

Minutes of: **COUNCIL**

Date of Meeting: 21 January 2026

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Bayley, in the Chair)
Councillors A Arif, S Arif, N Bayley, R Bernstein, C Birchmore,
C Boles, A Booth, R Brown, C Cummins, D Duncalfe, 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,
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 and Y Wright

Apologies for Absence D Berry, U Farooq, E FitzGerald, T Pilkington and M Walsh

Public Attendance: 10 members of the public attended the meeting.

C. 38 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies are noted above.

C. 39 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

C. 40 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor as Bury's first citizen updated Members of the Council on work undertaken since the last meeting.

C. 41 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

C. 42 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Notice had been received of the following questions:

| Questioner | Topic | Responding |
|-----------------|------------------------------|-------------|
| Andrew Riley | Works to Market Street | Cllr Quinn |
| Andrew Luxton | Chapel Street Tottington | Cllr Quinn |
| Charlotte Hunt | Litter Picking in Ramsbottom | Cllr Quinn |
| Steve Middleton | Artificial Intelligence | Cllr Thorpe |
| Richard Garland | Bus Lane | Cllr Quinn |

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Luke Broadfoot | Drinkwater Park | Cllr Quinn |
| Mike Hankins | Six Town Housing contract | Cllr Cummins |
| Julie Southworth | Junction inspection | Cllr Quinn |

Questions without notice:

| Questioner | Topic | Responding |
|---------------|--|--------------|
| Phil Bygrave | Planning Committee | Cllr O'Brien |
| Kiran Hampson | Live Streaming | Cllr O'Brien |
| Kiera Delaney | Accessible public participation option | Cllr O'Brien |

C. 43
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RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES WORKFORCE POLICIES

It was moved by Councillor Gold and seconded by Councillor Rizvi and on being put, with 46 Members voting for, the Mayor abstaining; that, Council, approves:

To approve:

1. A revised Code of Conduct, which is part of the Council's Constitution
2. A refreshed Facilities Time Agreement, which forms Appendix K of Local Conditions of Service
3. A revised Capability Procedure
4. An updated Grievance Procedure
5. Revisions to appeals and hearing procedures
6. An updated Social Media Policy
7. An updated Chief Officer Job Evaluation Scheme and Guidance document

(ii) STANDARDS COMMITTEE – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was moved by Councillor O'Brien and seconded by Councillor L Smith and on being put, with 46 Members voting for, and the Mayor abstaining; that, Council, approves:

C. 44

1. That finalised guidance on public participation is approved by Council PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GUIDANCE

It was moved by Councillor O'Brien and seconded by Councillor L Smith and on being put, with 40 Members voting for, 6 Members voting against, and the Mayor abstaining; that, Council, approves:

That the constitution be amended to state:

1. The ruling group and the main opposition group for Bury Council would each be guaranteed one motion per council meeting.
2. The remaining groups would alternate for the third motion.
3. The constitution is amended to limit the number of written questions with the order of questions to be politically proportionate and limited to ruling group 6, opposition group 5 and all other groups 4.
4. The suggested constitutional changes regarding motions and questions be adopted from March 2026 full Council.

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COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2026

It was moved by Councillor Thorpe and seconded by Councillor O'Brien and on being put, with 46 Members voting for, the Mayor abstaining; that, Council, approves:

To approve:

1. That Full Council approve the adoption and implementation of the new Council Tax Support Scheme from 1st April 2026

C. 45

LEADER' STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

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 |
|----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Cllr Bernstein | Cllr Quinn | Potholes |
| Cllr M Smith | Cllr Quinn | Blocked grids |
| Cllr Moss | Leader | Prestwich |
| Cllr D Quinn | Leader | Milltown Bridge |
| Cllr S Arif | Blocked road gullies | Cllr Quinn |
| Cllr D Vernon | Christmas refuse collections | Cllr Quinn |
| Cllr Simpson | Litter cleaning | Cllr Quinn |
| Cllr Walmsley | CQC inspection at Falcon House | Cllr Tariq |
| Cllr A Arif | Council tax support consultation | Cllr Thorpe |
| Cllr Harris | Puffin Crossing | Cllr Quinn |
| Cllr Lancaster | School numbers | Cllr Smith |
| Cllr Birchmore | Access to long term support | Cllr Thorpe |
| Cllr Haroon | July's Ofsted inspection | Cllr L Smith |

Due to the lack of time to answer questions 14 to 21 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:

| Questioner | Cabinet Member | Topic |
|----------------|----------------|--|
| M Smith | Leader | Social Housing |
| S Arif | Leader | Market Street Roadworks |
| R Bernstein | Leader | Schools marking the Holocaust Memorial |
| Cllr Rahimov | Cllr A Quinn | Besses Local Nature Reserve |
| Cllr Hook | Cllr Morris | Bury Market Coach Trips |
| Cllr Ryder | Cllr Walmsley | Funding to Community Groups in Prestwich |
| Cllr Ibrahim | Leader | Red Route on Walmsley Road |
| Cllr Rydeheard | Leader | Funding pattern for Bury VCFA |
| Cllr Hayes | Cllr Walmsley | Bradlesholme Food Bank Repairs |
| Cllr A Arif | Leader | Lifting of the two child benefit cap |

C. 46

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

The Council received a report on the work of the Combined Authorities.

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

| Questioner | Cabinet Member | Topic |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Cllr McBriar | Cllr Walmsley | Drink Driving |
| Cllr Birchmore | Cllr A Quinn | Bus Passes |
| Cllr Grimshaw | Cllr A Quinn | Concessionary Bus Passes |
| Cllr Rahimov | Leader | Whitefield Fire Station |
| Cllr Gartside | Cllr A Quinn | GM Rail Vision |
| Cllr McGill | Cllr A Quinn | Clean Air Zone |

Due to the lack of time to answer questions 6 to 12 inclusive, the Mayor gave an undertaking that copies of those questions and responses will be circulated to all Councillors. The Mayor also gave an undertaking to make these available on the Council Web Site.

C. 47

NOTICES OF MOTION

(i) Reintroduction of live streaming for committee meetings

Council considered a motion in the names of Councillors Carol Birchmore, Cllr Donald Berry, Cllr Andrea Booth, Cllr Des Duncalfe, Cllr Glyn Marsden, Cllr Ken Simpson, Cllr Mike Smith and Cllr Mary Walsh.

The motion was moved by Councillor Birchmore and seconded by Councillor Duncalfe and on being put; with 13 members voting for; 32 member voting against and the Mayor abstaining, the Mayor declared the motion lost.

(ii) Children receiving the best possible start in life

Council considered a motion in the names of A Arif, Bayley, Boles, Cummins, Farooq, Fitzgerald, Frith, Gold, Green, Grimshaw, Haroon, Hayes, Hook, Ibrahim, McGill, Morris, Moss, O'Brien, Pilkington, Quinn Alan, Quinn Deborah, Rafiq, Rahimov, Rizvi, Rubinstein, Ryder, Smith Lucy, Southworth, Staples-Jones Gareth, Tariq, Thorpe, Walmsley.

The motion was moved by Councillor Walmsley and seconded by Councillor Southworth and on being put; with 44 members voting for; 1 member voting against and the Mayor abstaining, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

(iii) Improving Road and Pavement Conditions Across Bury

Council considered a motion in the names of Councillor Arif, Councillor Brown, Councillor Gartside, Councillor Harris, Councillor Hussain.

The motion was moved by Councillor Brown and seconded by Councillor Harris.

Members considered an amendment moved by Councillor Morris and Seconded by Councillor Gold.

Members moved to vote on the amendment and on being put; with 33 members voting for; 6 members voting against and 3 including the Mayor abstaining, the Mayor declared the amendment carried.

Members moved to a vote on the substantive motion and on being put; with 33 members voting for; 6 members voting against and 3 including the Mayor abstaining, the Mayor declared the amended motion carried.

(iv) Culvert Maintenance and Flood Resilience

Council considered an altered motion in the name of Councillors Bernstein, Lancaster, McBriar and Vernon.

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

Members voted on the substantive motion:

On being put: with 45 voting for and the Mayor abstaining, the altered motion was carried.

C. 48 COUNCIL MOTION TRACKER

Attached for information only.

C. 49 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. 50 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 7.00 pm and ended at 10.38 pm)