

Lynne Ridsdale
Chief Executive

Our Ref C/RE
Date 17 February 2026
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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:-

Date:	Wednesday, 25 February 2026
Place:	Council Chamber - Town Hall
Time:	7.00 pm
Briefing Facilities:	If Members require briefing on any particular item on the Agenda, the appropriate Director/Senior Officer originating the related report should be contacted.
Notes:	

AGENDA

The Agenda for the meeting is attached.

The Agenda and Reports are available on the Council's Intranet for Councillors and Officers and also on the Council's Website at www.bury.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. D. D. D. D.", is positioned below the "Yours sincerely" text.

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 9 - 16)

Attached for approval, minutes of the meetings held on:
21 January 2026
26 January 2026

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 – 15 January 2026	Youth Justice Business Plan	The plan has been submitted for approval
Employment Panel – 3 February 2026	Pay Policy	1. Commend the proposed Pay Policy Statement for 2026-27 for approval by full Council. 2. Agree the Council's proposed pay structure for 2026-27 as set out within the statement and inclusive of revised non-consolidated pay supplements to retain compliance with the Real Living Wage rate of pay. Classification Open Item No. 2 3. Also, to agree ongoing uplifts to retain compliance with the Real Living Wage if required.
Employment Panel – 3 February 2026	Chief Officer Recruitment	That the Employment Panel proposes that Council approve that a Market Supplement of £5k (total maximum remuneration of £101,251) be applied to the post of Assistant Director - People and Inclusion
Cabinet – 11 February 2026	Annual HRA Budget 2026/27 & Rent Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Approve the 2026/27 budget for the Housing Revenue AccountAgree and approve the proposed HRA

		<p>Capital Investment Plan for 2026/27.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the setting of individual social formula rents for 2026/27 based on the current National Social Rent Policy, giving a real rent increase of 4.8% with effect from 1st April 2026 (being September 2025 CPI (Consumer Price Index) 3.8% plus 1%). • Approve the setting of individual actual affordable rents for 2026/27 based on the current National Social Rent Policy, giving a real rent increase of 4.8% with effect from 1st April 2026. • Approve shared ownership rents to be increased by RPI (as at February 2026) plus 0.5% in line with provisions set out within shared ownership agreements with effect from 1 st April 2026. • Approve an increase in Garage rents of 4.8% with effect from 1st April 2026. • Approve an increase in Sheltered Management and Support Charges of 4.8% from 1 st April 2026. • Approve an increase in Service and Amenity Charges of 4.8% from 1st April 2026. • Approve an increase in Support and Heating charges of 4.8% from 1st April 2026. • Approve an increase in Furnished Tenancy charges of 4.8% from 1st April 2026. • Approve continuation of the policy that when a social rent property is re-let to a new or transferring tenant the rent level will be revised to match the formula rent (target rent) for that property. • Note in accordance with the Rent Standard, that where an affordable rent property is re-let to a new or transferring tenant the rent level be set by reference to 80% of the market rent (including service charges where applicable) for a similar property at the time of letting or the formula rent for the property, whichever is the greater. • Approve in principle in line with Government's commitment confirmed in January 2026, the re-introduction of Rent Convergence for Bury's HRA stock, which will come into effect from April 2027, with an additional rent charge of £1 per week in 2027-28, and
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		<p>£2 per week from 2028-29 onwards until Rent Convergence is achieved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note that Government has confirmed its commitment to the re-introduction of rent convergence from April 2027, with a proposed additional £1 per week charge from April 2027 and £2 per week from April 2028. Until the changes are finally confirmed the additional income has not been assumed in the revenue plan. • Note that following the Cabinet decision to wind down and close Six Town Housing (STH), a working group has been set up to oversee this process, led by Management Consultants Campbell-Tickell. This process will take at least 12-18 months, and at this stage it is not possible to state what implications if any there will be for the Council's General Fund and HRA. The options as to what will happen to the remaining assets currently held by STH will be presented to Cabinet at the appropriate time for any decisions to be made. • To note and approve the revisions made to the HRA 30-Year Business Plan.
<p>Cabinet – 11 February 2026</p>	<p>The Council's 2026/27 Revenue Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2027/28 through to 2028/29</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the Medium-Term Financial Strategy to 2028/29 and the assumptions regarding resources and spending requirements. • Approve the Council Tax base for Bury Council for 2026/27 of 58,709.94 Band D equivalent dwellings, this is the basis on which the Council Tax funding has been calculated (Appendix 1). • Approve the net revenue budget of £252.135m for 2026/27. • Approve the Council Tax requirement of £124.224m and the increase in Council Tax in 2026/27 of 2.99% in terms of General Council Tax and a further 2% for the Adult Social Care precept for 2026/27 (Appendix 1). • Approve the budget assumptions of £29.364m in 2026/27. • Approve new revenue budget proposal relating to additional Place Directorate income to be achieved across 3 areas: car parking, moving vehicle offences and EV cross pavement fees. Delivery plans will be

		<p>brought forward for consideration by Cabinet in the new financial year, including the detail of any specific consultation exercises that may be required to be undertaken. The consultation outcomes will be considered by Cabinet before implementation along with any financial implications adopted in the 2027/28 budget proposed by Cabinet to Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the remaining budget gap of £21.155m over the medium-term to 2028/29. • Approve the use of £3.977m of reserves from the budget stabilisation reserve for 2026/27. • Note the forecast position on reserves over the medium-term to 2028/29. • Approve the recommendations set out in the Treasury Management Strategy (Appendix 2): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To approve the Treasury Management Strategy including the associated Prudential Indicators and Annual Investment Strategy. ○ To approve the Treasury Management Policy Statement. ○ To approve the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement. • Approve the Capital Strategy and the Programme for 2026/27 – 2028/29 (Appendix 3). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cabinet to recommend and council to approve the use of £2m flexible use of capital receipts in 2026/27. ○ Council to confirm the of £3m flexible use of capital receipts in 2025/26 as included in the February 2025 budget report which has been applied in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As part of the Council's wider savings proposals to close the financial gap a number of service reviews and restructures were undertaken. The costs associated with implementing these
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		<p>reviews including severance costs, will be funded from capital receipts, up to the value of £1m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In order to identify and support the identification and implementation of additional savings in Adult Social Care, a consultancy firm was commissioned to undertake review work with the costs to be funded from capital receipt flexibilities (£382k) ▪ Enabling services across the Corporate Core includes costs associated with financial transformation and zero-based budgeting exercises, including identification of additional savings plans as detailed in this report, this will be funded up to £0.418m. ▪ Within Children's and Young People department, the Family Safeguarding project and a Family Safeguarding additional team have been working on prevention of costs to deliver long term reductions in revenue requirement. £1.2m <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the Dedicated Schools Grant budget for 2026/27 at £257.345m and approve the allocations between the four funding blocks as set out in Appendix 4 of this report. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Schools and Academies 2026/27 funding unit values as recommended by Schools Forum and detailed at Annex 1 to appendix 4. ○ Approve the 2026/27 hourly rates for all early year's providers as follows:
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ £5.77 per hour for 3- and 4-year-olds. ▪ £8.35 per hour for 2-year-olds. ▪ £11.30 per hour for under 2's. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the Equality Impact Assessment for the budget report (Appendix 5). • Note the Chief Finance Officer (Director of Finance) statement on the robustness of estimates and adequacy of financial reserves in setting the budget (Appendix 6).
Standards Committee – 12 February 2026	Officer & Member Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To approve the Officer Member Protocol
Audit Committee – 17 February 2026	Audit Committee Terms of Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To approve the updated Terms of Reference for the Audit Committee and recommend that the Constitution be updated to reflect these.

a **YOUTH JUSTICE BUSINESS PLAN 2025** (Pages 17 - 56)

Report of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People is attached.

b **PAY POLICY** (Pages 57 - 90)

Report from the Cabinet Member for Customer Service, Communications and Corporate Affairs attached

c **CHIEF OFFICER RECRUITMENT** (Pages 91 - 96)

Reports attached

d **ANNUAL HRA BUDGET 2026/27 & RENT SETTING** (Pages 97 - 128)

Report of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation is attached

e **THE COUNCIL'S 2026/27 REVENUE BUDGET AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (MTFS) FOR 2027/28 THROUGH TO 2028/29** (Pages 129 - 254)

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

f **AMENDMENTS** (Pages 255 - 258)

Conservative Amendment
Together for Bury Amendment

g **OFFICER & MEMBER PROTOCOL** (Pages 259 - 266)

h **TERMS OF REFERENCE** (Pages 267 - 278)

Report attached

Draft Terms of Reference attached

7 **DELEGATED DECISION OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES** (Pages 279 - 310)

Minutes of:

Corporate JCC

Teachers JCC

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Budget Cabinet

8 **URGENT ITEM - COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME TECHNICAL CORRECTION**
(Pages 311 - 376)