 **NOTICES OF MOTION**

The following Notices of Motion have been received:-

**(i) Community Safety, Cohesion and Resilience.**

This Council expresses its deepest sympathy with the families affected by the tragic events in Southport on 29<sup>th</sup> July. Our thoughts remain with the community there and our praise goes to the public and frontline emergency services who responded on the day and have since, to aid the recovery.

The exploitative criminal disorder that followed, exacerbated by false information online, led to widespread criminality, far right extremism, racism and Islamophobia. There is no place for this in our society and this Council utterly condemns it.

Thankfully we escaped direct civil unrest in Bury, though we were at risk and so on high alert throughout and since. As a result, there has been real harm done to some of our communities; our refugees and asylum seekers, and particularly our Muslim community, who understandably feel a heightened sense of anxiety, fear and vulnerability.

This Council welcomes the immediate intervention of the Government, who ensured a robust response to get the criminality under control and who supported the local and national Police to make prompt arrests so the courts could deliver swift justice.

We also welcome the support from the Home Office who provided immediate security, particularly at Muslim places of worship and community centres. The Council and our two constituency MPs, worked rapidly with mosque and community leaders on their Home Office applications, and all who applied received protection and most of them within 24 hours of submission. This offered an immediate sense of reassurance to those attending prayers and community events.

This Council recognises that the damage caused by the extremist groups is real and will be long lasting and we must now turn our attention to the long term safety and security of our communities, and healing the anxiety and distress caused.

Bury is a proudly tolerant and diverse place and we thank everyone in the borough who

spoke up against the criminality and called out racism wherever it manifested itself.

It is clear we need to prioritise inclusion, cohesion and safety to rebuild the confidence of those targeted, so they can live and work peacefully in our town without the anxiety of being targeted because of the colour of their skin.

**This Council therefore resolves to:**

- Build on our response work by collaborating with our faith and community leaders to build greater resilience and strength
- Participate fully in the Greater Manchester recovery coordination activity, recognising the fluidity of communities across administrative borders, whilst reflecting specifics of Bury's neighbourhoods
- Collaborate with faith and community leaders and MPs to support future applications to the Home Office security protection fund
- Revisit our LET'S Do It! strategy, alongside the Community Safety Partnership Plan, to refresh our priorities by co-developing with our communities and build a 'Stronger Together' community strategy for Bury
- Foster and facilitate opportunities for social interactions that allow the development of tolerance and trust to develop a shared sense of pride and place in Bury
- Ensure Council communication and engagement is reflective and responsive to the needs of all our communities, and work with partners to do ensure their approach is the same
- Link our community strategy work into that of Health Inequalities to deliver an equitable and inclusive approach
- Identify projects that encourage communities to work together for mutual benefit
- Progress the 'Different Cultures, Same Horizons' element as part of our Culture Strategy, with intergenerational work based on heritage
- Facilitate Team Bury work to gain insight of new and emerging communities (and leaders within these) that don't currently show in census data
- Encouragement of 'upstanding' – calling out and reporting behaviour – rather than bystanding and promote our Hate Crime reporting centres.

**In the names of COUNCILLORS; A Arif, Bayley, Boles, Cummins, Farooq, Fitzgerald, Frith, Gold, Green, Grimshaw, Haroon, Hayes, Hook, Ibrahim, McGill, Morris, Moss, O'Brien, Pilkington, A Quinn, D Quinn, Rafiq, Rahimov, Rizvi, Rubinstein, Ryder, L Smith, Southworth, Staples-Jones, Tariq, Thorpe, Walmsley**

**2) Government Funding Streams**

This Council notes that:

1. The previous government had provided funding up to the 30 September 2024 in respect of the Household Support Fund (HSF). This fund was aimed at providing targeted support and did not affect people who received any benefits.
2. The Chancellor the Exchequer in a recent speech (29 July 2024) announced that the newly elected Labour Government would be scrapping winter fuel payments for

those pensioners not on pension credit or other means-tested benefits.

3. The previous Government in the 2024/25 Local Government Policy Statement published on 5 December 2023 confirmed that they remained committed to improving the local government finance landscape in the next parliament.

This Council further notes

1. That a fair funding review of Local Government has been promised since 2016 and Bury Council voted against a Conservative Group proposal to lobby direct the then Secretary of State for Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities to give a commitment as to when such a review would take place.
2. Notwithstanding the above in recent years the Local Government Settlement has resulted in this Council's Core Spending Power (CSP) being higher than the overall Core Spending Power for the rest of the country.
3. The scrapping of the winter fuel payments (other than for those pensioners on pension credit or other means-tested benefits) is likely to result in a significant number of pensioners living in Bury struggling to stay warm this winter.
4. That the recently elected Labour Government although announcing an extension to the Household Support Fund are yet to announce the level of funding for Bury.

**This Council resolves to:**

1. Write to the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government imploring that the CSP for Bury is again higher than the national average.
2. In the same letter to the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government asking when will a Fair Funding Review take place.
3. Write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer asking what level of HSF this Council can expect for the remainder of this financial year and for the 2025/26 financial year bearing in mind the impact of scrapping winter fuel payments other than for those on pension credit or other means-tested benefits.

**In the names of COUNCILLORS S. Arif, Bernstein, Brown, Gartside, Harris, Hussain, Lancaster, McBriar, Rydeheard, Vernon.**

### **3) Motion, funding for drop-in centres for older residents**

On the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024, Chancellor Rachel Reeves delivered her budget statement. This statement included removing the winter fuel payments from all pension age residents other than those on pension credit.

Age UK claim that millions of struggling pensioners will no longer receive up to £300 winter fuel payments which they rely on to pay their bills. They believe that as many as 2 million pensioners who find paying their energy bills a real stretch will be seriously hit by this cut, which includes:

- Those on low incomes who just miss out on Pension Credit,
- Those with high energy needs because of disability or illness,
- The 1 million who do not receive the Pension Credit for which they are eligible.

According to the Guardian Deven Ghelani, the founder of Policy in Practice and one of the architects of the universal credit system, claimed that cliff edges in the benefit system are a growing problem. Whilst recognising that pension credit can unlock access to housing benefit and council tax support and social tariffs including the warm home discount and now winter fuel payments, they recognised that about 130,000 pensioners might be better off

with a lower income.

The Council has a duty of care for all its residents and since it appears that many older residents are missing out on payments that they are entitled to the Council needs to find ways of ensuring that older residents are aware of available help towards their cost of living. According to the Office for National Statistics, in 2020 46% of all residents over the age of 75 were not internet users, therefore although much of the information may be available online a significant number of older residents will not be able to access it. Although under disability access guidelines organisations are required to make sure information is available in alternative formats other than online, there needs to be a way of making residents aware of its availability and to make it easy for residents to obtain hard copies of any forms.

Some residents may find the completion of the pension credit form challenging since the form itself is 24 pages long with and an additional 24 pages of notes on how to complete the form. Although the Government website does inform residents that they can get help from organisations such as Age UK and Citizens Advice it requires residents to go to their pages to find out about accessing that help.

Winter can be a much more challenging time for elderly residents, with shorter days and longer nights, residents are likely to spend more time in their homes. The Alzheimer's Society claims that social isolation can lead to an increased risk of developing dementia relating to if a person lives alone, and whether they see friends and family regularly or engage in social or community activities. They separate social isolation from loneliness, which they define as how someone feels about their circumstances. Loneliness has been linked to increased dementia risk.

They also identify other dementia risks including cholesterol, diabetes, high blood pressure and obesity often linked to sedentary lifestyles. While the Council offers advice delivered by the Older People's Staying Well Team many residents are not aware of this service or how to access advice.

Several community organisations have been delivering drop in warming hubs for older residents, but these hubs could offer much more with support from the Council. Like other businesses, community centres and churches are feeling the impact of increased energy prices and consequently they are struggling to offer the same amount of freely available community access.

Several food banks and food pantries offer drop-in advice sessions alongside food provision to help those in our society who need additional help, we envisage that a similar service could help older residents access the payments they are entitled to.

This Council resolves to:

- Work with community organisations and churches throughout Bury MBC to provide funding to cover the costs of hosting warming hub drop-ins for residents seeking either a warm space or advice on available help
- Invite organisations such as Age UK and CAB (or an alternative Council employee) to attend these drop-ins to provide help and advice regarding eligibility and completion of forms for pension credit, attendance allowance, council tax relief, carers allowance etc
- Work to engage the PCN that does not currently fund the staying well service with a view to bringing the 8 GP Practices in Bury not currently eligible into the scheme.
- Arrange for the Older People's Staying Well Team to attend these drop-in sessions on a rotational basis to give advice on healthy living and available groups and classes for physical exercise and social activities



- Fund Calico to attend the sessions to provide help to residents in the private rental sector seeking advice
- Council to provide, as part of the Government sanctioned Pension Credit Awareness scheme, for a dedicated employee to send a letter to all residents over the age of 66 years to inform them of the deadline of 21st December 2024, for submitting a claim for Pension Credit in order that they may receive the full three months of backdated benefits.

## References

Age UK: Sign our petition to save the Winter Fuel Payment for struggling pensioners

The Guardian: UK pensioners left on 'financial cliff edge' by cuts to winter fuel payments, Sun 4 Aug 2024

Office for National Statistics (Census 2021): Internet users, UK: 2020

Gov.uk: Pension Credit claim form

Alzheimer's Society: Social isolation and dementia risk

**In the names of COUNCILLORS Birchmore, Berry, Booth, Duncalfe, Marsden, M Smith, K Simpson and Cllr Mary Walsh.**

## ***S151 Officer Comment***

***Currently there is no budget provision, any proposal will need to be funded, the extent of the funding will be dependent on the number of sessions. Contacting every resident over 66 would cost £24k.***

a **Labour Amendment to the Radcliffe First Notice of Motion** (Pages 95 - 96)

10 **COUNCIL MOTION TRACKER** (Pages 97 - 102)

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

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

12 **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).

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**Minutes of:** COUNCIL

**Date of Meeting:** 17 July 2024

**Present:** The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor , in the Chair)  
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, 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, 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

**Apologies for Absence** I Gartside and I Rizvi

**Public Attendance:** 6 members of the public attended the meeting.

## C. 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Roger Brown declared a pecuniary interest with regards to the Labour Notice of Motion as a United Utilities shareholder. He left the meeting, part way through consideration of this item.

## C. 3 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported to Council on work undertaken as Bury's first citizen since the last Council meeting.

The Mayor, together with Group Leaders placed on record their condolences and observed a minutes silence following the passing of former Councillor, Wilf Davidson and Bury resident Sir Howard Bernstein.

## C. 4 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

That the minutes of the last meeting be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

## C. 5 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Notice had been received of the following questions:

Questioner	Topic	Responding
Mr Birchall	Paving stone hazard	Cllr A Quinn

Questions without notice:

Questioner	Topic	Responding
Mr Dixon	Rochdale Old Road, Gulley Issue	Cllr A Quinn

**C. 6 RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES****Cabinet – Budget Update Report**

It was moved by Councillor Thorpe and seconded by Councillor O'Brien; on being put with all Members voting for and the Mayor abstaining; that, Council, approves:

- The increase to the fees and charges as set in section 21 and Appendix 1 totalling £444k.
- Note the updated Net Revenue Budget of £224.480m and £1.982m reduction in the use of reserves, from £15.131m to £13.149m.

**Cabinet – Housing Revenue Account – Proposed Capital Works Programme 2024/25**

It was moved by Councillor Cummins and seconded by Councillor Thorpe; on being put with all Members voting for and the Mayor abstaining; that, Council, approves:

The proposed Capital Programme to be funded within the HRA, estimated at £19,841,760.

**Cabinet – Implementation of the Children's Services Leadership Structure**

It was moved by Councillor Rafiq and seconded by Councillor L Smith; on being put with all Members voting for and the Mayor abstaining; that, Council, approves:

- 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).
- 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.

**C. 7 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	Leader	Elton Reservoir
2	Cllr Pilkington	Cllr A Quinn	3G Playing Pitch
3	Cllr Moss	Leader	Onshore Wind
4	Cllr Vernon	Cllr A Quinn	School Street Scheme
5	Cllr Staples Jones	Leader	Home Building
6	Cllr Ryder	Cllr Cummins	Section 21 Evictions
7	Cllr Vernon	Leader	Places for Everyone
8	Cllr FitzGerald	Cllr L Smith	Redvales Family Hub
9	Cllr J Southworth	Cllr Walmsley	Night Time Economy
10	Cllr MC Briar	Cllr I Smith	School places
11	Cllr Farooq	Cllr T Tariq	Fixing the NHS

Due to the lack of time to answer questions 12 to 15 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

The Leader received verbal questions from the following Councillors present: Bernstein, M Smith, A Arif, Vernon, Berry, Lancaster, D Quinn and J Southworth.

## C. 8 COMBINED AUTHORITY REPORT AND QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL'S COMBINED AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES

The Council received a report on the work of the Combined Authorities and a verbal update from Cabinet Member, Councillor A Quinn on the work of the Waste Authority.

The following questions had been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rules:

Questioner	Combined Authority Member	Topic
Cllr A Arif	Cllr A Quinn	Fare evasion
Cllr Staples-Jones	Cllr O'Brien	Investment in Bury Interchange
Cllr Brown	Cllr Walmsley	Stop and Search
Cllr Rydeheard	Cllr Walmsley	GMFRS

## C. 9 NOTICES OF MOTION

### 1. Combined Storm Overflows

Councillor considered a Notice of Motion from Councillors; Birchmore, Berry, Booth, Duncalfe, Marsden, M Smith, Simpson and Walsh, details of which were contained in the Council summons.

The Notice of motion was moved by Councillor Birchmore and seconded by Councillor Berry and it was proposed that, 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.

**Members considered an amendment moved by Councillor A Quinn and seconded by Councillor Staples Jones that:**

This Council welcomes the new Labour Government's proposals to take speedy action on this issue too. Including:

- Requesting Ofwat make sure funding for vital infrastructure is ringfenced and can only be spent on upgrades benefitting customers and the environment. In addition, that any money not spent is refunded to customers and not given as bonuses for bosses, dividends or salary increases.
- An expectation that companies to change their 'Articles of Association' – the rules governing each company – to make the interests of customers and the environment a primary objective.
- Proposing that customers gain new powers to hold water company bosses to account with new customer panels that will allow water users to summon board members and executives.
- Proposing, subject to consultation, that the amount of compensation customers are legally entitled to when key standards are not met will more than double.

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~~

1. Invite United Utilities to address members before a full council meeting to discuss concerns and explore local solutions to the discharging of sewage into local rivers.
2. Write to our two MPs to congratulate the new Environment Secretary for taking urgent action to address these concerns and request that water companies must stop discharges from CSOs by 2035.

3. Continue the exemplar relationship with the Environment Agency that we have and work with them to address these concerns.

**Members moved to vote on the amendment, with the majority of Members voting in favour, the Mayor declared the amendment carried.**

**Members voted on the substantive motion, with the majority of Members voting in favour, the Mayor declared the motion carried.**

## **2. Swift Bricks**

Council considered a motion received in the names of COUNCILLORS; A Arif, Bayley, Boles, Cummins, Farooq, Fitzgerald, Frith, Gold, Green, Grimshaw, Haroon, Hayes, Hook, Ibrahim, McGill, Morris, Moss, O'Brien, Pilkington, A Quinn, D Quinn, Rafiq, Rahimov, Rizvi, Rubinstein, Ryder, L Smith, Southworth, Staples-Jones, Tariq, Thorpe, Walmsley, details of which were contained in the Council summons.

The Notice of motion was moved by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor FitzGerald and it was proposed that, 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.

**On being put with all Members voting in favour, the motion was carried.**

## **3. An inclusive and accessible environment to improve the lives of blind and partially sighted people who live and visit Bury.**

Council considered a notice of motion received in the names of COUNCILLORS: S Arif, Bernstein, Brown, Gartside, Harris, Hussain, Lancaster, McBriar, Rydeheard, Vernon details of which were contained in the Council summons.

The Notice of motion was moved by Councillor McBriar and seconded by Councillor Grimshaw and it was proposed that;

### **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.

**On being put with all Members voting in favour, the motion was carried.**

**C. 10 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. 11 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:** The meeting started at 7pm and ended at 10.40pm





<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Decision Type:</b> Non-Key
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<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet	<b>Date:</b> 04 September 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	2023-24 Treasury Management Outturn	
<b>Report of</b>	Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation	

## 1 Summary

1.1 The report outlines the financial position and provides an update on the following aspects of the Treasury Management function throughout 2023/24.

The report covers:

- An economic update for 2023/24.
- An update of the Council's current treasury management position.
- Council Borrowing.
- Treasury Investment Activity.
- Non-Treasury Investments.
- Treasury Performance for 2023/24.
- Treasury Management Prudential Indicators.

1.2 The Council is required by legislation to produce an annual Treasury Management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for the year. This report meets both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).

### Recommendation(s)

1.3 Cabinet is recommended to:

- Note and approve for onward submission to Council on 11 September 2024, the:
  - 2023/24 Prudential and Treasury Indicators.
  - Treasury Management 2023/24 Outturn Report.

1.4 Council is asked to:

- Note the:
  - 2023/24 Prudential and Treasury Indicators.
  - Treasury Management 2023/24 Outturn Report.

### Reasons for recommendation(s)

- 1.5 It is a requirement of the CIPFA Code that the Council receives an annual Treasury Management Outturn Report. It should be noted that the Council met all its Prudential Indicators relating to Treasury Management in financial year 2023/24.

### **Alternative options considered and rejected**

- 1.6 Regular reporting to members on the Council's Treasury Management arrangements, controls and performance forms a key element of its overall governance and financial administration. Given this, no alternative options were considered when preparing this report.

## **2 Introduction**

- 2.1 In February 2023 the Council adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Council to approve, as a minimum, treasury management semi-annual and annual outturn reports.
- 2.2 This report includes the requirement in the 2021 Code, mandatory from 1st April 2023, of reporting of the treasury management prudential indicators.
- 2.3 The Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2023/24 was approved by Council at the Budget Council meeting on 22 February 2023, two further updates to the Treasury Management Strategy were approved by Council on 22 November 2023 and 21 February 2024.
- 2.4 The Council has borrowed and invested substantial sums of money and is therefore exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of risk remains central to the Council's treasury management strategy.

## **3 Economic update for 2023/24**

- 3.1 UK inflation continued to decline from the 8.7% rate seen at the start of 2023/24. By the last quarter of the financial year headline consumer price inflation (CPI) had fallen to 3.4% in February but was still above the Bank of England's 2% target at the end of the period. The core measure of CPI, i.e. excluding food and energy, also slowed in February to 4.5% from 5.1% in January, a rate that had stubbornly persisted for three consecutive months.
- 3.2 The UK economy entered a technical recession in the second half of 2023, as growth rates of -0.1% and -0.3% respectively were recorded for Q3 and Q4. Over the 2023 calendar year GDP growth only expanded by 0.1% compared to 2022. Towards the end of the financial year the Office for National Statistics reported a rebound in activity with economy expanding 0.2% in January 2024. Inflation has continued to fall during 2024 towards the target of 2.0% and the Bank of England announced a reduction in Bank Rate of 0.25% (from 5.25% to 5.0%) at its meeting on 1 August 2024.

- 3.3 During financial year 2023/24 employment and vacancies declined, and unemployment rose to 4.3% (3mth/year) in July 2023. The same month saw the highest annual growth rate of 8.5% for total pay (i.e. including bonuses) and 7.8% for regular pay growth (i.e. excluding bonuses). Thereafter, unemployment began to decline, falling to 3.9% (3mth/year) in January and pay growth also edged lower to 5.6% for total pay and 6.1% for regular pay, but remained above the Bank of England's forecast.
- 3.4 Having begun the financial year at 4.25%, the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) increased Bank Rate to 5.25% in August 2023 with a 3-way split in the Committee's voting as the UK economy appeared resilient in the face of the dual headwinds of higher inflation and interest rates. Bank Rate was maintained at 5.25% through to March 2024. The vote at the March was 8-1 in favour of maintaining rates at this level, with the single dissenter preferring to cut rates immediately by 0.25%. Although financial markets shifted their interest rate expectations downwards with expectations of a cut in June, the MPC's focus remained on assessing how long interest rates would need to be restrictive in order to control inflation over the medium term. As noted above, last month the MPC voted 5-4 in favour of a cut in Bank Rate from 5.25% to 5.0%.
- 3.5 In the Bank's quarterly Monetary Policy Report (MPR) released in August 2023 the near-term projection for services price inflation was revised upwards, goods price inflation widespread across products, indicating stronger domestic inflationary pressure with second-round effects in domestic prices and wages likely taking longer to unwind than they did to emerge. In the February 2024 MPR the Bank's expectations for the UK economy were positive for the first half of 2024, with a recovery from the mild recession in calendar H2 2023 being gradual. Headline CPI was forecast to dip below the 2% target quicker than previously thought due to declining energy prices, these effects would hold inflation slightly above target for much of the forecast horizon.
- 3.6 Following this MPC meeting, Arlingclose, the Council's treasury adviser, maintained its central view that 5.25% would be the peak in Bank Rate and that interest rates would most likely start to be cut later in 2024. The risks in the short-term were deemed to be to the downside if a rate cut came sooner than expected, but then to be more broadly balanced over the medium term.
- 3.7 The US Federal Reserve also pushed up rates over the period, reaching a peak range of between 5.25-5.50% in August 2023, where it has stayed since. US policymakers have maintained the relatively dovish stance from the December FOMC meeting and at the meeting in March, economic projections pointed to interest rates being cut by a total of 0.75% in 2024. The first reduction (probably of 0.25%) is anticipated to be agreed at its meeting in September 2024.
- 3.8 Following a similarly sharp upward trajectory, the European Central Bank hiked rates to historically high levels over period, pushing its main refinancing rate to 4.5% in September 2023, where it remained until June 2024, when it was

reduced by 0.25% to 4.25%. Economic growth in the region remains weak, with a potential recession on the cards, but inflation remains above the ECB's target, putting pressure on policymakers on how to balance these factors.

### **Financial markets**

- 3.9 Sentiment in financial markets remained uncertain and bond yields continued to be volatile over the year. During the first half of the year, yields rose as interest rates continued to be pushed up in response to rising inflation. From October they started declining again before falling sharply in December as falling inflation and dovish central bank attitudes caused financial markets to expect cuts in interest rates in 2024. When it emerged in January that inflation was stickier than expected and the BoE and the Federal Reserve were data dependent and not inclined to cut rates soon, yields rose once again, ending the period some 50+ bps higher than when it started.
- 3.10 Over the financial year, the 10-year UK benchmark gilt yield rose from 3.44% to peak at 4.75% in August, before then dropping to 3.44% in late December 2023 and rising again to 3.92% (28th March 2024). The Sterling Overnight Rate (SONIA) averaged 4.96% over the period to 31st March.

### **Credit review**

- 3.11 In response to an improving outlook for credit markets, in January 2024 Arlingclose moved away from its previous temporary stance of a 35-day maximum duration and increased its advised recommended maximum unsecured duration limit on all banks on its counterparty list to 100 days.
- 3.12 Earlier in the period, S&P revised the UK sovereign outlook to stable and upgraded Barclays Bank to A+. Moody's also revised the UK outlook to stable, Handelsbanken's outlook to negative, downgraded five local authorities, and affirmed HSBC's outlook at stable while upgrading its Baseline Credit Assessment. Fitch revised UOB's and BMO's outlooks to stable.
- 3.13 In the final quarter of the financial year, Fitch revised the outlook on the UK sovereign rating to stable from negative based on their assessment that the risks to the UK's public finances had decreased since its previous review in October 2022, the time of the mini-budget.
- 3.14 Moody's, meanwhile, upgraded the long-term ratings of German lenders Helaba, Bayern LB and LBBW on better solvency and capital positions, despite challenges from a slowing German economy and exposure to the commercial real estate sector. Moody's also upgraded or placed on review for an upgrade, Australian banks including ANZ, CBA NAB and Westpac on the back of the introduction of a new bank resolution regime.
- 3.15 Credit default swap prices began the financial year at elevated levels following the fallout from Silicon Valley Bank and collapse/takeover of other lenders. From then the general trend was one of falling prices and UK lenders' CDS ended the

period at similar levels to those seen in early 2023. Earlier in the year some Canadian lenders saw their CDS prices rise due to concerns over a slowing domestic economy and housing market, while some German lenders were impacted by similar economic concerns and exposure to commercial real estate towards the end of the period, with LBBW remaining the most elevated.

3.16 Heightened market volatility is expected to remain a feature, at least in the near term and, credit default swap levels will be monitored for signs of ongoing credit stress. As ever, the institutions and durations on the Council's counterparty list recommended by Arlingclose remain under constant review.

#### 4 Capital Expenditure and Financing

4.1 The Council undertakes capital expenditure on long-term assets. These activities may either be:

- Financed immediately through the application of capital or revenue resources (capital receipts, capital grants, revenue contributions etc.), which has no resultant impact on the Council's borrowing need; or
- If insufficient financing is available, or a decision is taken not to apply resources, the capital expenditure will give rise to a borrowing need.

4.2 The actual capital expenditure in each financial year forms one of the required prudential indicators. The table below shows the actual expenditure and how this was financed.

Capital Expenditure & Financing	2022/23 Actual £m	2023/24 Budget (Nov 23) £m	2023/24 Budget (Feb24) £m	2023/24 Actual £m
<b>Capital Expenditure:</b>				
Non-HRA	£35.093	£58.252	£55.533	£35.744
HRA	£13.297	£18.255	£19.314	£16.572
Non-Financial Investments	£20.099	£0.628	£0.628	£0.628
<b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>£68.489</b>	<b>£77.135</b>	<b>£75.475</b>	<b>£52.944</b>
<b>Resourced by:</b>				
Capital Receipts	£0.254	£2.105	£6.651	£2.649
Capital Grants	£17.760	£36.380	£36.038	£22.295
HRA	£12.257	£18.255	£13.597	£12.600
Revenue	£0.706	£1.085	£1.566	£0.488
<b>Total Resourced by:</b>	<b>£30.977</b>	<b>£57.825</b>	<b>£57.852</b>	<b>£38.032</b>
<b>Financing Requirement</b>	<b>£37.512</b>	<b>£19.310</b>	<b>£17.623</b>	<b>£14.912</b>

- 4.3 The Council’s underlying need to borrow to finance capital expenditure is termed the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This figure is a gauge of the Council’s indebtedness. The CFR results from the capital activity of the Council and resources used to pay for the capital spend. It represents the 2023/24 unfinanced capital expenditure (see above table), and prior years’ net or unfinanced capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for by revenue or other resources.
- 4.4 Part of the Council’s treasury activities is to address the funding requirements for this borrowing need. Depending on the capital expenditure programme, the treasury service organises the Council’s cash position to ensure that sufficient cash is available to meet the capital plans and cash flow requirements. This may be sourced through borrowing from external bodies, (such as the Government, through the Public Works Loan Board [PWLB], or the money markets), or utilising temporary cash resources within the Council.
- 4.5 The Council’s (non HRA) underlying borrowing need (CFR) is not allowed to rise indefinitely. Statutory controls are in place to ensure that capital assets are broadly charged to revenue over the life of the asset. The Council is required to make an annual revenue charge, called the Minimum Revenue Provision – MRP, to reduce the CFR. This is effectively a repayment of the non-Housing Revenue Account (HRA) borrowing need, (there is no statutory requirement to reduce the HRA CFR). This differs from the treasury management arrangements which ensure that cash is available to meet capital commitments. External debt can also be borrowed or repaid at any time, but this does not change the CFR.
- 4.6 The total CFR can also be reduced by:
- The application of additional capital financing resources, (such as unapplied capital receipts); or
  - Charging more than the statutory revenue charge (MRP) each year through a Voluntary Revenue Provision (VRP).

The Council’s 2024/25 MRP Policy, (as required by DLUHC Guidance), was approved as part of the Treasury Management Strategy Report for 2024/25 on 21st February 2024.

The Council’s CFR for financial year 2023/24 is shown below and represents a key prudential indicator. It includes PFI and leasing schemes on the balance sheet, which increase the Council’s borrowing need. No borrowing is actually required against these schemes as a borrowing facility is included in the contract (if applicable).

- 4.7 Borrowing activity is constrained by prudential indicators for gross borrowing and the CFR, and by the authorised limit.

Capital Financing Requirement	2022/23 Actual	2023/24 Budget (Nov 23)	2023/24 Revised (Feb 24)	2023/24 Actual
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	£m	£m	£m	£m
CFR – Non HRA	£186.618	£203.025	£201.213	£198.502
CFR – HRA	£119.216	£119.216	£119.216	£119.216
CFR – Non-Financial Investments	£65.296	£65.924	£65.793	£65.793
<b>TOTAL CFR</b>	<b>£371.130</b>	<b>£388.165</b>	<b>£386.222</b>	<b>£383.511</b>
Financing Requirement	£37.512	£19.310	£17.623	£14.912
MRP	(£1.798)	(£2.275)	(£2.531)	(£2.531)
<b>Movement in CFR</b>	<b>£35.714</b>	<b>£17.035</b>	<b>£15.092</b>	<b>£12.381</b>

4.8 Gross borrowing and the CFR - in order to ensure that borrowing levels are prudent over the medium term and only for a capital purpose, the Council should ensure that its gross external borrowing does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of the capital financing requirement in the current financial year 2023/24 and next two financial years. This essentially means that the Council is not borrowing to support revenue expenditure.

4.9 This indicator allowed the Council some flexibility to borrow in advance of its immediate capital needs in 2023/24. The table below highlights the Council's gross borrowing position against the CFR. The Council has complied with this prudential indicator. The table below highlights the Council's gross borrowing position against the CFR. The Council has complied with this prudential indicator.

	2022/23 Actual £m	2023/24 Budget (Nov 23) £m	2023/24 Budget (Feb 24) £m	2023/24 Actual £m
Gross Borrowing Position	£243.629	£262.939	£282.855	£262.429
CFR	£371.130	£388.165	£386.222	£383.511
<b>(Under) / Over Funding of CFR</b>	<b>(£127.501)</b>	<b>(£125.226)</b>	<b>(£103.367)</b>	<b>(£121.082)</b>

## 5 Treasury Position as at 31 March 2024

5.1 The treasury management position at 31st March and the change during the year is shown in the table below:

5.2 The Council's treasury position at the end of 2023/24 (excluding borrowing by PFI and finance leases), position was as follows:

	31 March 2023 Balance £m	Raised / Invested £m	Repaid / Realised £m	31 March 2024 Balance £m	Average Rate %
<b>Borrowing</b>					
PWLB	£162.329	£65.000	(£0.200)	£227.129	3.87
LOBOs	£33.000	£0.000	(£20.000)	£13.000	4.23
Banks	£5.000	£0.000	(£0.000)	£5.000	3.30
Local Authority	£43.300	£38.900	(£64.900)	£17.300	3.39
<b>Total Borrowing</b>	<b>£243.629</b>	<b>£103.900</b>	<b>(£85.100)</b>	<b>£262.429</b>	
<b>Investments</b>					
Short-term Investments	£0.250	(£0.250)	£0.000	£0.000	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	£1.470	£411.486	(£404.956)	£8.000	
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>£1.720</b>	<b>£411.236</b>	<b>(£404.956)</b>	<b>£8.000</b>	

<b>Net Borrowing</b>	<b>£241.909</b>		<b>£254.429</b>	
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5.3 The maturity structure of the debt portfolio was as follows:

<b>Maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing</b>	<b>2022/23 Actual £m</b>	<b>2022/23 Actual %</b>	<b>2023/24 Actual £m</b>	<b>2023/24 Actual %</b>
Under 12 months	£36.200	14.78%	£22.163	8.45%
12 months and within 24 months	£7.504	2.99%	£4.868	1.85%
24 months and within 5 years	£1.192	0.23%	£15.184	5.79%
5 years and within 10 years	£52.174	20.93%	£85.498	32.58%
10 years and within 15 years	£27.320	10.67%	£35.760	13.63%
15 years and over	£119.239	50.40%	£98.956	37.70%
<b>Total Debt</b>	<b>£243.629</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>£262.429</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

5.4 The Council's investment portfolio was as shown below:

	<b>31 March 2023 Investment balance £m</b>	<b>Amount Invested In-year £m</b>	<b>Investments Realised In-year £m</b>	<b>31 March 2024 Investment balance at £m</b>
<b>Notice Accounts</b>				
Barclays Bank - 32-day Notice account	£0.250	(£0.250)	0.000	£0.000
Barclays Bank - 95-day Notice account	£0.250	(£0.250)	0.000	£0.000
<b>Total Notice Accounts</b>	<b>£0.500</b>	<b>(£0.500)</b>	<b>£0.000</b>	<b>£0.000</b>
<b>Call Accounts</b>				
Barclays Bank - Flexible Interest-Bearing Current Account	£1.220	£313.516	(£311.236)	£3.500
Bank of Scotland - Call Account	£0.000	£98.220	(£93.720)	£4.500
<b>Total Call Accounts</b>	<b>£1.220</b>	<b>£411.736</b>	<b>(£404.956)</b>	<b>£8.000</b>
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>£1.720</b>	<b>£411.236</b>	<b>(£404.956)</b>	<b>£8.000</b>

5.5 All of the Council's investments are held for a period of up to 1 year.

## 6 Investment and Borrowing Strategy

6.1 CIPFA's 2021 Prudential Code is clear that local authorities must not borrow to invest primarily for financial return and that it is not prudent for local authorities to make any investment or spending decision that will increase the capital financing requirement and so may lead to new borrowing, unless directly and primarily related to the functions of the Council. PWLB loans are no longer available to local authorities planning to buy investment assets primarily for yield unless these loans are for refinancing purposes.

6.2 Bury MBC has not invested in assets primarily for financial return or that are not primarily related to the functions of the Council. It has no plans to do so in future.



6.3 The main objective when borrowing has been to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing lower interest costs and achieving cost certainty over the period for which funds are required, with flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Council’s long-term plans change being a secondary objective. The Council’s borrowing strategy continues to address the key issue of affordability without compromising the longer-term stability of the debt portfolio.

6.4 Interest rates have seen substantial rises over the last two years, although these rises have now begun to plateau. Gilt yields fell in late 2023, reaching April 2023 lows in December 2023 before rebounding to an extent in the first three months of 2024. Gilt yields have remained volatile, seeing upward pressure from perceived sticker inflation at times and downward pressure from falling inflation and a struggling economy at other times.

6.5 The PWLB certainty rates for maturity loans were:

Loan Term	31 March 2023	31 March 2024
10-Year Rate	4.33%	4.98%
20-Year Rate	4.70%	5.39%
50-Year Rate	4.41%	5.21%

6.6 The cost of short-term borrowing from other local authorities has generally rose with Base Rate over the year. Interest rates peaked at around 7% towards the later part of March 2024 as many authorities required cash at the same time. These rates have fallen back to more normal market levels since April 2024.

6.7 A new PWLB HRA rate which is 0.4% below the certainty rate was made available from 15th June 2023. This rate will now be available to June 2025. The discounted rate is to support local authorities borrowing for the Housing Revenue Account and for refinancing existing HRA loans.

6.8 As at 31st March 2024 the Council held £262.429m of loans, an increase of £18.800m on the previous year as part of its strategy for funding previous and current years’ capital programmes. Outstanding loans on 31st March are summarised in 5.2 above.

## 7 Borrowing and Investment Outturn

### Borrowing movement in-year

7.1 On 1st April 2023 the Council held £33.0m of LOBO (Lender’s Option Borrower’s Option) loans where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the interest rate at set dates, following which the Council has the option to either accept the new rate and terms or to repay the loan at no additional cost.

- 7.2 As market interest rates rose, LOBOS call option on Council's loans were exercised and the Council repaid two loans totalling £20.0m replaced by PWLB loans.
- 7.3 Higher rated temporary borrowing and Market Loans were also replaced by PWLB loans in year.

#### Treasury Investment Activity

- 7.4 The CIPFA Treasury Management Code defines treasury management investments as those investments which arise from the Council's cash flows or treasury risk management activity that ultimately represents balances that need to be invested until the cash is required for use during business.
- 7.5 As of 31 March 2024, the council held £8m of invested funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held.
- 7.6 Both the CIPFA Code and government guidance require the Council to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its treasury investments before seeking the optimum rate of return, or yield. The Council's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income.
- 7.7 As demonstrated by the liability benchmark in this report, the Council expects to be a long-term borrower and new treasury investments are therefore primarily made to manage day-to-day cash flows using short-term low risk instruments.
- 7.8 Bank Rate increased by 1% over the period, from 4.25% at the beginning of April 2023 to 5.25% by the end March 2024. Short term rates peaked at 5.7% for 3-month rates and 6.7% for 12-month rates during the period, although these rates subsequently began to decline towards the end of the period. Investment Rates also rose and were between 0.66% and 5.14% by the end of March 2024.
- 7.9 2023/24 was characterised by significant volatility in bond markets. Adjusting to central banks' intention of keeping policy rates unchanged amid persistently higher core inflation, tight labour markets and resilient growth, global bond yields rose (i.e. bond prices fell), the August-October 2023 period being a particularly weak one for bond markets with falling prices negatively impacting credit market sentiment and bond fund performance as well as weighing on multi-asset fund returns. November and December saw a turnaround with a significant fall in US and global bond yields (i.e. bond prices rising), the catalyst being a signal from the US Federal Reserve that it was prepared to cut rates in 2024. The 10-year UK gilt yield, which had increased nearly 1.25% since the beginning of the financial year fell back to 3.44% by the end of December, close to its 1st April level. Thereafter, the first quarter of 2024 proved more difficult for government bonds as stubborn inflation led fixed income markets to question if the

expectation of the number of rate cuts over 2024 and the accompanying fall in yields had been overdone.

- 7.10 Strong demand for credit resulted in the tightening of credit spreads which was supportive of high yield corporate bonds and emerging market debt.
- 7.11 By contrast, shrugging off geopolitical concerns, global equities were buoyed by healthy corporate earnings, resilient economic data and moderating inflation and the view central banks had reached the peak of their rate tightening cycles. Several indices, including the S&P 500 and Nasdaq, posted record highs driven by AI exuberance. The performance of the S&P 500 was primarily driven by its top seven tech-related mega-cap growth stocks (these securities do not heavily feature in equity income funds).
- 7.12 After an initial period of caution due to the likelihood of recession, the UK economy fared better than anticipated with a shallow recession, falling inflation and improved consumer confidence providing support for UK equities, with stocks trading at attractive valuations relative to their global peers. The FTSE All-Share was one of the top performing stock markets in September and December 2023. The total return on the FTSE All Share index for the 12 months ending March 2024 was 8.2%, FTSE 100 was 8.1% and MSCI All World was 25.7%.
- 7.13 The market background for commercial property improved marginally in 2023 and was more stable, in contrast to the very challenging backdrop of 2022. Low transactional volumes were a constraint on valuations and made prospective sellers and buyers more cautious. Although many sectors lacked momentum, there was growing confidence in the longer-term outlook as occupier demand and rental markets held up. Industrial and retail warehousing sectors remained strong, but the retail and offices sectors remained weak, the latter continuing to be hindered by low occupancy from hybrid working practices.

## **8 Non-Treasury Investments**

- 8.1 The definition of investments in the Treasury Management Code covers all the financial assets of the Council as well as other non-financial assets which the Council holds primarily for financial return. Investments that do not meet the definition of treasury management investments (i.e. management of surplus cash) are categorised as either for service purposes (made explicitly to further service objectives) and or for commercial purposes (made primarily for financial return).
- 8.2 Investment Guidance issued by the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) also includes within the definition of investments all such assets held partially or wholly for financial return.) [NB: Following the General Election in July 2024 DLUHC has been re-named the Department of Housing, Communities and Local Government (DHCLG).]

- 8.3 The Council holds the following non-treasury investments as at the 31 March 2024:

<b>Non-Financial Investments</b>	<b>2022/23 £m</b>	<b>2023/24 £m</b>
Manchester Airport Equity	£5.610	£5.610
Manchester Airport Loan	£29.366	£29.366
Bury MBC Townside Fields Loan	£7.257	£7.257
Six Town Housing Loan	£2.953	£2.822
Bury Bruntwood (Millgate) LLP Loan	£20.099	£20.099
The Prestwich Regeneration (LLP) Loan	£0.000	£0.628
Debt Managed for Probation Services	£0.011	£0.011
<b>Total</b>	<b>£65.296</b>	<b>£65.793</b>

## 9 Treasury Performance for 2023/24

- 9.1 The Council measures the financial performance of its treasury management activities both in terms of its impact on the revenue budget and its relationship to benchmark interest rates.

### Consultations

- 9.2 In December DLUHC published two consultations: a “final” consultation on proposed changes to regulations and statutory guidance on MRP closing on 16th February and a “call for views” on capital measures to improve sector stability and efficiency closing on 31st January.
- 9.3 Draft regulations and draft statutory guidance are included in the MRP consultation. The proposals remain broadly the same as those in June 2022 – to limit the scope for authorities to (a) make no MRP on parts of the capital financing requirement (CFR) and (b) to use capital receipts in lieu of a revenue charge for MRP.
- 9.4 In its call for views on capital measures, government wishes to engage with councils to identify and develop options for the use of capital resources and borrowing to support and encourage ‘invest-to-save’ activity and to manage budget pressures without seeking exceptional financial support. Whilst Government has identified some options including allowing authorities to capitalise general cost pressures and meet these with capital receipts, there is no commitment to take any of the options forward.

### Compliance

- 9.5 All treasury management activities undertaken during the year complied fully with the principles in the Treasury Management Code and the Council’s approved Treasury Management Strategy Compliance with specific investment limits is demonstrated in table 9A below.

Table 9A: Investment Limits

	2023/24 Maximum	31.3.24 Actual	2023/24 Limit	Complied? Yes/No
UK Government	Unlimited	£0	Unlimited	Yes
UK Local Authorities & Other Government Entities – except Local Authorities subject to a Section 114 notice	£20 million	£0	£20 million	Yes
UK Banks (Unsecured)	£25 million	£8 million	£25 million	Yes
UK Building Societies (Unsecured)	£20 million	£0	£20 million	Yes
Registered Providers (Unsecured)	£20 million	£0	£20 million	Yes

- 9.6 Compliance with the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for external debt is demonstrated in table 9B below.

Table 9B: Debt and the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary

	2023/24 Maximum £m	31.3.24 Actual £m	2023/24 Operational Boundary £m	2023/24 Authorised Limit £m	Complied? Yes/No
Borrowing	£262.429	£262.429	£386.756	£396.756	Yes

- 9.7 The operational boundary is the expected borrowing position of the Council during the year. Periods where the actual position is either below or over the boundary are acceptable subject to the authorised limit not being breached. Since the operational boundary is a management tool for in-year monitoring it is not significant if the operational boundary is breached on occasions due to variations in cash flow, and this is not counted as a compliance failure. The authorised limit is the “affordable borrowing limit” required by s3 of the Local Government Act 2003. Once this has been set, the Council does not have the power to borrow above this level. Table 9B above demonstrates that during 2023/24 the Council has maintained gross borrowing within its authorised limit.

Table 9C: Actual financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream

Financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream	2023/24 £m
Non - HRA	1.35%
HRA	11.20%

- 9.8 This indicator identifies the trend in the cost of capital, (borrowing and other long term obligation costs net of investment income), against the net revenue stream.

## 10 Treasury Management Prudential Indicators

10.1 As required by the 2021 CIPFA Treasury Management Code, the Council monitors and measures the following treasury management prudential indicators.

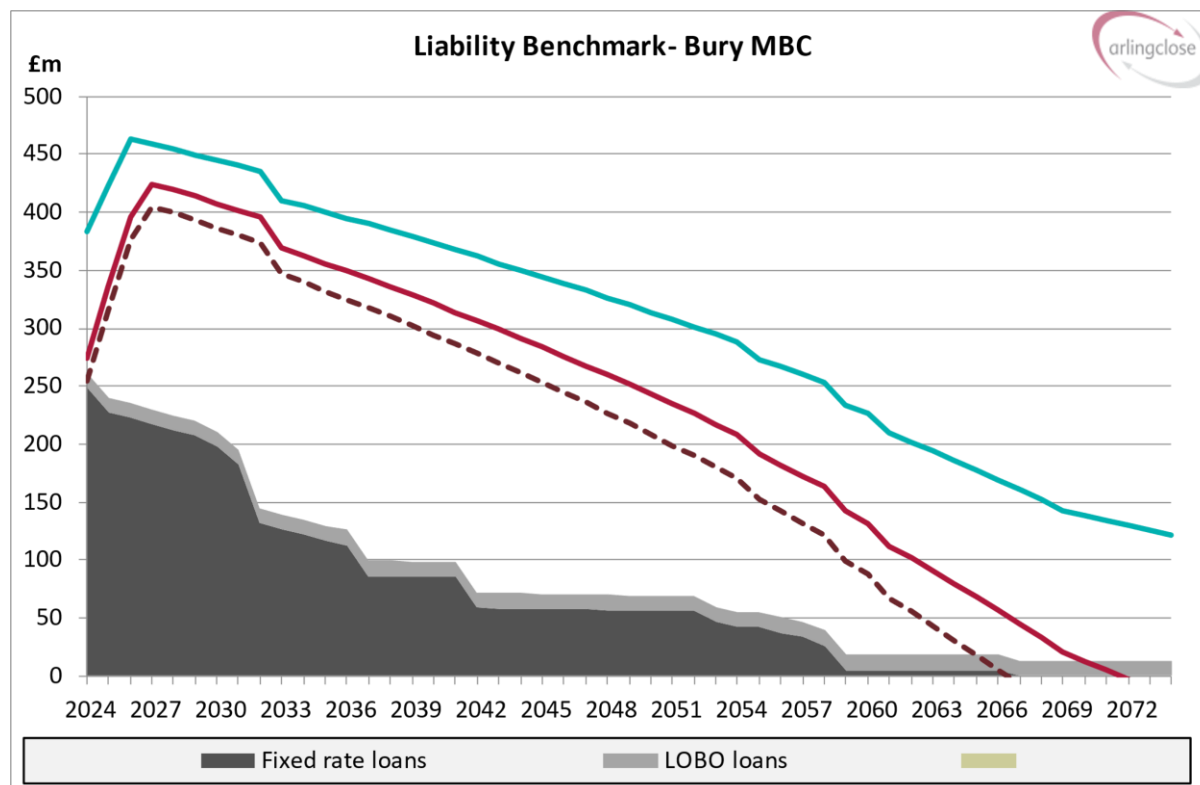
### Liability Benchmark

10.2 This new indicator compares the Council's actual existing borrowing against a liability benchmark that has been calculated to show the lowest risk level of borrowing. The liability benchmark is an important tool to help establish whether the Council is likely to be a long-term borrower or long-term investor in the future, and so shape its strategic focus and decision making. It represents an estimate of the cumulative amount of external borrowing the Council must hold to fund its current capital and revenue plans while keeping treasury investments at the minimum level required to manage day-to-day cash flow.

	31.3.23 Actual £m	31.3.24 Actual £m	31.3.25 Forecast £m	31.3.26 Forecast £m
Loans CFR	£371.10	£383.50	£423.10	£462.70
Less: Balance sheet resources	(£128.80)	(£129.10)	(£107.60)	(£86.70)
<b>Net loans requirement</b>	<b>£242.30</b>	<b>£254.40</b>	<b>£315.50</b>	<b>£376.00</b>
Plus: Liquidity allowance	£20.00	£20.00	£20.00	£20.00
<b>Liability benchmark</b>	<b>£262.30</b>	<b>£274.40</b>	<b>£335.50</b>	<b>£396.00</b>
<b>Existing borrowing</b>	<b>£243.60</b>	<b>£262.40</b>	<b>£240.30</b>	<b>£235.40</b>

10.3 The Liability benchmark as at 31 March 2024 is £14.20m lower than predicted in Treasury Strategy report in February 2024. This is due to lower capital financing requirement, reduced capital expenditure financing from Loans and higher reserves/working capital and expenditure rephasing.

10.4 Liability benchmark figures for forecast years 2025/26 and 2026/27 have been reduced by £14.20m for each financial year from February 2024 report.



10.5 Interest Rate Exposures: This indicator is set to control the Council’s exposure to interest rate risk. Bank Rate rose by 1.00% from 4.25% on 1st April 2023 to 5.25% by 31st March 2024.

Interest rate risk indicator	2023/24 Target £m	31.3.24 Actual £m	Complied?
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% <u>rise</u> in interest rates	£0.256	£0.256	Yes
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% <u>fall</u> in interest rates	(£0.256)	(£0.256)	Yes

10.6 For context, the changes in interest rates during the year were:

	31 March 2023	31 March 2024
Bank Rate	4.25%	5.25%
1-year PWLB certainty rate, maturity loans	4.78%	5.58%
5-year PWLB certainty rate, maturity loans	4.31%	4.86%
10-year PWLB certainty rate, maturity loans	4.33%	4.98%
20-year PWLB certainty rate, maturity loans	4.70%	5.39%
50-year PWLB certainty rate, maturity loans	4.41%	5.21%

10.7 The impact of a change in interest rates is calculated on the assumption that maturing loans and investment will be replaced at new market rates.

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**Report Author(s) and Contact Details:**

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*Department: Corporate Core Finance*

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**Background**

1. Capital Strategy and Capital Programme 2023/24 – 2025/256
2. Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators 2023/24
3. Treasury Management Outturn Report 2022/23
- 4.

**<Add additional headings as necessary>**

- 5.

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**Links with the Corporate Priorities:**

*Please summarise how this links to the Let's Do It Strategy.*

6. Treasury Management forms a key part of the council's overall governance and financial administration and control framework, which underpin the council's three clear corporate priorities as set out in the Let's Do It Strategy that will deliver financial sustainability for the Council.

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**Equality Impact and Considerations:**

*Please provide an explanation of the outcome(s) of an initial or full EIA and make **specific reference regarding the protected characteristic of Looked After Children**. Intranet link to EIA documents is [here](#).*

- 7.
-



**Environmental Impact and Considerations:**

Please provide an explanation of the Environmental impact of this decision. Please include the impact on both **Carbon emissions** (contact [climate@bury.gov.uk](mailto:climate@bury.gov.uk) for advice) and **Biodiversity** (contact [c.m.wilkinson@bury.gov.uk](mailto:c.m.wilkinson@bury.gov.uk) for advice)

- 8. This is a finance update report as such there are no environmental impacts associated with this report.

**Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:**

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
There are considerable risks to the security of the Council's resources if appropriate treasury management strategies and policies are not adopted and followed.	Regular monitoring and reporting ensure that any changes in the financial position are quickly identified and action can be taken to manage the overall position.

**Legal Implications:**

- 9. Treasury management is a matter reserved for Council. This report updates Cabinet in line with the Council's financial regulations and constitution.

**Financial Implications:**

*To be completed by the Council's Section 151 Officer.*

- 10. The financial implications are set out in the report and confirm the treasury management activities have been carried out in accordance with approved limits.

**Appendices:**

*Please list any appended documents.*

**Background papers:**

*Please list any background documents to this report and include a hyperlink where possible.*

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

Term	Meaning

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<b>Classification</b>	<b>Item No.</b>
<b>Open / Closed</b>	

<b>Meeting:</b>	Licensing and Safety Committee
<b>Meeting date:</b>	5 September 2024 - Licensing and Safety Committee 11 September 2024 - Full Council
<b>Title of report:</b>	Review of transitional arrangements for existing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles in respect of emissions standards.
<b>Report by:</b>	Executive Director (Operations)
<b>Decision Type:</b>	Council
<b>Ward(s) to which report relates</b>	All

### Executive Summary

This report outlines the proposal to amend the Council's current policy relating to the transitional arrangements to enable vehicle proprietors of non-compliant hackney carriage and private hire vehicles to make a renewal application after the 1 January 2025. The rationale for this relates to the recent submissions to Government with revised proposals around the GM Clean Air Plan and requirement from Government to ensure a GM agreed emissions standard for all Taxi and Private Hire vehicles by 31 December 2025.

### Recommended Options

It is recommended that the Licensing and Safety Committee considers and adopts the following amendment (1) to the existing emission standard and recommends to Full Council that amendment (1) be approved:

For existing vehicle licence proprietors with a non-complaint vehicle:

1. A vehicle proprietor of a hackney carriage and private hire vehicle licence that is due for renewal after the 1 January 2025 which is non-compliant with emission standards (EURO 4 Petrol vehicles and EURO 6 diesel vehicles) is permitted to make an application to renew the vehicle licence and provided the vehicle passes its compliance test it will be issued with a 12-month vehicle licence. The vehicle licence would be granted subject to a condition that the

non-compliant vehicle is removed from the fleet and replaced with a Euro 4 or 6 compliant vehicle by the 31 December 2025.

2. To delegate powers to the Head of Public Protection/Licensing Unit Manager and/or the Deputy Licensing Officer to suspend any vehicle licence that has been issued after the 1 January 2025 where the vehicle proprietor(s) have not complied with the condition to replace the non-compliant vehicle with a compliant vehicle by the 31 December 2025.
3. To request delegation to the Head of Public Protection/Licensing Unit Manager in consultation with the Chair of the Licensing and Safety Committee to amend Council Policy that relates to the transitional arrangements for existing vehicle proprietors who own non-compliant vehicles to enable access to the clean taxi fund if it becomes available. Any decisions made would be reported in the Operational Report at the next meeting of the Licensing and Safety Committee.

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### **Key considerations**

This is a Council Function that is delegated to the Licensing and Safety Committee by the Council's Constitution.

This paper is in the public domain.

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### **Community impact / Contribution to the Bury 2030 Strategy**

The changes put forward in this report will facilitate more rapid improvement with clean air through facilitating the replacement of non-compliant (emission) vehicles for both hackney carriage and private hire vehicles. This could potentially help reduce the time it takes for these vehicles to be upgraded and become compliant with existing emissions standard leading to less carbon emissions and less tailpipe emissions. It will also enable access to the potential linked funding related to the revised GM Clean Air Plan submissions to Government which will assist licence holders with vehicle upgrade costs.

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### **Equality Impact and considerations:**

*Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:*

*A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -*

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;*
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;*
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.*

*The public sector equality duty requires us to consider how we can positively 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.*

*The Licensing Service have considered the Equality Act 2010 and due to each application being dealt with on its own merits there is no positive or negative on any of the protected characteristics.*

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) was undertaken when the existing policy was implemented through a full governance process. This report seeks to permit those vehicle proprietors who currently own a non-compliant vehicle to submit a renewal application for a hackney carriage and private hire vehicle and subject to the vehicle passing its compliance test, it will be granted a 12-month licence. The renewed vehicle licence will be granted subject to a condition that the non-compliant vehicle will be replaced with a compliant Euro 4 Petrol or Euro 6 diesel by the 31 December 2025. By making the proposed amendments to Council Policy, vehicle proprietors who currently have a non-compliant vehicle will be able to access any potential funding available through the GM Clean GM Clean Air Plan. Conversely, if no change is made to the existing transitional arrangements this could be detrimental and financially disadvantage affected vehicle proprietors who will not be able to renew vehicle licences after 1 January 2025.

**Assessment of Risk:**

The following risks apply to the decision:

<b>Risk / opportunity</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
<p>Opportunity: The adoption of the recommended amendments to existing transitional arrangements will enable the hackney carriage and private hire trade in Bury access any potential future GM funding linked to the revised submissions to Government regarding the GM Clean Air Plan.</p> <p>Risk: Maintaining existing transitional arrangements may jeopardise the revised submissions to Government regarding the GM Clean Air Plan and may prevent the hackney carriage and private hire trade in Bury accessing any potential future GM funding.</p>	<p>There is no mitigation as the Council is bound by a Government Ministerial Directive in relation to Clean Air to only licence emissions compliant vehicles by 1 January 2026.</p>

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**Consultation:**

Not applicable

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**Legal Implications:**

Under the legislation the Council is required to determine representations. The report is in accordance with the appropriate legislation.

The costs of the licensing function are funded through the fees and charges levied by the Council. There may be additional costs if appeals are lodged with the Magistrates and Crown Courts.

Members are advised that Licences are regarded as possessions within the terms of the Human Rights Act 1998. Under the Act everyone is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of one's possessions and so actions interfering with those possessions must be lawful, reasonable and proportionate. It is lawful to impose reasonable conditions as a way of protecting the safety of the travelling public, so long as it is not out of proportion. It is a balancing act between the public interest and the individual's rights.

The policy changes recommended, if agreed by the Council, will be implemented and form the basis on which decisions are made on applications for vehicle licences received by the Council.

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**Financial Implications:**

Revenue and Capital: The Licensing Regime is a self-funded service through the licensing fees. There are no financial implications as a result of this report as the changes do not have any cost implications to the Council.

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**Report Author and Contact Details:**

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Bury  
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**Background papers:**

Licensing and Safety Committee report and minutes – 22 February 2024  
Full Council Minutes – 20 March 2024

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

Term	Meaning
CAZ	Clean Air Zone
CTF	Clean Taxi Fund
EIA	Equality Impact Assessment
GM	Greater Manchester
GM CAP	Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan
HCV	Hackney Carriage
ICE	Internal Combustion Engine
PHV	Private Hire Vehicle

## 1.0 Background

1.1 Members will recall that on the 22 February 2024, a report was considered by Licensing and Safety Committee regarding a review of emissions standard transitional implementation date for existing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles to compliant vehicle in respect of proposed GM Clean Air Plan, Members resolved:

1.2 It was agreed by the Licensing and Safety Committee to adopt the following amendment (1) to the existing emission standard and recommended to Full Council that the amendment (1) be approved:

1.3 For existing vehicle licence proprietors:

That the transitional arrangements amended by Full Council on the 22 March 2023, in relation to age and emissions, previously extended from the 1 April 2024 to the 1 April 2026, are amended again and to be in effect from the 1 January 2026. This will enable hackney carriage and private hire vehicle owners to meet the agreed GM emissions standard outlined in the revised GM Clean Air Plan submissions. The amended policy will state that from the 31 December 2024 a vehicle licence will not be renewed if the vehicle does not meet the current emission standard.

1.4 On the 20 March 2024, Full Council ratified the above recommendation from the Licensing and Safety Committee.

## **Information**

- 1.5 The report "GM Clean Air the GM Air Quality Administration Committee on 20 December 2023. The report was agreed by the Committee and provided an update on the Case for a new Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan and confirms that an appraisal of GM's proposed investment-led plan has been undertaken against a benchmark charging Clean Air Zone (CAZ) in the centre of Manchester and Salford.
- 1.6 Using the government's updated technical guidance, that 'no air quality benefit' should be assumed from bus retrofit, GM now has evidence to show that its investment-led, non-charging Clean Air Plan can deliver compliance with the government direction to bring nitrogen dioxide levels within legal limits in 2025.
- 1.7 Modelling predicts if GM did nothing there would be twelve exceedances of nitrogen dioxide in 2025. The majority of these would be in the regional centres of – Manchester and Salford.
- 1.8 GM's investment-led plan proposes using £86.7 million Clean Air funding already awarded, for investment in zero-emission buses, taxi and private hire vehicle upgrades (through a Clean Taxi Fund) and measures to manage traffic flows on some roads in the centre of Manchester and Salford.
- 1.9 Modelling shows GM's investment-led plan can achieve compliance in 2025 and that compliance is not achieved in 2025 or 2026 by a benchmarked category C charging CAZ.
- 1.10 The TFGM evidence shows that the investment-led, non-charging plan can achieve compliance in 2025. However, it is for government to determine what measures GM is to implement – only the Investment-led Plan complies with the requirement placed on the 10 GM local authorities to deliver compliance in the shortest possible time and by 2026 at the latest.

## **Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle (PHV) Measures**

- 1.11 Taxi and PHV measures represent an important mechanism for reducing exceedances under the Investment-led Plan and are grounded in the ability of the GM authorities to reduce emissions through licensing conditions.
- 1.12 The appraisal of the Investment-led Plan has been developed on the basis that an emissions standard, requiring licensed hackneys and PHVs to be a minimum of Euro 6 (diesel) or Euro 4 (petrol) by 31 December 2025, will have been adopted by all GM Authorities.
- 1.13 This means that licences issued by Bury will have to have a compliant vehicle attached to the licence by 31 December 2025 at the latest. Licensees can apply at any time during the currency of their licence to replace the vehicle attached to that licence, and therefore must ensure that they have sourced and purchased an emissions compliant vehicle in good time to ensure they have a compliant vehicle licensed by 31 December 2025.
- 1.14 The Council's current licensed vehicle emissions policy is a petrol vehicle must be Euro 4 and a diesel vehicle must be a Euro 6.



- 1.15 In the investment led plan, it is therefore assumed that by 2026 100% of the GM taxi fleet will be compliant with the emission standards with all GM Authorities working to achieve this. It is intended that the potential Clean Taxi Fund will support this by providing sufficient funds for every current non-emission compliant vehicle licensed to a GM authority to receive grant support (if applicable). Further if the fund is opened before 2025 this will enable earlier upgrades, and help to mitigate against the risk of taxis re-licensing with another authority that does not have the same emission standard requirement.
- 1.16 A Clean Taxi Fund (CTF) of £30.5m is proposed to offer funding to support upgrades of taxis to cleaner vehicles through two routes. These are:
- Core Taxi Fund of £22.5m – based on the 2021 GM CAP Policy, the potential funding is eligible to non-compliant, GM-licensed hackneys and PHVs. The financial support has been uplifted with inflation, with an associated air quality benefit derived from minimum emission standards across the 10 GM Authorities.
  - Electric Hackney Upgrade Fund of £7.9m – based on the Bradford scheme and feedback received during GM’s Participatory Policy Development, the potential funding will be available to compliant Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) hackneys and seeks to support upgrades to the cleanest vehicle type whilst taking into account feedback.
- 1.17 The Air Quality Administration Committee recommended that each GM Authority puts appropriate arrangements in place to facilitate a transitional start date for the implementation of emission standards by the 1 January 2025 with the end transition date being the 31 December 2025. Ultimately it is for the government to determine what measures GM is to implement, the appraisal shows that only the Investment-led Plan complies with the requirement placed on the 10 GM Authorities to deliver compliance in the shortest possible time and by 2026 at the latest.
- 1.18 The report has been submitted to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs setting out that whilst we await their response the GM Authorities will, on the anticipation of the Clean Taxi Fund being agreed, make preparations to ensure a minimum taxi emissions standard will have been adopted by all GM Authorities.

## **2.0 Bury Council’s position**

- 2.1 The transitional arrangements were initially agreed by Full Council on 24 November 2021 with subsequent amendments to the implementation date for transitional arrangements on 22 March 2023, in relation to age and emissions standards extending from 1 April 2024 to 1 April 2026. The current transitional arrangements that were agreed at Full Council on the 20 March 2024.

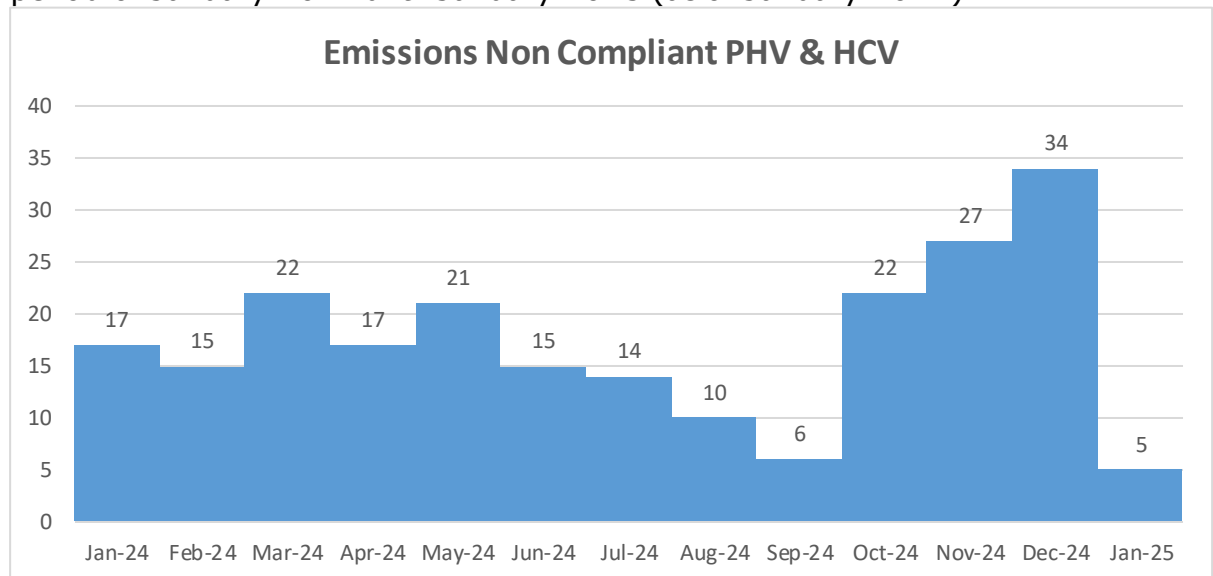
This report seeks approval to amend the current policy by permitting existing vehicle proprietors of current non complaint hackney carriage and private hire vehicles to make a renewal application after the 1 January 2025. The non-compliant vehicle would be subject to a compliance test at either of the Council’s approved testing stations. Provided the vehicle passes the compliance test it will

be issued with a 12-month licence vehicle licence. The vehicle licence would be granted subject to a condition that the non-compliant vehicle is removed from the fleet and replaced with a compliant vehicle by the 31 December 2025.

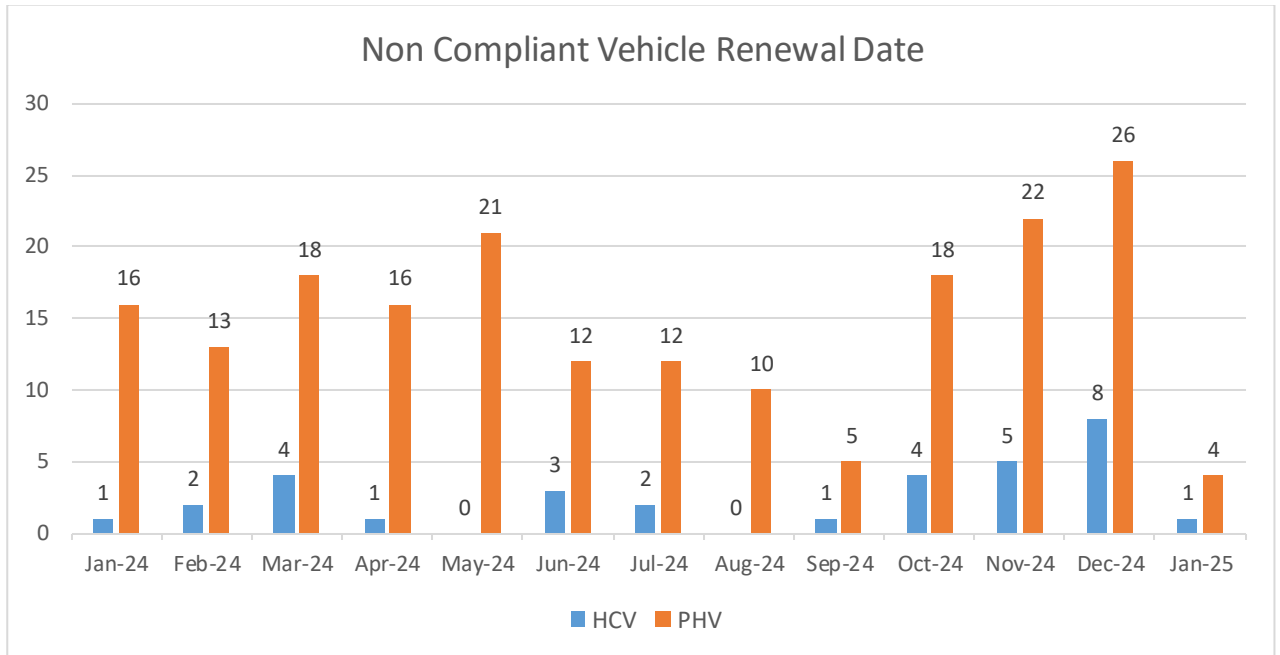
In addition to the above, subject to the Members of the Licensing and Safety Committee approving this report the Licensing Service are requesting delegation to the Head of Public Protection/Licensing Unit Manager and/or the Deputy Licensing Officer to suspend any vehicle licence that has been issued to a non-complaint vehicle after the 1 January 2025 where the vehicle proprietor(s) have not complied with the condition of the vehicle licence to replace the non-compliant vehicle with a compliant vehicle by the 31 December 2025.

2.2 The Licensing Service reviewed the fleet data on the 11 January 2024 and have identified following the assessment of all 760 licensed vehicles at that time. Bury had 225 (29.6%) non complaint vehicles which consist of 193 (25.4%) Private hire vehicle and 32 (4.2%) Hackney Carriages.

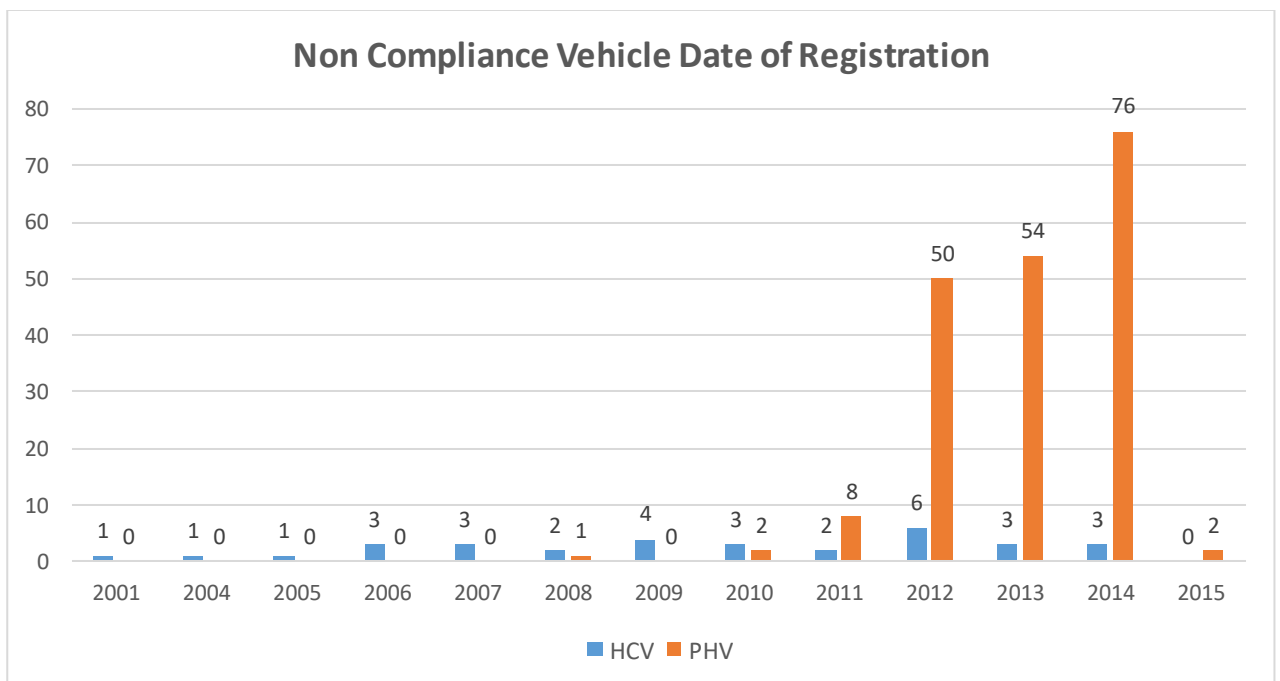
2.3 **Table 1** shows the numbers of vehicles that were not compliant between the period of January 2024 until January 2025 (as of January 2024).



2.4 **Table 2** shows the numbers of vehicles that were not compliant by renewal date between the period of January 2024 until January 2025 (as of January 2024).

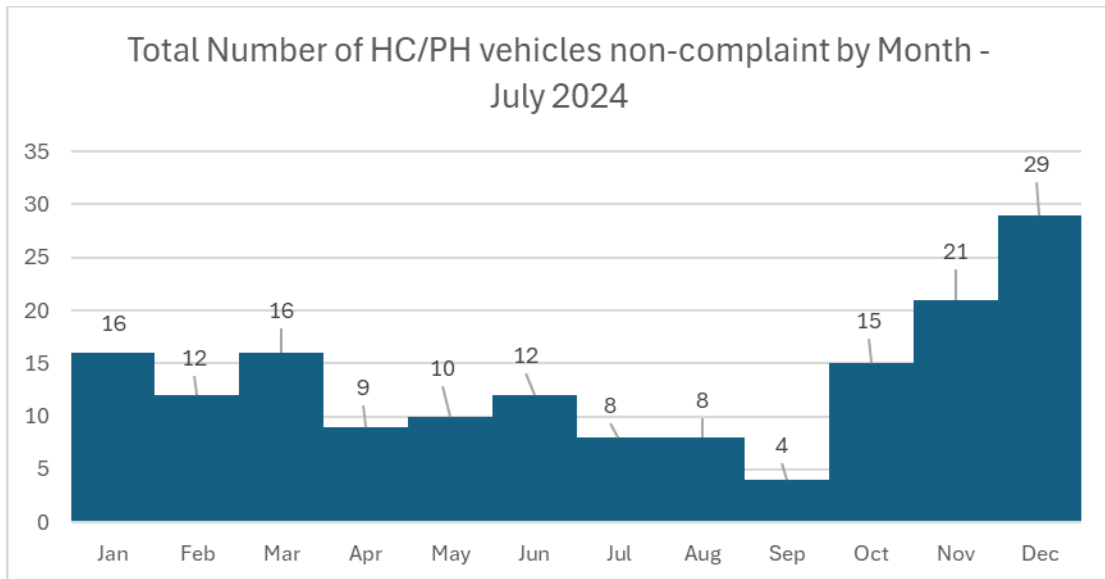


2.5 **Table 3** shows the numbers of vehicles that were not compliant by date of vehicle registration (as of January 2024).

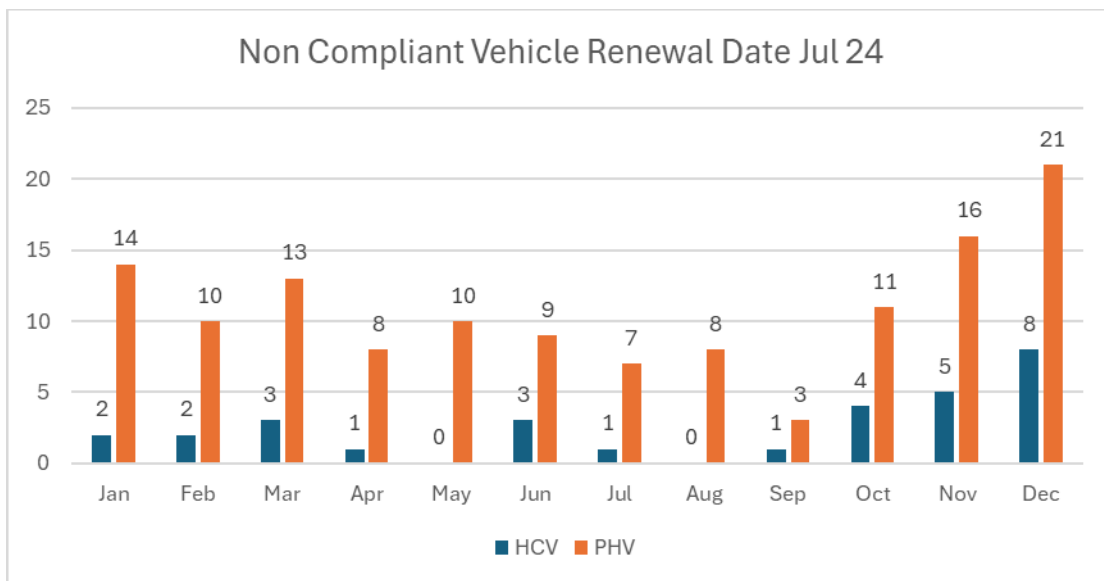


2.6 The Licensing Service have reviewed the fleet data on the 29 July 2024 and have identified following the assessment of all 742 licensed vehicles we currently have 160 (21.5%) non complaint vehicles which consist of 130 (17.5%) Private hire vehicle and 30 (4%) Hackney Carriages.

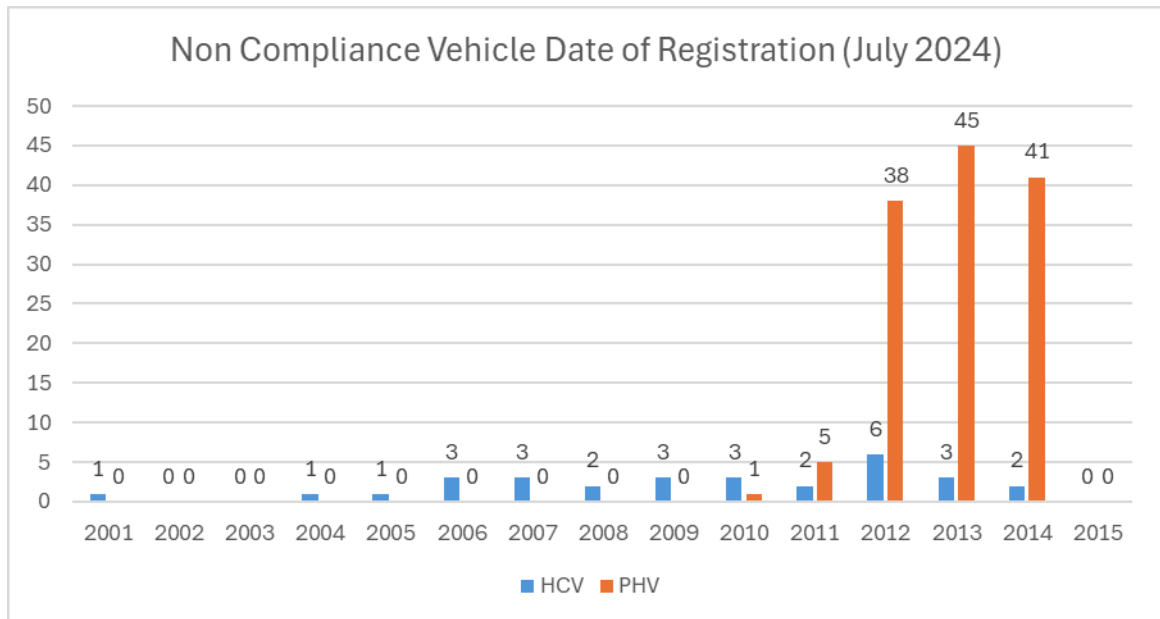
2.7 **Table 4** shows the numbers of vehicles that are not compliant between the period of January 2024 until January 2025 as of July 2024 (as of July 2024).



2.8 **Table 5** shows the numbers of vehicles that are not compliant by renewal date between the period of January 2024 until January 2025 as of July 2024 (as of July 2024).



2.9 **Table 6** shows the numbers of vehicles that are not compliant by date of vehicle registration as of July 2024 (as of July 2024).



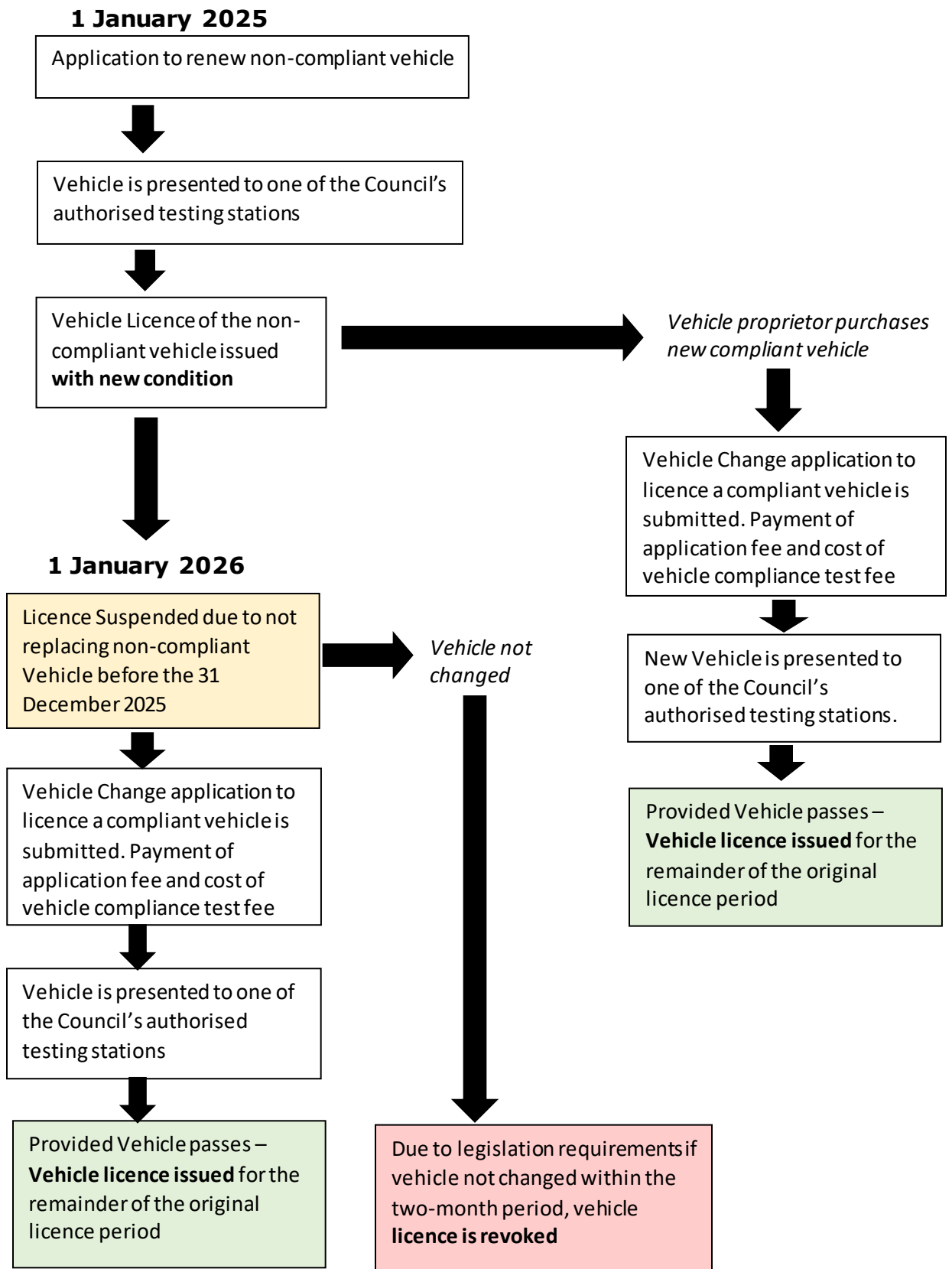
2.10 Members will note that the numbers of non-complaint vehicles have dropped from 225 in January 2024 to 160 in July 2024. Reduction of 65 vehicles - 63 Private Hire vehicles and 2 Hackney Carriages.

2.11 The Licensing Service have not undertaken an engagement exercise with the affected Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Trade vehicle proprietors. The reason for this was to enable this matter to be considered by members given the emission standard is bound by the Councils requirement to comply with a Government Directive in relation to air quality.

2.12 Members should note that there is no amendment to the Council’s Policy to new vehicles coming on to fleet as these vehicles must be either Euro 4 Petrol or Euro 6 Diesel and must comply with the Council’s age policy.

### 3.0 Proposal to deal to deal with non-compliant vehicles

#### 3.1 Flowchart for the issuing of a licence and vehicle change



#### **4.0 Conclusion**

- 4.1 This report seeks approval to amend the current policy by permitting existing vehicle proprietors of current non complaint hackney carriage and private hire vehicles to make a renewal application after the 1 January 2025. The non-compliant vehicle would be subject to a compliance test at either of the Council's approved testing stations. Provided the vehicle passes the compliance test it will be issued with a 12-month licence vehicle licence. The vehicle licence would be granted for a twelve-month period and subject to an additional condition that the non-compliant vehicle is removed from the fleet and replaced with a compliant vehicle no later than the 31 December 2025.
- 4.2 In addition to the above, subject to the Members of the Licensing and Safety Committee approving this report the Licensing Service are also requesting delegation to the Head of Public Protection/Licensing Unit Manager and/or the Deputy Licensing Officer in conjunction with the Chair of Licensing & Safety Committee to suspend any vehicle licence that has been issued to a non-complaint vehicle after the 1 January 2025 where the vehicle proprietor(s) have not complied with the condition of the vehicle licence to replace the non-compliant vehicle with a compliant vehicle by the 31 December 2025.
- 4.3 A further request of delegation to the Head of Public Protection/Licensing Unit Manager to amend Council Policy that relates to the transitional arrangements for existing vehicle proprietors who own non-compliant vehicles to enable access to the potential clean taxi fund when it becomes available. Any decisions made would be reported in the Operational Report at the next meeting of the Licensing and Safety Committee.
- 4.4 If these recommendations are not approved by the Licensing and Safety Committee it will mean that vehicle proprietors of a non-compliant vehicle would not be able to access the Clean Taxi Fund and they would not be able to renew their vehicle licence after the 31 December 2024 and may prevent and/or disadvantage vehicle proprietors of non-compliant vehicles in Bury from accessing future potential GM clean taxi funding.

#### **5.0 Recommendations**

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Licensing and Safety Committee considers and adopts the following amendment (1) (2) and (3) to the existing emission standard and recommends to Full Council that amendment (1) (2) and (3) be approved:
- 5.2 For existing vehicle licence proprietors with a non-complaint vehicle:
1. A vehicle proprietor of a hackney carriage and private hire vehicle licence that is due for renewal after the 1 January 2025 which is non-compliant with emission standards (EURO 4 Petrol vehicles and EURO 6 diesel vehicles) is permitted to make an application to renew the vehicle licence and provided the vehicle passes its compliance test it will be issued with a 12-month vehicle licence. The vehicle licence would be granted subject to

- a condition that the non-compliant vehicle is removed from the fleet and replaced with a Euro 4 or 6 compliant vehicle by the 31 December 2025.
2. To delegate powers to the Head of Public Protection/Licensing Unit Manager and/or the Deputy Licensing Officer to suspend any vehicle licence that has been issued after the 1 January 2025 where the vehicle proprietor(s) have not complied with the condition to replace the non-compliant vehicle with a compliant vehicle by the 31 December 2025.
  3. To request delegation to the Head of Public Protection/Licensing Unit Manager in consultation with the Chair of the Licensing and Safety Committee to amend Council Policy that relates to the transitional arrangements for existing vehicle proprietors who own non-compliant vehicles to enable access to the clean taxi fund if it becomes available. Any decisions made would be reported in the Operational Report at the next meeting of the Licensing and Safety Committee.

REPORT ENDS



<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>The Council</b>
<b>Meeting date:</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> September 2024</b>
<b>Title of report:</b>	<b>Leader's 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
<b>Summary:</b>	To provide a summary of the work of the Cabinet and update on progress against the corporate plan.



### **Executive Summary**

To provide a summary of the work of the Cabinet and update on progress against the corporate plan.

### **Recommendations:**

Members of Council are asked to note the content of the report.



# Council Leader's Report

## Councillor Eamonn O'Brien

2024



Can I begin by welcoming all Members back following the Summer Recess, I hope the break provided an opportunity to relax and recharge in one of our 13-award winning green flag parks or visit and enjoy the recently opened play area in Summerseat.

Before and during the recess we have been engaged in several critical growth projects:

Following completion of early demolition and enabling works, the Radcliffe Hub and Market Chambers project completed foundation and piling works, sinking 469 augered piles, preparing the ground to receive the steel frame for the Hub building this week (w/c 9<sup>th</sup>

Sept). Significant structural and weather-proofing works have also been completed in the Market Chambers building in addition to works to the Market basement. This has included structural and repair works alongside activity to extend the space. Our contractor, Vinci has

also established a Community Skills Centre to provide young people (18-24) with construction skills and health & safety training in a classroom and site based environment. Vinci are keen to use this centre to introduce young people to employment via its supply chain. This activity will continue for the life of the project and is linked to the Radcliffe Goals initiative already on-going at the Football Club.



we

The UK Shared Prosperity Funded (UKSPF) Radcliffe Pocket Park has been fully designed and will be tendered this week. This project has been developed in consultation with the local community and has been used as a training initiative by officers to develop trainee staff members. The works will begin in October (in line with planting and nesting season) and be completed by January next year.

The Council has now let a construction contract to deliver the Bury Flexi Hall and Market project and mobilisation activity will begin over the next few months, starting with utility diversions. The demolition activity will begin in November following the movement of the Admiral Casio operation to the Mill Gate Shopping Centre. It is a great success to see this incredibly complex project moving into a construction phase and the Council has overcome numerous difficult operational and design challenges to get to this stage.

The Prestwich Village Regeneration project completed a significant milestone in July when the team secured a Planning Permission to deliver the first phase of the project via a unanimous decision at Planning Committee. Officers will return to Cabinet later in the year for permission to deliver the Travel Hub element of the project once final designs are completed (RIBA 4).

Significant progress has also been made in terms of housing, with contractors now on site at Green Street and School Street (Radcliffe) and Seedfield (Bury) See below. These developments alone, will provide over 300 homes on former Council owned brownfield land, 140 of which will be affordable.





Since the last Council meeting, the Council have agreed to a £20 million investment in the refurbishment of Bury's Housing stock. Over the next year, hundreds of Bury Council homes will receive new and upgraded kitchens, bathrooms and windows. The planned improvements include:

- 565 homes will get replacement windows, doors, pointing and lintels.
- 138 will have replacement kitchens, bathrooms or heating fitted.
- 386 homes will get replacement roofing.
- 326 will see improvements to communal areas.
- 314 homes will have carbon reduction measures installed

In addition, Ramsbottom will be the home of the latest 3G all weather football pitch, the £1.4 million project is at Top Park Playing Fields, and will include improvements to the pavilion and car park. Bury Council is putting £425,000 behind the scheme, with around £1 million coming from the Football Foundation.

As Leader I wish to place on record my thanks to colleagues who worked as part of the GM Team to deal with the recent unrest witnessed throughout August, across the country, following the incident in Southport. I am pleased that we did not experience any issues in Bury. As Leader I am proud of our diverse and multicultural Borough. This multiculturalism, diversity and inclusion was highlighted recently at Burrs Country Park as residents gathered to celebrate the Bury Mela.

In addition, myself, Councillor Walmsley and other Councillors were pleased to show their support for the Pakistani and Ukrainian communities with their attendance at the Pakistan and Ukraine Flag raising events held in August.

And finally, I was delighted to see the first Pupils arrive at the newly opened Star Academy in Radcliffe.

**Work of the Council's Cabinet in addressing the three key Priority areas for the Council:**

At the September Cabinet meeting, Members of the Executive considered 16 reports covering a wide range of issues, illustrating the huge amount of progress we've made as a Council over the last 12 months.

The Council's Corporate Plan for 2023/24 set out nine priorities, with three key objectives to reflect the ambition of the organisation and acknowledgement of the targeted work required to continue to deliver the Council's contribution to the LET's vision. The three key priorities are:

- Sustainable Inclusive Growth
- Improving Children's Lives
- Tackling Inequalities

### **Progress against the Top Three Priorities:**

#### **1. TACKLING INEQUALITIES:**

Following a previously undertaken tendering exercise, Members agreed to award Adullam Homes a four-year contract for **supported accommodation**. Calico Homes has been selected for their outstanding floating support offer. Their comprehensive support system and proactive engagement with service users will ensure that individuals receive the necessary assistance to maintain their independence and well-being. It should be noted that this service will also be tenure neutral, meaning it will work with residents in social housing, private rented accommodation and also those that have mortgages or are owner occupiers. Also, this service will deliver much needed provision for older people in sheltered accommodation and those in the community.

Both Adullam Homes and Calico Homes have a proven track record of delivering excellent services, and we are confident that their expertise will contribute significantly to the success of our housing-related services. We look forward to working closely with them to achieve our shared goals and improve the lives of those we serve.

Bury Council have recently reviewed the **Housing Allocations Policy** this work has been undertaken to meet local needs and to maximise the use of Council Housing stock to meet increasing demands. The Policy highlights and recognises the Council's commitments to its Looked After Children.

Work has also been undertaken to secure and promote a new local credit union (Hoot) to work with local people and groups, to support them with their financial planning e.g. savings, affordable loans etc. This has been promoted through all partners. Adult Learning have also played a pivotal role in offering incentivised tailored courses to support those in work who are experiencing hardship, these courses include money management, managing on a budget, basic maths/finances and healthy eating on a budget - these have been promoted through local employers. 65% of learners who attended the courses were from priority areas (i.e. the most deprived areas).

In addition, an investment plan for the Health Visitor service signed off by Northern Care Alliance has agreed to the recruitment of 1 additional clinical lead and 4.76 health visitors, this will make a big contribution to our partnership ambition around SEND.

## **2. IMPROVING CHILDREN'S LIVES**

Lead by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Councillor Smith, **the Councils support to Looked after children** has been further enhanced with the development of a Corporate Parenting Strategy. The strategy includes key strategic priorities

- i. Supporting engagement and achievement in education, training, and employment.
- ii. Ensuring that our children in care and care leavers have stable and secure homes and sufficient support.
- iii. Listening and responding to the voice of our children, young people, and care leavers.
- iv. Ensuring that our children, young people, and care leavers are healthy and are supported in the physical and emotional wellbeing.
- v. Developing a Highly Effective Care Leavers Partnership.

Following the local area SEND inspection, Cabinet have agreed to additional capacity in the SEND service as well as a co-produced SEND priority impact plan, Member agreed additional training for existing and newly recruited staff. In addition, future reviews of the education psychology service, outreach and sensory support services and SEND transport.

Work to specifically target children in Bury living in poverty, steps taken, have included:

- Utilising the family hub to identify vulnerable families to share key information about national and local support
- Promoting the uptake of the Healthy Start Vouchers (now at 69% up from 62% in Jan 23)
- Working with the Public Service Leadership Teams (PSLT) to identify ways in which children/families living in poverty can be identified and supported at place level
- Ensure there is provision to support families around the purchase of school uniform
- Providing free childcare provision for parents signing up to adult learning courses

## **3. ACHIEVING INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH**

Members agreed at September's Cabinet further additions to the Accelerated Land and Property Disposals Programme (ALPD). The wider disposals programme (including ALPD) has achieved capital receipts of £1,168,900 in 2022/2023 and £7,929,635 in 2023/2024. As part of the wider disposal programme the Brownfield Land programme has brought forward sites for residential development with affordable housing to the borough.

There are several sites at various stages of disposal with Capital receipts expected in years 2024-2026.

- Former William Kemp Heaton site, Bury – 43 affordable homes (all social rented) - see Cabinet Report 18/11/2021
- Former Millwood site, Fletcher Fold Road, Bury – 43 affordable homes (all social rented) - subject to planning - see Cabinet Report 16/11/2022
- The Elms – circa 24 affordable homes (subject to planning) - see Cabinet report 13/03/2024
- Pyramid Park, Bury – circa 148 homes (24 affordable) - subject to planning - see Cabinet Report 15/03/2023
- Humphrey House – build to rent scheme (subject to planning) - see Cabinet Report 01/09/2021
- Former Police station, Irwell Street, Bury – extra care scheme (subject to planning) - see Cabinet Report 07/06/2023

**Spurr House**, Pole Lane, Unsworth was a site used as a short stay residential building which was shut in October 2021.

The property is now surplus to the Council's requirements and the Council seeks to dispose of the property thereby eliminating all ongoing holding costs and generating a capital receipt for the Council.

I am also pleased to share updates on the number of events hosted in Bury to showcase good quality jobs available locally as well as courses which can support residents to improve their skills and general employability.

A work and wellbeing event was hosted in July and August at the Bury Adult Learning Centre, In July, 17 partners had a stand there, 59 people attended the event, 35 discussions about future job opportunities took place and 137 meetings were arranged with partners to support individuals after the event.

Finally, the GM work progression programme is due to be rolled out in Bury in October. This is a service to specifically support residents of Bury who are in work and within a low-income household and aims to help them progress into more skilled / better paid work or increase their hours of work. The programme will help to overcome practical and skills barriers, increase confidence and provide specialist information on how they can develop skills for different employment sectors and job opportunities.

**In Conclusion**, Members of Council, Bury Council has achieved several notable milestones since the last Full Council meeting, these achievements reflect Bury Council's dedication to supporting its community through economic, social and infrastructure initiatives.

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### **ADULT SOCIAL CARE PROVIDER FEE UPLIFTS 2024/25**

1. Councillor Tamoor Tariq, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Care, presented the report which detailed the fee engagement process including timelines and proposed recommendations for the fee proposal to contracted providers of adult social care services for the period 2024/25. It was noted that for each provider sector the Council was proposing uplifting the staffing element of the fee by 10% in line with the increase in the Real Living Wage and National Living Wage, and proposals had been developed alongside provider partners.
2. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

### **ANNUAL REVIEW OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/25**

3. Councillor Tamoor Tariq, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Care, presented the report which detailed the proposed 2024/25 Adult Social Care fees and charges across the directorate to take effect in April 2024. It was noted that all adult social care is means tested and charges are only paid by people who have assets or income above the thresholds set by government.
4. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

### **ADULT SOCIAL CARE PERFORMANCE QUARTER THREE REPORT 2023/24**

5. Councillor Tamoor Tariq, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Care, presented the report which outlined delivery of the Adult Social Care Strategic Plan, preparation for the new CQC Assessment regime for local authorities, and provided an illustration and report on the department's performance framework. In response to Member questions, Councillor Tariq provided assurance around the Council's preparedness for the CQC inspection, advising that work had been underway addressing specific issues raised at the LGA Peer Review last year including reviewing processes and increasing transparency. Thanks were extended to officers for their ongoing hard work in improving the service and getting Bury to a position of growing strength.
6. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

### **PROPOSED REVIEW OF THE PERSONA SHAREHOLDER AGREEMENT**

7. Councillor Tamoor Tariq, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Care, presented the report which proposed a review of the Persona Shareholder agreement to ensure the company's ability to grow as well as adapt its care models more rapidly in response to its users preferences enabling more highly person centred care, ensuring its sustained position as a high quality care provider of choice. In response to a Member's question, it was noted that the review was anticipated to take 3-4 months.
8. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

### **QUARTER 3 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT**

12. Councillor Richard Gold, Cabinet Member for Finance and Communities, presented the report which outlined the forecast financial position of the Council at Quarter three 2023/24 based on the information known as at 31 December 2023. This report also provided an update on the work to mitigate and reduce the overspends and how this will be managed throughout the remainder of this financial year. The report set out the position for both revenue and capital and provides an analysis of the variances, both under and overspending.
13. Members discussed the paper and in response to questions it was noted that the Project Safety Valve (PSV) had been accepted by the Government but there were still targets for the Council to meet to stay on track. Councillor Lucy Smith advised that PSV discussions had been challenging but, now agreement had been reached, the Council could push forward with transformation plans to meet need while addressing financial controls. It was noted that PSV could come to a future scrutiny meeting for consideration.
14. With regards to a query regarding crossing patrols, it was noted that the overspend were most likely caused by staffing sickness and absence but specific data would be shared with Councillor Bernstein after the meeting. In response to a question regarding "SOBC" figures in the report, it was noted that this referred to a Strategic Outline Business Case and would relate to monies drawn down for feasibility studies and design work, but specific detail regarding the £1.83m figure could be shared with Councillor Mike Smith after the meeting.
15. Finally, it was noted that the £1.8m overspend in Operations budgets was a reflection of rising energy costs being absorbed by the directorate, and budget planning for the coming year was taking place later in the month starting from a zero budget position.
16. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

#### **PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT OF THE ELMS FOR THE DELIVERY OF ACCOMMODATION FOR OLDER PEOPLE**

17. Councillor Clare Cummins, Cabinet Member for Housing Services, presented the report which sought approval to dispose of The Elms in Whitefield for the delivery of an independent living scheme for the over 55's subject to procurement, to facilitate delivery of the Housing Strategy and generate savings to adult social care budgets. Councillor Cummins confirmed that commissioning partners had been fully involved, and thanked the Adult Social Care and Housing teams for their effective co-working. Councillors praised the scheme, welcoming the disposal of the old site and the proposed new facility.
18. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

#### **PROCUREMENT OF WATER HYGIENE MONITORING SERVICES FOR THE PREVENTION OF LEGIONELLA AWARD RECOMMENDATION**

19. Councillor Tahir Rafiq, Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR, presented the report which sought formal approval of a contract award recommendation following completion of the further competition exercise carried out to procure the Council's

water hygiene monitoring services contract via the ESPO 198\_20 Framework. The contract is for the period 1st July 2024 to 30th June 2027 with an extension option at the discretion of the Council for a further 2 years.

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

#### **ADOPTION OF MILL GATE REGENERATION FRAMEWORK**

21. Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth, presented the report which proposed the adoption of the revised regeneration framework following a period of public and stakeholder consultation, to establish the long-term vision for the future development of the Mill Gate estate. With regards to next steps, the Leader advised that the revised framework would be adopted by the JV Board and reported to the Town Centre Advisory Panel before delivery timescales were finalised regarding mobilisation of possible interventions around other work underway in the area (e.g. flexi hall and the interchange).

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

#### **GIGG LANE STADIUM**

20. Councillor Charlotte Morris, Cabinet Member for Culture, Economy and Skills, presented the report which update the Cabinet on a previous decision to approve an investment of up to £450k in the Gigg Lane Stadium at its meeting on the 13th of July 2022, and to refresh the delegations for that decision which would enable the installation of a 3G pitch.

21. Jacqui Dennis, Director of Law and Democratic Services, advised that the wording of the recommendations had changed since the report was published, and advised on the new wording which removed the condition for a lease to be in place providing sustainability and longevity was secured. This allowed for greater flexibility for the stadium and the Club and would still enable the security of the grant agreement.

22. Members discussed the report, noting the huge opportunity for community benefit and the continued support from the Council in the development of the stadium and the Club. In response to a question regarding the benefactors, it was noted that they had made significant financial contribution thus far, and financial due diligence undertaken still gave confidence in the Council's investment for the pitch. With regards to the timescales involved, these were for the Club to manage but they were aiming to have the pitch installed over summer to be in place for the next season.

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

#### **APPOINTMENTS UPDATE**

24. Councillor Tahir Rafiq, Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR, presented the report which set out amendments to the appointments made at the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 24th May 2023 and the proposal for Councillor Noel Bayley to be appointed as Deputy Mayor for the Civic year 2024/25.

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

## **GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 APRIL 2024**

### **REVIEW OF NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES- COMPLEX NEEDS AND FLOATING SUPPORT/DISPERSED ACCOMMODATION SERVICES**

23. Councillor Tamoor Tariq, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Care, presented the report which sought approval for the review of two lots of housing related support provision in Neighbourhood Housing Support services, namely Adullam Homes- Bury Bridges- Complex Needs Accommodation, and Calico Enterprise- Bury Gateway- Floating Support/Dispersed Accommodation.
24. There was a potential to bring both services together into more effective commissioning that provides a one service approach to housing related to support for people and households that are homeless or at risk of losing their tenancies but, as contract end dates do not align, this report proposed the extension of one service to bring them into line before a full review is carried out.
25. In response to a Member's query regarding timescales for the review, it was noted that soft market testing had begun, and co-production with both Adullam and Calico would begin upon approval tonight to ensure the review was completed early in the summer in order to meet September timescales.
26. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

### **HOME TO SCHOOL TRAVEL ASSISTANCE AND TRANSPORT POLICY**

27. Councillor Lucy Smith, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, presented the report which sought the approval and adoption of a new policy of how the Council will meet its statutory duty to make necessary travel arrangements for all 'eligible children and young people'. This policy had been co-produced with parents and had been subject to consultation with a range of stakeholders.
28. In response to Members' questions, it was noted that the EHCP assessments would be carried out at the same time as transport assessments, therefore streamlining the process rather than creating additional appointments, and reflecting the feedback received from residents (a 'tell us once' approach'). With regards to regular reviews moving forwards, it was noted that relationships with parents had been strengthened through the co-production approach and officers would continue to build on these to ensure policies were up to date and appropriate, as part of the wider improvements to SEND governance.
29. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

### **CORPORATE PLAN 2024/25**

30. Councillor Tahir Rafiq, Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR, presented the 2024/25 Corporate Plan, which set out the strategic delivery objectives for Bury Council, in partnership with NHS GM Bury, over the next financial year. The Plan is structured around three overarching priorities which, collectively, will also support the Council's financial sustainability. These are to deliver ongoing improvements in Children's Services, drive economic growth, and tackle inequalities.

31. Members discussed a foodbank in Radcliffe and the difficulties in finding appropriate premises for it after August. It was noted that the organisation had particular needs which meant identifying premises was complicated, but the asset plan in the Corporate Plan would assist with searches like this so all options could be reviewed. With regards to evidencing the Corporate Peer Review suggestions, it was noted that the action plan from the review was included in the wider Plan and the smaller set of priorities should enable them to be met and reduce timescale slippage.
32. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

#### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION CORPORATE PEER REVIEW**

33. Councillor Tahir Rafiq, Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR, presented the report which summarised the approach taken by the Local Government Association and the feedback received from the Peer Review Team from the full Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC) undertaken in December 2023. This visit was intended to assess progress since the last full CPC in 2018, and in particular to validate actions taken through the Finance Improvement Plan to deliver a balanced Medium Term Financial Strategy in for Full Council in February 2024.
34. Members noted the feedback included praise for the high level of understanding of staff regarding the Let's Do It priorities and the strong relationships with health partners in the borough. Comments were received regarding improving governance and work would continue on aspects of organisational culture (including Member development). The Leader advised that it had been very useful feedback, and thanked the LGA team and all involved with the challenge.
35. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report

#### **RENEWAL OF THE COUNCIL'S HR & PAYROLL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CONTRACT**

36. Councillor Tahir Rafiq, Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR, presented the report which set out proposals to join the Greater Manchester framework and extend the Council's use of iTrent, the Council's current HR and Payroll Management System, for three years with the option to extend for a further two. During this period, officers will continue to explore and pursue opportunities for improvement and efficiencies in the use of the system to support the Council, enabled by the integration of Payroll and HR services into a single Service as previously agreed by Cabinet.
37. Members discussed the idea of, in principle, sharing HR services with other Authorities and it was noted that this was not the intention at the moment but it would be the natural first step for any such arrangements. These would be complex however, as different Councils would use different versions of the iTrent system, or use them in different ways.
38. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

#### **CONSTITUTION UPDATE**

39. Councillor Tahir Rafiq, Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR, presented the report which recommended some changes to the Local Choice Functions set out in

Schedule 2 to the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000. These functions may be, but need not be, the responsibility of Cabinet.

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

#### **GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 05 JUNE 2024**

##### **CARE AT HOME REVIEW**

41. Councillor Tamoor Tariq, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing presented the report regarding the Care at Home review. The Care at Home service supports the vulnerable people of Bury with their assessed needs under the Care Act 2014. This includes support with personal care, moving and handling, nutrition and hydration, and medication.

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

##### **MILLWOOD PRIMARY SPECIAL SCHOOL - PROGRAMME UPDATE & REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO APPOINT CONTRACTOR**

43. Councillor Lucy Smith outlined that the report provided a full explanation of the latest position, details of the programme and sought approval in principle of a fully costed bid from the contractors for the construction of the new wing and authorisation to enter a Design and Build Contract with them.

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

##### **PRU-PHASE 2-WHITEFIELD CENTRE-REQUEST APPROVAL TO INVITE TENDERS FOR WORK IN RELATION TO THE PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT**

45. Councillor Lucy Smith, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People presented the report regarding the Pupil Referral Unit. In response to a member question regarding consultation with residents, Councillor O'Brien, advised that any potential site that is looked at for the PRU will be done with a full extensive consultation.

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

##### **DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR EDUCATION SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT - CONSULTATION DRAFT**

47. Councillor Eammon O'Brien, Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth presented the report regarding Developer Contributions for the Education Supplementary Planning Document. Members were advised it is proposed that, following consultation, a further version of the Developer Contributions for Education SPD will be brought back to Cabinet for formal approval. Members discussed the report and in response to a member question the Cabinet were informed that this will form part of local planning guidance and sit alongside the local plan.

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

##### **PERMISSION TO TENDER - RADCLIFFE ENTERPRISE CENTRE**

49. Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth presented the report regarding Radcliffe Enterprise Centre. Members discussed the report, and in response to a members question regarding Radcliffe Library Cabinet was informed that the intention is to find a suitable option for temporary relocation. In response to a members question regarding another location (Bridge Community Church/Centre), user preferences and community engagement the Leader provided assurance that users and staff are being kept up to date as and when updates are available.
50. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

#### **AWARDING OF FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CONTRACT TO A SUPPLIER ON BEHALF OF CATERING SERVICES**

51. Councillor Tahir Rafiq Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR presented the report regarding the award of a contract relating to Fresh Fruit and Vegetable.
52. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

#### **GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 JULY 2024**

##### **PRESTWICH FUNDING**

53. Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth, presented the report which set out the Prestwich Village Regeneration Scheme that will deliver a comprehensive redevelopment of the Prestwich Village site including the Longfield Centre.
54. Cabinet approved the recommendation as set out in the report

##### **BURY MARKET & FLEXI HALL LEVELLING UP SCHEME – ENABLING AND MAIN WORKS CONTRACT**

55. Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth, presented the report which advised Cabinet of the Enabling Works and Main Works packages, that in line with the Bury Market & Flexi Hall project programme, will now need to be instructed through the Enabling Works and Main Works Contract. In response to a member's query regarding the Levelling-up fund members were assured that no issues are expected to arise due to national political changes. Members were informed that national changes will provide a kick-start to other projects such as the Mill Gate. The Leader assured members that it is no coincidence that two of the levelling up schemes sit in areas with the highest level of deprivation and all will be done to ensure these schemes are delivered.
56. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

##### **BUY BACK & ACQUISITIONS POLICY & PROCEDURES 2024 - 2028**

57. Councillor Clare Cummins, Cabinet Member for Housing Services, presented the report which set out a summary of the Buy Back & Acquisitions Policy & Procedures, which will support the Council to purchase residential dwellings in private ownership

and convert them into social and affordable housing, to help meet housing needs in the borough and reduce homelessness. All potential acquisitions will be subject to a pre-acquisition suitability assessment and robust financial appraisal. Properties acquired under this policy will be refurbished to decent homes standards as required, added to the housing stock and allocated to eligible applicants on the Council's housing waiting lists at a social or affordable rent capped at local housing allowance rates where appropriate, to ensure affordability. The Council has recently purchased two properties applying the methods detailed within the new policy, and a further four acquisitions are currently being assessed. In response to a Member's query regarding the Council having the funds for the acquisitions of properties, Cabinet was advised that there are available funds within the HRA Budget and on occasion Section 106 monies can also be used. In addition, the Leader reminded Cabinet that any sales above £250,000 will be required to be considered through the Cabinet decision making process. When questioned regarding the feasibility of competing in a competitive market, members were assured that there is a need for the properties and new building take a considerable amount of time in comparison to a sale of a property.

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

#### **PROPOSED MAJOR WORKS PROGRAMME FOR THE COUNCILS HOUSING STOCK 2024/25**

59. Councillor Clare Cummins, Cabinet Member for Housing Services, presented the report which outlined that a review of the capital works programme has been quickly undertaken to ensure compliance with regulatory standards and in recognition of the backlog of work that has been identified during the transfer process of Six Town Housing's principal responsibilities. The programme saw a large volume of council owned properties given necessary adaptations and the housing stock has been improved. Trying to keep people well at home often means changes to the property and is a welcome part of the report. In response to a member's query regarding the reports reference to historical process errors, members were advised that these issues have not had financial issues.

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

#### **PRU PHASE 2 WHITEFIELD CENTRE**

61. Councillor Lucy Smith, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, presented the report which requested Cabinet approval of the project sum for works in relation Cabinet, 16 July 2024 7 to the Pupil Referral Unit, following conclusion of the tender exercise, and specifically in relation to the PRU's Whitefield Centre building. These are phase 2 of works following the relocation of the main PRU building from Spring Lane to the New Kershaw Centre. A member requested that there is ongoing consultation with residents in the local area throughout the process and highlighted a known query in relation to the site entrance which is currently being looked into

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



### **SIX TOWN HOUSING BOARD GOVERNANCE**

63. Councillor Clare Cummins, Cabinet Member for Housing Services, presented the report which sought approval for the necessary post transition actions and transactions to complete arrangements for Six Town Housing to continue its reduced social housing activities after it ceased to be the Council's ALMO.
64. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

### **THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE LOWEST TENDER FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING STREET LIGHTING LANTERNS WITH LED LANTERNS (PHASE 3)**

65. Councillor Alan Quinn, Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Operations, presented the report which requested Cabinet approval to accept the lowest tender submitted for the Replacement of Existing Street Lighting Lanterns with LED Lanterns (Phase 3) by E.ON Energy Solutions Ltd. In response to a members query in relation to the increase or decrease in brightness of street lights member were informed that this is possible, however, decisions must always be based on public safety over hobbies or other matters.
66. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

### **TOP PARK, RAMSBOTTOM 3G FOOTBALL PITCH**

67. Councillor Alan Quinn, Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Operations, presented the report which provided Cabinet with details of a proposed floodlit 3G Football Turf Pitch (FTP) at Top Park Playing Fields in Ramsbottom together with associated improvements to the pavilion and car park. The report also outlined the details of a funding bid submitted to the Football Foundation (FF) as well as seeking approval to the overall funding package including expenditure of approved Council capital match funding.
68. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

### **YEAR END/QUARTER FOUR CORPORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT 2023/24 AND SUBMISSION OF THE PRODUCTIVITY PLAN**

69. Councillor Tahir Rafiq, Cabinet Member for, Corporate Affairs and HR, presented the report on behalf of Councillor Sean Thorpe, Cabinet Member, Finance and Transformation which set out a summary of the full year performance and delivery monitoring report up for the Corporate Plan for 2023/24. In addition, the report also contained the proposed Productivity Plan for submission to central government in July for Cabinet approval. In April 2024 letters were sent to all local authorities from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) requesting that productivity plans were produced as part of a central government exercise to review productivity across public services.
70. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

### **STAR ACADEMY RADCLIFFE – CAPITAL COSTS**

71. Councillor Lucy Smith, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, presented the report which advised that the DfE has now received confirmed contract costs for the project to construct the new secondary school in Radcliffe, including the access road and junction works, the costs of which fall to the Council. Discussions took place regarding the process for the building and the Council's commitment in advance of the building being complete. In response to a member observation regarding the cyclops junction members were assured that the proposed infrastructure of the cyclops junction is welcomed and will help the local community access the building safely, whilst encouraging active travel and road safety by connecting to existing road safety infrastructure.
72. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

### **BUDGET UPDATE REPORT**

73. Councillor Sean Thorpe, Cabinet Member, Finance and Transformation, presented the report which set out the following:
- the 2023/24 revenue outturn position.
  - the updated Medium-Term Financial Forecast (MTFF) position for 2024/25 to 2026/27.
  - the updated Net Budget for 2024/25.
  - the final reserves position as at 31 March 2024.
  - 2023/24 capital outturn position
  - An update on the Finance Improvement Plan

Members were advised there is an overspend of £6.607 million with the direction of travel being downwards with the pressures being primarily in the Children and Young People budget. In response to a member query regarding dividends from Manchester Airport, members were informed that dividend is not due until 2028. Neil Kissock advised updated information on the matter will inform the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and be reported back to Cabinet in September.

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

### **RADCLIFFE SCHOOL FUNDING**

75. Councillor Lucy Smith, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, presented the report which outlined that the Cabinet has previously received a number of reports affirming the Council's commitment to the delivery of a new secondary school for Radcliffe by the Department for Education, including approval of the revenue and capital financial obligations on the Council. At Cabinet on the 15th March 2023, cabinet received a report that set out the financial arrangements that included a commitment from the Council to underwrite revenue costs in the event that the school did not recruit to its capacity in each of the first two years of operation, to be funded through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The school is currently planning to admit up to its admission number in September 2024, and there will not be a requirement to underwrite places in the first year. However, an unexpected financial risk has also been identified during the preparation of the complex annual return to the

Department for Education which allocates the total Dedicated Schools Grant to fund activities specified in the Regulations.

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

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES LEADERSHIP RESTRUCTURE**

77. Councillor Tahir Rafiq, Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR, presented the report which outlined an update in respect of the restructure of the Children & Young People's Department Senior Management Restructure.

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

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	Party	Question	Questioner
1	<b>Conservative</b> Cllr L Smith	Have this years A level and GCSE results in Bury been at the levels anticipated?	Cllr McBriar
		<p>Thank you for your question.</p> <p>The available data for this years' exam results are as follows. These are indicative results based on unvalidated data and are subject to change :</p> <p><b><u>GCSE Results</u></b>  42% of Bury children received a good pass (5-9) in English and Maths. This is 2% above Bury's performance last year. We are yet to see Greater Manchester and National data so cannot yet ascertain whether this is a trend in other areas.  63% of Bury children received a standard pass (4-9) in English and Maths. This is 1% below Bury's performance last year but are yet to understand whether this is a local or national trend.  Similarly, Bury's attainment 8 is 44.3 which is 0.4 below Bury's performance last year. National statistics are not yet available.</p> <p>Strong outcomes remain a relentless focus of the education department. As the majority of our high schools are part of Multi Academy Trusts, we will continue to support and challenge MATs through our senior leader meetings and the offer of brokered support. Local Authority maintained schools will continue to be provided with a bespoke package of support based on areas identified in this data should it vary from national norms or from predicted outcomes. The Quality Assurance team is now in the process of analysing school level data with school senior leaders to design this support.</p> <p><b><u>A Level</u></b>  The A level results from our colleges have yet to be verified and therefore greater detail cannot yet be shared. However, our colleges have reported positive A level results and level 3 equivalents and are confident this will compare favourably with national averages.</p>	
2	<b>Labour</b> Cllr L Smith	How did Bury children perform in summer exams and what does this show us about Bury schools?	Cllr A Arif
		<p><b>Supplementary:</b> Would the Cabinet Member join me in welcoming the opening of the new High School in Radcliffe and thank all those involved in getting this cornerstone of our regeneration plans delivered?</p> <p>Thank you for your question, I refer you to the response provided to the first question with regards to GCSE and A level result.  In addition, the following are the main headlines for each key stage and a comparison against our outcomes last year and national outcomes where available.</p> <p><b><u>Year 1 phonics</u></b>  79% of children passed the check. This is 1% below Bury's performance last year and 1% but we are yet to see whether this is a local or national trend. Schools with lower than national performance or with a declining</p>	

	Party	Question	Questioner
		<p>trend will be offered additional support and training from our Quality Effectiveness Partners and other high quality settings</p> <p><b>Key Stage 2 SATs (Year 6)</b> 63% of children attained the expected standard in Reading/Writing/Maths. This is 4% above Bury's performance last year and is 2% above the provisional 2024 national average.</p> <p><b>Supplementary:</b> We are delighted to welcome the first 151 students into Star Academy Radcliffe. This is a crucial part of the ongoing regeneration of Radcliffe and from recent visits it is clear that the school will not only deliver a first class education but will also promote healthy living and lifestyle choices. The school is also committed to the local community and want to be part of all aspects of Radcliffe life. Thank you to all those involved in the delivery of the current temporary classrooms and the future new building.</p>	
3	<p><b>Labour</b></p> <p>Cllr L Smith</p>	<p>Given that school attendance is a national problem what are Bury Council doing to support schools in their attendance figures?</p>	<p>Cllr M Rahimov</p>
		<p>Bury Council have a graduated approach to improving school attendance. The DfE Working Together to Improve Attendance has become statutory from 19th August 2024 and I am pleased to share that Bury is strides ahead in ensuring that targeted support meetings are embedded well in all schools.</p> <p>To help strengthen school attendance, we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rolled out new guidance and escalation pathways</li> <li>- Provided support strategies to schools throughout the academic year, including termly school attendance forums, training, data sharing and school attendance clinics.</li> <li>- Delivered 2 online attendance campaigns to children and their families.</li> <li>- Rolled out a clear legal framework in readiness for the new academic year.</li> <li>- Delivered a transition project to support children moving from primary school into high school, including school support and multi-agency drop in sessions for parents.</li> <li>- Increased the frequency of home visits undertaken by the school attendance officers throughout the school year.</li> <li>- Increased the focus on children missing in education and children who are electively home educated.</li> </ul> <p>We are also engaging positively with the Greater Manchester Local Authority Attendance Alliance (GMLAAA) to share good practice and evolve our practice. We are confident that these measures are having a positive impact across our school system, as we have increased our school attendance figures again this year and are now above national benchmarks.</p>	
4	<p><b>Conservative</b></p> <p>Cllr A Quinn</p>	<p>How successful are the Council in recovering costs incurred due to fly-tipping?</p>	<p>Cllr Vernon</p>

	Party	Question	Questioner
		<p><b>The Council has a range of enforcement powers to deal with fly tipping which includes issuing Fixed Penalty Notices and/or Prosecution. Any enforcement action taken must be in line with the Councils Enforcement Policy.</b></p> <p><b>If the Council decides on prosecution of an offender for fly tipping. An application for costs can be made to the Court if the offender is found guilty. This includes Investigating Officer time, preparation of case files, legal fees and waste removal costs if available or applicable. However, the award of costs in such prosecutions is at the discretion of the Court/Magistrate. The court's decision to determine the amount awarded to the Council including any penalty fine(s) and court costs are "means tested".</b></p> <p><b>Unfortunately, it is outside the Councils control the amount Courts determines to award, and the full amount is routinely not fully awarded and therefore recovered.</b></p> <p><b>In 2022/23 the Council took 9 successful prosecutions to Court and in 2023/24 6 successful prosecutions were undertaken. Unfortunately, full cost recovery was not awarded by the Courts with offenders being issued with fines ranging from £80 to £1173 and cost wards ranging from £100 to £500 respectively which did not cover all costs incurred by the Council. Where fixed penalty notices are issued and a legal intervention, if paid, there are no provisions in law to recover the costs of the Council from the offender such as officer time or removal of waste costs. Where an Fixed Penalty Notice has been issued and paid The Council proactively request perpetrator(s) to remove waste wherever possible. Such co-operation or putting right the wrong is seen as a mitigating feature during criminal proceedings.</b></p> <p><b>The Council is committed to investigating and holding fly tippers to account and acknowledges the negative impact fly tipping has in our communities.</b></p>	
5	<p><b>Radcliffe first</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Morris</b></p>	<p>Due to the restricted access during the Hub build in Radcliffe, the market day traders have suffered a huge drop in footfall. This drop is likely to lead to the imminent failure of two or three of the day traders currently operating. I believe the Market benefits from Royal Charter status which is dependent on a certain number of traditional market traders being operational. What assistance can we give these traders and what will the council do to protect the Royal Charter status of the Market?</p>	<p><b>Cllr M Smith</b></p>
		<p><b>Bury Council are working with the contractors for Radcliffe Hub, (Vinci) to ensure the contractors are taking every opportunity to promote the market whilst they are in Radcliffe. Traders are encouraged to drop off promotion leaflets with Vinci and they will ensure they are laid out in the site accommodation.</b></p> <p><b>They also mention what the market has to offer during the sub-contractor induction sessions and encourage all site operatives to make use of the</b></p>	

	Party	Question	Questioner
		<p>facility.</p> <p>The hoarding around the Hub site displays directional signage to the market and also opening times. These site hoarding panels have been specifically designed in conjunction with the Market operator to direct people to the market.</p> <p>Vinci are directly supporting many of the food and drink businesses within the market and have provided microwaves in the accommodation so site staff can purchase cold pies from the market to warm up. The site management also purchase breakfasts from the market for their various meetings etc.</p> <p>The Market Charter is held at Bury Market. It is a historic legal means of holding markets and fairs for their own benefit within a specified area, in this case within 6 miles of Bury Market. The Local Authority can grant permission for market's using the market charter within this area, however permission to hold contemporary markets is usually granted through the Food Act 1984. It will not impact the licencing of Radcliffe Market in any way.</p>	
6	<p><b>Labour</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Walmsley</b></p>	<p>Large parts of Prestwich already suffer disruption for 2 or 3 days in June with Parklife at adjoining Heaton Park. We are now having at least 5 Oasis concerts in July. How are Manchester City Council and organisers going to minimise the impact of possibly 100,000s of Oasis fans on the businesses and residents of Prestwich?</p> <p><b>Supplementary:</b> Can the Leader inform council of any latest developments in talks with MCC?</p>	<p><b>Cllr E Moss</b></p>
		<p><b>Bury Council officers and Ward Councillors in Prestwich have held initial meetings with Heaton Park management to discuss managing any mitigations for these concerts which will continue on a monthly basis leading up to the events. This builds on, and will include feedback from, event planning from previous Parklife festivals and other events held at the Park. Manchester City Council have shared event planning arrangements for the venue with the event organisers, including that of the Community Impact and Engagement company that supports Parklife and therefore is familiar with the local business and residential community.</b></p> <p><b>A meeting will take place later this month with Operations and Community Safety colleagues to discuss minimising impact in terms of resident access, public transport, environmental health and how Manchester, Bury and Rochdale Council's will work in a co-ordinated manner with broader partners.</b></p> <p><b>There will be formal Safety Advisory Group meetings and specific sub-groups for Traffic and Community Impact held by Manchester City Council that officers from Bury Council will be actively involved with including highways, waste management, licensing, trading standards and community safety. It will also be tracked by Bury's Event Safety Advisory</b></p>	



	Party	Question	Questioner
		<p><b>Group which is a multi-agency partnership including blue light services such as GMP, GM Fire &amp; Rescue and North West Ambulance Service. Place based Council colleagues in Prestwich will work with their colleagues across public services and community connections, both within the Borough and across the border into North Manchester to minimise impact on delivery of services such as district nurse/ social care provision.</b></p> <p><b>Supplementary</b> Representation has been made of the importance of a resident parking scheme (including adaptations to this based on learning from events in 2024); consideration of recompense for businesses whose trade might be impacted by the concerts and a community impact fund for local community groups to provide some social value to events being held in the park and as a means of compensating the local community for the impact of the events.</p> <p>Further meetings are scheduled for later this month, including regular meetings with Ward Councillors, and discussions are taking place with enforcement colleagues on the opportunities to share resourcing burdens with Manchester colleagues given the impact such events have on Bury Council resources</p>	
7	<b>Labour</b>  Cllr Walmsley	With the very welcome extension of the Household Support Fund now confirmed, what will the Council be doing to work with local partners to get this much-needed money to those who need it?"	Cllr Ryder
		<p><b>On 2<sup>nd</sup> September, Government announced a six month extension of the Household Support Fund, whilst national Spending Reviews take place, which will provide a vital source of support to financially vulnerable households in the Borough. Whilst this is a positive move, it reflects the ongoing pressures faced by some households, which had been recognised by the Council and formed an integral part of early discussions and representations to the new Government as a key priority to address, to deliver on local outcomes and national missions.</b></p> <p>Exact confirmation of the funding amount and any specific requirements or priorities within the fund are being sought, in order to shape local proposals for maximising the impact of this fund, including through the multi-agency Bury Anti Poverty Steering Group. This recognises that Household Support Fund has only ever been part of the approach to addressing Cost of Living and longer term economic resilience of local communities, and included approaches such as the Ingeus Neighbourhub, pension credit promotion, Radcliffe Goals project and Working Well Work &amp; Health Programme.</p>	
8	<b>Conservative</b>  Cllr A Quinn	As we prepare for autumn/winter will the Council commit to a review of grit bins?	Cllr Lancaster
		<p><b>Our highways team are reviewing all 324 grit bins located on our highway.</b></p> <p><b>This review will be completed in time for the 25/26 winter season.</b></p>	

	Party	Question	Questioner
		<b>We will ensure that grit bins are replenished ahead of this winter.</b>	
9	<b>Radcliffe first</b> <b>Cllr A Quinn</b>	Can the Cabinet Member advise what the Council can do to reestablish water flow to the culvert under Water Street in Radcliffe?	<b>Cllr Birchmore</b>
		<b>The culvert is not blocked, but is heavily silted. The silt is present along the whole section of the canal, so any silt removal in the culvert will simply be replaced by migrating silt from elsewhere. We are liaising with the Canal and River Trust about the possibility of general silt removal from the canal, but costs of us undertaking this in isolation will be prohibitive.</b>	
10	<b>Labour</b> <b>Cllr O'Brien</b>	The new Labour Government has made house building a top priority, in order to deliver the growth we need for the economy and address the housing crisis. What plans does the Council have to build the homes we need in Bury?	<b>Cllr Ibrahim</b>
		<p><b>The Council has already made significant progress in bringing forward brownfield sites for development to deliver the new homes our Borough needs. We are working with development partners to deliver growth and regeneration in our town centres at Prestwich, Radcliffe and Bury, and with registered providers to deliver affordable housing on brownfield sites such as Wheatfield in Whitefield and William Kemp Heaton in Bury. Through working with private developers and registered providers, the Council is actively bringing forward around 1,200 new homes on brownfield land, helping to provide a wide range of house types and tenures, including specialist accommodation for older people and those with additional support needs.</b></p> <p><b>Through Places for Everyone we have allocated strategic sites at Elton, Walshaw and Simister to deliver over 6,000 new homes, which will be supported by the necessary infrastructure to build sustainable and thriving communities. Work is on-going to develop masterplans for these sites to set out how the policy requirements in the plan will be translated into development layouts and designs within the sites – identifying key highway and public transport proposals, new schools and health facilities, as well as retained recreation and leisure parcels within the sites.</b></p> <p><b>Importantly, the sites will provide a range of different house types and sizes, including much needed affordable homes for our residents. These masterplans will be consulted on in the coming months and they will help shape future planning applications and the delivery of these sites.</b></p>	
11	<b>Labour</b> <b>Cllr A Quinn</b>	What work is being done to survey the number and location of non-household bins across the borough?	<b>Cllr D Green</b>
		<p><b>Supplementary: What processes are in place to move existing bins to help address overflowing bins and litter in hotspots such as parks?</b></p> <p><b>The Street Cleansing Team, monitor the bin collections and report to the street cleansing manager when either bins are not being used or are overflowing. We would then look to relocate the bins to a more suitable location or provide an additional collection.</b></p>	

	Party	Question	Questioner
		<p><b>Supplementary</b></p> <p>When a request is made to move a litter bin, the Street Cleansing Manager will assess the request based on factors such as the usage of the bin and the ease of collection. If the Street Cleansing Manager approves the relocation, they will submit a request to the Grounds Maintenance team, who will then arrange for the bin to be moved to the new location.</p>	
12	<p><b>Conservative</b></p> <p><b>Cllr A Quinn</b></p>	<p>Throughout the Seddons Farm Estate there are several walkways which are hazardous due to loose paving stones. As a consequence of this, a number of residents have fallen and sustained injuries. Will the Cabinet Member commit to looking into this with a view to carrying out the necessary remediation?</p>	<p><b>Cllr Jackie Harris</b></p>
		<p><b>Our Highways team carry out routine safety inspections of the 660km of carriageway and 1200km of footway in the borough.</b></p> <p><b>Hazardous defects identified during these inspections are repaired in accordance with our policy.</b></p> <p><b>Residents can report highway defects to us via our webmap reporting system on the Bury Council website.</b></p>	
13	<p><b>Radcliffe First</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Tariq</b></p>	<p>Can you please tell us if the attendance at Bury leisure centres is now the same, above or below, attendances pre covid. Given the current booking systems, are there any indications or concerns that certain groups are not using the facilities.</p>	<p><b>Cllr Berry</b></p>
		<p><b>The total attendances pre COVID up until March 2020 were 654,167. Since then, attendances have been steadily increasing however, in 23/24 there was a decrease in attendances overall due to the closure of Radcliffe.</b></p> <p><b>Regarding Memberships pre COVID during 19/20 Bury leisure had 3601 members, 20/21 this was 2155 which was affected by the pandemic, 21/22 increased to 3174, and in 22/23 to 3713 and 23/24 3906 an increase of 8.5%. Currently in September Bury Leisure has 4225 which is a 17% increase since COVID.</b></p> <p><b>Bury Leisure are also delivering outreach community sessions in Radcliffe and since going live in January 2024 there have been over 5000 attendances.</b></p> <p><b>Overall, 90% of customers are booking online and 10% in centre. There is concierge support to enable all customers to book online, in centre at the in-centre PODS and Kiosks. We are not aware of any ongoing issues. Around 85% of those attending our Wellbeing Classes book online and or there is also support in centre to book these classes.</b></p> <p><b>As part of the Digital First Transformation Programme, a new Leisure APP with a QR access code is being launched in September to further support customers with booking and accessing facilities.</b></p>	

	Party	Question	Questioner
14	<b>Labour</b> Cllr Thorpe	What percentage of Council spending is now being spent on adults and children social care costs, and how much has this gone up over recent years?	Cllr Farooq
		<b>HAC and CYP represented 62.7% of the 23/24 approved budget and £63.7% of the 24/25 budget. However both years' budgets were set with a structural funding gap being met from one-off reserves totalling £4.802m in 23/24 and £13.149m in 24/25. When the non-recurrent reserves are excluded HAC and CYP represented 64.4% and 67.7% of the ongoing funding available to the council in those financial years, an increase of 3.3% from 2023/24 to 2024/25 reflecting the inflationary and demand led pressures in those service areas that are national issues and not specific to Bury.</b>	
15	<b>Labour</b> Cllr Morris	The summer has been packed full of amazing cultural events right across the borough. Would the Cabinet Member join me in thanking all those who organised and took part in these events and outline what support the Council gives for these events?	Cllr Pilkington
		<b>The Team in Operations have organised the events with cultural partners and the BID. Bury Council received £500k of UKSPF funding over 23/24 and 24/25. This funded a new Events Manager post. The rest of the funding was spent on a large Community Arts Grant Fund for grassroots artists and lots of large-scale events. This included The Women's Tour of Britain, Pride, The Bury Food and Drink Festival, the Bury Art Festival, Heritage Open Days, animation of the Running Festival, Armed Forces support, cultural events in care homes, holiday events in Libraries and the Knife Angel amongst others.</b>  <b>There's more to come including Winter events at Bury Art Museum, The Ramsbottom Come Together Festival and the LS Lowry Going to the Match exhibition and events at Bury Art Museum, working with local football teams.</b>  <b>Staff at Bury Market, Bury Libraries, Parks and Bury Art Museum have contributed support for other events including Comicon and the Mela.</b>	
16	<b>Conservative</b> Cllr O'Brien	Can the Leader of the Council confirm due to the Labour Governments proposed planning reforms and the potential increase in housing targets will this result in more of the Greenbelt in Bury being at risk of desecration?	Cllr Jack Rydeheard
		<b>I cannot confirm any speculation regarding the potential outcomes of a draft change currently going through a consultation. Clearly, higher housing targets may be one outcome but with the adoption of PFE agreed we have a plan that will deliver significantly more homes than we have been building historically and help the Government meet the policy ambition it was elected on to build more homes.</b>  <b>It is also worth noting that the proposed reforms to the NPPF make it clear that effective strategic planning across boundaries will continue to play a vital role in delivering sustainable growth. If there are increased targets, then we will explore with other districts how these can be accommodated and distributed in the most sustainable locations within the conurbation.</b>	

	Party	Question	Questioner
		<b>Ultimately though, we must await the outcome of the consultation and any eventual changes within the NPPF before being able to outline our response to this.</b>	
17	<b>Radcliffe First</b> <b>Cllr Tariq</b>	GP surgeries appear to be heavily used and when trying to get an appointment, it can be a struggle getting through on the phone. It appears that some surgeries only have a short window when people can phone in and have been going to A&E instead. Has this issue been observed in Bury.	<b>Cllr Berry</b>
		<p><b>Thank you for your question, yes, our GPs are really really busy and their phone lines will be very much in demand. However, worries about only short windows when people can phone for an appointment are not the case here in Bury</b></p> <p><b>Our practices phone lines are open from 8am to 6:30pm and will continue to be answered during this time.</b></p> <p><b>If no appointments are available immediately, they are offered for future dates and our local contract also mandates that if a child under 12 years has an urgent clinical need then same day access with a prescribing clinician is guaranteed.</b></p> <p><b>If we look at our most recent data which is from July 2024 we can see that 45% of appointments are provided the same day and 72 % of people get a appointment within less than a week</b></p> <p><b>We can also see that the number of appointments provided each month is now 94,000 per month compared to 64,000 a month only 2 years ago</b>  <b>If we look at how often Bury residents go to our local A &amp; E at Fairfield then we can see in the most recent data available from June shows that last year 4143 people from Bury went to Fairfield but only 3900 in June this year and earlier in the year this was as low as 3600</b></p> <p><b>So I understand your concerns but this doesn't suggests that people are using A and E instead of their GP</b></p> <p><b>I hope this answers your question and if anyone does ring their GP and gets an engaged tone I encourage them to try again, as 94,000 appointments a month, 43,0000 offered on the same day is really great performance by such a busy part of our health care service and I'm sure you'll join me in saying thank you to all the GPs here in Bury for providing so many extra appointments.</b></p>	
18	<b>Conservative</b> <b>Cllr A Quinn</b>	Can the Cabinet Member advise if there is a strategy for traffic calming measure across the Borough?	<b>Cllr S Arif</b>
		<p><b>Our traffic calming strategy is in accordance with the GMCA's Vision Zero strategy.</b></p> <p><b>The vision of this strategy and action plan is to eliminate road death and life-changing injury by 2040, with a target to achieve a 50 per cent</b></p>	

	Party	Question	Questioner
		reduction by 2030. The intention is to increase safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all.	

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>The Council</b>
<b>Meeting date:</b>	<b>11 September 2024</b>
<b>Title of report:</b>	<p><b>Update on Greater Manchester Joint Authorities Activity</b></p> 
<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 at the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

## 1. Background

- 1.1. This report provides an update on work undertaken by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and other Greater Manchester joint authorities since the last Council meeting.
- 1.2. Since the last update there has been one meetings of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.
- 1.3. As agreed, each report will focus on a particular area, this month's update report, focusses on the work of the Greater Manchester Scrutiny Committees.

## 2. Spotlight FOR September – GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

### Background GMCA Overview and Scrutiny

The GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee checks that decisions made by the GMCA, the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) executive board, the Greater Manchester Transport committee and Transport for Greater Manchester, help make the region a better place to live, work, study and do business.

In January 2022, the Combined Authority commissioned the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) to review the current scrutiny function. A members' task group (across all political parties) was established from existing GMCA scrutiny members which was Chaired by Clive Memmott OBE, Chief Executive of GM Chamber of Commerce and supported by Ed Hammond, Deputy Chief Executive, Centre for Governance and Scrutiny and Officers from the Combined Authority.

The significant independent review of its scrutiny function resulted in moving from three Overview & Scrutiny Committees to a singular committee model that has now been in place for two years.

The role of the Scrutiny Committee is to:

- contribute to the early policy development of complex issues affecting the whole of GM
- review and evaluate the performance of the Mayor and GMCA, and the way it works with its partners to deliver for local people,
- investigate more complex cross-cutting issues

The Independent review produced several recommendations which have shaped the current single Committee model, including the appointment of members based on skills and interest for more than one year – to ensure there is some continuity, the establishment and implementation of task and finish groups, in addition regular information briefings.

The work undertaken by the Committee included a review of Greater Manchester Strategy and its priorities, which has been used as the basis of the development of a draft work programme for the Committee to add through throughout the year, including reviewing forthcoming key



decisions and requesting officers to attend meeting to discuss those issues which most effect residents. The work programme remains fluid and is reviewed at every meeting.

The Committee has played a major role in the development of the trailblazer devolution deal for Greater Manchester, with the Deal including the reference to the GMCA's commitment to building a culture of greater scrutiny and accountability. The Committee has also had the opportunity to scrutinise the proposed implementation of the deal. The trailblazer deal also helpfully recognised the need for continuity of membership of the Scrutiny Committee. Although there has been a mix of newly appointed and more experienced elected members, this has enabled Committee to consider fresh new insights into the work of the Committee.

In ensuring Scrutiny remains a priority for the GMCA, the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee is invited to attend every GMCA meeting and provided with the opportunity to speak to reports which the Scrutiny Committee have been actively involved in and feeding back those comments direct to members of the GMCA.

One the strengths of the Scrutiny Committee is the ability to be involved in the early policy development, including Violence Reduction Strategy, race Equality Strategy amongst other major policy areas.

GMCA Portfolio leaders, including the Mayor, together with officers are requested to attend Scrutiny Committee meetings, providing members with the opportunity to comment and influence policy development and ensure the Greater Manchester Strategy is at the forefront of policy development.

Informal member information briefings also help Scrutiny Committee members build their knowledge base. The sessions cover all portfolio areas across the GMCA and enables members to effectively scrutinise the performance of the GMCA and the Mayor.

The committee also has the opportunity to scrutinise the financial performance of the organisation as part of the annual budget setting process, including opportunity to consider the mayoral precept.

As part of the establishment of the new model the GMCA committed to review how it was working at the 6 month stage.

The work of the Scrutiny committee has included:

- potential implications of a National Waste Strategy

- Bus franchising - phase one
- GM Investment Fund are assessed
- Housing
- School readiness

A task & finish group was established to review affordable housing and in recognition of the wider determinants affecting affordable living for residents the scope was changed in recognition of the national housing crisis, from a reduction on social rental properties, to increased rental costs driven by demand and the rise in fuel prices.

### **GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Task and Finish Review: Affordable Homes**

In July it was agreed by the GMCA that the full list of recommendations within the report be endorsed and that opportunities be sought where the GMCA can support the delivery of the recommendations, specifically:

- to influence the development of the next Affordable Homes Programme through strengthened partnership arrangements within the latest devolution deal to ensure it is flexible enough to meet the needs of our residents (Recommendation 1).
- to continue to support Local Authorities to seek out potential schemes through innovative approaches and bold actions.
- to support Local Authorities and Housing Providers to ensure tenants have full access to welfare and other hardship funds through every interaction.
- to co-design the next GM Housing Strategy with other key stakeholders that builds on what is already being done, but also confidently pushes the boundaries as to what can potentially be done, setting the standard as zero carbon.
- to ensure that advice on cost-of-living support provided through registered providers is also available via private landlords.
- to ensure that being an accredited member of the Good Landlord Charter is universally recognised, with its unique benefits clearly identified.
- As a first step, GMCA to organise an event to discuss the findings of this review and actions which can be taken to remove barriers for the delivery of viable schemes.
- That it be noted that the report will now be shared with GM Local Authority Councillors, Cabinet Members for Housing, and Scrutiny Committees, for their information and appropriate action.

- That the GMCA record its thanks to the Task and Finish Group for their contributions to a timely report on the housing issues impacting the region and the wider country.
- That the information provided on the establishment of the GM Housing First Unit and the plans for how it would contribute towards addressing the housing crisis in the region be received.

### **Other areas of focus:**

- Devolution Deal

Throughout the previous year, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee was engaged with the development of the trailblazer devolution deal for Greater Manchester, recognising that this would be a significant opportunity to better align resources with the needs of our residents. In light of the specific new powers being agreed in this Trailblazer Devolution Deal, including the single settlement, and in the spirit of greater power requiring greater accountability, GMCA commits to building a culture of greater scrutiny and accountability.

1 Throughout this year, the Committee has been able to provide further scrutiny to the proposed implementation of the deal and have been given the opportunity to recognise its role in ensuring greater accountability for the devolved responsibilities. The trailblazer deal called for continuity across the membership of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee which was helpful in ensuring continued growth alongside the wider organisation. This year there were a mix of newly appointed and elected members who had previously been appointed to the Committee, which brought together new perspectives, fresh conversations and a strong knowledge base from which to undertake mature scrutiny activity. Membership on committees and in particular the role of chair should be prized and competed for. Retention of members for several years should be common. Members should be able to devote the time to the role. The committees should have the profile and cache to ensure that their findings are brought to the attention of the public wherever necessary.

2 Evidencing the outcome of scrutiny work has been assisted by the continued presence of the Chair of Overview & Scrutiny being provided with the opportunity to report back to the GMCA on their findings against the reports that have sought the engagement of the Committee.

- Pre-policy scrutiny of high profile and complex issues

The benefits of engaging the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in the early development stages of a policy has been further evidenced throughout this year through their input into the development of the Race Equality Strategy, Violence Reduction Strategy, Vision Zero Strategy and Local Transport Plan. In each of these instances, portfolio leaders and officers brought their initial thoughts to the committee for robust challenge well in advance of the policy being prepared for publication. As recommended by the independent review, this approach enables members to ensure that its ambitions are in line with those of the Greater Manchester Strategy and has the opportunity to develop political debate on matters which are complex and important.

Due to a strong relationship of trust between the GMCA and the Overview & Scrutiny Committee there have been several occasions throughout the year where members have been asked to review highly sensitive policy decisions of a commercial nature, including the options

for a future GM waste contract and the indicative preferred bidder for the final tranche of bus franchising.

- Reviewing the performance of the Mayor and the GMCA

Members of the Committee were provided with an overview of the Greater Manchester Strategy at the beginning of the year to provide a framework for their scrutiny activity. Building from this knowledge base the Committee has been offered a range of overview sessions on all portfolio areas across the GMCA, from digital to the green city region. With this foundation, they are able to more effectively scrutinise the performance of the organisation.

One example of this was a Business Board update, which not only provided the Committee with an overview of the priorities of the Business Board, but an opportunity to review how these priorities were delivering against the priorities of the Greater Manchester Strategy.

Reviewing the financial performance of the organisation was also further supported by a series of informal briefings and a separate opportunity to consider the mayoral precept proposals ahead of the wider budget proposals. These were significant opportunities for budget scrutiny but were alongside regular financial considerations on each of the reports brought to the Committee.

A six-monthly review was also an opportunity for the Committee to consider how the recommendations from its task and finish report in March 2021 were being implemented across the organisation and with partners. This provided a check-in on previous work to ensure that outcomes were being delivered.

In line with the GMCA's commitment to an effective scrutiny function, the relevant portfolio lead has been in attendance for their own reports, this includes the GM Mayor for transport related items to his portfolio or other mayoral items. Over the last year the Mayor has been present to respond to questions from the Committee on issues such as Greater Manchester's bus fare initiative, a cycle hire recovery plan and the proposals for the allocations within the forthcoming mayoral precept.

- Investigating cross-cutting issues

Empowering members through a strong knowledge base and a clear role and remit for the Committee has enabled them to engage in a number of complex and cross-cutting reviews, including the potential implications of a National Waste Strategy, initial reflections on the implementation of phase one of the franchised bus network and the process by which applications to the GM Investment Fund are assessed.

The central threads of the Greater Manchester Strategy for a greener, fairer and more prosperous Greater Manchester ran through the entire work programme for 2023/24 with this lens being applied to a range of cross cutting policies and initiatives, such as the consideration as to how a capped fare proposal would reduce carbon emissions.

The Committee also requested several portfolio overviews on topics of interest this year including housing and school readiness. The housing session was a helpful contributor to this year's task and finish review for which members of the Committee selected the topic of affordable housing. As the review began, they were minded to change the scope in recognition of the wider determinants affecting affordable living for residents in Greater Manchester. This task and finish approach provided the opportunity for a small group of members to take a closer

look at the many facets that have resulted in a national housing crisis, from a reduction on social rental properties, to increased rental costs driven by demand and the exponential rise in fuel prices.

<b>Wider work of the GM Combined Authority - July meeting</b>
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- 3.1 A refreshed **GM Moving MoU Refresh** with Sport England and wider GM Moving Partnership Board
- 3.2 **The GM Good Landlord Charter** including the proposal not to charge a fee to landlords for participation in the Charter be approved; the utilisation of £250,000 from retained business rates in 2024/25 to procure an independent implementation unit for the charter; Government be lobbied on the repeal of Section 21 and introduction of the Renters Reform Bill be pursued.
- 3.3 **Delivering the Bee Network** that the fully integrated ticketing system, PayGo, is expected to go 'live' in March 2025.
- 3.4 **Approval of the Draft Rapid Transit Strategy including a** commitment to a full assessment of the case for expanding Metrolink to Leigh.
- 3.5 **Agreed Bee Network Fares and Ticketing**
  - reduce the price of 7-day Bus Travel on Bee Network Services from £21 Adult/£10.50 Child to £20 Adult/£10 Child
  - reduce the price of 28-day Bus Travel on Bee Network Services from £85.40 Adult/£42.70 Child to £80 Adult/£40 Child
  - That the introduction of a paper 'Hopper' single ticket for Bee Network bus users from 5th January 2025 be approved.
  - That the proposal to introduce a scheme, with local Credit Unions, from January 2025 to improve access to annual bus tickets be approved, in principle.
  - That a further report on Bee Network fares and ticketing products be submitted to GMCA in September 2024.
- 3.6 **Received and update on the Cost of Living and Economic Resilience**
- 3.7 **GMCA Sustainability Strategy: Annual Report**
- 3.8 **Low Carbon Skills Fund Opportunity**
- 3.9 **Greater Manchester Culture Strategy**
- 3.10 **GM Armed Forces Covenant Roadmap and** That the 5-year Roadmap, as a framework to enhance cohesive delivery across the City Region, be endorsed.

That the enduring and sustained effort to go even further and make GM the best place in the UK for members of the Armed Forces Community to live be recognised and the re-signing of the GM Armed Forces Covenant be approved.

3.11 **Investment Zone Update** including the Stockport Town Centre West Mayoral Development Corporation's Strategic Business Plan

3.12 **Mayoral Development Corporation for Northern Gateway - In Principle Decision**

That the creation of an MDC for the Northern Gateway project be approved, in principle. That it be agreed that GMCA officers explore with Bury, Oldham, and Rochdale Councils, detailed options for an MDC to be created for the Northern Gateway, with these matters to be decided upon by GMCA and the Local Authorities in due course.

3.13 **Approval of the Ashton Mayoral Development Zone - Business Plan**

3.14 **UKSPF Proposal for the Management of Potential Underspend 2024/5**

3.15 **Revenue Outturn Report - Quarter 4 agreed:**

That it be noted that the Mayoral General Budget provisional revenue outturn position for 2023/24 was breakeven, after planned transfer to earmarked reserves.

That it be noted that the GMCA General Budget provisional revenue outturn position for 2023/24 is £2.1m, which will be transferred to earmarked reserves.

That it be noted that the Mayoral General – GM Fire & Rescue provisional outturn position for 2023/24 was breakeven, after a transfer of revenue funding to capital.

That it be noted that the Waste and Resourcing provisional revenue outturn position for 2023/24 was breakeven, after a transfer from reserve of £18.7m.

That it be noted that the GMCA Transport and TfGM provisional revenue outturn positions for 2023/24 were breakeven, after transfers between earmarked reserves.

That it be noted that the final position was subject to the submission of the audited accounts to be submitted to the GMCA Audit Committee.

3.16 **Capital Outturn Report - Quarter 4 agreed:**

That it be noted that the 2023/24 actual outturn capital expenditure of £541.1m, compared to the forecast position presented to GMCA on 9 February 2024 of £579.1m.

That the update on property acquisitions for Project Skyline be noted and the additions to the capital programme in 2024/25 be approved.

**3.17 GM Housing Investment Loans Fund and Brownfield Housing Fund agreed:**

That authority be delegated to the GMCA Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Housing, to approve new funding and urgent variations to existing funding from the GM Housing Investment Loans Fund and Brownfield Housing Fund, 13 July 2024 to 26 September 2024.

That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the GMCA Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, to prepare and effect the necessary legal agreements. That it be noted that any recommendations approved under the delegation will be reported to the next available meeting of the GMCA.

**3.18 GM Investment Framework, Conditional Project Agreed**

That a £2m increase in the loan facility to Romaco Limited, from £3m to £5m be noted. That the consolidation of two existing loans into a single facility with Broughton House, totalling £4.1m be noted.

That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer and GMCA Solicitor and Monitoring Officer to review the due diligence information in respect of the above loans, and, subject to their satisfactory review and agreement of the due diligence information and the overall detailed commercial terms of the loans, to sign off any outstanding conditions, issue final approvals and complete any necessary related documentation in respect of the loans noted above.

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 agree urgent variations to the terms of funding in the period 13 July 2024 to 26 September 2024.

That it be noted that any recommendations approved under the delegations will be reported to the next available meeting of the GMCA.

**3.19 Independent Remuneration Panel Review of GM Mayoral Remuneration agreed**

That the remuneration of the GM Mayor remains at £118,267, subject to any indexation going forward.

That the remuneration of the GM Mayor continues to be indexed at the NJC annual percentage salary increase, specifically with reference to Spinal Column Point 43.

That the index continues to be applied to the same year that it applies to officers. This is normally from 1st April to 31st March. Where the index is applicable to officers for more than 1 year it should also be applicable to the GM Mayor for the same period.

That the recommendations contained in the report be implemented with effect from the date of the GM Mayor taking up the new term of office in May 2024.

That the IRP's views be noted that the GM Mayor should have access to an appropriate pension scheme that provides for an employer's contribution equivalent to that made to the pension scheme for Police and Crimes Commissioners

That it be agreed that lobbying would take place on behalf of the Mayor to ensure that Metro Mayors were given fair access to appropriate pensions schemes.

#### 4 Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) Update

- **TfGM's Business Portal Refresh**

The TfGM [Business Portal](#) is our 'one-stop shop' for businesses, containing a wide range of advice and resources to help employers and their businesses. We've refreshed the content on the Portal to ensure it is fully up to date, including: Information on the Bee Network, and what that means for business; Practical tools and resources such as the business commuter toolkit, an employee travel guide and simple materials that can be used to keep your colleagues informed; Active travel provision and support, such as information on GM's Starling Bank Bike hire scheme and Information on public transport services and flexible ticket offers.

- **Caroline Simpson starts new role as Group Chief Executive**
- **Business Transport Advisory Council (BTAC) meeting**

TfGM's regular Business Transport Advisory Council (BTAC) meeting took place on 17 June. BTAC brings together a panel of business leaders which represent a range of sectors, come from various locations across the city-region and range from micro to large to help us develop a Bee Network that works well for the GM business community. Discussions focused on the need for reliability, frequency and capacity improvements on rail commuter lines, with priority placed on travel outside of GM boundary and orbital



routes. Panel members also shared positive feedback towards Mayoral manifesto ticketing and safety plans.

- **Disability Design Reference Group Meeting**

TfGM's Disability Design Reference Group (DDRG) held its second quarterly meeting of the year on 27th June. DDRG is our advisory group made up of individuals with a range of different disabilities who provide advice based on their personal experience of traveling on the Bee Network. They work collaboratively with TfGM in designing an integrated, accessible public and active travel network.

During the meeting, panel members gave their perspectives on road safety to inform the Vision Zero action plan. They discussed the findings of the Bikes on Trams guided pilot which took place earlier this year and gave feedback on proposals for Pay As You Go (PAYG) contactless on buses and a forthcoming Rail PAYG contactless pilot. The group also recently undertook a site visit to Bury Interchange to give their input into proposals for its redevelopment.

- **Planned Metrolink engineering works**

Heaton Park, Hagside and Collyhurst Substations: TfGM are constructing three new substations at Heaton Park, Hagside, and Collyhurst to help improve capacity on the Bury line. Intermittent phased work is ongoing at all three locations. The majority of work is taking place during normal working hours. These substation works will take place within normal working hours and Metrolink services will not be impacted unless otherwise advised.

- **Free Safer Driving course for 55+: Additional dates added**

Safer Roads Greater Manchester Partnership are encouraging drivers to join the FREE Safer Driving for Longer course. Additional course dates have been added to the programme, with dates available up until end of September. The course helps drivers to reflect on their own driving, increase confidence in their ability and to consider efficient alternatives to driving. It is available to Greater Manchester residents aged 55+. ([website](#))

- **Update: Network Reviews including programme timings**

The Bee Network's ongoing programme of Network Reviews is designed to enhance public transportation across Greater Manchester by building on the benefits of bringing

buses under local control. TfGM is working closely with local authorities to collect feedback from communities, elected officials, businesses, and other stakeholders. In Bury, begins in August.

All bus services in Greater Manchester will be integrated into the Bee Network by January 5, 2025. Reviews for other areas will commence in spring 2025. Although direct engagement and promotion of each review will match the timeline above from a place perspective, the survey is open to all across GM –even in those areas not currently under review. This is to ensure comments can be provided on cross boundary services Starting in 2025, thematic reviews will also potentially focus on specific themes such as night time services, orbital services, or priority routes. ([link to survey](#)).

- **Media summary – GM and wider transport headlines**

Politicians in Bolton have given their reactions to the Chancellor’s announcement that the Restoring Your Railways Fund will be wound down, with one Labour MP suggesting that some of the schemes could be revisited in the future. TfGM made several bids for funding to the Department for Transport to support feasibility studies for several schemes, notably improving links between Bolton and Bury/Radcliffe (Metrolink extension), Stockport and Ashton, and Bury, Heywood and Rochdale.

The Bury Times reports that more fare evasion fines have been handed out on the Bury line than any other parts of the Metrolink network, according to figures obtained by FOI. A total of 4,512 penalty fares were handed out on the line between January and June – 508 more than the second highest line, Altrincham.

<b>5 Recycle for Greater Manchester (R4GM)</b>
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- **Community Fund**

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. These include:

Cracking Good Food will set-up “drop-off bins” across Greater Manchester to collect pre-loved cooking equipment and utensils donated by the public and businesses. This is then sanitised, safety assured and redistributed to focus on supporting people 'setting up home' after homelessness or crisis, supported by cooking classes and reducing food waste.

Become United are running ten targeted waste management awareness sessions across Greater Manchester. These will aim to inspire positive behaviour change waste within communities across the city-region. They'll also be creating infographics in English, Arabic, Urdu, and Bangla to encourage local communities to recycle more and waste less.

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.

- **Pots, tubs and trays**

We're busy preparing for an important collection change coming up this Autumn. Our Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) is being upgraded to accept plastic pots, tubs and trays from October. These will now be collected alongside plastic bottles, glass jars and aluminium and steel cans in the blue mixed recycling bin. Previously they were collected in the general waste bin.

Many residents already think pots, tubs and trays can be recycled in their mixed recycling bin, and we've done a lot of work over the years to bust this myth. There's now a big piece of work to update our communication materials like the Recycle for Greater Manchester website and our leaflets to ensure we display updated guidance for residents. We'll be working closely with Bury Council's Waste and Communications team, sharing accurate wording and images to help them communicate this change to residents. Initial comms will include a radio advert to promote the change across regional stations like Hits Radio and advertising on social media and in local publications like The Bury Times.

We anticipate this will be a positive change with residents and we'll be running a more substantial campaign in the new year.

- **Tree planting**

GMCA’s Waste and Resources team recently undertook a joint piece of work with City of Trees, Greater Manchester’s community forest charity, to help improve biodiversity across our city-region. We partnered with them to plant 765 trees at two of our closed landfill sites at Chichester Street in Rochdale and Bredbury Parkway in Stockport. Both areas are near existing wild spaces and, with continued management from City of Trees, the newly-planted trees will become nature corridors for wildlife, including badgers, foxes and roe deer. The closed landfill sites are already home to a wide variety of mammals, birds, insects and amphibians.

This work is part of a larger project to improve biodiversity at GMCA’s waste sites. In partnership with contractor SUEZ, we’ve added bee hives and bird boxes to encourage a wide range of wildlife on site; our solar farm at our Salford Road site in Bolton has over 300,000 bees already. This feeds into GMCA’s new Biodiversity Action Plan, which will set out how we can all make room for nature across the city-region.

- **Recycling Centre Rates**

<b>Site</b>	<b>June (%)</b>	<b>Year to date</b>
Cemetery Rd, Radcliffe	67	66
Every St, Fernhill	67	64

## 6 Recommendation

- 6.1 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.

### Contact Details:-

**Haroon Asghar**

**Policy Officer**

**[h.asghar@bury.gov.uk](mailto:h.asghar@bury.gov.uk)**

## COMBINED AUTHORITY QUESTIONS

No.	From	To	Question
1	<b>COUNCILLOR</b> R Brown	Cllr Walmsley	How many GMP officers are currently suspended?
			<p>We fully support the vast majority of GMP's officers; they are dedicated and compassionate professionals who are committed to making sure they provide the best possible service for the people of GM day-in day-out.</p> <p>GMP take action against those suspected of not behaving to the standard we, and the public, rightly expect and through the Deputy Mayor's office all available powers are explored to ensure the public can have trust in their police force.</p> <p>Since his arrival in May 2021, the Chief Constable has overseen the dismissal of 99 officers.</p> <p>Across the force, eighty five officers, out of a officer population of 8,200 are currently suspended, with twenty staff currently suspended. These figures include eighteen officers from Bury and 1 member of staff.</p>
2	<b>COUNCILLOR</b> I Gartside	Leader	Have passenger numbers at Manchester Airport increased this summer compared to last summer?
			<p>Thank you for your question. As of yet the passenger figures have not been made available for August 2024. However in the months of May, June and July passengers numbers have increased between 7 and 11 per centage figures.</p> <p>I have a more detailed breakdown and this can be shared with Members following the meeting. See below</p>

Month	Passenger Numbers	Previous Year	Passenger Numbers	% Increase
Jul-24	3,200,000	Jul-23	2,997,751	6.75%
Jun-24	2,980,106	Jun-23	2,789,681	6.83%
May-24	2,784,046	May-23	2,505,927	11.10%
Apr-24	2,414,033	Apr-23	2,177,868	10.84%
Mar-24	2,150,162	Mar-23	1,914,129	12.33%
Feb-24	1,899,430	Feb-23	1,663,358	14.19%
Jan-24	1,790,158	Jan-23	1,633,728	9.58%
Dec-23	2,017,208	Dec-22	1,728,481	16.70%
Nov-23	1,852,505	Nov-22	1,629,427	13.69%
Oct-23	2,626,368	Oct-22	2,316,232	13.39%
Sep-23	2,831,595	Sep-22	2,523,947	12.19%

Aug-23	3,086,665	Aug-22	2,731,641	13.00%
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Motion, funding for drop-in centres for older residents

On the 8th July 2024, Chancellor Rachel Reeves delivered her budget statement. This statement included removing the winter fuel payments from all pension age residents other than those on pension credit.

Age UK claim that millions of struggling pensioners will no longer receive up to £300 winter fuel payments which they rely on to pay their bills. They believe that as many as 2 million pensioners who find paying their energy bills a real stretch will be seriously hit by this cut, which includes:

- Those on low incomes who just miss out on Pension Credit,
- Those with high energy needs because of disability or illness,
- The 1 million who do not receive the Pension Credit for which they are eligible.

According to the Guardian Deven Ghelani, the founder of Policy in Practice and one of the architects of the universal credit system, claimed that cliff edges in the benefit system are a growing problem. Whilst recognising that pension credit can unlock access to housing benefit and council tax support and social tariffs including the warm home discount and now winter fuel payments, they recognised that about 130,000 pensioners might be better off with a lower income.

The Council has a duty of care for all its residents and since it appears that many older residents are missing out on payments that they are entitled to the Council needs to find ways of ensuring that older residents are aware of available help towards their cost of living. According to the Office for National Statistics, in 2020 46% of all residents over the age of 75 were not internet users, therefore although much of the information may be available online a significant number of older residents will not be able to access it. Although under disability access guidelines organisations are required to make sure information is available in alternative formats other than online, there needs to be a way of making residents aware of its availability and to make it easy for residents to obtain hard copies of any forms.

Some residents may find the completion of the pension credit form challenging since the form itself is 24 pages long with an additional 24 pages of notes on how to complete the form. Although the Government website does inform residents that they can get help from organisations such as Age UK and Citizens Advice it requires residents to go to their pages to find out about accessing that help.

Winter can be a much more challenging time for elderly residents, with shorter days and longer nights, residents are likely to spend more time in their homes. The Alzheimer's Society claims that social isolation can lead to an increased risk of developing dementia relating to if a person lives alone, and whether they see friends and family regularly or engage in social or community activities. They separate social isolation from loneliness, which they define as how someone feels about their circumstances. Loneliness has been linked to increased dementia risk.

They also identify other dementia risks including cholesterol, diabetes, high blood pressure and obesity often linked to sedentary lifestyles. While the Council offers advice delivered by the Older People's Staying Well Team many residents are not aware of this service or how to access advice.

[Amend] Several community organisations have been delivering drop in warming hubs for older residents, **many with support from the Council.** [Remove] ~~but these hubs could offer~~

~~much more with support from the Council. Like other businesses, community centres and churches are feeling the impact of increased energy prices and consequently they are struggling to offer the same amount of freely available community access.~~

Several food banks and food pantries offer drop-in advice sessions alongside food provision to help those in our society who need additional help, we envisage that a similar service could help older residents access the payments they are entitled to.



[Remove] This Council resolves to:


- ~~• Work with community organisations and churches throughout Bury MBC to provide funding to cover the costs of hosting warming hub drop-ins for residents seeking either a warm space or advice on available help~~
- ~~• Invite organisations such as Age UK and CAB (or an alternative Council employee) to attend these drop-ins to provide help and advice regarding eligibility and completion of forms for pension credit, attendance allowance, council tax relief, carers allowance etc~~
- ~~• Work to engage the PCN that does not currently fund the staying well service with a view to bringing the 8 GP Practices in Bury not currently eligible into the scheme.~~
- ~~• Arrange for the Older People's Staying Well Team to attend these drop-in sessions on a rotational basis to give advice on healthy living and available groups and classes for physical exercise and social activities~~
- ~~• Fund Calico to attend the sessions to provide help to residents in the private rental sector seeking advice~~
- ~~• Council to provide, as part of the Government sanctioned Pension Credit Awareness scheme, for a dedicated employee to send a letter to all residents over the age of 66 years to inform them of the deadline of 21st December 2024, for submitting a claim for Pension Credit in order that they may receive the full three months of backdated benefits~~

[Add in] This Council resolves to:

- Hold a further Anti-Poverty Summit to draw together our borough's anti-poverty partnership and co-produce an action plan for how to utilise the extended Household Support Fund – including a specific focus on how we support our older residents during the winter months.
- Continue our work, as the Council and with our partners, to encourage and support foodbanks, community groups and other drop-ins with wrap around support for those who need additional help.
- Work with our PCNs and wider public service partnership to find a sustainable funding model for the Live Well and Staying Well provision.



<p>Radcliffe First NOM</p> <p>As amended</p>  <p>Amendment. motion.docx</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Invite United Utilities to address members before a full council meeting to discuss concerns and explore local solutions to the discharging of sewage into local rivers.</li> <li>2. Write to our two MPs to congratulate the new Environment Secretary for taking urgent action to address these concerns and request that water companies must stop discharges from CSOs by 2035.</li> <li>3. Continue the exemplar relationship with the Environment Agency that we have and work with them to address these concerns.</li> </ol>	<p>Andrea Tomlinson (Dem Services) <b>Meeting arranged</b></p> <p>Haroon Asghar (Exec Office) <b>Letters Sent</b></p>
<p>Lab NOM</p>  <p>Swift Bricks Motion LabV2.docx</p>	<p>This Council resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>2) Ensure that any plans to re-roof Bury's Council Housing stock be seen as an opportunity to install Swift</li> </ol>	<p>It is currently proposed that the first draft of Bury's new Local Plan will be consulted on in early 2025 and it is proposed that this will include a policy requirement for the incorporation of swift bricks and/or the installation of integral nest boxes within new developments. This accords with the Council Motion on this issue</p> <p>Kate Waterhouse (to make housing colleagues aware)</p>

	<p>nesting boxes, especially if there is evidence of existing nests.</p>	
<p>Conservative NOM</p>  <p>CONSMOTIONJULY2 4.docx</p>	<p>1.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</p> <p>2. For the Chief Executive to report back on this matter by January 2025 Council.</p>	<p>Council colleagues from EDI, Adult Care and Community Partnerships are looking to commission this study through a disabled people’s user led organisation. Options for this commission are being considered including identifying organisations such as Bury BID and Bury Healthwatch who may want to contribute to the commissioning of the feasibility study. Additionally we are reviewing current pieces of work the council is undertaking that would complement this commission.</p>

Chief Executive

Christian Wakeford MP  
Letter sent by email on 05 August 2024

Dear Christian,

**RE: Reducing discharges from combined storm overflows (CSOs) Motion**

Bury Council at its Full Council meeting on 17 July 2024 debated a notice of motion in relation to the Reducing discharges from combined storm overflows (CSOs).

The Council asked that we write to you to congratulate the Secretary of State for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs, Mr. Steve Reed, for taking urgent action to address these concerns and request that water companies must stop discharges from CSOs by 2035.

**The Council resolved to:**

1. Invite United Utilities to address members before a full council meeting to discuss concerns and explore local solutions to the discharging of sewage into local rivers.
2. Write to our two MPs to congratulate the new Environment Secretary for taking urgent action to address these concerns and request that water companies must stop discharges from CSOs by 2035.
3. Continue the exemplar relationship with the Environment Agency that we have and work with them to address these concerns.

We have written in similar terms to the MP for Bury North and look forward to your response so that an update can be provided to Members of Bury Council.

Yours sincerely,



Lynne Ridsdale  
Chief Executive



Cllr. Eamon O'Brien  
Leader of the Council

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Chief Executive

James Frith MP  
Letter sent by email on 05 August 2024

Dear James,

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We have written in similar terms to the MP for Bury North and look forward to your response so that an update can be provided to Members of Bury Council.

Yours sincerely,



Lynne Ridsdale  
Chief Executive



Cllr. Eamon O'Brien  
Leader of the Council

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