

AGENDA FOR CABINET



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To: All Members of Cabinet

Councillors : E O'Brien (Leader) (Chair), A Arif (Cabinet Member for Housing Services), R Gold (Cabinet Member for Communities and Inclusion), G McGill (Cabinet Member for Culture, Economy and Skills), C Morris (Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Growth), L Smith (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Operations), T Tariq (Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Health and Public Service Reform), S Thorpe (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services) and S Walmsley (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People)

Dear Member/Colleague

Cabinet

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Cabinet which will be held as follows:-

Date:	Wednesday, 8 July 2026
Place:	Bury Town Hall
Time:	6.00 pm
Briefing Facilities:	If Opposition Members and Co-opted Members require briefing on any particular item on the Agenda, the appropriate Director/Senior Officer originating the related report should be contacted.
Notes:	

AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of Cabinet are asked to consider whether they have an interest in any of the matters of the Agenda and, if so, to formally declare that interest.

3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Questions are invited from members of the public about the work of the Cabinet.

Notice of any question must be given to Democratic Services by midday on Monday, 6 July 2026. Approximately 30 minutes will be set aside for Public Question Time, if required.

4 MEMBER QUESTION TIME

Questions are invited from Elected Members about items on the Cabinet agenda. 15 minutes will be set aside for Member Question Time, if required.

Notice of any Member question must be given to the Monitoring Officer by midday Friday, 3 July 2026.

5 MINUTES *(Pages 5 - 18)*

Minutes from the meeting held on 30 June 2026 are attached.

6 CORPORATE PLAN QUARTER FOUR 2025-26 PERFORMANCE & DELIVERY *(Pages 19 - 40)*

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

7 FINANCE UPDATE REPORT - 2025/26 OUTTURN POSITION *(Pages 41 - 70)*

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

8 ADULT SOCIAL CARE PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR QUARTER FOUR, 2025/26 *(Pages 71 - 96)*

Report of the Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Health and Public Service Reform is attached.

9 OUTCOME OF CQC LOCAL AUTHORITY ASSESSMENT OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE *(Pages 97 - 104)*

Report of the Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Health and Public Service Reform is attached.

10 **ADVOCACY CONTRACT EXTENSION & TENDER - PART A** *(Pages 105 - 134)*

Report of the Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Health and Public Service Reform is attached.

11 **BURY'S LOCAL AREA SEND MONITORING INSPECTION** *(Pages 135 - 152)*

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

12 **ALTERNATIVE PROVISION** *(Pages 153 - 180)*

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

13 **PRESTWICH VILLAGE REGENERATION PROJECT: DELIVERY OF PHASE 1A (TRAVEL HUB) - ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUEST** *(Pages 181 - 192)*

Report of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Growth is attached.

14 **PYRAMID PARK - REMEDIATION MAIN WORKS CONTRACT** *(Pages 193 - 208)*

Report of the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Growth is attached.

15 **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REGENERATION GRANT FUNDING** *(Pages 209 - 244)*

Report of the Cabinet Member for Culture, Economy and Skills is attached.

16 **URGENT BUSINESS** *(Pages 245 - 256)*

Any other business which by reason of special circumstances the Chair agrees may be considered as a matter of urgency:

Bury Art Museum Appointment of Contractor

Updated report of the Cabinet Member for Culture, Economy and Skills is attached.

17 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

To consider passing the appropriate resolution under Section 100 (A)(4), Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the reason that the following business involves the disclosure of exempt information as detailed against the item.

18 **ADVOCACY CONTRACT EXTENSION & TENDER - PART B** *(Pages 257 - 262)*

Report of the Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Health and Public Service Reform is attached.

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Minutes of: CABINET

Date of Meeting: 30 June 2026

Present: Councillor E O'Brien (in the Chair)
Councillors A Arif, R Gold, G McGill, C Morris, L Smith, T Tariq,
S Thorpe and S Walmsley

Also in attendance: Councillors S Arif, C Birchmore, J Rydeheard and D Vernon

Public Attendance: Members of the public were present at the meeting.

CA.10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies received.

CA.11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

CA.12 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The following question was asked by a member of the public, Amanda Foster:

In the meeting we had with Cris Logue (Assistant Director of Strategy, Planning & Development) a few days ago I asked about Brownfield sites in relation to Simister Bowlee. He told me that 80% of the Brownfield sites were allocated, but I did some research and according to the latest Bury SHLAA (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment) – which only goes up to 2024 – it's stated at 44%. Can you clarify where you got the 80% from? Can you evidence it? Is this since 2024?

Responding, Councillor Eamonn O'Brien reported that at their meeting last night, Overview and Scrutiny Committee had a comprehensive discussion regarding Brownfield sites, with the vast majority of developments from the last few decades being built on Brownfield land. Councillor O'Brien advised that the 44% reflected the Brownfield allocation for strategic sites in the Places for Everyone Plan, whilst the 80% reflected the figure for completions.

The following question was asked by a member of the public, Daniel Jacobs:

Last year at Cabinet you stated you had many meetings about Section 123 discussions and the library disposal. I then went on to do a Freedom of Information Request and it came back that there was no information held for any meetings or minutes. Subsequently in a Subject Access Request I found information that you and Councillor Rubenstein were WhatsApping about my personal data and a Key Decision. I haven't received that information and I wanted to understand why Key Decisions were being discussed through informal channels.

Responding, Councillor Eamonn O'Brien responded that Key Decisions weren't being discussed on WhatsApp. The WhatsApp you refer to from Councillor Rubenstein says, 'I've received an email, it relates to the library site' and I said in response that the

Council had produced a response and I would share it with him. That was the end of the correspondence. It was not a discussion around the 123, nor around the Key Decision; it was a colleague asking for some advice, bringing something to my attention, and I don't see this as contrary to how we make decisions at the Council. With regards to the meetings about the library site, we have numerous discussions in a variety of forums which aren't necessarily minuted, but when we make decisions in public there is a record, it's fully transparent, and this is the standard we're held to.

The following question was asked by a member of the public, Angus Park:

At Cabinet last year Mr Frith (Assistant Director of Corporate Assets & Facilities Management) said one-to-one deals were done mostly for small patches of land and garden transfers and very occasionally for a commercial deal. Why then has almost every major disposal bypassed open marketing since 2021? It's totally at odds with what has been said at previous Cabinet meetings. Can you explain please?

Responding, Councillor Eamonn O'Brien responded that he did not agree with the characterisation and that the last 5 years the vast majority of sites have been open to the public, several through auction sites, and several gone on open market. It's true to say that the vast majority of one-to-one sales are of a smaller nature, but of the sites I'm recalling from memory they go out through a rigorous public process. Paul Lakin (Executive Director of Place) added that the Council used multiple ways to dispose of sites including active marketing for larger sites, for others it's more appropriate to go to auction where anyone can turn up and bid, but for small parcels of land this wouldn't be appropriate. The method depends on the size and scale of the site as seen in the Accelerated Land Disposal Programme.

The following question was asked by a member of the public, Rebecca Partridge:

The Council has used an Accelerated Land Disposal Programme and from what I can see several major property disposals have bypassed open marketing. Each one may have been justified as an exception because of specific or urgent circumstances, but when open marketing is bypassed repeatedly, the public is entitled to presume that the exception has effectively become the rule. This pattern also appears wider than just the land disposal programme; the £20m Millgate Shopping Centre acquisition and the £100m Prestwich Town Centre regeneration deal also appear to have gone ahead without going to open marketing or competitive process. My question is: across these major property decisions, what mechanism has replaced open marketing or competition to make sure the Council is still achieving best value for the public?

Responding, Councillor Eamonn O'Brien responded that the Millgate and Prestwich the Council were purchasing the sites, so would not be responsible for marketing. When we have gone out to tender works, this has been part of well-established competitive, open processes. As in the previous answer, we use a variety of ways to dispose of sites, all of which can be analysed and checked. The Accelerated Land Disposal Programme for example was an open public display and demonstration of land we were looking to dispose of, came through open reports to Cabinet and Scrutiny, and it received a lot of public interest. If we're approached on the back of one of those sales, I regard that as an open way of going about it. Unless there are specific examples you want to give, I want to give reassurance that when we dispose of sites we have legal duties put on us and we have to follow those processes. Every avenue

we've been tested on we've been found to be acting in accordance with the law, openly and transparently, and will continue to work in that way.

CA.13 MEMBER QUESTION TIME

There were no Member questions.

CA.14 MINUTES

It was agreed:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15th April 2026 be approved as a correct record.

CA.15 URGENT BUSINESS

The Leader advised that Councillor Sandra Walmsley had been appointed as Cabinet Member for Children and Young People under Executive powers and welcomed her back to the Cabinet.

Jacqui Dennis, Monitoring Officer, detailed the subsequent Committee appointments that were associated with this appointment, which would be outlined in a report coming to Council in July along with other Committee changes since May.

Cabinet **noted** the update and welcomed Councillor Walmsley.

CA.16 BURY LOCAL PLAN (REGULATION 19)

The Leader presented a report regarding the Bury Local Plan, a long-term framework to manage future growth and development in the Borough from 2022 to 2043, setting out locally specific planning policies used to determine and shape future planning applications and development proposals. Members noted this had been updated as a result of representations received during the public consultation period and would go out for further consultation before a final version would seek Council approval.

It was noted that this report was discussed in detail at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting the previous evening, and recommendations had been noted.

Decision:

Cabinet:

1. Approved the Publication Bury Local Plan, Policies Map and supporting background documents and invite representations over for an eight-week period commencing no earlier than 10 July 2026; and
2. Delegated power to the Executive Director of Place to make minor non-material editorial amendments to the Publication Local Plan before the invitation to make representations commences.

Reasons for the decision:

To ensure that stakeholders have a further opportunity to have their say on the emerging Bury Local Plan.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

To not approve the Publication Local Plan, Policies Map and supporting background documents. This would prevent stakeholders commenting on the Publication Local Plan and would result in the future adoption of the document being contrary to planning regulations and legal requirements.

CA.17-19 SIMISTER BOWLEE, WALSHAW, AND ELTON RESERVOIR DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORKS

The Leader presented three reports regarding the results of the consultations on Development Framework Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) for Simister Bowlee, Walshaw, and Elton Reservoir, and seeking approval for the final SPDs to be adopted. It was noted that these reports were discussed in detail at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting the previous evening, and recommendations had been noted.

In response to Members' questions, it was noted that:

- Any planning application would wait until a site-wide ecology strategy for Walshaw was in place; this, as for all evidence, would need to be in place either before or alongside applications.
- The Infrastructure, Phasing and Delivery Strategy for Elton Reservoir was a live document primarily used by Planning Department but could be shared with Members when significant updates and changes are made.
- Phasing of developments was ensured through close working with developers so milestones were met and community infrastructure projects delivered alongside. The SPDs would ensure comprehensive evidence and strategies were in place before planning applications came in to ensure the Council could attach relevant and specific conditions and permissions to ensure delivery of the whole site was achieved.
- It was noted that these decisions tonight were not about allocating land or the principle of whether development could take place, as those decisions had been taken in previous years; these decisions were about governing applications when they came forward.
- It was noted that these plans would enable other land to be protected and allowed the Council the strongest democratic power to push back on undesirable developments and ensure that the best possible suite of infrastructure was delivered alongside developments.
- The Conservative Group noted their concerns about the principle of plans.
- A comprehensive discussion was held at Overview and Scrutiny regarding the Elton Metrolink station, and it was noted further discussions would take place with TfGM.

Simister Bowlee Development Framework Decision:

Subject to approval by Rochdale, Cabinet:

1. Noted the responses to the public consultation and proposed post consultation revisions set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 to this report;
2. Approved the revised SPD as the final version to be adopted and published; and
3. Delegated authority to the Executive Director (Place) to make any minor, non-material editorial amendments to the SPD ahead of its final publication.

Walshaw Development Framework Decision:

Cabinet:

1. Noted the responses to the public consultation and proposed post consultation revisions set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 to this report;
2. Approved the revised SPD as the final version to be adopted and published; and
3. Delegated authority to the Executive Director (Place) to make any minor, non-material editorial amendments to the SPD ahead of its final publication.

Elton Reservoir Development Framework Decision:

Cabinet:

1. Noted the responses to the public consultation and proposed post consultation revisions set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 to this report;
2. Approved the revised SPD as the final version to be adopted and published;
3. Delegated authority to the Executive Director (Place) to make any minor, non-material editorial amendments to the SPD ahead of its final publication.

Reasons for the decisions:

The adoption of the documents will establish frameworks against which future planning applications on the sites will be considered, set out high level design and development principles for the sites and approaches to the delivery and phasing of infrastructure on and off sites.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

No other options were considered/were applicable.

CA.20 ADOPTION OF SPD13 - HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

The Leader presented a report which detailed the outcomes of the draft Houses in Multiple Occupation Supplementary Planning Document (SPD13) consultation and sought approval for the final SPD to be formally adopted. It was noted that this had received cross-party support through a motion at Cabinet. Members discussed the difficulty in registering smaller HMOs built through permitted development rights, noting the Council's small team, and requesting public to let officers or Councillors know of any HMOs in their area.

Decision:

Cabinet:

1. Noted the responses to the public consultation and the proposed post-consultation revisions;
2. Approved the revised SPD13 – Houses in Multiple Occupation as the final version to be adopted and published;
3. Delegated authority to the Executive Director (Place) to make any minor, non-material editorial amendments to the SPD; and
4. Approved the revocation of the existing SPD13 – Conversion of Buildings to Houses in Multiple Occupation.

Reasons for the decision:

- SPD13 provides additional detail and guidance on the implementation of existing Development Plan policies that are used to determine proposals for

Houses in Multiple Occupation. It provides guidance on some of the key issues to be considered in determining planning applications for Houses in Multiple Occupation, setting out comprehensive guidance on location requirements and design considerations for new HMOs.

- The adoption of the document and revocation of the previous SPD13 would ensure that all relevant planning applications are considered against up-to-date policy guidance.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

To not adopt the revised SPD13 – Houses in Multiple Occupation.

CA.21 ADOPTION OF SPD19 - HOT FOOD TAKEAWAY

The Leader presented a report regarding the outcome of the draft Hot Food Takeaway Supplementary Planning Document (SPD19) consultation and seeking approval for the final SPD to be formally adopted. The Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Health and Public Service Reform noted his particular thanks to the Public Health team for their contribution, and the meaningful contribution impact this would have on residents.

Decision:

Cabinet:

1. Noted the responses to the public consultation and the proposed post-consultation revisions;
2. Approved draft SPD19 –Hot Food Takeaways as the final version to be adopted and published; and
3. Delegated authority to the Executive Director (Place), to make any minor non-material editorial amendments to the SPD ahead of its final publication.

Reasons for the decision:

- SPD19 provides additional detail and guidance on the implementation of existing Development Plan policies that are used to determine proposals for Hot Food Takeaways. It provides supporting information and guidance on how the Local Planning Authority will assess planning applications for hot food takeaways where planning permission is required.
- The adoption of the document and revocation of the previous SPD19 would ensure that all relevant planning applications are considered against up-to-date policy guidance.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

To not adopt the revised SPD19 – Hot Food Takeaways.

CA.22 BURY ART MUSEUM APPOINTMENT OF CONTRACTOR

The Cabinet Member for Culture, Economy and Skills presented a report which sought approval to appoint a contractor for work to the Bury Art Museum roof. In response to Members' questions, it was noted that there were no restrictions on the number of tenders that could be received, but the specialist nature of the work resulted in a small number of companies submitting a bid. Funding for the work was made up through grant funding and Bury Council funding allocations from the previous year. Full

assurance was given through the Council's internal processes regarding the costs of borrowing.

Questions were raised about the named contractor being recommended for appointment, and it was agreed that this report be deferred until clarification could be made.

Decision:

Cabinet deferred the decision to the next meeting.

Reasons for the decision:

To ensure the correct contractor was being appointed.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

N/A

CA.23

APPROVAL TO UNDERTAKE PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON A DRAFT HOUSING STRATEGY FOR BURY

The Cabinet Member for Housing Services presented a report regarding the development of a new Housing Strategy, which will replace the existing 2021 – 2025 version. This report sought Cabinet approval to commence a 12-week public consultation on the draft strategy, after which the final version would come back to Cabinet for approval.

In response to Members' questions, it was noted that feedback on the management of previous consultations would be welcomed. Members were advised that arc4, the organisation responsible for collating the evidence used to inform the strategy, had been operating for many years. It was further noted that representations received during the consultation process would be taken into account in the final version of the strategy, which would be presented to Cabinet for approval. Prior to this, the strategy could be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should it wish to do so.

Decision:

Cabinet:

1. Noted the work to date on developing the draft Housing Strategy which was attached at Appendix 1;
2. Approved that formal public consultation for a period of twelve weeks should be undertaken to gather views and opinions on the draft Housing Strategy, ensuring that these are duly considered before a final version is prepared for Cabinet approval;
3. Delegated authority to the Director of Housing to make any non-material amendments to the draft strategy, prior to consultation if required; and
4. Noted that following consultation, a final proposed Housing Strategy and delivery plan will be submitted to Cabinet for approval and adoption. The accompanying report will summarise the outcome of the public consultation.

Reasons for the decision:

- Public consultation on a housing strategy constitutes a formal decision under the Council's governance arrangements and must therefore be authorised by

the Cabinet. This ensures compliance with the principles of good governance, openness, and accountability.

- To ensure that the draft Housing Strategy is subject to meaningful engagement while proposals remain at a formative stage, in accordance with the Gunning Principles.
- Consulting residents and stakeholders, including those with protected characteristics, enables the Council to gather valuable feedback, local intelligence, practical expertise, potential equality impacts/mitigation, and fosters shared commitment to implementation.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

Retain the existing Housing Strategy to deliver Bury's housing priorities and guide inclusive growth and investment in the borough - This option has been rejected because the existing Housing Strategy is now outdated due to changes in national policy, service delivery arrangements and the findings of a statutory review of housing needs undertaken in November 2025.

CA.24 OPTIONS FOR CLOSURE OF SIX TOWN HOUSING LTD

The Cabinet Member for Housing Services presented a report regarding the next stage of activities to achieve the orderly closing down of the Six Town Housing Limited (STH LTD) business operation to progress to the final closure of STH as an entity owned by Bury Council, a process begun in September 2025. The Cabinet Member gave assurances to tenants that they would be able to stay in their homes and any decision would be made with their best interests as priority.

In response to Members' questions, it was noted that, if properties were transferred to another provider, they would be governed by the same regulator and held to the same standards. Any repairs would be carried out by the Council up to the day of transfer, with Bury continuing to provide support to ensure a smooth transition. It was also noted that staff members affected was small, with no staff requiring TUPE arrangements.

Decision:

Cabinet:

1. Noted the findings of the initial assessment and notes that further detailed analysis will be available after the soft market test;
2. Confirmed that the timely and orderly closure of STH LTD to reduce regulatory and operational risk remains the overriding priority; and
3. Approved a phase of soft market testing to assess market interest in options 1 and 2 with a further report to be brought back to Cabinet in September setting out the findings and a preferred option.

Reasons for the decision:

Five potential options for the future of the STH LTD and its housing stock portfolio have been identified, but further work, including a soft market testing exercise and full impact assessment on the HRA is required before a preferred option can be confirmed.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

The option to “do nothing” is not appropriate since Cabinet has resolved to close down the STH LTD entity to remove the risk to Bury Council.

CA.25 CONTRACT AWARDS IN RESPECT OF THE HRA CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2026/27 AND CARBON REDUCTION - SUSTAINABILITY IMPROVEMENT MEASURES

The Cabinet Member for Housing Services presented a report seeking approval of contract awards for Carbon reduction schemes as part of the approved Housing Revenue Account (“HRA”) Capital Works Programme for 2026/27. The measures aim to provide improved thermal comfort and ventilation, while reducing carbon emissions, energy consumption and bills for Bury residents. In response to Members’ questions it was agreed that detail regarding any pro rata cost increase from the extension and a breakdown of social value cost-benefit would be provided to Members outside the meeting.

Decision:

Cabinet agreed:

1. An extension of the existing contract between the Council and A.Connolly Limited (Company number 03860866) in respect of Bent Hill estate, Prestwich, Sedgley Ward – 140 properties, which forms part of Programme A, for a further term of 12 months commencing on 8th September 2026 and a total estimated contract value of £2,100,075.60; and
2. A contract award to NextEnergy Capital Limited (Company number 05975233), in respect of the estates mentioned below which comprise of Programme B, for an initial term of 1 year (proposed commencement date of 31st July 2026) and the option to extend for a further 12 months. The total estimated contract value for the initial term is £2,173,551:
 - a. Goshen Estate Redvales Ward - 95 properties
 - b. Knowles St Estate Redbank Ward - 6 properties
 - c. Sumner Avenue Estate- Radcliffe North and Ainsworth Ward- 24 properties
 - d. Decent Home standard - Thermal Comfort fails for 70 properties throughout the borough. These are located within the Redvales, Ramsbottom, Besses, North Manor, and Bury East areas.

Reasons for the decision:

The primary reason for requesting approvals for the programmes from both A.Connolly's and NextEnergy is to ensure continuation of the Bury Council Housing retrofit programme, which is aimed at helping to achieve Energy Performance Certificate (“EPC”) C by 2030 along with aims to reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions. Retrofit surveys are underway in preparation for Social Housing/Warm Homes Fund (Wave 3) grant application which is essential to support HRA capital investment.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

- Do nothing: The Energy schemes are necessary to help achieve legislative requirements of EPC C by 2030 and Net Zero ambitions in line with GMHP by 2038.

- Deliver Inhouse: Due to the specialist scope of work within these contracts there is both a lack of suitable skills and capacity for the in-house contractor (Repairs Direct).
- Re-tender: This option was considered for AConnolly's relating to the Bent Hill scheme and would be possible; however, this would involve a significantly extended procurement process in both time and cost.

CA.26 PROCUREMENT FOR GAS COMPLIANCE, REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE FRAMEWORK

The Cabinet Member for Housing Services presented a report regarding the re-procurement of the Council's Gas Compliance, Repairs and Maintenance service to ensure the continued safe servicing, repair and maintenance of heating and hot water systems within the Council's housing stock. In response to Members' questions, it was noted that performance would be monitored through monthly meetings with the provider to review Key Performance Indicators, and that tenants should raise any issues over the phone; as these were gas repairs, the Council response was normally within 24 hours. It was noted that detail regarding the costs of the three-month extension of the existing contract would be provided to Members outside the meeting.

Decision:

Cabinet approved the re-procurement of Gas Compliance, Repairs and Maintenance services for the Council.

Reasons for the decision:

To maintain compliance with The Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 and statutory obligations of the Procurement Act 2023 and ensures principles of fairness, transparency, value for money, and accountability. Bury Council is currently in contract with 'Sureserve Compliance North West' until 31 December 2026, and who are currently delivering the Gas Compliance, Repairs and Maintenance for the Council. This contract is due to end on 31st December 2026, and whilst the contract does not provide a contractual right to extend, it is proposed that it be extended by a further period of 3 months to 31st March 2027.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

All five procurement options listed in the report are being considered.

CA.27 COMMUNITY ACCOMMODATION SERVICE TIER 3

The Cabinet Member for Housing Services presented a report regarding the re-procurement of the Community Accommodation Service Tier 3 (CAS3), a service supporting individuals leaving prison custody, providing supported accommodation and independent living skills, helping to break cycles of homelessness and reoffending.

In response to Members' questions it was noted that the Council worked with Prevention to carry out a full risk assessment for individuals coming out of prison to identify the best placements and ensure they had the safest place based on their individual circumstances. Members were advised that homeless properties wouldn't normally be advertised owing to safeguarding concerns, but any properties requiring a

planning class change would have the appropriate planning records and permissions. It was noted that a proportional breakdown of contributing factors in the rise in homelessness would be provided to Members outside the meeting.

Decision:

Cabinet:

1. Authorised Bury Council to initiate a tender exercise via The Chest to identify a provider to deliver the Community Accommodation Service Tier 3, in line with the requirements set out in the grant agreement with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, with an initial term of 14 months of total estimated contract value (for the initial term) of £430,596, and option to extend for a further 6 months; and
2. Authorised the Director of Housing to approve the award of the new contract without the need for further approval from Cabinet.

Reasons for the decision:

There has been a significant increase in the number of individuals experiencing homelessness. This cohort includes individuals leaving prison custody, who often face additional barriers to securing and maintaining stable accommodation. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (“MHCLG”) has recently set out outcome measures for local authorities as part of its updated strategy, including an ambitious objective to ensure that no individual leaves an institution into homelessness.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

- These properties will deliver emergency accommodation preventing individuals leaving custody homeless and rough sleeping. If this option is not pursued, the council will be unlikely to achieve a reduction in rough sleeping, which conflicts with our local, regional, and national homelessness strategies. We would also fail in delivering this joint commissioned programme. This would present a risk of reputational damage and a failure to meet our corporate responsibilities.
- CAS3 is joint commissioned programme between the GMCA and MoJ and has been delivered by the local authorities since 2022. The programme continues to build on its success year on year and remains a key resource in preventing, breaking cycles of homelessness and reducing re-offending. Due to current capacity constraints within the service, the ongoing challenges in securing suitable accommodation to support delivery, and its status as an externally grant-funded programme with a fixed cost envelope CAS3 is most effectively delivered by an external provider.

CA.28 LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSING FUND ROUND 4 (LAFH R4)

The Cabinet Member for Housing Services presented a report regarding delivery of the Local Authority Housing Fund Round 4 (LAHF R4), which provides capital funding to increase the supply of high-quality temporary accommodation to reduce reliance on Bed and Breakfast (B&B) placements for homeless families, and support accommodation for households under the Afghan Resettlement Programme providing long-term affordable assets for the Council. Members voiced their support in the invest-to-save approach, reducing pressures on Council budgets while providing benefits to residents. In response to Members’ questions it was noted that a breakdown of waiting lists would be provided to Members outside the meeting.

Decision:

Cabinet:

1. Approved the use of £701,000 from the total £1,176,000 combined grant allocation and match funding from the General Fund Capital Programme of £1,051,500 for 2026/27 delivery, to enable the acquisition of eight properties; and
2. Noted that, based on current interest rates of circa 6.44% for 30-year PWLB money, the estimated interest cost of borrowing will be just below £0.068m per annum or £0.204m over the first three years. This will support the reduction of reliance on unsuitable and high cost temporary accommodation over the longer term. (The Council used this approach for the delivery on the previous round of funding under LAFH R3).

Reasons for the decision:

Approval is needed for the 60% General Fund Capital Programme match funding required under the LAHF R4 agreement to support the purchase of eight properties. Rents will be set at affordable rent levels. This approach supports long-term sustainability reflecting an invest-to-save model, reducing reliance on expensive Bed and Breakfast placements. Estimated reductions are approximately £0.170m over the first three full years. This compares favourably to the debt interest costs of £0.204m over the same three-year period for borrowing from PWLB to fund the match contribution. In addition, the properties will be let at Affordable Rent, which over an extended period estimated at 37 years will recover the initial principal costs incurred to purchase them. The proposal aligns with LAHF R4 grant conditions enabling the Council to meet its statutory housing duties while easing financial pressure.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

Do nothing: These properties will provide long-term, financially sustainable temporary accommodation for the borough, with the council contributing only 60% of the acquisition cost. If this option is not pursued, the council may need to continue relying on expensive bed and breakfast placements, which would not support a cost-effective, invest-to-save approach.

CA.29 IMPLEMENTATION OF RENTERS RIGHTS ACT 2025

The Cabinet Member for Housing Services presented a report regarding the implementation of the Renters' Rights Act 2025 legislation, bringing in changes to the private rented sector and strengthening the role of local authorities as regulators while offering greater protection for renters. In response to Members' questions, it was noted that implementation commenced in May 2026, with subsequent phases continuing beyond 2026. The timescales presented challenges for all authorities, particularly in the context of workforce capacity shortages. However, measures had been put in place to strengthen resilience, including the development of apprenticeship programmes.

Members discussed the Phase 2 rollout of the national private rented sector landlord database and agreed that it had the potential to deliver benefits for both landlords and tenants. It was noted that arrangements for sharing the database had yet to be confirmed; however, further information would be circulated once details became available.

Decision:**Cabinet:**

1. Noted the implementation of the Renters' Rights Act on 1st May 2026;
2. Approved the amendments to the existing enforcement policy and adopt the Justice for Tenant's Civil Penalty Policy;
3. Delegated authority to the Assistant Director of Public Protection and Resilience, in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance, to implement any further policies required or make further amendments to existing policies;
4. Supported investment in staffing and digital systems to deliver Private Rented Sector regulation; and
5. Noted the alignment with Corporate Plan priorities and the Housing Strategy.

Reasons for the decision:

To ensure the Council can fully meet its statutory duties under section 107 of the Renters' Rights Act 2025. The recommendations provide a clear, consistent and legally robust framework for enforcement decision-making, reducing the risk of legal challenge and associated reputational risk. Making minor amendments to the existing Enforcement Policy will enable timely and effective implementation, building on a policy that is already considered robust. Adopting the Act-specific Civil Penalty Policy will further ensure consistency, transparency and proportionality in the application of penalties under the new legislative framework, while aligning the council's approach with national best practice and mitigating the risk of challenge arising from local deviation.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

- Not to implement policy changes
- To adopt both the JfT/ACEHO Civil Penalty Policy and Enforcement Policies to replace the existing local policies.

CA.30 MINUTES OF ASSOCIATION OF GREATER MANCHESTER AUTHORITIES / GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY**It was agreed:**

That the minutes of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority meetings held on 13 February and 27 March 2026 be noted.

COUNCILLOR E O'BRIEN
Chair

(Note: The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 8.00 pm)

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Classification: Open	Decision Type: Non-Key
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Report to:	Cabinet	Date: 08 July 2026
Subject:	Corporate Plan Quarter Four 2025/26 Performance & Delivery	
Report of	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services	

Summary

1. In June 2025, Cabinet approved the Council's Corporate Plan for 2025/26, setting out the strategic priorities and delivery objectives for the year in support of the LET'S Do It! vision.

This report provides an overview of progress during Quarter Four (January to March 2026) and the overall position at year end. Despite the scale and complexity of delivery, including the impact of external dependencies and the pre-election period, the majority of objectives have been delivered or remain on track, with risks managed where required. Progress has continued across all three priorities supported by delivery of the Council's enabling programmes.

Despite the scale of ambition contained with the 2025/26 Corporate Plan, and alongside those other unforeseen activities that required additional capacity, the majority of the plan has been delivered. However, as the Council's three priorities are multi-year programmes of work, there is still more to do which is reflected in the performance against outcomes. Focus will need to continue to be sustained to improve outcomes:

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

These challenges continue to be worked on by Team Bury as part of the refreshed LET'S Do It! strategy, with particular focus on tackling the root causes of deprivation and ensuring sustainable economic growth that all residents can share success in.

To support monitoring of the Plan, alongside measuring delivery of the agreed milestones (Appendix One), an initial set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) was set out. The three priorities and an additional enabling priorities are repeated for 2025/26. Key objectives have been described against each of these priorities, together with a clear set of quarterly delivery milestones.

Recommendation(s)

2. Cabinet is asked to:
 - Note the Quarter Four position on progress against the Corporate Plan 2025/26

Reasons for recommendation(s)

3. To enable transparency and robust monitoring of performance and delivery of the Corporate Plan.

Alternative options considered and rejected

4. Not applicable

Report Author and Contact Details:

Name: Helen Corbishley

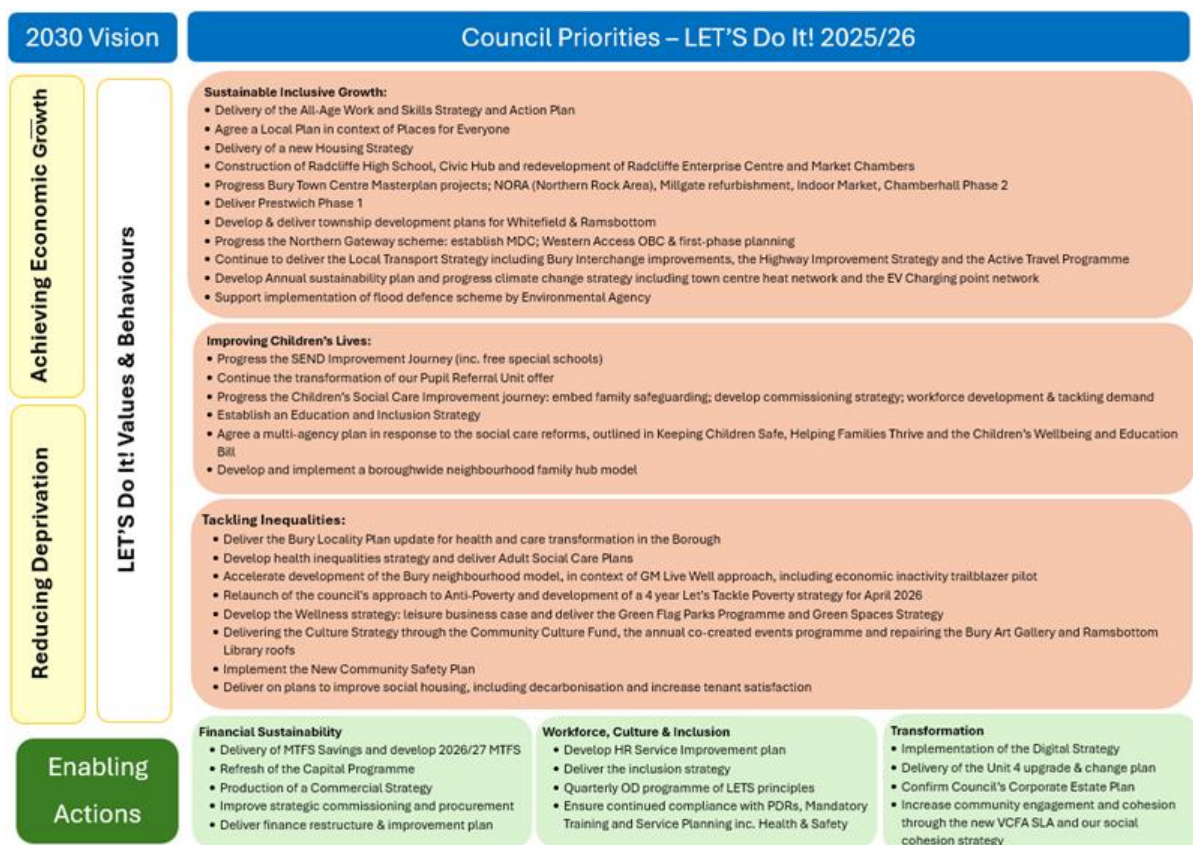
Position: Head of Performance & Delivery

Department: Corporate Core

E-mail: h.corbishley@bury.gov.uk

Background

5. The 2025/26 Corporate Plan was agreed by Cabinet in June 2025 and sets out the Council's strategic priorities and delivery objectives for the year. The final version of the Plan is below:



Links with the Corporate Priorities:

6. This report supplements the LET'S Do It! Outcomes Report in terms of providing further information on the contribution of the Council to the 2030 vision. The Corporate Plan priorities are linked to the seven objectives of the LET'S vision.

Equality Impact and Considerations:

7. An EIA was completed at the launch of the Corporate Plan for 2025/2026 ensuring inclusion was at the heart of it. This report demonstrates the continuing commitment to inclusion in all that we do as a Council.

Environmental Impact and Considerations:

8. There are no specific environmental considerations within this report however the data tracks progress towards the environmental commitments within the Council's Corporate Plan.

Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
Lack of capacity to deliver against the Corporate Plan priorities which reduces our ability to achieve the LET'S Vision	

Procurement Implications:

9. Procurement continue to support the corporate plan ensuring compliance and support to delivery of the objectives.

Legal Implications:

10. There are no specific legal considerations however regular updating reports to Cabinet form part of our Council governance assurance process.

Financial Implications:

11. This report is reporting on the delivery of performance against the Council priorities set out in the Corporate Plan. The Corporate Plan is reviewed and produced annually in line with the budget setting process and the budget is developed to deliver the Council's priorities. There are no direct financial implications of this report as the budget to deliver the priorities is approved through Full Council.

Appendices:

Appendix One: Corporate Plan 2025-26

Appendix Two: Corporate Plan Performance Dashboards

Appendix Three: Corporate Plan Q4 2025-26 Delivery Summary (available upon request)

Background papers:

Report to Cabinet, June 2025: [Corporate Plan 2025/26](#)

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

Term	Meaning
Corporate Plan	The Council's agreed annual plan setting out priorities, key objectives and delivery milestones.
LET'S Do It!	The Council's long-term vision for the borough to 2030, underpinning all priorities.
Quarter 4 (Q4)	Final reporting period of the financial year (Jan–Mar 2026), providing year-end position.
KPI (Key Performance Indicator)	Measures used to assess progress and performance against objectives.
RAG Rating	Delivery status: Green (on track), Amber (not on track – risk addressed), Red (not on track – risk identified).
FTE (Full-Time Equivalent)	Standard measure of staffing capacity.
EHCP	Statutory plan setting out support for children with special educational needs and disabilities.
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities service area.
PRU	Pupil Referral Unit for children unable to attend mainstream education.
MTFS	Medium-Term Financial Strategy setting out the Council's financial plans over multiple years.
Unit 4	The Council's core finance and enterprise system supporting financial management.
GMCA	Greater Manchester Combined Authority, regional strategic body.
GM Pledge	Social care commitment within GM to ensure skilled, stable and better social work practice
Places for Everyone	Regional development framework guiding housing and infrastructure planning.
VCFA / VCSE	Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise sector partners.
Live Well	Greater Manchester approach to prevention, wellbeing, and community-based support.
CQC / Ofsted	National regulators for health/social care (CQC) and children's services/education (Ofsted).
SHDF	Government funding programme supporting energy efficiency in social housing.
EIA	Equality Impact Assessment to ensure decisions consider equality and inclusion.
CO₂e	Measure of carbon emissions used to track environmental impact.

Corporate Plan Quarter four 2025-26 Performance and Delivery

1. Progress since the approval of the 2025/26 Corporate Plan

Performance against the Corporate Plan continues to be supported by both delivery milestones and a suite of aligned Key Performance Indicators. At Quarter Four, the overall position remains positive, with the majority of objectives on track or complete at year end.

A number of indicators demonstrate improved performance across the year, particularly in economic participation, safeguarding outcomes and workforce stability. At the same time, there remain areas of pressure, most notably within housing demand, health inequalities and aspects of organisational compliance. These pressures reflect wider national and regional trends and continue to be actively managed.

2. Sustainable Inclusive Growth

2.1 Key Achievements

Overall delivery against this priority is on track, with the majority of objectives progressing in line with planned milestones. A number of objectives are recorded as not on track but with any associated risks addressed, reflecting dependencies on funding, procurement timelines and the impact of the pre-election period. Mitigations to reduce the impact of these risks remain in place. One objective is flagged with a risk identified due to the impact of an external provider delaying the flood defences at Hardy's Gate bridge.

During Quarter Four, delivery has continued across a wide-ranging programme of regeneration, infrastructure and strategic planning activity, with a clear shift from consultation into implementation. Labour market performance remains strong, with 95.7% of 16–17-year-olds in education, employment or training, reflecting continued engagement in education and skills pathways.

Significant progress has been made across regeneration programmes. In Bury town centre, works to deliver the market canopy improvements and Flexi Hall substructure have been completed, alongside procurement activity to appoint an operator and progress the next phase of development. In parallel, activity across the quarter has included public engagement on town centre improvements and the continued promotion of Bury as a destination, reflecting a coordinated approach to growth and place-making. The borough continues to support a stable business base, with 7,800 businesses recorded.

In Prestwich, delivery has moved into a more visible phase, with construction activity progressing on the Travel Hub and enabling works across the Longfield Centre site. This has included the closure and relocation of the library and continued engagement with residents on Phase 2 proposals, including consultation and myth-busting activity to address concerns. Milestones around planning submission and site preparation have been

achieved, positioning the scheme for progression into the next phase. Housing delivery also reflects strategic priorities, with 96% of completions on brownfield land.

Across Radcliffe and other township programmes, delivery has focused on both physical improvements and community-led investment. This has included progression of the Radcliffe Hub and the launch of the Pride in Place programme. Outputs include the delivery of 312 homes and an increase in affordable housing provision to 88 units.

A key area of focus in Quarter Four has been strategic planning, including extensive engagement with residents on Places for Everyone sites at Elton Reservoir, Walshaw and Simister/Bowlee. This consultation activity represents a major milestone in shaping future growth and has been supported by significant communication and engagement activity. Although formal progression of the Local Plan has been delayed due to the pre-election period, the evidence base has been strengthened, and the Council is well placed to progress in 2026/27.

Infrastructure delivery has continued throughout the quarter, including active travel schemes, highways maintenance and winter service activity. This has included management of disruption associated with major schemes and ongoing communication with residents. Environmental performance shows progress, with 77.0% of street lighting converted to LED and 102 EV charge points installed.

Overall, Quarter Four demonstrates sustained delivery across growth programmes, combining major infrastructure, regeneration and planning activity with ongoing resident and stakeholder engagement.

3. Improving Children's Lives

3.1 Key Achievements

Overall delivery against this priority is on track, with objectives either complete or progressing in line with plan. Two objectives are recorded as not on track, but with associated risks addressed, reflecting delays relating to estate constraints and site availability as well as recruitment issues and the impact of the SEND inspection on capacity.

During Quarter Four, activity has continued to focus on improving outcomes for children and young people, with sustained delivery across SEND, safeguarding and early help. Performance remains stable, with 93% of EHCPs issued within statutory timescales, demonstrating strong compliance despite increasing demand.

SEND has remained a key area of focus throughout the quarter, with continued work to expand provision and improve the system. This includes development of additional resource provision, improvements to the Local Offer and ongoing engagement with parents and carers. Demand remains

high, with 456 EHCPs issued in the last 12 months, and 2,094 children supported, reflecting both need and improved identification.

Progress has also continued in alternative provision, including the relocation of the Pupil Referral Unit to an interim site. While challenges remain in identifying a permanent location, alternative solutions have been developed and delivery continues. Safeguarding outcomes have improved, with the rate of child protection plans reducing to 33 per 10,000, reflecting the impact of early intervention.

Children's social care improvement has continued, with further embedding of the Family Safeguarding model and improved workforce stability. Agency reliance has reduced to 14.0% due to the GM pledge, national agency guidance and Bury CSC improvement in reputation for job satisfaction. Referrals have reduced to 451 per 10,000 and we've seen a downward trend in the number of children in or entering care and with a CPP. This is due to the impact of the family safeguarding model ensuring a more consistent, skilled and stable workforce delivering better practice.

A key milestone during the quarter has been the opening of the Chesham Family Hub, supporting delivery of neighbourhood-based early help. This forms part of a wider programme to localise services and improve access for families. Delivery of holiday provision, including the HAF programme, has also continued, providing support outside of term time.

Education activity has included coordination of secondary school places and support for transitions, alongside wider engagement with schools through the Education and Inclusion Strategy. School readiness has increased to 65.2%, showing gradual improvement towards the target of 74% set by the DfE.

Overall, delivery reflects continued strengthening of the system, with improved outcomes in key areas alongside sustained demand.

4. Tackling Inequalities

4.1 Key Achievements

Overall delivery against this priority is on track, with the majority of objectives progressing in line with planned milestones. One objective is recorded as not on track but with associated risks addressed, reflecting continued demand pressures, particularly within housing and cost-of-living services.

During Quarter Four, delivery has focused on supporting residents through a combination of preventative activity, targeted interventions and community engagement. A significant programme of work has been delivered to support health and wellbeing, including winter health support, smoking cessation campaigns and mental health engagement activity. This has been delivered alongside broader behaviour change campaigns and preventative programmes aimed at improving long-term outcomes. Screening rates remain strong, including 73.1% cervical and 70.4% bowel cancer screening coverage.

However, wider health inequalities remain evident, including 10.8% smoking prevalence and 22.6% excess weight in children.

Housing and neighbourhood activity has been a major focus throughout the quarter, with continued delivery of damp and mould interventions, tenant engagement and neighbourhood walkabouts. This has been supported by increased visibility of services within communities and a focus on responding to resident concerns. Despite this, demand pressures remain significant, with 281 households in temporary accommodation, 565-day waiting times for accommodation, and over 1,060 homelessness presentations. A thorough data cleanse and good maintenance of the housing waiting list have sustained a reduction in average waiting time on the housing register over the past 6 months.

There are also positive outcomes from targeted interventions, with 89 households prevented from becoming homeless or supported, alongside delivery of employment and skills programmes which have contributed to reductions in economic inactivity.

Alongside this, the Council has continued to deliver support to residents through cost-of-living programmes, including warm spaces, advice and targeted financial support. This has been complemented by community engagement activity, events and partnership working across the voluntary sector.

A broad programme of inclusion and cohesion activity has also been delivered during the quarter, including cultural and faith-based events, equality campaigns and community safety initiatives. Community safety activity has included joint work with partners to address antisocial behaviour and support safer town centres. Perception indicators remain stable, with 65% of residents feeling safe and 64.4% reporting good community cohesion.

Overall, activity in Quarter Four reflects a coordinated and neighbourhood-based approach, combining service delivery, prevention and engagement to address inequalities.

5. Enablers

5.1 Key Achievements

Overall delivery across the enabling programme is on track, with a number of objectives complete. A small number are recorded as not on track, reflecting delivery complexity within major transformation programmes.

During Quarter Four, a key milestone has been the agreement of the 2026/27 budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy, following consultation and scrutiny activity. This provides a clear financial framework for delivery and reflects a significant organisational achievement.

Work has also continued to strengthen procurement, commissioning and financial management processes through the Finance Transformation Programme.

Transformation activity has progressed, including progression of the finance restructure and continued work on the Unit 4 system. While delivery timelines have been revised due to system complexity, progress continues with a clear recovery plan in place.

Workforce and organisational development activity has continued, including delivery of the LET'S programme, staff engagement activity and internal communications. Workforce stability has improved, with staff turnover reducing to 11.4%, a sign of good retention especially during the current testing climate.

This testing climate is reflected in our staff sickness which has increased over the year to 14.1 average days lost per FTE per year, a third of which is due to mental health and could be attributed to the reduction in agency staff.

However, there are areas requiring improvement, including 74.4% training compliance, which is below target and subject to ongoing action to address and improve.

Governance and partnership activity has continued, including delivery of audit improvement actions, democratic processes and engagement with the voluntary sector.

Community participation has increased, with 142 new VCFA registrations, strengthening partnership delivery.

Overall, enabling activity has continued to support delivery across all priorities, with strong financial performance and continued organisational improvement.

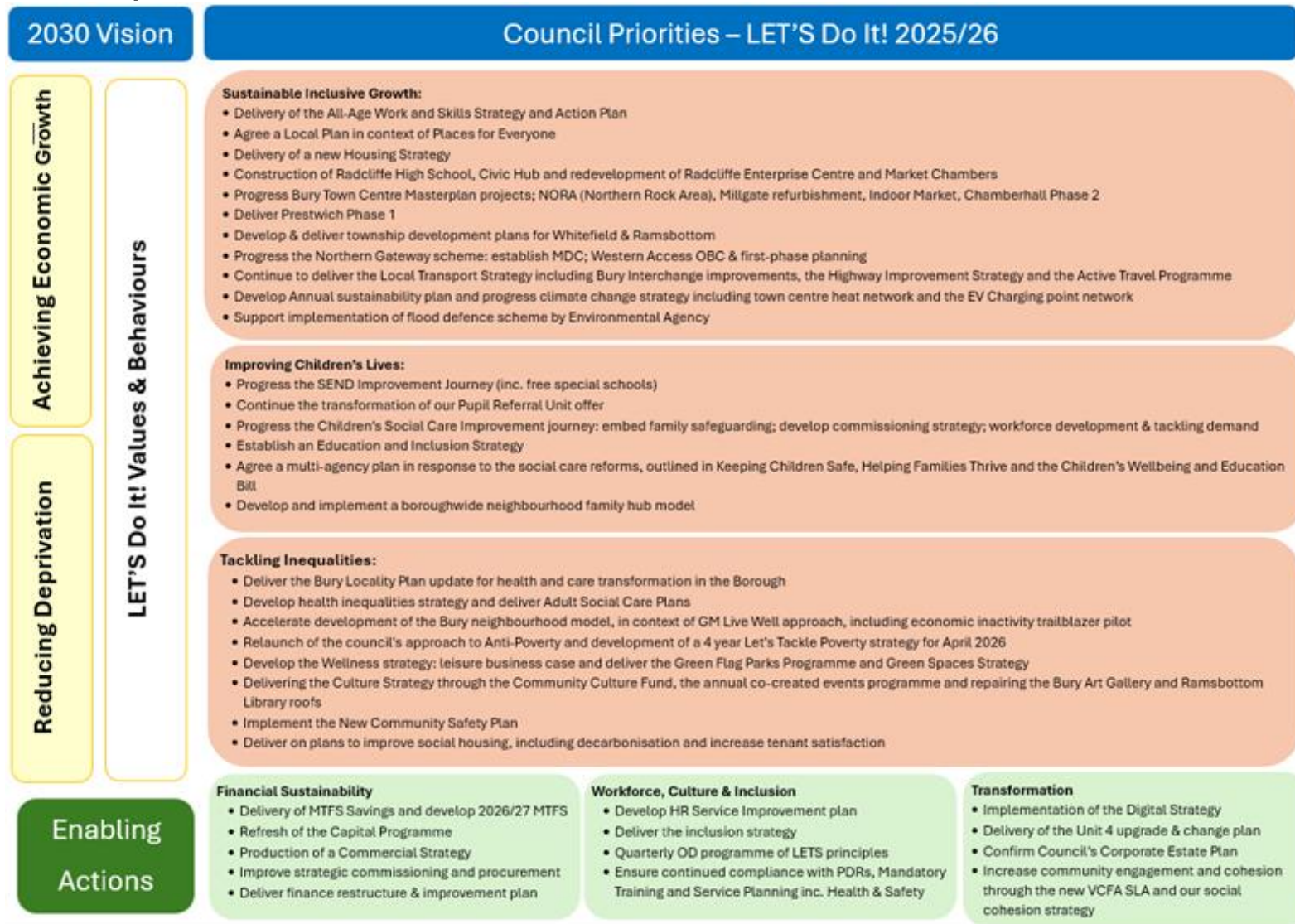
6. Conclusion

Following Quarter Four, the overall position against delivery of the Corporate Plan for 2025/26 remains positive. The majority of objectives have been delivered or are on track, with a small number subject to managed risks where delivery is influenced by external dependencies or system pressures.

Progress has been sustained across key areas, including regeneration, children's services and targeted action to address inequalities. This has been supported by delivery of enabling programmes, particularly in relation to financial sustainability and organisational stability.

Performance trends broadly align with delivery, with improvement in a number of indicators, alongside continued pressures in housing, health inequalities and organisational compliance.

Overall, the year-end position reflects a stable and improving picture of delivery, with a strong foundation for continued progress in 2026/27.

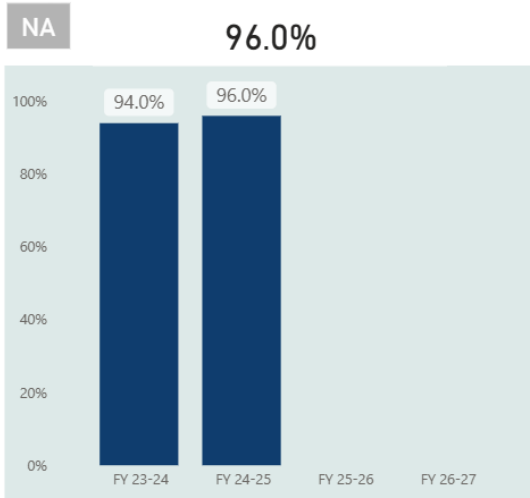


Appendix Two: Corporate Plan Performance Dashboards

Sustainable Inclusive Growth

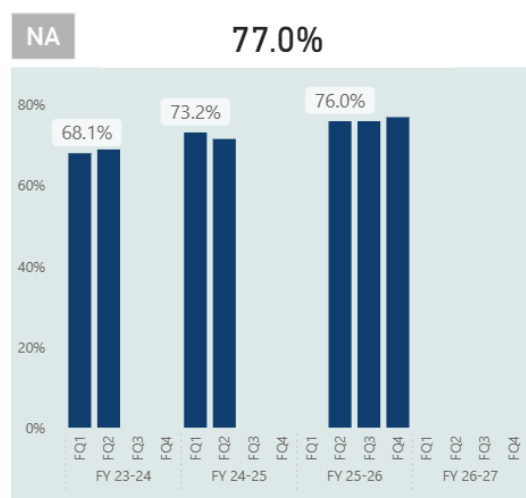
% Housing completions on brownfield land boroughwide

High is good



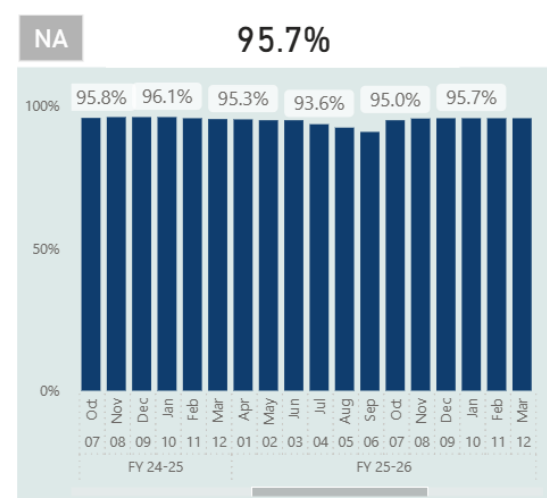
% of street lighting converted to LED

High is good

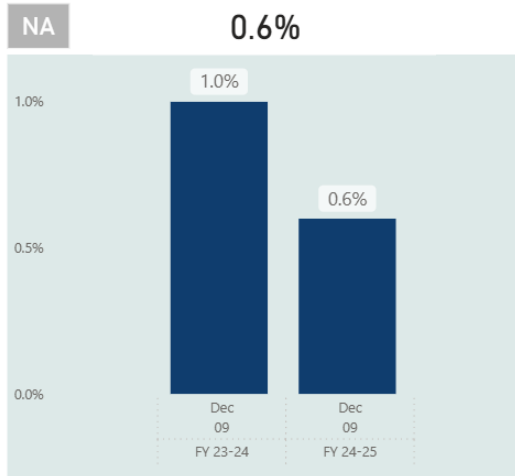


Education, Employment, or Training (EET) of 16-17 year olds (%)

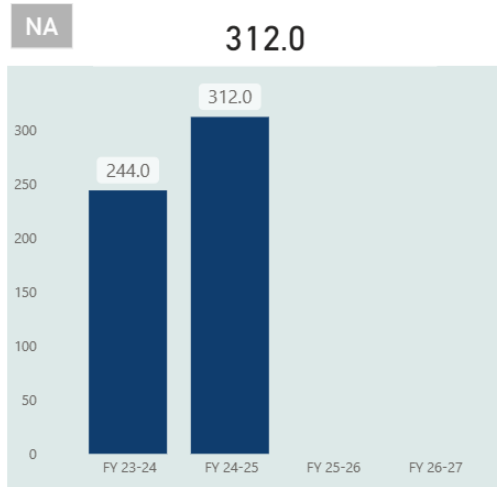
High is good



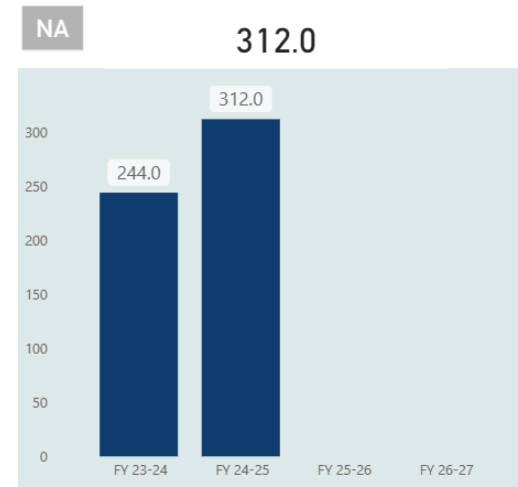
GM Neighbourhood Floor Target - % of premises unable to access download speeds of at least 30 mbits/s
Low is good



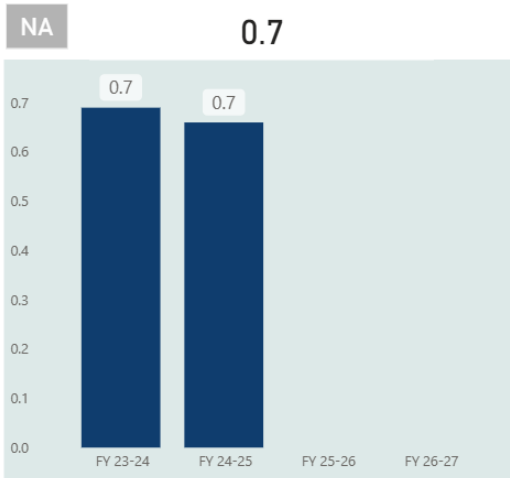
Annual housing completions boroughwide
NA



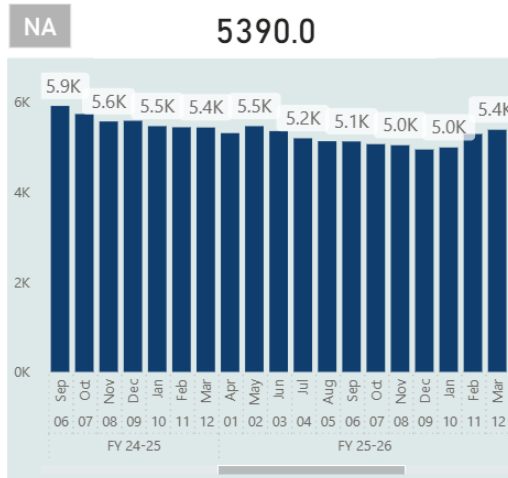
Annual housing completions boroughwide
NA



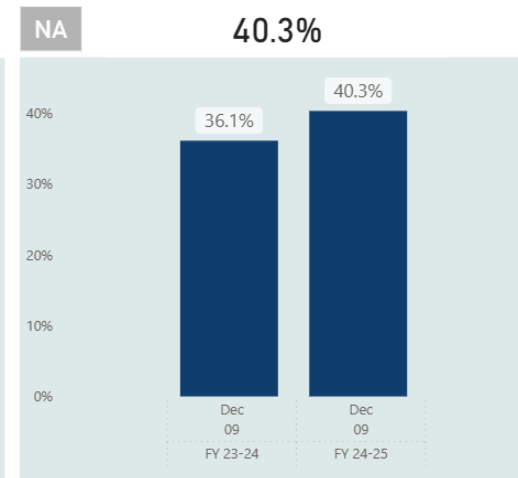
Job Density - The numbers of jobs per resident aged 16-64
NA



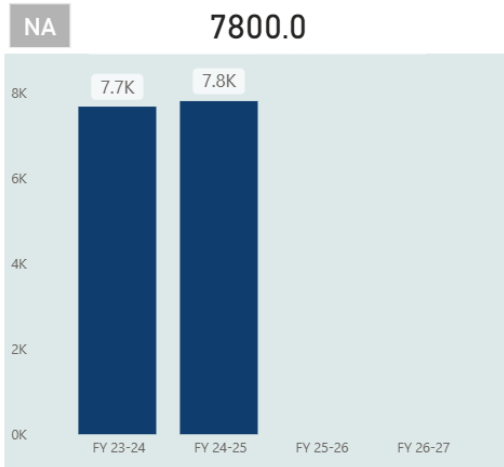
NOMIS Claimant Count
Low is good



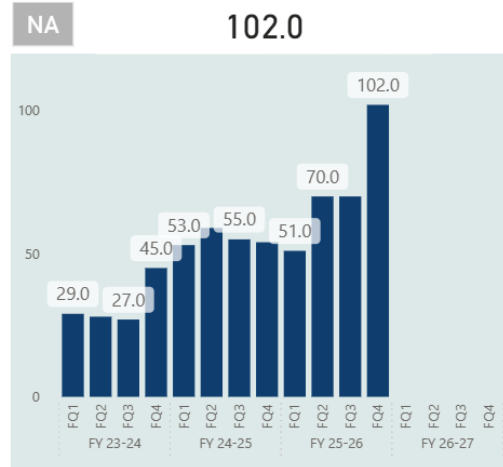
Energy efficiency of housing in the borough (% Band A-C)
High is good



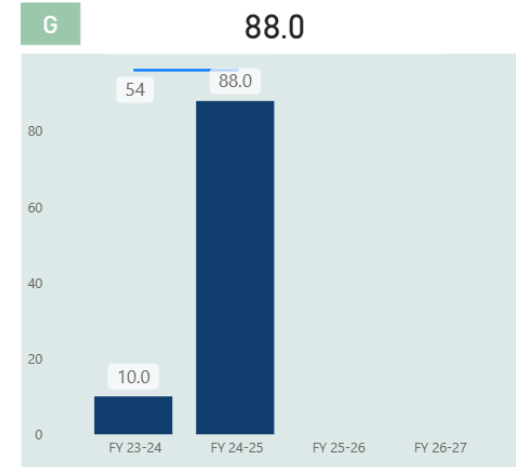
UK Business Count
High is good



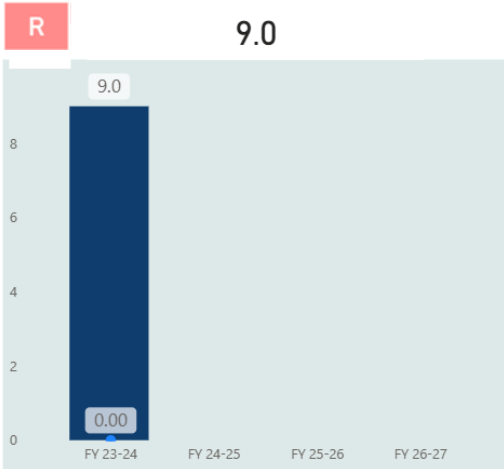
Number of EV Charge Points
High is good



Number of housing units completed in the borough which are affordable
High is good

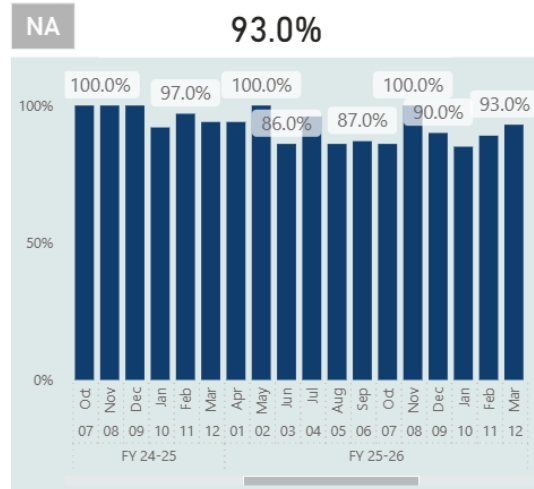


Total CO2 emissions resulting from council operations (KtCO2e)
Low is good

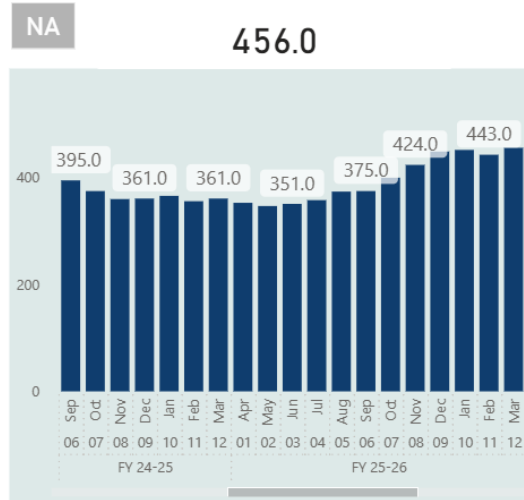


Improving Children's Lives

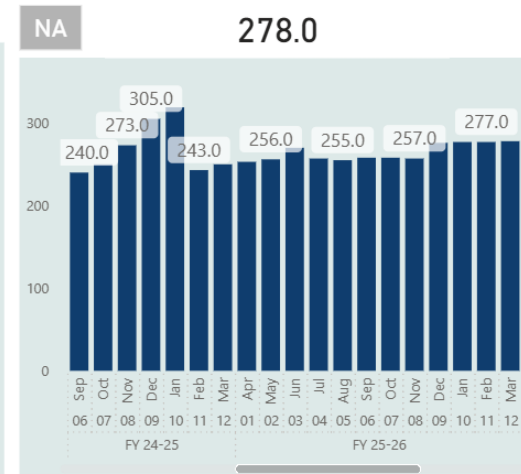
EHCP: Percent of Plans issued on time, compliance at 20 weeks
High is good



New EHCP's issued in the last 12 months
NA

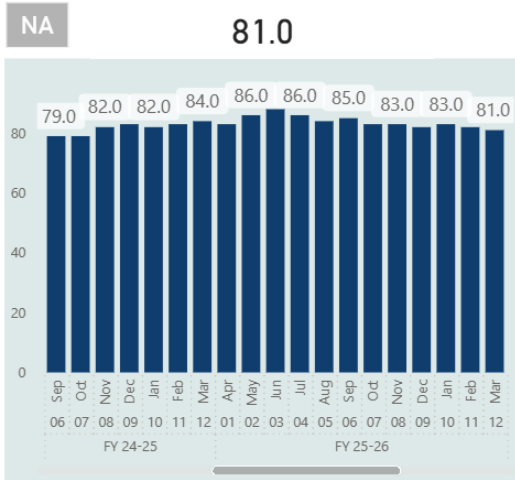


Rate of open CIN per 10,000 children aged 0-17 (latest)
NA



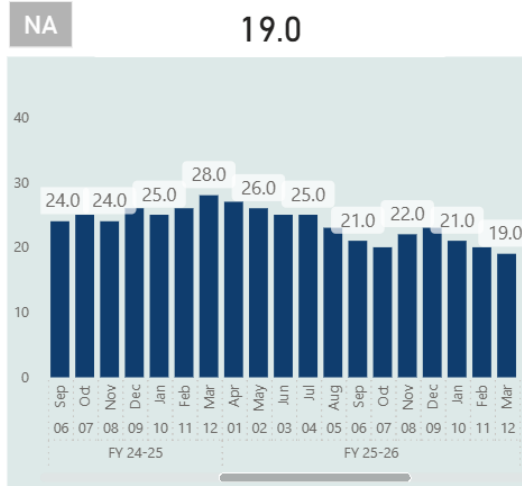
Rate of CLA per 10,000 children (snapshot)

NA



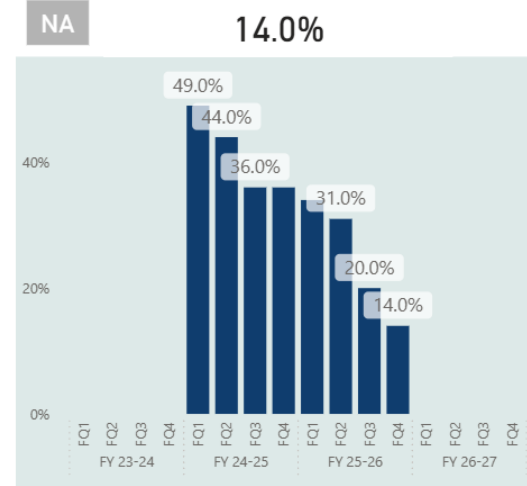
Re-referrals: children with a previous referral within 12 months of their latest referral (last 6 months)

Low is good



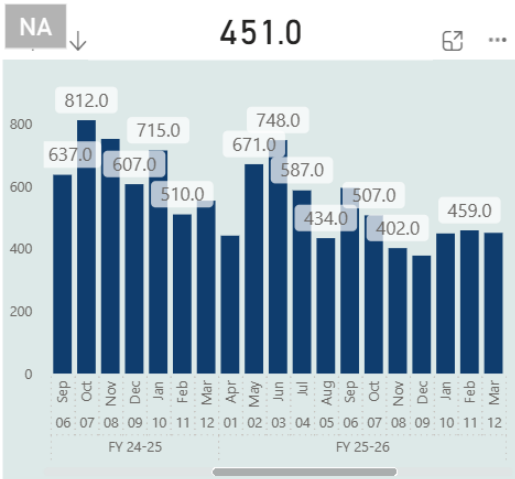
% current frontline social workers who are agency workers (Children's)

NA



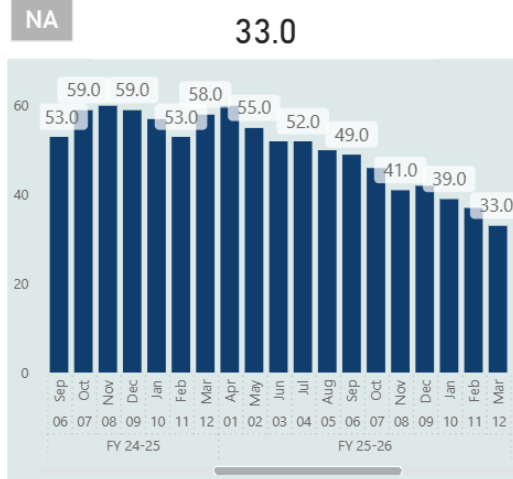
Rate of referrals per 10,000 children aged 0-17 over the last 6 months

NA

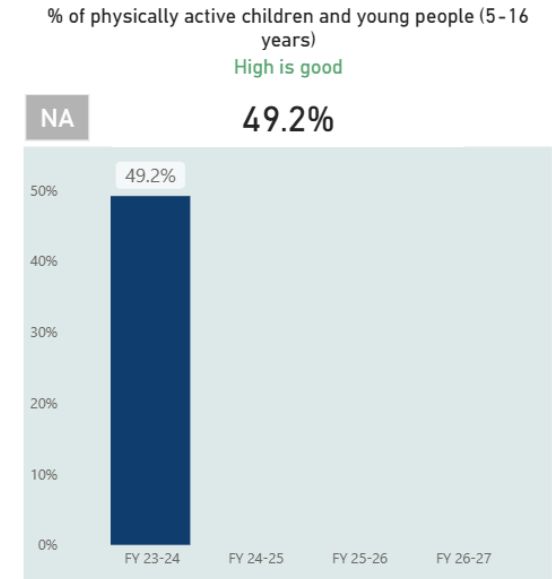
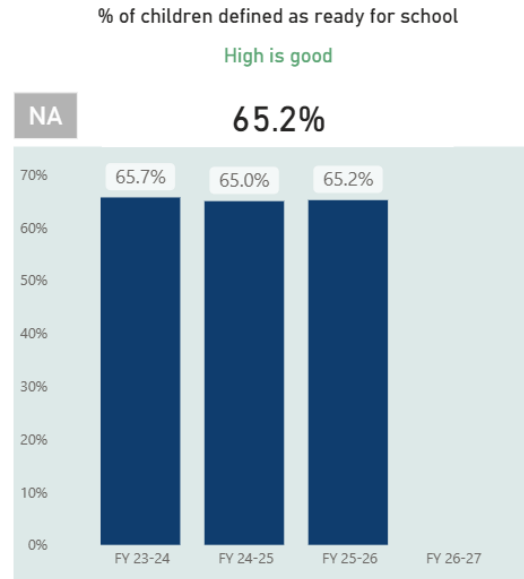
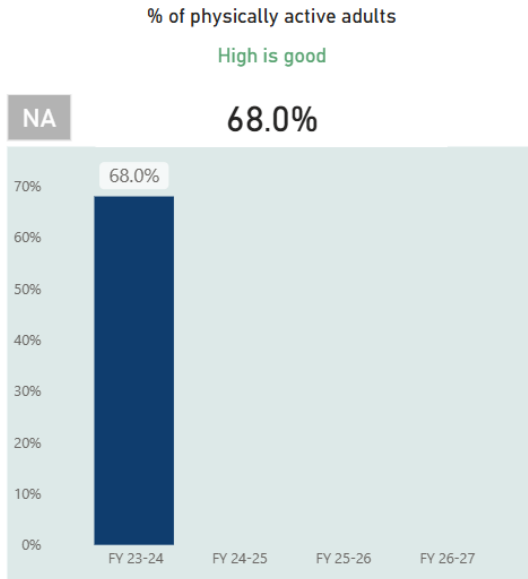


Rate of CPP per 10,000 children aged 0-17 (latest)

NA

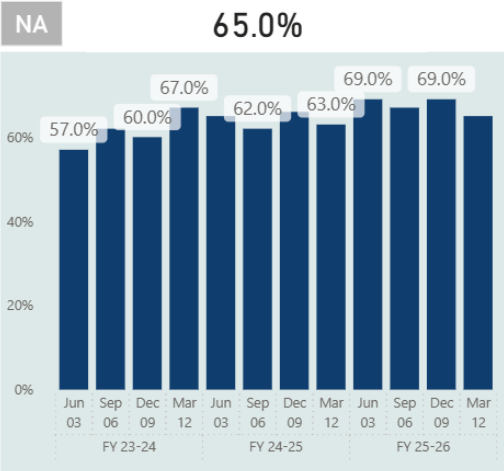


Tackling Inequalities

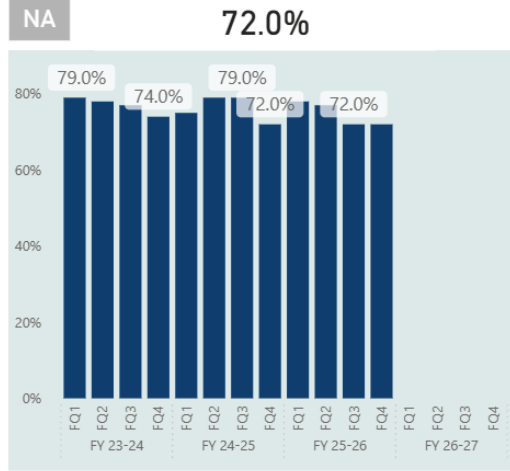


GM Crime Survey - % of residents who are confident that they could get help from GMP in an emergency

High is good

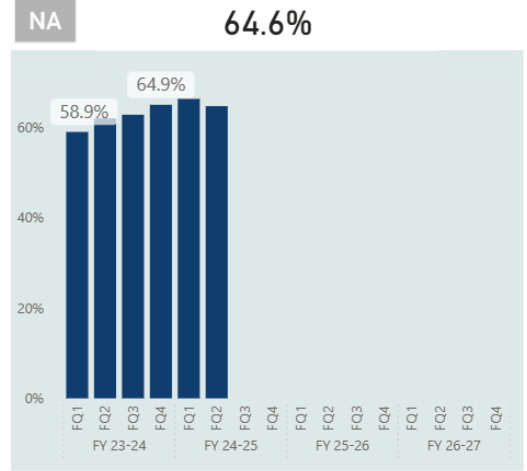


GM Crime Survey - % of residents who feel their community is a place where people from multiple backgrounds get along



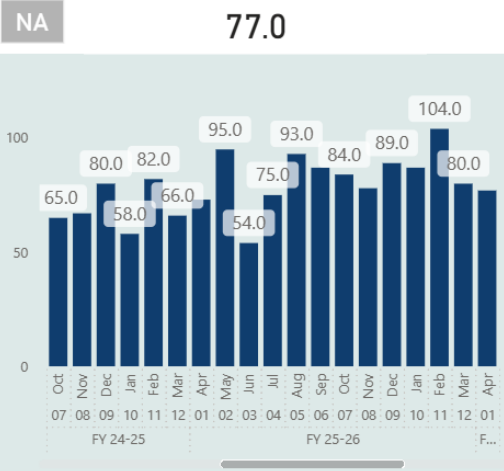
Health Visitor: percentage of children aged 2.5 years who received a 2 - 2.5 year review

High is good



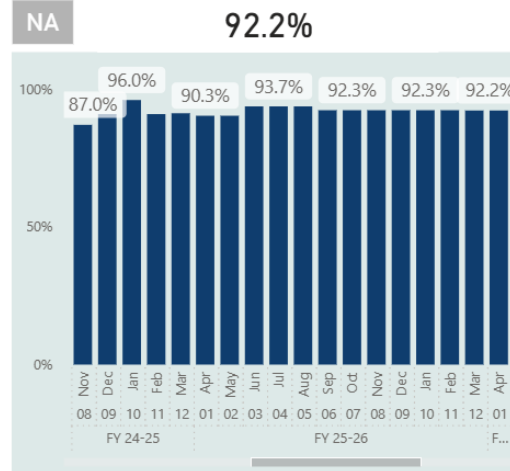
Number of people on waiting list for ASC needs assessment (snapshot last day of the month)

Low is good



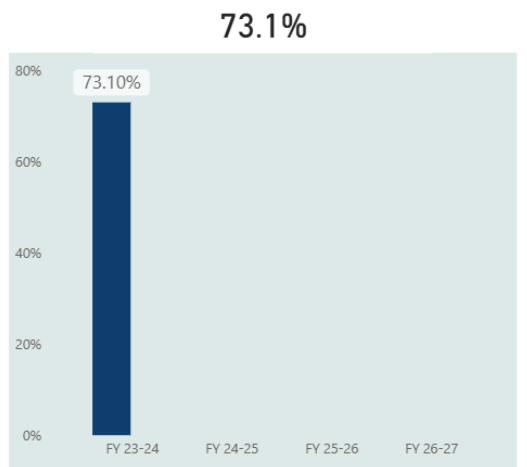
The percentage of adult social care providers rated good or outstanding by CQC

High is good



Cancer screening coverage: cervical cancer (aged 50-64) (%)

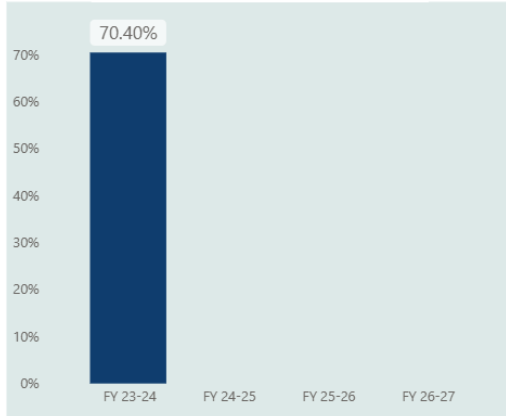
High is good



Cancer screening coverage: bowel cancer (%)

High is good

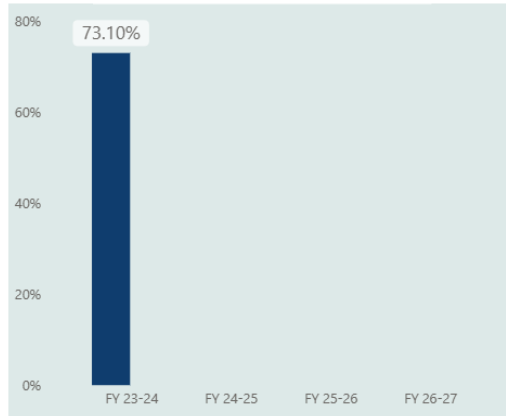
70.4%



Cancer screening coverage: cervical cancer (aged 50-64) (%)

High is good

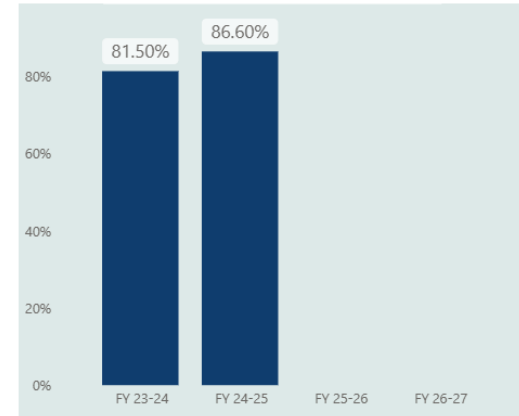
73.1%



MMR for two doses - 5 years old (%)

High is good

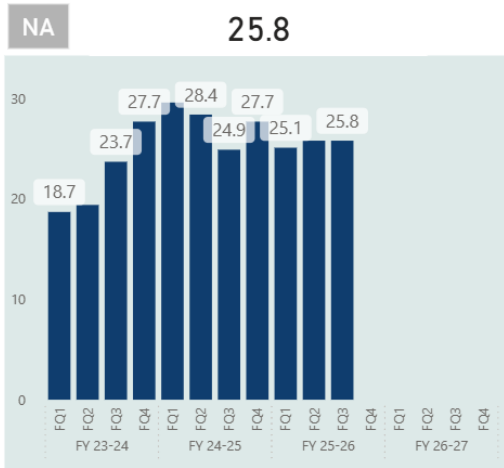
86.6%



Economic Inactivity

Low is good

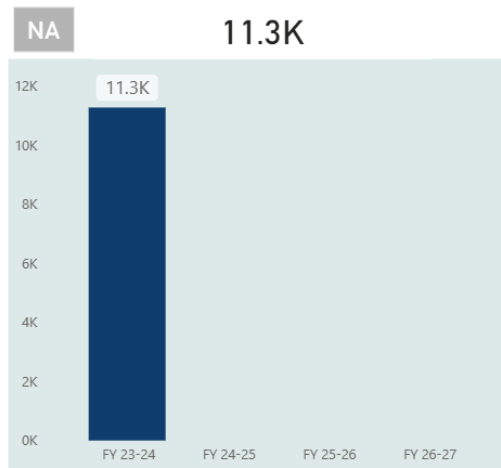
25.8



Number of children in relative low income families (under 16s)

Low is good

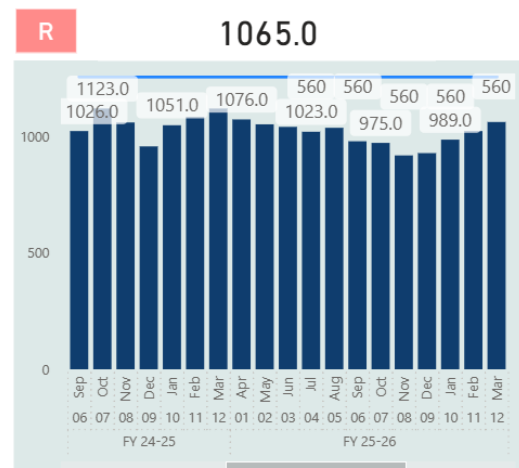
11.3K



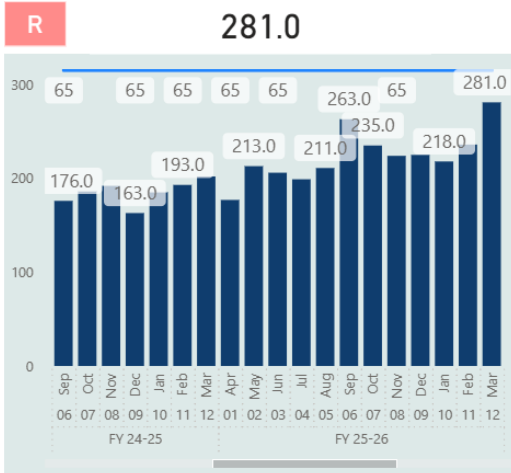
Number of statutory homeless cases open on the last day of the month

Low is good

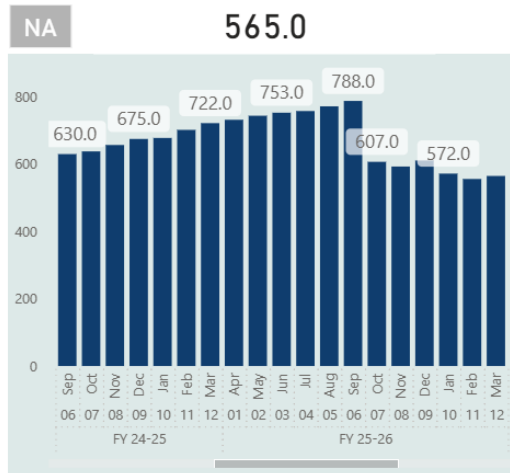
1065.0



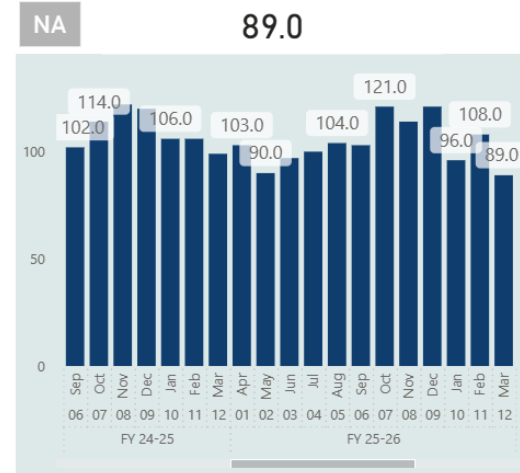
Number of households in temporary accommodation on last day of the month
Low is good



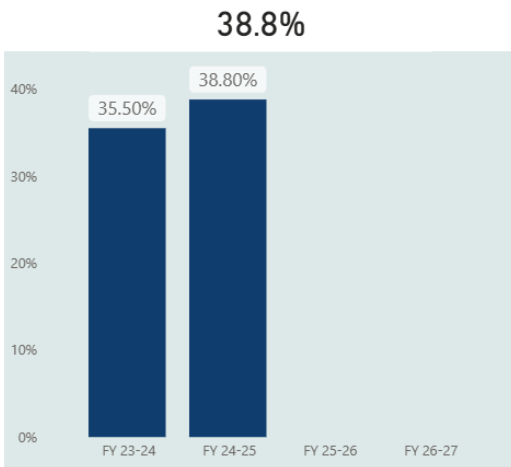
Average waiting time on housing register (all applications) (snapshot)
Low is good



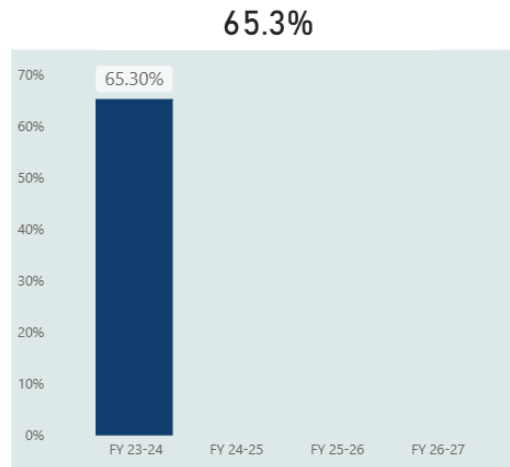
Number of rough sleepers currently being supported
High is good



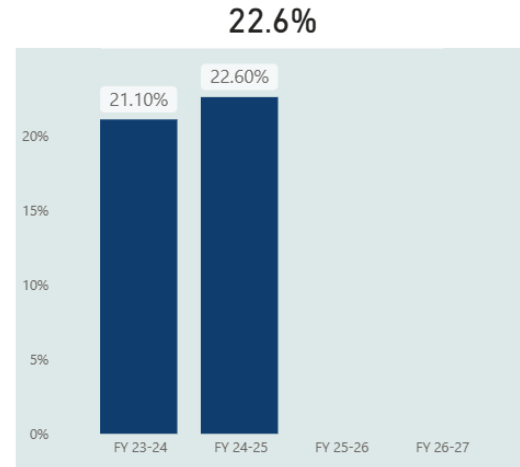
Year 6: Prevalence of overweight (including obesity) (%)
Low is good



Overweight (including obesity) prevalence in adults (18+ yrs) (%)
Low is good

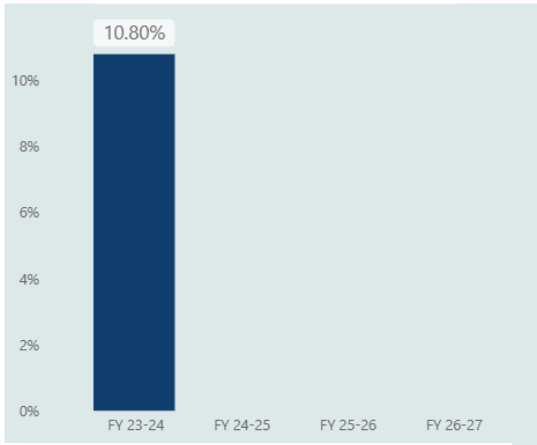


Reception: Prevalence of overweight (including obesity) (%)
Low is good



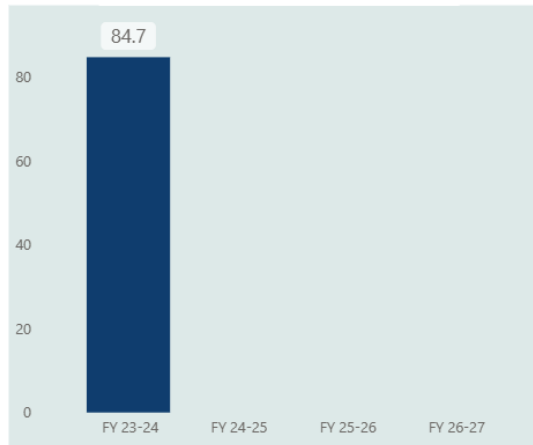
Smoking prevalence in adults (18+) - Current Smokers (APS) (%)
Low is good

10.8%



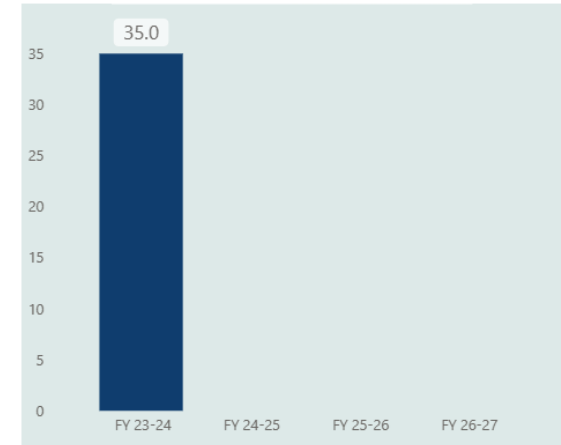
Under 75 mortality rate from cardiovascular disease (rate per 100,000)
Low is good

NA 84.7



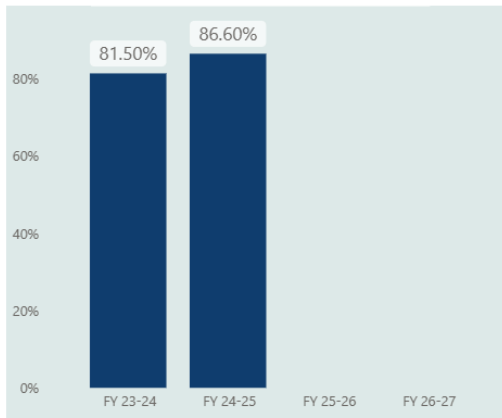
Under 75 mortality rate from liver disease (rate per 100,000 residents)
Low is good

NA 35.0



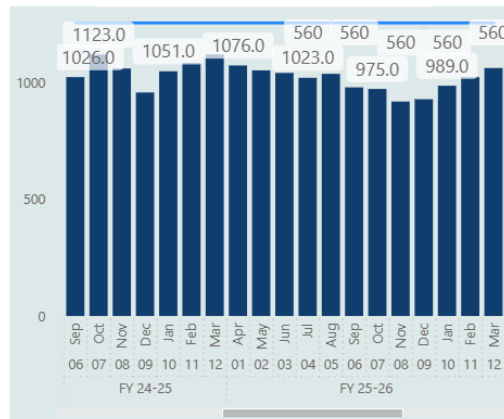
MMR for two doses - 5 years old (%)
High is good

86.6%



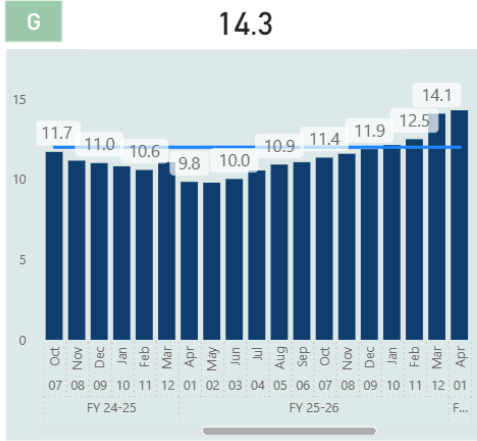
Number of statutory homeless cases open on the last day of the month
Low is good

R 1065.0



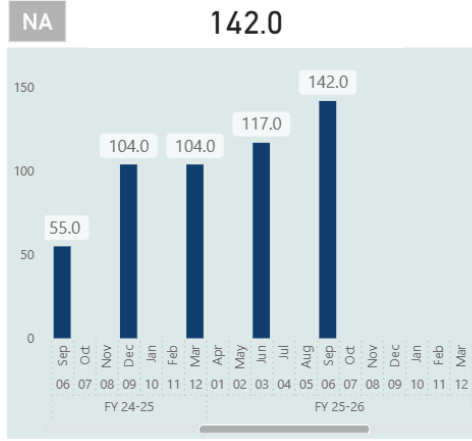
Enablers

Sickness absence: average number of days lost per FTE per year (Bury Council)
 Low is good



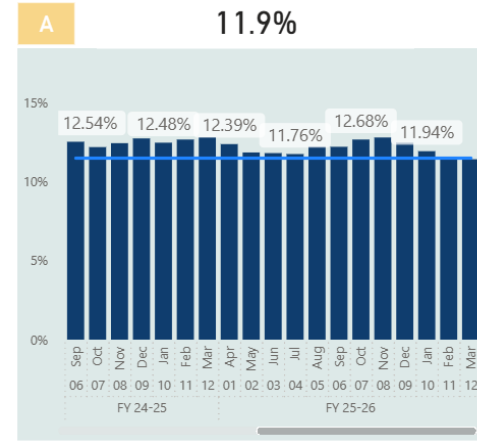
Number of new registrations on VCFA Volunteering Bank

High is good



% Staff turnover (Bury Council)

Low is good





Classification: Open	Decision Type: Non-Key
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Report to:	Cabinet	Date: 08 July 2026
Subject:	Finance Update Report – 2025/26 Outturn Position	
Report of	Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services	

Summary

This report provides an update to Cabinet on the council's final outturn position across the General Fund revenue and capital budgets, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and DSG (Dedicated Schools Grant).

The 2025/26 General Fund outturn position is an overspend of £7.266m, equivalent to 3.04% of the net revenue budget. This represents a favourable movement of £0.673m from the Quarter 3 forecast overspend of £7.932m. Further detail on the revenue outturn position and movements since Quarter 3 is set out in Section 1. The 2025/26 budget included approved savings of £11.334m, of which £7.729m (68.19%) have been delivered. Further detail on savings delivery is provided in Section 2.

To offset the overspend, a drawdown of £7.266m from the budget stabilisation reserve has been required. This has further reduced already low levels of reserves and is not sustainable in the long term. As a result, the reserve is no longer sufficient to support the forecast funding gap beyond 2027/28, however, work continues through the budget review of all services to identify saving proposals which will reduce the funding gap and reliance on reserves in future years. Further detail on the reserves position is provided in Section 3.

The outturn position on the capital programme is slippage of £17.336m against the £119.614m approved delivery programme. The slippage will initially be carried forward for delivery in 2026/27, but the intention is to carry out a fundamental review of the deliverability of the 2026/27 capital programme and make recommendations to Cabinet regarding re-profiling in the first (Q1) financial performance update of the current financial year to Cabinet in September. Further detail on the capital programme performance is provided in Section 4.

The outturn position on the Collection Fund (Section 5), Housing Revenue Account (HRA) (Section 6) and Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) (Section 7) are also provided in the body of the report.

Recommendation(s)

Cabinet is asked to:

- Note the 2025/26 revenue outturn position of a £7.266m overspend (3.04%) against a net budget of £238.987m.

- Note the in-year reduction in General Fund and Earmarked Reserves of £19.509m (30.67%) and closing balance at 31 March 2026 of £44.106m.
- Note the 2025/26 achievement of savings of £7.729m (68%) against a target of £11.334m.
- Note the overall 2025/26 capital programme outturn position of £100.413m, (84%) compared to the overall 2025/26 capital programme budget of £119.614m. This results in a £19.201m variance, mainly driven by £17.336m of rephased schemes into 2026/27, alongside £0.993m from schemes not progressed and £0.872m of savings across housing projects.
- Approve the in-year capital slippage of £17.336m being initially transferred into 2026/27 to enable an in-year review of the deliverability of the capital programme to be undertaken and the programme re-profiled accordingly.
- Note the 2025/26 outturn position for the Collection Fund.
- Note the 2025/26 outturn position for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).
- Note the 2025/26 outturn position for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

Reasons for recommendation(s)

To note the final financial outturn position for 2025/26 subject to external audit.

Alternative options considered and rejected

N/A

Report Author and Contact Details:

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Department: Strategy and Transformation Department
E-mail: N.Kissock@bury.gov.uk

Background

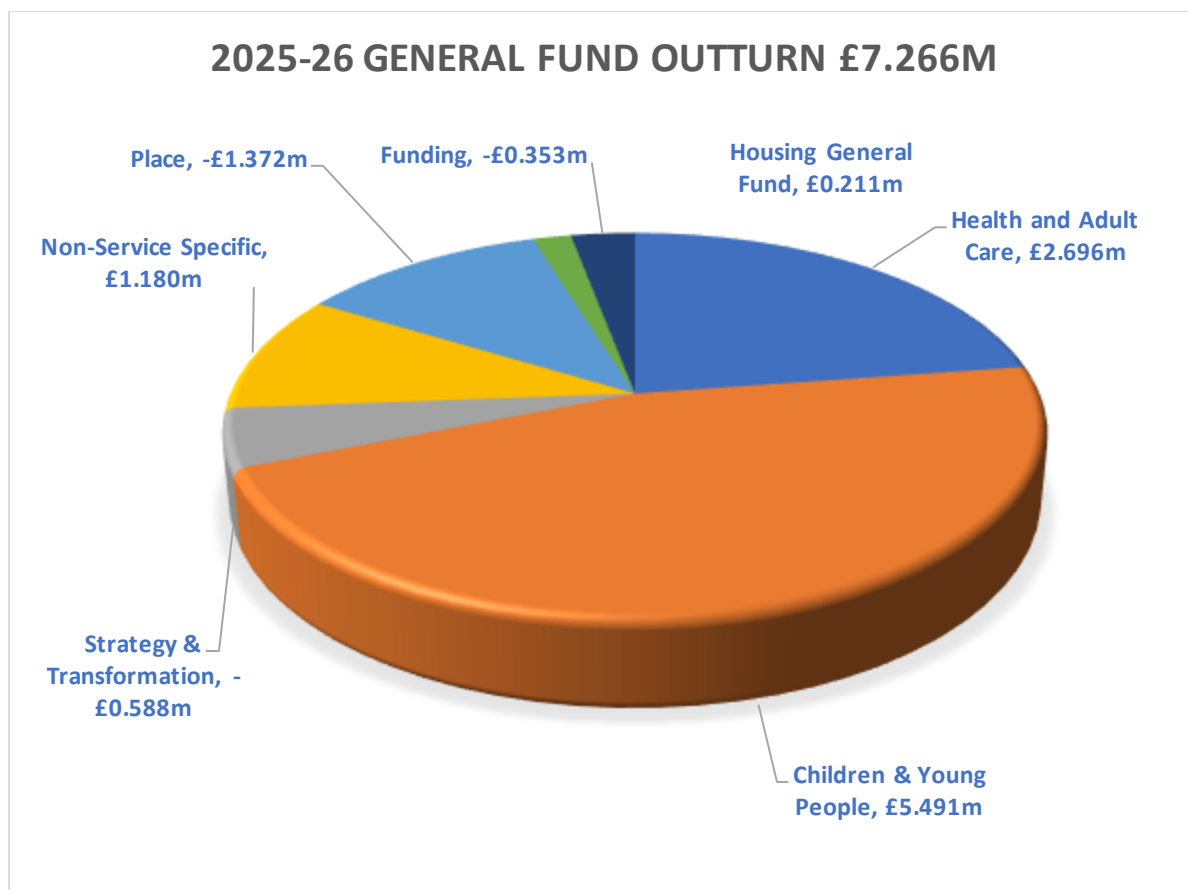
1. 2025/26 Revenue Outturn

1.1. The 2025/26 general fund revenue outturn position is an overspend of £7.266m, equivalent to 3.04% of the net revenue budget of £238.987m. This represents a favourable movement of £0.667m from the forecast at Quarter 3 reported to March Cabinet. The improvement reflects the impact of a number of cost control

measures, and overseen by the Finance Board, to reduce the forecast overspend. To neutralise the overspend an additional drawdown from reserves of £7.266m is required which is on top of the £5.858m funding from reserves originally agreed when setting the 2025/26 budget. This further reduces reserve levels and is not sustainable in the long term, however the drawdown is lower than had been factored into the projected reserves position reported in February which was based on the Q3 forecast overspend position.

Table 1: 2025/26 Revenue Outturn	Revised Budget £m	Actual £m	Variance £m
<u>Directorate:</u>			
Health and Adult Care	£98.892	£101.588	£2.696
Children & Young People	£65.494	£70.985	£5.491
Strategy & Transformation*	£30.082	£29.494	(£0.588)
Non-Service Specific	£29.294	£30.474	£1.180
Place	£15.304	£13.932	(£1.372)
Housing General Fund	(£0.079)	£0.132	£0.211
NET REVENUE BUDGET	£238.987	£246.606	£7.618
<u>Funding:</u>			
Council Tax	(£119.350)	(£119.350)	-
Business Rates	(£74.489)	(£74.027)	£0.462
Government Funding Grants	(£39.290)	(£40.105)	(£0.815)
FUNDING	(£233.129)	(£233.482)	(£0.353)
<u>Use of Reserves:</u>			
Budget Stabilisation Reserve	(£5.858)	(£5.858)	-
USE OF RESERVES	(£5.858)	(£5.858)	-
BUDGET POSITION	-	£7.266	£7.266

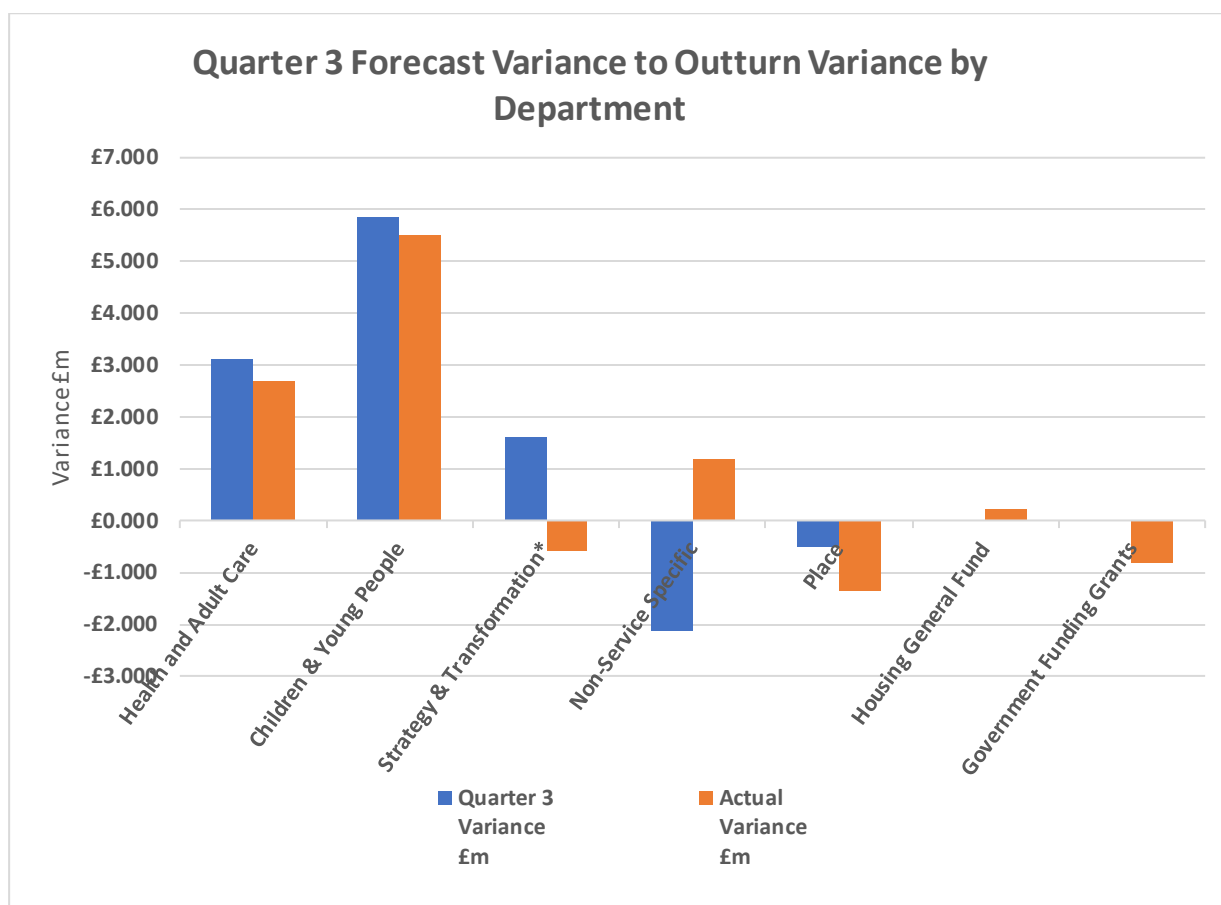
*per Leadership structure approved at Cabinet 9 July 2025, previously reported as Corporate Core Services



1.2. The quarterly forecast positions and the actual outturn position can be seen in Table 2 below:

Table 2: 2025-26 Quarterly Movements	Revised Budget £m	Quarter 1 Variance £m	Quarter 2 Variance £m	Quarter 3 Variance £m	Actual Variance £m	Movement from Quarter 3 £m
Department:						
Health and Adult Care	£98.892	£1.942	£1.706	£3.118	£2.696	(£0.422)
Children & Young People	£65.494	£3.017	£2.181	£5.849	£5.491	(£0.358)
Strategy & Transformation	£30.082	£0.747	£3.094	£1.600	(£0.588)	(£2.188)
Non-Service Specific	£29.294	(£1.557)	(£1.886)	(£2.120)	£1.180	£3.299
Place	£15.304	-	£0.766	(£0.516)	(£1.372)	(£0.856)
Housing General Fund	(£0.079)	-	-	-	£0.211	£0.211
Directorate Total	£238.987	£4.148	£5.861	£7.932	£7.618	(£0.314)
Funding:						
Council Tax	(£119.350)	-	-	-	-	-
Business Rates	(£74.489)	-	-	-	£0.462	£0.462

Government Funding Grants	(£39.290)	-	-	-	(£0.815)	(£0.815)
Funding	(£233.129)	-	-	-	(£0.353)	(£0.353)
<u>Use of Reserves:</u>						
Budget Stabilisation Reserve	(£5.858)	-	-	-	-	-
Reserves	(£5.858)	-	-	-	-	-
Total over / (under)spend	-	£4.148	£5.861	£7.932	£7.266	(£0.667)



Details of the significant variances include:

1.3. Health and Adult Care: £2.696m overspend, £0.422m favourable movement from Quarter 3

1.3.1. The 2025/26 outturn position for the Health and Adult Care (HAC) Directorate is an overspend of £2.696m (2.7%).

1.3.2. The **Care in the Community** budget overspent by £5.186m (8%), which is a £0.423m adverse movement from quarter 3. This movement is due to

lower than forecast income for shared care package costs with the NHS. The process for identifying and agreeing shared care package costs with the NHS will be reviewed during 2026/27.

1.3.3. The reported Care in the Community overspend includes mitigation totalling £0.800m through the one-off use of service-related reserves. Although this has reduced the overall overspend reported within this budget, this reliance on one-off funding does not address the underlying cost pressures.

1.3.4. The service settings driving the overspend are Supported Living, £4.367m, a favourable movement of £0.353m from quarter 3, Residential Nursing Care (£1.388m), an adverse movement of £0.537m from quarter 3 and Home Care (£1.345m) a favourable movement of £0.215m from quarter 3.

The service delivered £4.236m of savings in 2025/26, exceeding the approved savings target by £81k and mitigating against a larger overspend position.

1.3.5. The Impower review of Adults services identified £5m of potential savings across the adults social care services, which are reflected in the MTFs over the next 3 years 2026/27 to 2028/29. The work identified four main workstreams for strengthening our front doors, maximising independence, embedding strengths-based practice and driving outcomes. Work has taken place throughout the second half of 2025/26 to identify the specific projects which will enable delivery of the Impower savings.

1.3.6. The scale of this overspend, together with the recurring nature of care costs, presents a significant risk to the service's 2026/27 opening budget position. This will need to be mitigated in 2026/27, alongside ensuring the delivery of new savings.

1.3.7. The **Adult Social Care Operations** budget is underspent by £1.171m (12.7%) which is broadly in line with the underspend reported at quarter 3. The main drivers of the underspend are staffing vacancies within the following teams:

- Choices for Living Well
- Community Mental Health Team
- Integrated Neighbourhood Teams
- Assessment and Care Management Team
- Older People Mental Health Team
- Technology Enabled Care (TEC) Team

- 1.3.8. The ASC workforce retention strategy continues to recruit Social Workers in Operational teams thereby strengthening focus on delivery of care package savings. However, recruiting to vacant posts remains a challenge and therefore affects the ability to deliver services to their full capacity.
 - 1.3.9. The **Commissioning and Procurement** budget is underspent by £0.080m (0.8%), which is a £0.153m favourable movement from quarter 3. This is largely driven by staffing vacancies and additional recovery of underutilised client personal budgets offset by increased Carers Payment Activity and Mental Health Assessments in hospitals and care homes.
 - 1.3.10. The **Departmental Support Services** budget is overspent by £0.038m (1.6%) which is an adverse movement from quarter 3 linked to higher than forecast recharges for areas such as, legal and systems costs.
 - 1.3.11. The **Public Health** budget is underspent by £0.387m (3.4%), a favourable movement from quarter 3. This underspend is mainly due to staff vacancies and reduced demand activity on the NHS Health checks and GM Sexual Health contracts and one-off lower than budgeted inflation for 2025/26. The inflationary uplift will be required within the next financial year.
 - 1.3.12. The **Wellness** budget is underspent by £0.812m (30.6%) which is a favourable movement of £0.595m from quarter 3. The underspend is the net impact of the closure of the Radcliffe Leisure centre and staffing vacancies across the Leisure budget portfolio. This underspend will not continue into 2026/27 once the new Radcliffe Hub opens in 2026/27.
 - 1.3.13. **Arts and Museums** are underspent by £0.078m (13.2%) due to the closure of the Tourist Information Centre
- 1.4. **Children and Young People: £5.491m overspend, £0.358m favourable movement from Quarter 3**
- 1.4.1. The 2025/26 outturn position for the Children's and Young People Directorate is an overspend of £5.491m (8.4%).
 - 1.4.2. **Children's residential placements** including Children with Disabilities overspent by £4.897m (33.7%). This was predominantly in relation to both demand increases and price and inflationary increases on average costs budgeted for 2025/26.
 - 1.4.3. During the latter half of the year, there have been clear signs of the Family Safeguarding model beginning to embed with a reduction in the number of child protection plans and a sustained low number of children entering

care. The impact of Keeping Families Together (Edge of Care), enhanced therapeutic support for children in care and investment in the Children's Commissioning team has also been felt, with fewer teenagers entering care, a significant slow down in the number of children entering residential care, strong long-term stability in the homes for children in long-term care and a reducing average cost of homes for children new to residential care. The cumulative impact of these budget initiatives, stronger social work planning and practice, and wider options for step down, such as the Reconnect, reduced the number of children in residential care by 10% in the final quarter of 2025/26, avoiding costs of £1.5m in this financial year. This trend is planned to continue into 2026/27, with a forecast further £1m reduction in costs in quarter 1 of financial year 2026/27.

- 1.4.4. A total of £5.984m has been included in the 2026/27 budget to meet increases in demand and inflation, offset by new savings targets of £4.711m. It is anticipated that it will be a challenge to achieve the total savings target in year due to some of the savings related projects not fully in place, however the directorate are aiming to get the spends in this area and other placements in line with budget. The service acknowledges the risk and the area will be subject to detailed intensive oversight as part of the monthly monitoring process overseen by the Finance Board in line with the materiality, complexity and volatility along with unpredictability at times mixed with the external market pressures inherent in this budget area.
- 1.4.5. The service will continue to mitigate wherever possible these risks with rigorous monitoring frameworks with proactive placement reviews and planning supported by the agreed increase in commissioning resource as it recognises it as being one of the continuing highest revenue risks to the council.
- 1.4.6. **Independent Fostering Agency placements** overspent by £0.478m (11.3%). This is due to the average number of placements being around 9 higher, 87, than the 78 budgeted for in 2025/26 as a consequence of placements moving from residential placement settings. While this has resulted in an overspend against the IFA budget, it represents a positive outcome overall as it has helped mitigate greater cost pressures within residential placements.
- 1.4.7. The budget hasn't increased significantly for 2026/27 due to historic savings so the service will look to manage this alongside the Residential placement reviews and monitoring and align budgets alongside their sufficiency and modelling projections.
- 1.4.8. **In-house fostering, friends & family and Staying Put** placements have reported a pressure of £0.410m (10.8%). Overall, this is due to price increases and one-off costs over and above budgeted levels.

- 1.4.9. The 2026/27 budget includes an additional £0.372m for contractual inflation to support coming in on budget in 2026/27 whilst monitoring regional and national fostering developments and potential budget implications.
- 1.4.10. **Legal services** required for children and young people and their families have reported significant growth in demand during 2025/26 and this has led to a reported pressure of £0.844m (106.4%).
- 1.4.11. The 2026/27 budget includes growth of £0.404m. Legacy and current demands are being worked through coupled with increased scrutiny of the type and number of legal services required through joint working across directorates to enable this area to come back in on budget for 2026/27.
- 1.4.12. **The Education and Inclusion service** has reported an underspend of £0.491m (3.9%) predominantly from vacant posts and optimisation of grants and fees and charges.
- 1.4.13. **The Adoption service** is reporting a £0.337m underspend (25.7%) due to a reduction in the number of placements which follows the national trend of reducing adoptions placements, and respective allowances paid out. This includes the financial contribution to our lead partner authority, Bolton. This budget is being reviewed in 2026/27 with a view to adjusting in line with the forecast position.
- 1.4.14. **The Home to School transport** service reported a £0.094m (1.8%) overspend, a £0.396m favourable movement from quarter 3. There is a trend of increasing demand for the service, however the position has improved as the demand increase was lower than previously forecast.
- 1.5. **Strategy & Transformation (previously reported as Corporate Core Services) : £0.588m underspend, £2.188m favourable movement from Quarter 3**
- 1.5.1. The Strategy and Transformation Directorate is reporting an underspend of £0.588m (1.9%), which is a £2.188m favourable movement from quarter 3.
- 1.5.2. **Legal & Democratic Services** has an underspend of £0.515m (8.8%) a £0.018m favourable movement quarter 3. This is due to:
- The Elections & Governance service underspent by £0.291m due to 2025/26 being a fallow year with no local elections other than by-elections.

- Legal Services Coroners underspent by £0.250m in part due to the pathological scanning service coming online and showing cost reductions.
- 1.5.3. **The Strategy & Transformation Executive Director** service has underspent by £0.474m (6.2%) a £0.393m favourable movement from quarter 3 due to:
- Data Digital and Technology service have underspent by £0.354m (£0.346m favourable movement from quarter 3) mainly due to staffing underspends.
 - Emergency Response and Resilience underspent by £0.109m as a result of additional income generation, a favourable movement of £0.040m from quarter 3.
- 1.5.4. The **People and Inclusion service** have overspent by £0.388m, broadly in line with the quarter 3 position due to:
- £0.210m overspend on staffing costs
 - £0.149m underachievement of income, of which £0.181m is in relation to a reduction in education buy back as more schools becoming academies.
- 1.5.5. The **Housing Needs and Options** service has overspent by £0.184m, a £0.462m favourable movement from quarter 3. The overspend is in relation to additional overnight accommodation costs, offset by increased grant receipts of £0.531m. Whilst overnight accommodation has experienced and overspend due to rising demand, (increased from 200 in April to 236) the overspend would have been greater without proactive management by the service. The position has been partially mitigated through successful move on activity with 18 clients transitioning into Huntley House following its opening in October, helping to reduce ongoing cost pressures.
- 1.5.6. The **Health & Environment** service have underspent by £0.181m, a £0.182m adverse movement from quarter 3. The underspend mainly relates to staffing.
- 1.5.7. The **Finance** budget has underspent by £0.043m, a £1.436m favourable movement from quarter 3. The positive movement is a result of several large offsetting variances, these are:
- Revenue and Benefits service have overspent by £0.603m, a favourable movement of £0.013m from quarter 3. The overspend is in relation to £0.354m one-off severance costs as a result of

implementation of the approved restructure, £0.281m in relation to postage costs and other minor offsetting variances.

- Insurance costs have a one-off underspend of £0.633m, a favourable movement of £1.996m from quarter 3. The favourable movement is a result of changes to levels of insurance reserves and provisions following the actuarial report. The procurement and contract award for insurance premiums was not finalised until after the 2025/26 budget was set and this has been reflected in the 2026/27 budget.
- The Finance (accountancy) service is overspending due to the reliance on agency staff; however, the restructure is in the process of being populated and is beginning to reduce the reliance on agency staff. This is offset by additional general fund receipts in relation to the Collection Fund.

1.6. Non-Service Specific: £1.180m overspend, £3.299m adverse movement from Quarter 3

- 1.6.1. A total of £2.160m of unachieved service wide savings are sat within NSS, the largest being £1.610m relating to Integration of Housing services which will remain a pressure in 2026/27 if no actions are taken. The Integration of Housing saving is the balance remaining from a total £3m savings target which was agreed as £1m in February 2023 and a further £2m in February 2025. This saving has been partially achieved by reviewing and increasing the legitimate costs chargeable to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). Work will continue to look at wider integration efficiencies to deliver the unachieved £1.610m.
- 1.6.2. Work on contract savings has seen significant progress, with the part year effect in 2025/26 being £0.100m, however it is anticipated that this will rise to £1.000m in 2026/27. The remaining balance of savings have been distributed to departments for 2026/27 financial year
- 1.6.3. There is an underspend of £1.602m in relation to cost of borrowing primarily related to lower than anticipated borrowing being undertaken through the re-phasing of, and subsequent slippage on, the capital programme alongside increased returns on investments.
- 1.6.4. Banking charges linked to income collection along with other minor variances have resulted in an overspend of £0.432m.

1.7. Place: £1.372m underspend, £0.856m favourable movement from Quarter 3

- 1.7.1. The Place Directorate has an overall budget of £15.304m for 2025/26 and is reporting an underspend of £1.372m (8.9%), a £0.856m favourable movement from quarter 3.

Significant items to note:

- 1.7.2. Most services are reporting a favourable variance to budget; this is despite rising costs especially in construction and fuel and reflects the fact that several services are reporting more income than budgeted.
- 1.7.3. In contrast some capital recharges are lower than expected due to slippage in the programme and external resource being used directly on the projects in place of internal staff where vacancies couldn't be filled expediently.
- 1.7.4. The services which are reporting over budget are:
- Strategic Planning & Development Management has a net overspend of £0.185m in relation to increased recharges from other departments offset by increased income from planning fees.
 - Senior Management is £0.143m overspent due to the previous AD of Operations remaining in post longer than originally anticipated.
 - Waste, Transport services and Stores is £0.449m overspent due to higher than budgeted employee costs which will be addressed where possible in 2026/27.
- 1.7.5. Savings targets relating to vacancy factors have not been achieved in some of the services due to the nature of the services and the demographic of the staffing cohort, the savings have been met by other operational efficiencies within each service and the increased income generated.

Outlook

- 1.8. Whilst demand and inflationary pressures across council services have been built into the MTFs and 2026/27 budget, they were based on the information available at the time. As such there are both potential risks, and opportunities, relating to income and demand fluctuations varying from the current assumptions. Work is being undertaken over the summer to carry out a review of all budgets, in part informed by the outturn position, to identify savings to address the current c£21m forecast funding gap over the life of the current MTFs through to 2028/29. This process will assess and identify areas of opportunity to reduce budgets alongside linking budgets to the strategic aims, objective and priorities of the Council.

2. Savings

2.1. The Council's savings programme for 2026/27 totalled £11.334m, of which £7.729 (68.19%) has been delivered, a £1.094m adverse movement from quarter 3. The main reason for the underachievement is delayed implementation of restructures and other activities required to enable delivery of the agreed savings. Work has been undertaken by the Finance Board to reduce and mitigate the in-year financial impact.

2.2. There is a shortfall in delivery of £3.605m, comprising £1.651m within Children and Young People services and £2.160m within Non-Service Specific budgets. It is currently anticipated that the majority of these savings will be delivered in 2026/27. The primary area of concern is the £1.610m under-delivery of the approved Housing Integration saving which is being reviewed to determine what can be delivered in 2026/27 to offset the resulting budget pressure.

Table 3: 2025/26 Budget Proposals	Directorate	Feb 2025 Target	Outturn	Variance
		£m	£m	£m
HAC Strategic Workforce Review	HAC	(£0.010)	(£0.010)	-
Adults Commissioning Review	HAC	(£1.000)	(£1.213)	(£0.213)
Single Handed Care Trial	HAC	(£0.200)	(£0.100)	£0.100
Personal Budget Review	HAC	(£0.250)	(£0.448)	(£0.198)
Direct Payment Reassessment to Include Therapy	HAC	(£0.050)	(£0.050)	-
Discharge to Assess Reviews by Therapy	HAC	(£0.050)	(£0.050)	-
Neighbourhood Housing Support	HAC	(£0.050)	(£0.050)	-
ASC Community Care budget realignment	HAC	(£1.680)	(£1.328)	£0.352
Dividend income from Persona - one-off in 25/26	HAC	(£0.350)	(£0.350)	-
Persona - remodel of supported living hours	HAC	(£0.330)	(£0.325)	£0.005
Maximising charges for Deferred Payments	HAC	(£0.005)	(£0.001)	£0.004
Saving Already Agreed - Development of Wider Learning Disabilities Strategy for Age 14-25 Cohort	HAC	(£0.180)	(£0.311)	(£0.131)
Subtotal Health and Adult Care		(£4.155)	(£4.236)	(£0.081)
Foster Carers	CYP	(£0.250)	(£0.070)	£0.180
Family Safeguarding Model	CYP	(£0.100)	-	£0.100
Edge of Care	CYP	(£0.494)	-	£0.494
Therapeutic support team for Children in Care	CYP	(£0.195)	-	£0.195
Reconnect - step down from residential care	CYP	(£0.571)	(£0.395)	£0.176
Progressing the Edge of Care Service Review	CYP	(£0.506)	-	£0.506
Subtotal Children and Young People		(£2.116)	(£0.465)	£1.651
CCS Strategic Workforce Review	CCS	(£0.186)	(£0.186)	-
IT Supplier Review [Digital]	CCS	(£0.065)	(£0.065)	-
IT licence Review [Digital]	CCS	(£0.050)	(£0.050)	-
Unit 4 Reimplementation & Transformation Review	CCS	(£0.100)	-	£0.100
Revenues and Benefits Structure Review	CCS	(£0.317)	(£0.317)	-
Contact Centre Review [Digital]	CCS	(£0.100)	(£0.100)	-

Corporate Core Structures including homelessness and housing options review and integration of communities	CCS	(£0.328)	(£0.328)	-
Private Sector Housing - Capitalise salaries	CCS	(£0.100)	(£0.100)	-
Public Protection / Licensing Budget Realignment	CCS	(£0.016)	(£0.016)	-
Private Sector Rented - Enforcement HMO Licensing	CCS	(£0.005)	(£0.005)	-
Service Reviews within the Corporate Core	CCS	(£0.388)	(£0.388)	-
Subtotal Strategy & Transformation		(£1.655)	(£1.555)	£0.100
BGI Strategic Workforce Review	PLACE	(£0.062)	(£0.062)	-
OPS Strategic Workforce Review	PLACE	(£0.145)	(£0.145)	-
Fleet Function Review	PLACE	(£0.070)	-	£0.070
Car Park Tariff Review	PLACE	(£0.074)	(£0.218)	(£0.144)
Explore Advertising opportunities on highway network	PLACE	(£0.050)	(£0.050)	-
Car Park Charges Review	PLACE	(£0.055)	(£0.053)	£0.002
Review Residents Permits pricing structure	PLACE	(£0.145)	(£0.148)	(£0.003)
Subtotal Place		(£0.601)	(£0.676)	(£0.075)
Salary Sacrifice Review	NSS	(£0.050)	(£0.050)	£0.000
Organisation Delivery Model Review	NSS	(£0.257)	(£0.257)	-
Contract Efficiencies	NSS	(£0.500)	(£0.100)	£0.400
Integration of Housing	NSS	(£2.000)	(£0.390)	£1.610
Subtotal Non-Service Specific		(£2.807)	(£0.796)	£2.010
TOTAL APPROVED PROPOSALS		(£11.334)	(£7.729)	£3.605

3. Reserves

- 3.1. The table below shows the balance on reserves as at 31 March 2025 of £63.615m compared to the year-end balance as at 31 March 2026 of £44.106m. This represents a decrease of £19.509m, equating to a 30.7% reduction in reserves.
- 3.2. This level of reduction presents a significant financial risk and is not sustainable. The significant use of reserves to support the revenue budget over recent years reflects the underlying and ongoing budget pressures which need to be addressed through the identification and delivery of additional savings that will enable a balanced budget. If this trend were to continue, it would reduce the level of reserves available to manage future financial risks and uncertainties. It is therefore important that future budget gaps are addressed through sustainable measures, to reduce reliance on further drawdown of reserves and maintain an appropriate level of financial resilience.
- 3.3. The significant movements include:
- Budget Stabilisation which includes the budgeted use of £5.858m to balance the 2025/26 budget and the unplanned use of £7.266m to neutralise the in-year overspend.

- Insurance Reserve reduced by £2.920m in relation to a combination of settlement of claims and rebalancing the position on reserves and provisions as advised by the actuary.
- DSG Risk Reserve utilisation in line with Project Safety Valve agreement.
- Directorate Reserves have reduced by £1.238m for planned activities and to mitigate pressures in services.

Table 4: General Fund Reserves			Balance at 31 March 2025 £m	Balance at 31 March 2026 £m	Variance £m
General Fund			(£10.000)	(£10.000)	-
Directorate Reserves			(£4.013)	(£2.775)	£1.238
Corporate Reserves	Investment	Invest to Save	(£1.958)	(£1.974)	(£0.016)
Corporate Reserves	Investment	Regeneration	(£0.020)	(£0.001)	£0.019
Corporate Reserves	Investment	Transformation	(£0.838)	(£0.838)	-
Corporate Reserves	Risk	Insurance	(£4.905)	(£1.985)	£2.920
Corporate Reserves	Risk	DSG	(£6.000)	(£4.000)	£2.000
Corporate Reserves	Stabilisation	Net Budget	(£25.638)	(£15.599)	£10.039
Corporate Reserves	Stabilisation	Funding	(£1.542)	(£1.542)	-
Corporate Reserves			(£40.901)	(£25.939)	£14.962
External Funding			(£8.701)	(£5.392)	£3.309
Total General Fund Reserves			(£63.615)	(£44.106)	£19.509

3.4. In accordance with statutory regulations and CIPFA Guidance, the levels of balances and reserves were reviewed during the 2026/27 budget process to ensure that they are currently sufficient, and that they will remain adequate over the medium-term. However, the continuing use of reserves to balance the budget presents an unsustainable position and, as such, the Council continues to work to reduce the reliance on the use of reserves and to stabilise the Council's finances over the medium-term. A detailed review of reserves was presented to Council in February 2026.

3.5. As part of the 2026/27 budget setting process, £3.977m will be drawn from the Budget Stabilisation Reserve, resulting in a projected balance of £11.622m as at 31 March 2027. While this supports the 2026/27 position, the remaining balance is low when set against the forecast funding gap of £13.898m for 2027/28. This reinforces the need to deliver planned savings in full and to identify additional savings to mitigate the budget gap. Additionally, this position is based on the assumption that the 2026/27 financial year is delivered within budget with no further draw on reserves and that no additional demand or

inflationary pressures arise as Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) assumptions are refreshed.

4. 2025/26 Capital Outturn

4.1. The Council approved a three-year capital programme for 2025/26 to 2027/28 in February 2025, as follows:

- 2025/26 £133.255m
- 2026/27 £49.223m
- 2027/28 £25.538m

4.2. Following the addition of £19.360m of slippage from 2024/25, the revised capital programme for 2025/26 increased to £152.615m. As part of the Council's regular budget monitoring, the programme was updated and reported to Cabinet during the year to reflect an assessment of deliverability. By Quarter 3, the programme had been revised to £119.614m.

4.3. Table 5 below shows that total expenditure at outturn to be £100.413m which equates to 84% of the revised capital programme total of £119.615m. This results in an overall underspend of £19.201m.

Of this:

- £17.336m is proposed to initially be carried forward (slippage) into 2026/27 to support ongoing schemes subject to a review of the assessment of what can be delivered in 2026/27.
- £0.993m relates primarily to schemes approved in principle that have not progressed and will not be carried forward.
- £0.872m of Housing HRA schemes that will not be carried forward, reflecting savings and changes in programme delivery.

Table 5	2025/26 Revised Programme	Actual Spend at Outturn	Actual Spend at Outturn	(Under) / Over spend at Outturn	Proposed Slippage to 2026/27
	£m	£m	%	£m	£m
Capital Expenditure by Theme					
Regeneration and Economic Growth	£53.671	£48.616	91%	(£5.055)	£5.098 *
Highways	£16.046	£13.539	84%	(£2.507)	£2.507
Open Spaces / Sports and Leisure	£3.175	£1.553	49%	(£1.622)	£0.346
Children and Young People	£8.742	£6.936	79%	(£1.807)	£1.807
Property	£5.524	£2.656	48%	(£2.868)	£1.310
Housing GF	£3.281	£2.351	72%	(£0.929)	£0.822
Climate Change	£0.062	£0.016	25%	(£0.047)	£0.047

ICT and Digital	£3.394	£2.573	76%	(£0.821)	£0.409
New Bids	£0.270	-	0%	(£0.270)	-
Approved in Principle	£0.450	-	0%	(£0.450)	£0.037
Capital Receipts Flexibility	-	£3.000	n/a	£3.000	-
TOTAL GF EXPENDITURE	£94.614	£81.240	86%	(£13.375)	£12.382
Housing HRA	£25.000	£19.174	77%	(£5.826)	£4.954
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£119.614	£100.413	84%	(£19.201)	£17.336
Financing the Capital Programme:					
Prudential Borrowing	£55.487	£43.130	78%	(£13.457)	£7.770
External Funding	£36.291	£32.020	88%	(£4.271)	£3.855
Capital Receipts	£2.747	£5.880	214%	£4.233	£0.708
General Fund Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay	£0.089	£0.210	235%	£0.120	£0.050
Subtotal GF Financing	£94.614	£81.240	86%	(£13.375)	£12.382
Prudential Borrowing HRA	£10.715	£6.119	79%	(£4.596)	£4.596
External Funding HRA	£2.330	£1.308	42%	(£1.022)	£0.150
Capital Receipts HRA	£2.967	£3.674	62%	£0.708	(£0.707)
Housing Revenue Account DRF/MRR	£8.988	£8.072	98%	(£0.916)	£0.916
Subtotal for HRA Financing	£25.000	£19.174	77%	(£5.826)	£4.955
Total Financing Employed	£119.614	£100.413	84%	(£19.201)	£17.336

**£5.098m of proposed slippage into 2026/27 contains £0.043m of UKSPF (shared prosperity fund) grant for which the grants conditions were not fully met at the end of the year meaning the grant could not be claimed in-year. This amount will be received in the new year, upon submission of achieved outputs.*

4.4. The Council's capital expenditure for the year totals £100.413m and has delivered the following:

- £48.616m of ongoing Regeneration projects; the three major projects contributing directly to the regeneration of the borough are at a near- completion stage: Radcliffe Hub, Bury Flexi Hall and the Prestwich Travel Hub.
- £21.525m on Housing, including £19.174m on the Council Housing Stock, £0.235m on new housing development planning, and £2.117m for Disabled Facilities Grants.
- £13.539m of which £10.743m for Highways maintenance on carriage, pavements, structures, street lighting, traffic management and road safety and £2.796m of grant supported Active Travel Schemes and Streets for All.
- £1.553m on Sports and Leisure, new 3G football pitches, improvements to open spaces and cemeteries.
- £6.936m on Schools, condition, modernisation, basic need provision as well as high needs provision.
- £2.656m of Property schemes, including contributions to our partners toward shared services to reduce Council expenditure in the long-term and Outwood Viaduct restoration, Town Hall redevelopment, replacement of waste disposal vehicles and refurbishment of Ramsbottom Library.

- £2.573m improving and renewing Digital Communication technologies the Council employs to deliver its services and transformation of the main financial enterprise resource planning system.
 - £3.000m of capital receipts from disposal of assets supported the revenue budget for the year, by employing the Government's direction on the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts starting from April 2025 and applicable to the financial years to March 2030.
- 4.5. The capital expenditure programme reported an underspend of £19.201m, of which the main variances are:
- £5.826m on the HRA Capital Programme – see Section 6 for further detail.
 - £1.807m from Schools grant allocations.
 - £0.479m on Radcliffe Regeneration, the Hub and Enterprise Centre.
 - £0.643m on Bury Regeneration, the Flexi Hall.
 - £3.933m on Prestwich Village Regeneration including the Travel Hub scheme.
 - £2.507m on Highways Planned Maintenance Programme, including Structures, Street Lighting and Traffic Management schemes, Active Travel schemes. This variance is due to the limitations of several major infrastructure improvements currently being undertaken which impacts on the ability to carry out the scheduled resurfacing operations, and restricted capacity within the team. A restructure is being undertaken to address the resource issue, and this should see improved capacity in 2026/27 (part year) and 2027/28.
 - £0.822m on the Housing private sector for Disabled Facilities Grants.
 - £0.214m on Leisure, Open Spaces and other regeneration schemes.
 - £0.239m on Property, Bury Art Gallery and Museum.
- 4.6. The majority of the variances relate to committed schemes and are reporting an underspend due to timing delays and programme reprofiling, rather than savings. As such, funding is required to be carried forward into 2026/27 to ensure successful delivery in the following financial year. It is proposed that £17.336m of the underspend in 2025/26 is approved as slippage and carried forward into 2026/27.
- 4.7. The slippage has been caused by several factors, mostly outside the Council's control, including delays in procurement and contract awards. Additionally, unexpected issues being identified during both design and construction phases which have delayed the delivery of some schemes and recruitment challenges which impacted on capacity to deliver.
- 4.8. The remainder of the resources that will not be carried forward relate to 'Approved in Principle' schemes for 2025/26, that during the year have not managed to secure an approved business case or are included in the 2026/27 capital programme as new schemes.
- 4.9. The slippage of £17.336m will increase the 2026/27 Capital Programme from £110.212m approved by Council in February 2026, to a proposed £127.548m.

This budget will include an overall borrowing requirement for general fund and HRA of £53.201m.

4.10. The deliverability of the 2026/27 capital programme will be assessed early in the new financial year and reported throughout the year to Cabinet in the Quarterly Corporate reports. The initial impact of the carry forward is set out in table 6 below.

Table 6			
Capital Expenditure by Theme	2026/27 Capital Programme approved Feb 26 £m	2025/26 proposed slippage to 2026/27 £m	2026/27 Revised Capital Programme £m
Regeneration and Housing	£19.295	£5.920	£25.215
Schools	£18.656	£1.807	£20.463
Highways	£26.195	£2.507	£28.702
Environmental & Communities Projects	£3.007	£0.430	£3.437
Corporate Property & Estates	£5.957	£1.310	£7.267
Transport Fleet Management	£0.500	-	£0.500
ICT & Digital Transformation	£1.500	-	£1.500
Organisation Redesign & Transformation	£3.840	£0.409	£4.249
Subtotal GF Expenditure	£78.951	£12.382	£91.333
Subtotal Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Expenditure	£31.261	£4.954	£36.915
Total Council Expenditure	£110.212	£17.336	£127.548
Financing the Capital Programme			
Prudential Borrowing	£30.361	£7.770	£38.131
External Funding	£48.590	£3.855	£52.444
Capital Receipts	-	£0.708	£0.708
General Fund RCCO	-	£0.050	£0.050
Subtotal GF financing	£78.951	£12.382	£91.334
Prudential Borrowing HRA	£10.474	£4.596	£15.070
External Funding HRA	-	£0.150	£0.150
Capital Receipts HRA	£3.120	(£0.708)	£2.412
Housing Revenue Account DRF/MRR	£17.667	£0.916	£18.583
Subtotal HRA Financing	£31.261	£4.954	£36.215
Total Financing	£110.212	£17.336	£127.548

5. 2025/26 Collection Fund Outturn

5.1. The increasing prominence of council tax and business rates funding council services means that the collection fund is closely monitored on an ongoing basis. The outturn position on the collection fund is an in-year deficit of £2.908m,

with a residual surplus brought forward from 2024/25 of £0.684m (this is the difference between the statutory estimated deficit as at 15 January 2025 and the outturn position). This brings the overall forecast to a net deficit of £2.223m. The Council's share of the deficit is £1.793m and Greater Manchester Combined Authority's share is £0.430m (for police and fire and rescue services).

5.2. The proportionate shares for Business Rates and Council Tax mean that Greater Manchester Combined Authority have a 1% share of Business Rates and a 16.5% share of Council Tax, whereas the Council have a 99% share of Business Rates and 83.5% share of Council Tax.

5.3. The main movements which are resulting in the deficit position of £2.223m (Bury share £1.793m) are shown below.

Table 7: 2025/26 Surplus/(Deficit) on Collection Fund	Council Tax £m	NNDR £m	TOTAL £m
2024/25 Surplus/(Deficit) Balance b/f	£0.918	(£0.233)	£0.684
2025/26			
Income	£142.549	£51.041	£193.590
Contributions towards Previous Year's Deficit:			
Bury MBC	-	£0.268	£0.268
Police and Crime Commissioner	-		-
General Mayoral - Fire and Rescue Service	-	£0.003	£0.003
Total Income	£142.549	£51.312	£193.861
Precepts and Demands on Collection Fund:			
Bury MBC	(£118.296)	(£49.803)	(£168.098)
Police and Crime Commissioner	(£15.866)		(£15.866)
General Mayoral - Fire and Rescue Service	(£7.569)	(£0.503)	(£8.072)
Disregards: Renewable Energy		-	-
Cost of Collection		(£0.235)	(£0.235)
Transitional Protection Payments		£0.040	£0.040
Impairment of Debts/Appeals:			
Write-offs of Uncollectable Amounts	(£0.034)	(£0.226)	(£0.259)
(Increase)/Decrease in the Allowance for Impairment of Arrears	(£2.928)	(£0.431)	(£3.359)
(Increase)/Decrease in the Allowance for Impairment of Appeals		£0.338	£0.338

Contributions towards Previous Year's Surplus:			
Bury MBC	(£1.054)	-	(£1.054)
Police and Crime Commissioner	(£0.141)		(£0.141)
General Mayoral - Fire and Rescue Service	(£0.062)	-	(£0.062)
Total Expenditure	(£145.949)	(£50.819)	(£196.769)
2025/26 In-Year Surplus/(Deficit)	(£3.401)	£0.493	(£2.908)
Surplus/(Deficit) as at 31.03.2026	(£2.483)	£0.260	(£2.223)

Share of the 2025/26 Surplus/(Deficit)	Council Tax £m	NNDR £m	TOTAL £m
Bury MBC	(£2.050)	£0.257	(£1.793)
Police and Crime Commissioner	(£0.277)		(£0.277)
General Mayoral - Fire and Rescue Service	(£0.156)	£0.003	(£0.153)
Surplus/(Deficit) as at 31.03.2026	(£2.483)	£0.260	(£2.223)

5.4. The £2.223m deficit on the collection fund mainly reflects an increased contribution to the bad debt provision, driven by an increase in Council Tax arrears. The Council is continuing to take action to reduce arrears across both Council Tax and Business Rates.

5.5. Alongside the increase in arrears, the in-year collection rate for Council Tax (95.26%) was below the budgeted collection rate (97.50%), a shortfall of 2.24%. This is largely due to the cost-of-living pressures affecting residents. The trend for collection over the past 8 years can be seen below. It is important to note that collection was impacted during and in the period after the COVID pandemic due to the prevailing economic conditions.

Table 8: Collection Rates	Council Tax %	NNDR %
2025/26 Actual collection rate	95.26	96.87
2025/26 Target collection rate	97.50	96.00
2024/25	95.59	96.55
2023/24	95.25	93.88
2022/23	94.99	92.73
2021/22	95.77	93.73
2020/21	96.01	87.63
2019/20	96.39	95.37
2018/19	96.49	96.23

2017/18	96.62	96.04
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5.6. Despite the in-year collection rate being below the budgeted rate, the Council's recent performance compares favourably with regional trend, with a net improvement in Council Tax collection rates over the last three years and a strong increase in Business Rates over the same period.

6. Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Outturn position

6.1. The table below illustrates the 2025/26 outturn position on the HRA. An in-year contribution to the HRA reserve of £3.790m had been budgeted; however, due to in-year pressures, the final contribution was £3.114m, resulting in a shortfall of £0.676m. This represents a favourable movement of £1.476m from quarter 3.

Table 9: HRA Income and Expenditure Statement	2025/26	2025/26		
	Revised Budget (Q04)	Outturn		
		Actual	Variance	
HRA INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT	£m	£m	£m	%
INCOME				
Dwelling Rents	(£36.731)	(£37.055)	(£0.324)	1%
Non-dwelling Rents	(£0.209)	(£0.192)	£0.017	8%
Other Charges for Services and Facilities	(£1.276)	(£1.074)	£0.202	16%
Contributions Towards Expenditure	(£0.100)	(£0.025)	£0.075	75%
Total Income	(£38.316)	(£38.346)	(£0.030)	0.1%
EXPENDITURE				
Repairs and Maintenance	£8.648	£10.440	£1.792	21%
Supervision and Management	£11.921	£10.966	(£0.955)	8%
Special Services	£1.444	£1.312	(£0.132)	9%
Rents, Rates, Taxes, and Other Charges	£0.200	£0.106	(£0.094)	47%
Depreciation of Non-Current Assets	£7.330	£8.072	£0.742	10%
Debt Management Expenses	£0.045	£0.012	(£0.033)	73%
Movement in Provision for Bad Debts	£0.584	£0.098	(£0.486)	83%
Total Expenditure	£30.172	£31.006	£0.834	3%
HRA Services' Share of Corporate and Democratic Core	£0.400	£0.384	£0.016	4%
Net Income or Expenditure of HRA Services	(£7.744)	(£6.956)	£0.788	90%
Interest Payable and Similar Charges	£4.695	£4.633	(£0.062)	1%
Interest and investment income	(£0.950)	(£0.896)	£0.054	6%

(Surplus) or Deficit for the Year on HRA Services	(£3.999)	(£3.219)	£0.780	20%
Appropriations				
Reversal of Depreciation	(£7.330)	(£8.072)	(£0.084)	
Transfer to the Major Repairs Reserve	£7.330	£8.072	£0.084	
Repayment of Arranged Loans	£0.209	£0.105	(£0.104)	50%
Capital Expenditure Funded by the HRA	-	-	-	0%
Total Appropriations	£0.209	£0.105	(£0.104)	50%
Total HRA	(£3.790)	(£3.114)	£0.676	18%

6.2. The overall shortfall of £0.676m arises from a range of variances, including:

- 6.2.1. Service Charge Income reported a £0.202m (15.8%) under-recovery, which is broadly in line with previous forecasts. The main reason for the pressure is that the budget for service charges, particularly those related to Sheltered Accommodation, was found to be over-stated. This has been reflected within Housing Services Improvement and Service Plans, acknowledging the need to gain more confidence in existing service charges, and then to move on to assess whether we are raising charges for all of the areas that we could or should.
- 6.2.2. Dwelling Rents Income has overachieved by £0.324m (0.88%), which is a slight reduction from the reported quarter 3 position. Very small changes in timings of Right to Buy sales could have impacted on income, however overall improvement against £36.731m budget was just 0.88%, so within a reasonable tolerance.
- 6.2.3. Repairs and Maintenance has an overspend of £1.792m (20.72%), an adverse movement £1.282m from quarter 3. This reflects both increased service demands and rising costs. The main reasons for the increased overspend are:
- Disrepairs – there has been a national trend of increasing numbers of disrepair claims being made. The final overspend increased to £0.399m (349%), from a previously reported position at quarter 3 of broadly on budget. This reflects a combination of increased legal costs, compensation payments and professional fees.
 - There was a net overspend of £0.288m (14.87%) across staffing and agency budgets, after recharges to capital. Agency costs were incurred to cover a significant level of vacancies across the establishment in a number of different trade specialisms.
 - The major additional costs related to the significant increased usage of specialist sub-contractors across the service, which resulted in a £2.466m (79.10%) overspend, again often the additional resources were used to cover gaps in resources, or the need for specialist provision.

- Stores and Material Costs – across all aspects of Repairs, total expenditure on stores and materials costs was £0.962m (44.62%) below budget, undoubtedly a factor of the reduced levels of established staff, and the increased use of specialist sub-contractors.
- 6.2.4. Supervision and Management underspent by £0.955m (8.01%), a significant favourable movement of £1.300m from the reported quarter 3 position. The main variances are:
- Consultancy costs underspent £0.219m (85.88%), a significant increase from the quarter 3 reported position of on budget.
 - Agency Costs - £0.075m underspend.
 - Central Support Recharges – following a major review and revision of existing charges, which was completed at the latter part of the financial year, a significant in-year underspend of £0.543m (7.65%) was realised.
- 6.2.5. Special Services have underspent by £0.131m, (9.11%) a £0.347m favourable movement from quarter 3, made up of several minor variances and an underspend in agency costs totalling £0.105m.
- 6.2.6. The Allowance for Bad debts recorded an underspend of £0.486m (83.21%). This largely reflects a one-off in-year benefit, linked to a review of the calculation methodology, alongside a lower than anticipated increase in arrears and reduced levels of debt written off during the year, totalling just over £0.100m.
- 6.2.7. Interest and Investment Income underachieved by £0.054m (5.68%), although this represents a £0.194m favourable movement from quarter 3. The improved position reflects a higher than anticipated level of interest earned. Earlier forecasts assumed reductions in the Bank of England base rate which would have reduced returns on cash balances. However, due to a number of world economic events, anticipated cuts did not materialise during the remainder of the year, which had a positive impact on the interest earned on cash balances.
- 6.2.8. Depreciation/Contribution to Major Repairs Reserve (MRR)– Following the appointment of new valuers, a review of the depreciation calculation methodology was undertaken. This resulted in an increased charge and an overspend of £0.742m (10.12%). Under the HRA statutory accounting requirements, depreciation charges are appropriated to the MRR. As a result, while the increased depreciation charge impacts the reported revenue position, it is transferred to the MRR to support capital investment in housing assets. This increases the resources available to fund the Capital Investment Programme and can reduce the need for alternative financing sources, such as borrowing.

Table 10: Capital Programme	2025/26 Revised Budget	2025/26 Outturn Variance		
	£m	£m	£m	%
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE				
Major Works & Improvements	£17.085	£13.045	(£4.040)	24%
Other Capital Spend	£4.915	£5.567	£0.652	13%
New Build Development Costs	£3.000	£0.562	(£2.438)	81%
Total Capital Expenditure	£25.000	£19.174	(£5.826)	77%
CAPITAL FINANCING				
Prudential Borrowing	(£10.715)	(£6.119)	£4.596	43%
External Funding	(£2.330)	(£1.308)	£1.022	44%
Capital Receipts	(£2.967)	(£3.675)	(£0.708)	24%
HRA Major Repairs Reserve	(£8.988)	(£8.072)	£0.916	10%
Total Capital Financing	(£25.000)	(£19.174)	£5.826	77%

6.3. Table 10 details the revised HRA Capital Programme for 2025/26 totalling £25.000m. Actual expenditure for the year was £19.174m, resulting in a variance of £5.826m. Of this variance, £4.954m relates to slippage, which has been reprofiled into the 2026/27 capital programme. The remaining £0.872m represents an underspend, reflecting savings and changes in programme delivery.

6.4. The HRA Reserve movements are detailed in the table below.

Table 11: Movement on the HRA Reserve	2025/26 Revised Budget	2025/26 Actual (Outturn)	2025/26 Variance
	£m	£m	£m
Opening Balance on the HRA	(£16.546)	(£16.747)	(£0.201)
(Surplus) or Deficit for the Year on the HRA Income and Expenditure Statement	(£3.999)	(£3.219)	£0.780
Appropriations	£0.209	£0.104	(£0.105)
Net (Increase) or Decrease before Transfers to or from Reserves	(£3.790)	(£3.115)	£0.675
(Increase) or Decrease in Year on the HRA	(£3.790)	(£3.115)	£0.675

Closing Balance on the HRA	(£20.336)	(£19.862)	£0.474
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7. Dedicated Schools Grant Outturn position

7.1. The DSG is broken down into 4 components and Bury's allocations for 2025/26 are as follows:

Table 12: DSG Allocations	Allocation £m	Outturn £m	Outturn Variance
Schools Block	£169.600	£169.579	(£0.021)
Central Services Block	£1.124	£0.968	(£0.156)
Early Years Block	£35.260	£33.463	(£1.797)
High Needs Block	£50.590	£54.053	£3.463
Total	£256.574	£258.063	£1.489
Early Years Block 2024-25 clawback	-	£0.460	£0.460
Project Safety Valve	£1.000	£0.295	(£0.705)
Total net increase of DSG 2025/26	£257.574	£258.818	£1.244

7.2. The Schools Block and Early Years Block are almost entirely passported to schools and early years providers. The Central Schools Services Block is funding for Bury Council to deliver its schools and related statutory duties for Education. There is little variance in this area. The major risk to the Council is the High Needs Block (HNB).

7.3. The HNB spending and allocations are subject to numerous funding regulations. These regulations are described in full within the DFE High Needs Funding Guidance and the link is given below:

[High needs funding: 2025 to 2026 operational guide - GOV.UK](#)

7.4. The HNB covers Special Educational Needs (SEN) funding for pupils aged 0 to 25 irrespective of which setting they attend. The broad headings for the HNB 2025/26 budget and outturn position are shown below:

Table 13: High Needs Block (HNB)	2025/26 Budget £m	2025/26 Outturn £m	2025/26 Variance £m
Specials Schools and Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)	£20.426	£20.814	£0.388
Resourced Provision within Mainstream Schools (RP)	£2.790	£2.429	(£0.361)
Early Years Funding	£0.275	£0.290	£0.015
SEN Funding within Mainstream Funding (EHCP's)	£9.934	£10.640	£0.706
Independent (Out Borough) Special Schools	£13.593	£15.100	£1.507
Post 16 Commissioned Places	£1.868	£2.067	£0.199

Alternative Provision	£2.797	£3.786	£0.989
SEN Support Services	£1.127	£0.992	(£0.135)
Total HNB Expenditure	£52.810	£56.118	£3.308
High Needs Block Allocation	(£48.835)	(£49.344)	(£0.509)
Recoupment from other LA's Bury Project Safety Valve commitment	(£2.000)	(£2.000)	-
School Block Transfer	(£0.313)	(£0.313)	-
Health Service Contribution	(£1.000)	(£1.000)	-
DfE Safety Valve Income	(£0.663)	(£0.705)	(£0.042)
Total HNB Income (including safety valve income)	(£52.811)	(£53.362)	(£0.551)
Total High Needs Block 2025/26		£2.757	£2.757
Other DSG Blocks 2025/26		(£1.513)	(£1.513)
Total DSG Deficit 2025/26		£1.244	£1.244
Deficit b/fwd from 2024/25		£19.041	
Deficit c/fwd to 2026/27		£20.285	
Total net increase in DSG Deficit 2025/26		£1.244	£1.244

7.5. The DSG overall deficit at the beginning of the 2025/26 financial year was £19.041m, during the year, the service has worked on making savings where possible, whilst continuing to face increasing demand which is a national pressure. The 2025/26 DSG deficit position is £20.285m, an overall increase of £1.244m, including Bury's agreed £2m contribution as part of Project Safety Valve (PSV).

7.6. Bury Council operated under the Dedicated School Grant Safety Valve Intervention Programme during 2025/26 to address historic special education needs and disabilities (SEND) demand and cost pressures which has meant the council working closely with the Department of Education (DfE) particularly around how the deficit position is managed alongside the drivers of those financial pressures. Bury Council was due funding to support this work but this will now cease after 2025/26 and be replaced with the terms and conditions on the new transitional period grant funding under High Needs Stability grant for 2026/2028.

7.7. Bury council acknowledges the government's commitment, following a successful submitted SEND reform plan (deadline 19th June 2026) and subsequent approval, to resolve the 90% of the Local Authorities DSG balance accrued up to the end of March 2026. It also acknowledges the commitment that the council won't be affected by their participation in the Safety Valve Programme and any local contributions will count towards the remaining 10% balance. The remaining accumulated deficit will need to be met from the Council's DSG reserve.

7.8. Bury Council remain committed towards working with our Education partners whilst managing the pressures across SEND services in line with our SEND

reform plans and to continue to monitor and challenge progress towards the delivery of the structural changes outlined in line with Government and aiming for sustainability of the SEND model once changes have time to make forecast longer term impacts

7.9. The majority of local authorities continue to face serious budgetary pressures and deficits which have been building over a number of years due to:

- The HNB allocations not increased for the rises in pupil numbers.
- The percentage of pupils with SEN needs has significantly increased but has not been reflected within allocations.
- The HNB becoming responsible for 19 to 25-year-olds without any additional funding.
- Local authorities' own provision being at full capacity meaning there is more reliance on expensive independent special school's fees.
- Inflationary pressures being greater than the increase's in HNB funding.

7.10. School Balances

7.11. Schools Balances brought forward from 2024/25 totalled £2.484m. At the end of the 2025/26 financial year, Schools Balances totalled £2.290m, a total reduction of £0.194m. These numbers do not include academies as local authorities not required to report on academies.

7.12. The outturn position is split as follows:

Table 14: School Balances	2025/26 Closing School Balances £m
Nursery	£0.114
Primary	£0.079
Secondary	£1.168
Special	£0.929
Total	£2.290

7.13. The number of schools which are in a deficit position has reduced from 12 at the end of 2024/25 to 9 at the end of the 2025/26 financial year.

7.14. Schools are required to adhere to their budget limits, but in the event of an unplanned deficit occurring this will be deducted from the following year's budget share. Schools that aren't able to produce a balanced budget for 2026/27 can request approval to set a deficit budget by submitting a deficit

recovery management plan to the Executive Director of Children and Young People. The deficit should normally be recovered within two to three years.

7.15. Of the 9 schools ending 2025/26 with a deficit:

- 7 already have an approved deficit recovery plan, 2 of which are subject to review;
- 1 plan is currently being prepared before submission for approval;
- 1 is converting to academy status during the summer term.

7.16. The Director of Education has introduced a Finance Improvement Group meetings with schools facing challenges in setting a balanced budget.

Links with the Corporate Priorities:

8. Financial management is a key part of the council's overall governance and control arrangements and the close monitoring of agreed income and expenditure; revised forecasts of future budget pressures and opportunities; and regular reporting of these issues 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.

Equality Impact and Considerations:

9. This is a finance update report, as such there are no impacts arising from this report.

Environmental Impact and Considerations:

10. 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
The Council has insufficient funds to support its expenditure.	Regular reporting and tight budgetary control by budget holders support the Council in managing the overall financial risks and financial planning for the Council.

Legal Implications:

11. This report provides Members with details of the outturn position, there are no specific legal considerations in this report.

Financial Implications:

12. The financial implications are included within the Report.

Appendices:

None.

Background papers:

[The Council's 2025/26 Revenue Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy](#)

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

Term	Meaning
MTFF	Medium Term Financial Forecast
MTFS	Medium Term Financial Strategy
LGFS	Local Government Finance Settlement
CIPFA	Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy
PSV	Project Safety Valve
DfE	Department for Education



Classification: Open	Decision Type: Non-Key
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Report to:	Cabinet	Date: 08 July 2026
Subject:	Adult Social Care Performance Report for Quarter Four, 2025/26	
Report of	Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Health and Public Service Reform	

Summary

1. This is the Adult Social Care Department Quarter 4 Report for 2025-26. The report outlines delivery of the Adult Social Care Strategic Plan, preparation for the Care Quality Commission (CQC) Assessment regime for local authorities and provides an illustration and report on the department's performance framework.

Recommendation(s)

2. To note the report.

Reasons for recommendation(s)

3. N/A.

Alternative options considered and rejected

4. N/A.

Report Author and Contact Details:

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Position: Director of Adult Social Services and Community Commissioning

Department: Health and Adult Care

E-mail: a.crook@bury.gov.uk

Background

5. This is the Adult Social Care Department Performance Report covering Quarter 4 of 2025-26.
-

Links with the Corporate Priorities:

6. The Adult Social Care is Department is committed to delivering the Bury 'LETS' (Local, Enterprising, Together, Strengths) strategy for our citizens and our workforce.

Our mission is to work in the heart of our communities providing high-quality, person-centred advice and information to prevent, reduce and delay the need for reliance on local council support by connecting people with universal services in their local communities.

For those eligible to access social care services, we provide assessment and support planning and where required provide services close to home delivered by local care providers.

We aim to have effective and innovative services and are enterprising in the commissioning and delivery of care and support services.

We work together with our partners but most importantly together with our residents where our intervention emphasises building on individual's strengths and promoting independence.

We ensure that local people have choice and control over the care and support they receive, and that they are encouraged to consider creative and innovative ways to meet their needs. We also undertake our statutory duties to safeguard the most vulnerable members of our communities and minimise the risks of abuse and exploitation.

Equality Impact and Considerations:

7. In delivering their Care Act functions, local authorities should take action to achieve equity of experience and outcomes for all individuals, groups and communities in their areas; they are required to have regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (Equalities Act 2010) in the way they do carry out their work. The Directorate intends to drive forward its approach to equality, diversity and inclusion, ensuring that equality monitoring information is routinely gathered, and consider how a realistic set of S/M/L-term objectives may help to focus effort and capacity.

Environmental Impact and Considerations:

8. N/A.

Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
N/A	N/A

Procurement Implications:

9. Procurement continue to support Adult Social Care (ASC) including the referenced Magic Notes.

Legal Implications:

10. There are no legal implications arising from this performance report. However, the report provides Members with details of performance reporting and demonstrates how the Council meets its Care Act 2014 statutory duties, preparation for the CQC inspection and the strategic plan for Adult Social Care.
-

Financial Implications:

11. There are no financial implications, or changes required to the councils MTFS, as a result of the recommendations in this report.
-

Appendices:

None.

Background papers:

None.

Adult Social Care Performance Report for Quarter Four, 2025/26

1.0 Executive Summary

Welcome to our final report of 2025/26 which gives us the opportunity to look back over the whole year. A year in which for the first time since the commission for social care inspection stopped inspecting councils in 2009, we have been subject to inspection by a national regulator, the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

Our inspection process started with a notification on 12th May 2025 that we were going to be inspected and in Q4 we received the first draft and are completing the factual accuracy phase where we check the report and submit lots of additional information.

A piece of news that must be celebrated this quarter is the outcome of the CQC assessment in our Intermediate Care home, Killelea. This was inspected in Q3 and the report published in Q4; you can read it here [Choices for Living Well \(Killelea\) - Care Quality Commission](#)

The CQC has judged the care provided here to be **OUTSTANDING**

Only 3.5% of all care homes in England are awarded the rating of 'Outstanding' and we have been unable to find another one in England dedicated to providing intermediate care which has also received an outstanding grading. We might be the only one to achieve this in the whole of England.

A report states "A truly standout feature of the service was the comprehensive multi-disciplinary team (MDT) approach in providing outstanding evidence-based practice. This was a shining example of how the integration of adult social care and NHS professionals, co-located and working as one, can deliver exceptional evidence-based care, support, and rehabilitation."

I am immensely proud of the achievements of the staff that provide this exceptional care to many of our most vulnerable residents.

For our operational social work teams we have seen some small improvements in reducing waiting lists and overdue reviews, but more is still needed as we aim to bring them down to almost, this will be a major focus for improvement in our next business plan cycle.

Of special note is our new adult social care survey results found at the end of the report were our users now rate us above England averages in nearly all of the domains.

As we are resetting our business plan and priorities expect changes in the format of this report going forward.

2.0 Delivery of the Adult Social Care Strategic Plan

- 2.1 Adult Social Care are committed to delivering the Bury ‘LETS’ (Local, Enterprising, Together, Strengths) strategy for our citizens and our workforce. Our mission is to work in the heart of our communities providing high-quality, person-centred advice and information to prevent, reduce and delay the need for reliance on local council support.
- 2.2 The Adult Social Care Strategic Plan 2023-26 sets out the Department’s roles and responsibilities on behalf of Bury Council. It explains who we are, what we do, how we work as an equal partner in our integrated health and social care system and identifies our priorities:



- 2.3 The 2023-26 Strategic Plan was refreshed in April 2025 supported by an updated annual improvement delivery plan which is monitored on a quarterly basis. Delivery highlights include:

Priority 1 – Transforming Learning Disabilities

- Our Shared Lives (“fostering for adults”) scheme saw a 400% increase in people with additional needs (e.g. learning disabilities) being supported by Bury residents for day, respite or long-term care.
- Continuing to encourage people to live independently, people receiving care in their homes rose in March 26, whilst figures in supported living decreased. Our residential

care placements for people with Learning Disabilities are the lowest in Greater Manchester – we are really proud of this, as our aim is to keep people in their own homes for as long as possible.

- Thanks to our NHS colleagues, 86% people with learning disabilities have health checks (far exceeding the national target of 75%) and breast and bowel screening are above GM averages.

Priority 2 – Excellent Social Work

- The workforce plan is currently being implemented. Progression to the experienced social worker level has been established, and further work will continue to map development and progression pathways across all levels of the organisation. Mandatory training continues to be expanded to strengthen the knowledge and capabilities of operational teams. In addition, building on the exit interview process, a dashboard is being developed to support evidence-based succession planning for the future workforce, alongside the vacancy tracker, which provides managerial and strategic oversight. Furthermore, our two social work apprentices have successfully completed their undergraduate degrees and have now been welcomed into the social work profession.
- Managers and Heads of Service continue to conduct audits and moderation, with reports provided to the Quality Board. Thematic areas identified for improvement include Mental Capacity, Support Planning, and Case Recording, with corresponding action plans developed collaboratively with managers.
- The legal gateway process is now embedded, drawing on legal and social work expertise to support proportionate and necessary care and support for people within Court of Protection proceedings.
- Mental health social work teams are collaborating with Impower on strength-based reviews and hold weekly huddles to share practice and monitor outcomes for oversight of progress.
- The user-led group for mental health continues to expand with support from GADAM, focusing on reviewing the referral pathway for social care mental health over the next three months.
- Older people's mental health teams have initiated collaborative work to enhance the intermediate care offer, involving IMC, Pennine Care, and the Older People Mental Health Team.
- Within the neighbourhoods, the East Team is participating in a hoarding project and conducting quality assurance work in Prestwich related to high intensity users, aiming to bring these individuals into Active Case Management to reduce demand on health and public services.
- Social work managers meet regularly to improve oversight and quality of support planning through peer verification.

Priority 3 – Superb Intermediate Care

- Training and implementation of the electronic care record system in Falcon and Griffin has been completed. The work for the broader Intermediate Tier has commenced with Killelea House now the upgrade of the WIFI system has been completed. The clinical, therapy and support teams have been meeting, and a test person has been inputted to evidence the length of time taken and the appropriateness of assessment documentation.
- Whilst the Reablement and IMC@Home MDTs continue, the Reablement Transformation has commenced, firstly with a discovery phase and support worker briefings and involvement, to ensure coproduction with the staff. The aim of this transformation is to create increased capacity, allow staff involvement with the design and produce even better outcomes of independence for the people of Bury referred into our services.
- We are focused on improving disability services by addressing workforce capacity and sustainability, reducing waiting times, enhancing system productivity and integration, ensuring consistency in strengths-based practice, and improving equipment, adaptations.
- We were delighted to receive an **Outstanding** CQC rating for our bed-based service, Killelea House, we continue to prepare our other care services for CQC inspection.

Priority 4– Making Safeguarding Everybody’s Business

- We are coming to the end of our safeguarding transformation programme and looking to develop the final part of the programme (Implementation of new electronic documentation to further streamline our safeguarding processes)
- Work has commenced on implementation of a new learning review electronic system. The process has been drafted and signed off by senior leadership team and the electronic system is being tested to ensure it is fit for purpose. We are currently looking to pull together a test group to test the system before going live this quarter.
- We have completed our renewed safeguarding awareness offer for council staff and third sector/voluntary sector which should give a more coherent message around safeguarding under the Care Act 2014. This will be offered an additional training opportunity alongside the existing mandatory safeguarding awareness training.
- We now have improved feedback mechanisms in adult safeguarding which is paying dividends in understanding the wishes, feelings, values and beliefs of our citizens.

Priority 5– A Local and Enterprising Care Market

- Our Independent Provider Workforce Support Programme has been launched and is being delivered by the Bury Care Academy; supporting providers with their recruitment and retention challenges as well as learning, development, succession planning and career progression.
- Provider Engagement: Grew from 21 (Q1) to 45 (Q3), +114% growth. Recruitment Pipeline: Vacancies 50→108; Applications 432→1,305; Offers 36→97. Partnerships: 28+ stakeholders across health, education, employment. Digital Reach: 1,553 website

visits; growing social media presence. The Bury Care Academy is moving from early delivery to scaled impact, with clear improvements in recruitment, partnerships, and system influence.

- Young Persons Supported accommodation has been commissioned for young people at risk of homelessness and for Young Families. The successful providers to deliver these services are Great Places for Young Persons supported accommodation and the Stepping Stone Project for Young Families.
- Together Towards Outstanding Care Strategy has been launched. This encompasses all the Council approaches and programmes of support available to providers. These all work together to drive improvements and deliver outstanding care in the borough.
- Prevention and Wellbeing, Extra Care, Dementia and Ageing Well strategies were approved and published.
- The Young People Supported Accommodation tender has been approved.

Priority 6 – Connect Unpaid Carers to Quality Support Services

- The appointment of a Carers Co-production Coordinator will strengthen the ability to involve carers in shaping service design and delivery, ensuring that support continues to reflect what matters most to carers.
- Dedicated outreach work by the Bury Carers Hub resulted in five sessions for carers from ethnic minority communities and strengthened community partnerships.
- 29 professionals completed Carer Awareness Training, and 21 individuals completed Carer Champion Training.
- 23 carers were supported to register for a Carers Emergency Card, providing reassurance and practical planning should they be unable to continue caring.
- Expanding the wellbeing offer for carers included a sound bath session, reflexology, art for wellbeing and music-based sessions, co-designed in response to carer feedback.
- The Accelerated Reform Fund (ARF) project finished March 2026. The work gave us the chance to test different ways of identifying and supporting carers in hospital settings across Bury, Oldham and Rochdale. A member of the Bury Carers Hub delivered a presentation at a GM celebration event on the outcomes, learning and legacy of the work.

3.0 Highlight Report for Quarter 4, 2025/26

Adult Social Care - Quarterly Highlight Report - Quarter 4

Obsessions	Performance Measures	Frequency	Polarity	Sparkline	Latest Data	Direction of Travel	Rank (higher is better)		
							Peers (16) 24/25	NW (22) Q3 25/26	GM (10) M11 25/26
<i>Reduce the number of people waiting for a social work needs assessment</i>	Number of people on waiting list for ASC needs assessment	Q	L		99 ❌	-	-	6th	
	Median number of days waiting for an ASC needs assessment	Q	L		43 ❌	-	-	9th	
<i>Increase the number of people who have their safeguarding outcomes partially or fully met</i>	Proportion of people that were asked about their outcomes	Q	H		88% ❌	-	16th	-	
	Of those who expressed outcomes the proportion of people who have their safeguarding outcomes fully or partially met	Q	H		96% ❌	-	8th	-	
<i>Increase the number of people leaving intermediate care services independently</i>	The proportion of people who received short-term services during the year where no further request was made for ongoing support	Q	H		85% ❌	3rd	6th	-	
	The proportion of older people (65+) who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital	A	H		92% ✅	7th	-	-	
<i>Increase the number of people with a learning disability who are provided with the opportunity to live more independently</i>	Number of people trained in the progression model	A	H		58	-	-	-	
	Number of customers who have had an assessment or review using the progression model	A	H		275	-	-	-	
<i>Increase the number of people accessing care and support information and advice that promotes people's wellbeing and independence.</i>	The proportion of people and carers who use services who have found it easy to find information about services and/or support	A	H		68% ✅	10th	-	-	
	The proportion of people who use services, who reported that they had as much social contact as they would like	A	H		47% ✅	5th	-	-	
<i>Increase the number of people with lived experience who provide feedback</i>	Number of feedback provided	Q	H		149 ❌	-	-	-	
<i>Increase the number of unpaid carers identified</i>	Total number of new carers registered with Bury Carers' Hub	Q	H		81 ❌	-	-	-	

Annual Measures: ASCOF 25/26
Quarterly Measures: updated Q4 25/26

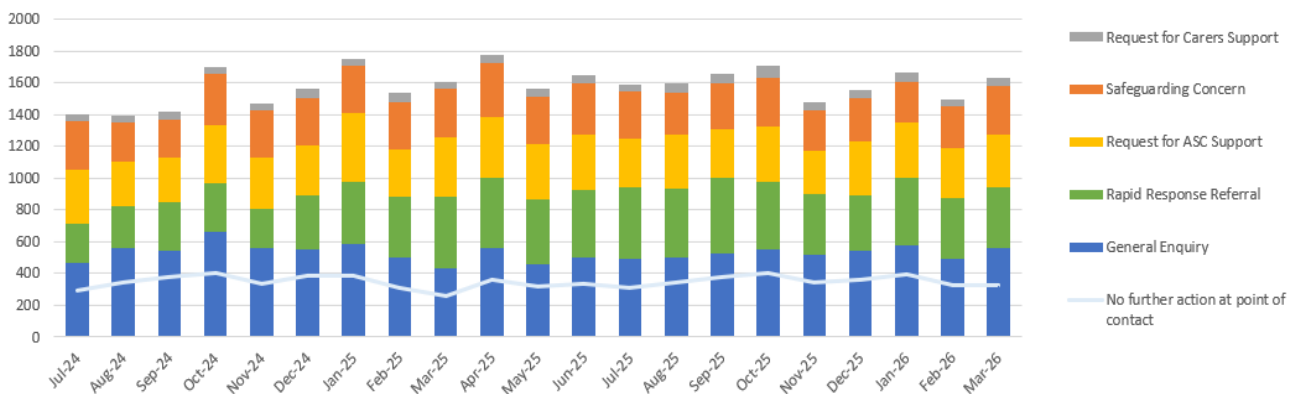
The Department has adopted an outcome-based accountability framework to monitor performance and drive improvement. Several outcomes have been chosen that will change if the objectives of our strategic plan are met, we call these our obsessions. An obsession is a key part of an outcome-based accountability framework where focus on these areas have positive knock-on effects right across our areas of work.

Q4 25/26 marks the end of our 3-year business plan and its objectives, and a new one has been prepared with a new set of priorities and objectives, these new priorities will be reflected in next year's reports, and you will see these sections of the report change.

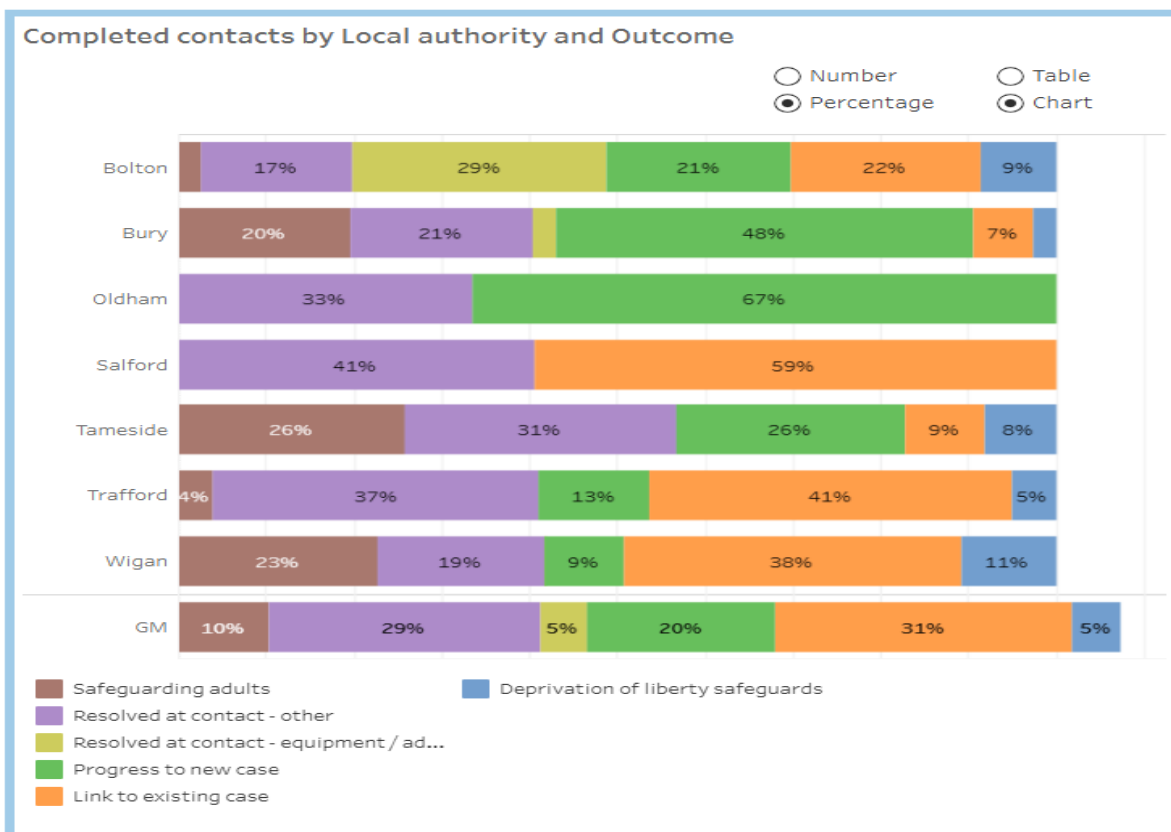
3.1 Contacts

The primary means of public contact to request support, information and advice is through our care, connect and direct office (CAD). A higher proportion of contacts resolved by CAD means that people’s enquiries are being dealt with straightaway and not passed on to other teams.

Number of Adult Social Care (ASC) Contact Forms recorded each month.



Contacts by outcome - how does Bury Compare?



Contacts – Q4 commentary

This section summarises the department’s monthly contact volumes, including reasons for contact and the proportion resolved at first point of contact by the Contact Centre.

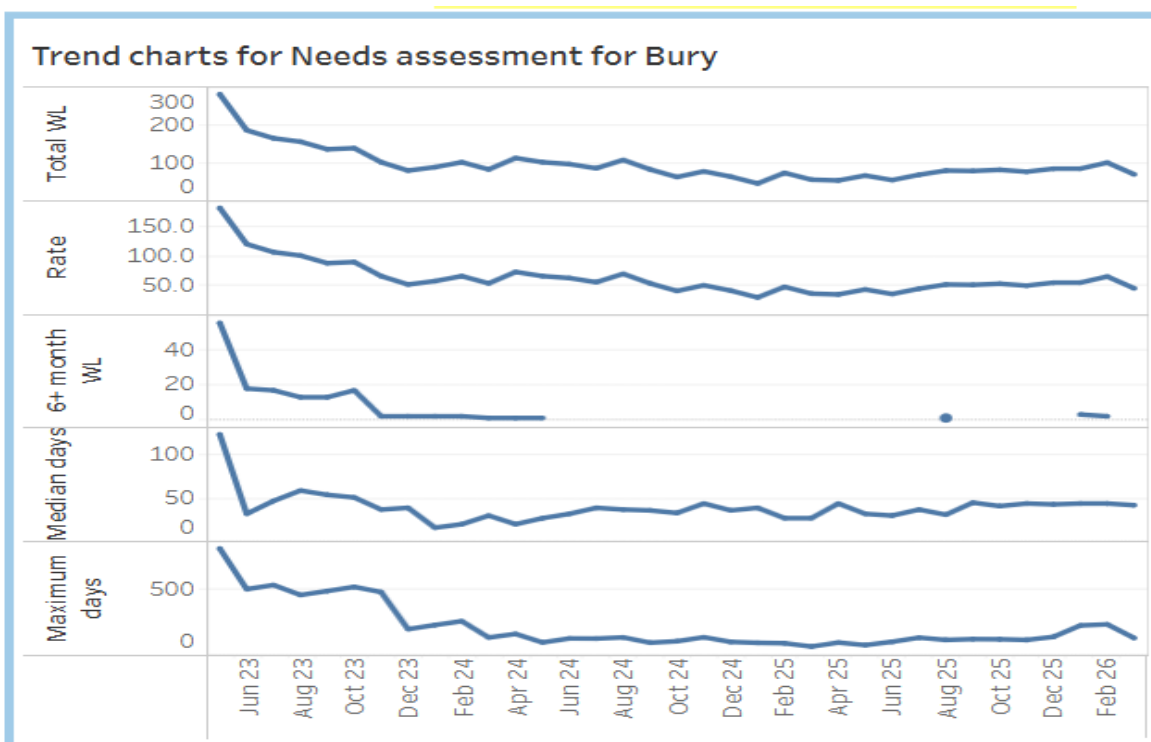
Contact volumes during Q4 followed expected seasonal trends and were broadly consistent with the same period in the previous year. The number of referrals and enquiries received across January, February and March aligned closely with historical patterns. As anticipated, volumes increased in January following the Christmas period before stabilising to normal levels in February and March.

Overall, the Contact Centre sustained stable performance throughout the quarter, resolving a high proportion of enquiries and maintaining service delivery standards despite fluctuating demand.

3.2 Assessments - Waiting

People awaiting an assessment (needs and carers assessments) by social workers, occupational therapists, or deprivation of liberty safeguards assessors. Reduced waiting times lead to improved outcomes for people because they are receiving a timelier intervention.

Number of people awaiting an Adult Social Care assessment each month.



How does Bury Compare – Needs Assessments?

Waiting lists - March 2026

	Totals for Needs assessment by Local authority							
	Total Waiting	Rate per 100,000	6+months	% 6+ months	March 2026 Median Days	March 2026 Maximum Days	Last 12 months Median Days	Last 12 months Maximum Days
GM total	1,170	50.3	42	3.6%	30	684	32	706
Bolton	91	38.8	0		21	181	14	323
Bury	68	44.1	0		41	125	38	228
Manchester	301	65.7	37	12.3%	12	684	12	684
Oldham	63	33.6	1	1.6%	65	190	53	706
Rochdale	0	0.0	0		0	0	8	33
Salford	238	103.2	0	0.0%	24	169	22	675
Stockport	174	72.8	0	0.0%	26	180	21	198
Tameside	77	41.2	0	0.0%	19	113	34	315
Trafford	123	66.7	4	3.3%	37	301	58	616
Wigan	35	12.8	0	0.0%	28	159	56	294

Assessments waiting – Q4 commentary

By the end of Q4 2025/26, the Care Act assessment waiting list reduced from 83 to 68. Delivery actions remain in place at team level, supported by Performance Board oversight, to sustain prompt allocation, manage caseloads and ensure timely case closure. Progress will be reviewed at the June 2026 Performance Summit for Heads of Service and Team Managers against team KPIs which follows on from the first Performance Summit held in January 2026. Median waiting time increased by 3 days compared with the 12-month average (38 days) and continues to be closely monitored. Maximum waiting time reduced by 103 days.

In March 2026, Bury's needs assessment position was mid-range across Greater Manchester, reflecting conurbation-wide demand and capacity pressures. Performance varied across councils, from shorter waits to significantly higher backlogs.

The Waiting Well protocol continues to be adhered to ensuring those awaiting allocation are regularly reviewed and risks mitigated.

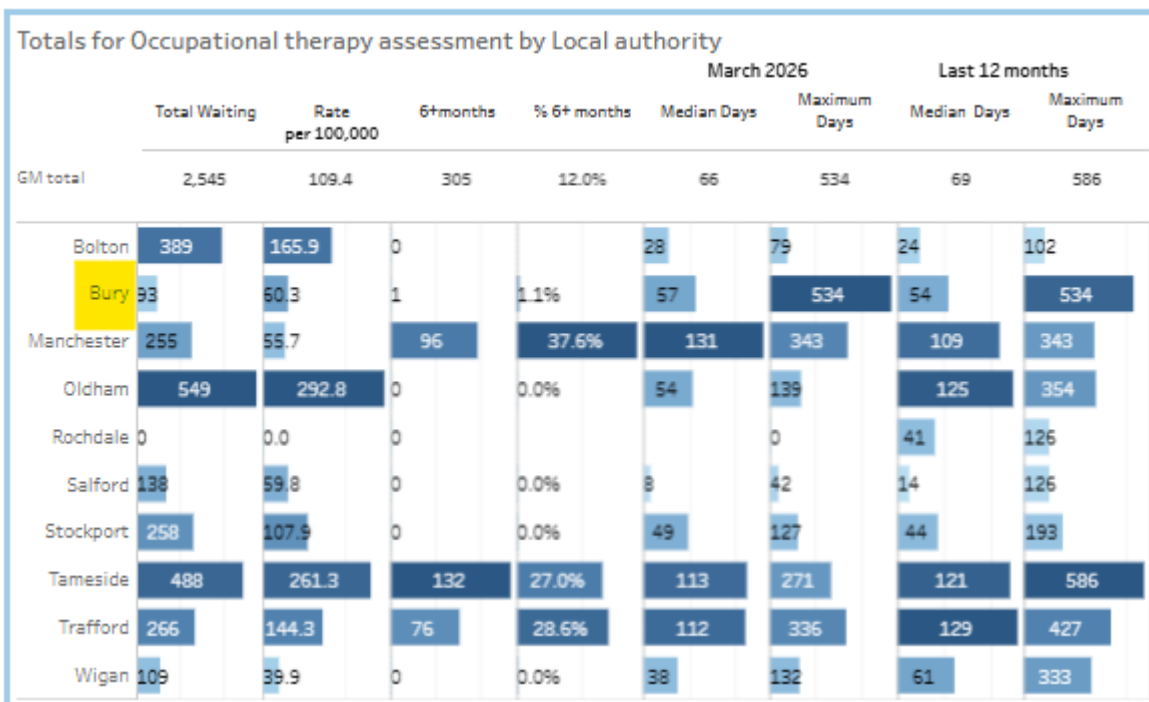
Reducing waiting times for an Occupational Therapy (OT) assessment continues to be an important focus, given the role of timely OT input in supporting independence and wellbeing.

As of the end of Quarter 4, the number of people waiting for an Occupational Therapy (OT) assessment has increased compared to the previous quarter. This reflects continued system pressures; however, while waiting numbers have risen, Bury’s position remains consistent with regional trends and compares broadly in line with several Greater Manchester neighbours.

This position is being closely monitored through established performance arrangements. The OT service continues to focus on strengthening triage and prioritisation processes to ensure that people with the most urgent needs are identified and responded to promptly, while others are supported safely through waiting well approaches where appropriate.

Alongside this, work remains ongoing to improve performance oversight and understanding of demand and capacity, to support effective resource planning. These actions are reflected within the Occupational Therapy Service Plan for 2026/27, with clear objectives focused on reducing waiting volumes, strengthening early intervention and improving throughput across OT pathways. Progress against these objectives will continue to be monitored through established governance and performance arrangements.

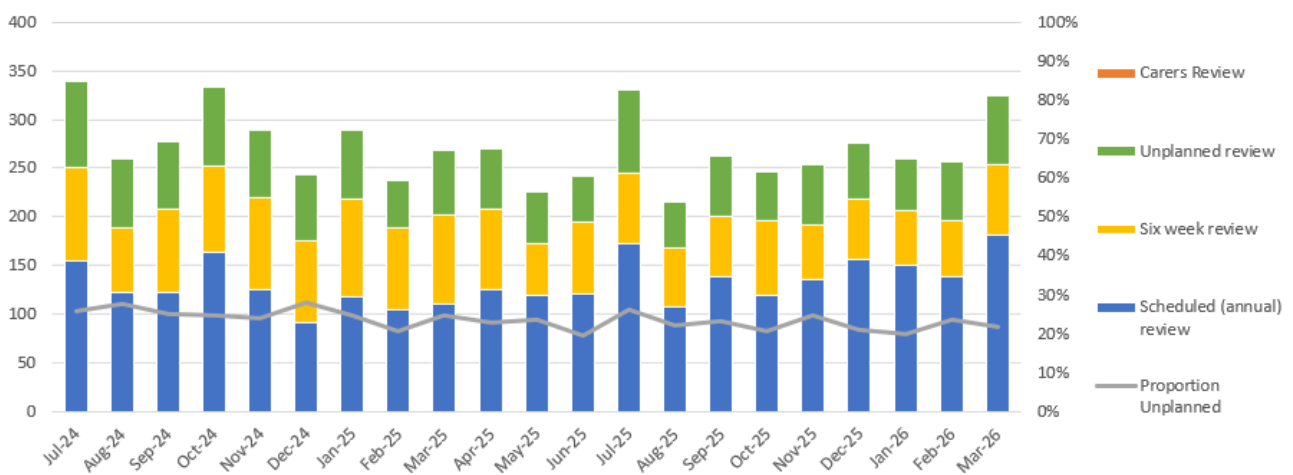
OT assessment - how does Bury Compare?



3.3 Reviews

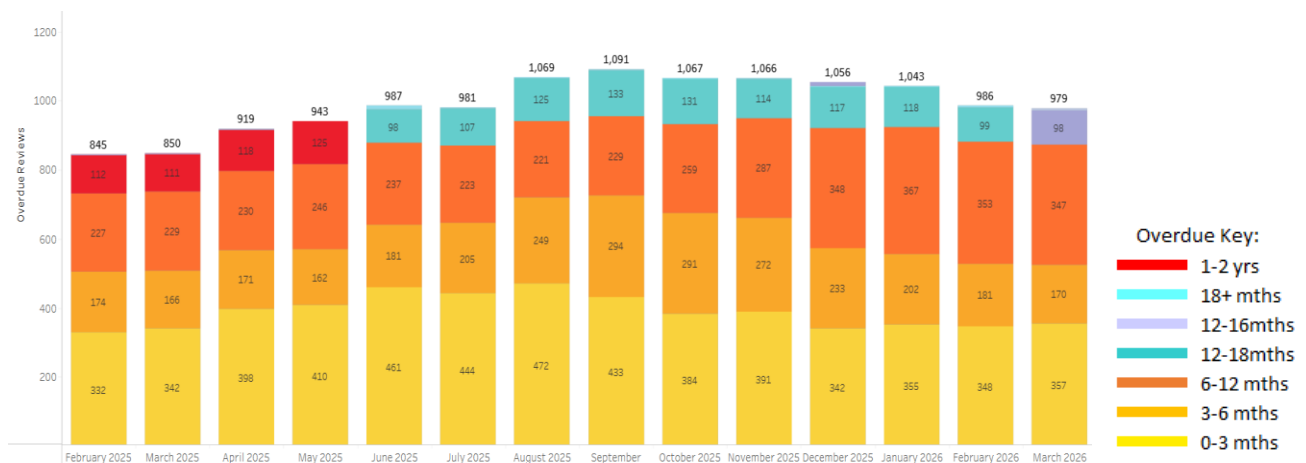
Adult Social Care reviews are a re-assessment of a person’s support needs to make sure that they are getting the right support to meet their needs. Needs may change over time, and new services and technology may give someone more independence and improve their wellbeing. A lower proportion of unplanned reviews means that people are supported through scheduled reviews of their support needs rather than when a significant event has occurred requiring a change in support. Support packages should be reviewed every 12 months. It is important to note that it is not just the adult social care reviewing team who undertake reviews, however, most of the planned review activity is completed by this team.

Number of Adult Social Care Reviews Completed each month.



Note - the % axis references the grey line which is the proportion of unplanned reviews.

Number of Overdue Adult Social Care Reviews on the last day of each month



Reviews – Q4 commentary

At the end of March 2026, 979 people were overdue their Adult Social Care review across the department and this figure comprises both annual reviews as well as initial reviews. This figure has decreased by 8% since Q3 which is positive, however, departmentally, we are still not where we want to be. Across the department, there have been numerous measures put in place to try and reduce this figure, and it is pleasing to see that some progress has been made since Q3.

The measures which have been put in place and will continue to be put in place include:

- Departmental shift of culture to ensure that overdue reviews are allocated across the department.
- Continued monthly reminder to all staff on the importance of data quality, as some of the 979 reviews will have had their review, however, this has not been recorded on the system, therefore incorrectly showing as an overdue review.
- An increased push across the department on reminding practitioners to progress the administrative side of the role and reassigning cases quicker, once the intervention has been concluded.
- Increased use of data, and increased onus on management to identify cases which have been held on individual workers caseloads for some time and having targeted discussions on these cases, thus freeing up capacity within social work teams.
- Adult Social Care reviewing team regularly undertake tasks to look at the longest held cases in the team with a view to ensuring that these cases are progressed without further delay.
- Adult Social Care Reviewing Team continuing to aim to ensure that at least the 20 most overdue annual reviews are allocated across the team at the end of each week.
- Roll out of Artificial Intelligence software (Magic Notes) to look at reducing administrative time and freeing up practitioners across the department to focus on completing the overdue reviews.

At time of writing, there are no reviews more than 18 months overdue. The current focus is on reviews which are 16+ months overdue, of which there are 11 at time of writing, and to then gradually reduce this measure of months overdue, i.e. 14+ months overdue will be the next departmental target once there are no reviews 16+ months overdue.

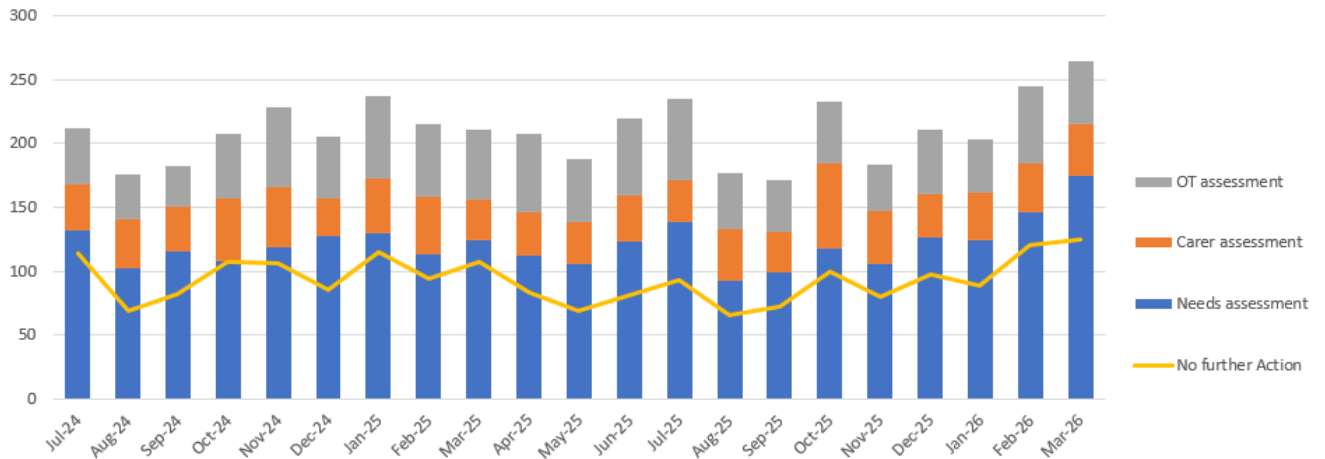
Reviews across the department continue to be strengths based and outcome focussed which require an investment of additional time from practitioners, however, these reviews yield much better outcomes for the customer and the department.

3.4 Assessments - Completion

Local Authorities have a duty to assess anyone who appears to have needs for care and support, regardless of whether those needs are likely to be eligible. The focus of the assessment is on the person's needs, how they impact on their wellbeing, and the outcomes they want to achieve. Assessments where there was no further action are where there were

no eligible needs identified or a person with eligible needs declined services. A lower number means that operation teams can focus their time on those people with identified needs.

Number of Adult Social Care (ASC) Assessments Completed each month.



Assessments – Q4 commentary

Quarter 4 saw a sustained increase in completed needs assessments, reflecting the impact of targeted performance actions implemented as part of the improvement plan delivered through our performance board throughout Q3. This included tighter grip and prioritisation arrangements, strengthened management oversight of allocation and progress, and focused activity to reduced assessment backlogs.

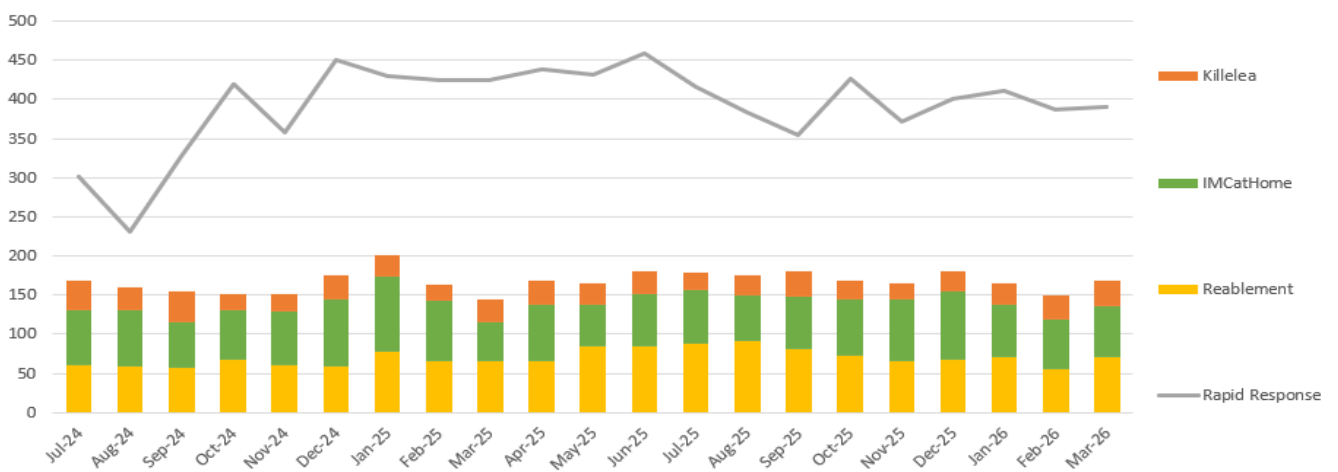
As a result, monthly assessment volumes increased consistently across the quarter, with February and March delivering the highest levels of completion compared to the same point twelve months ago.

Overall, Q4 demonstrated that the tactical actions in place are embedding well and driving improved assessment productivity, although continued focus will be required to manage other demands and maintain workforce sustainability.

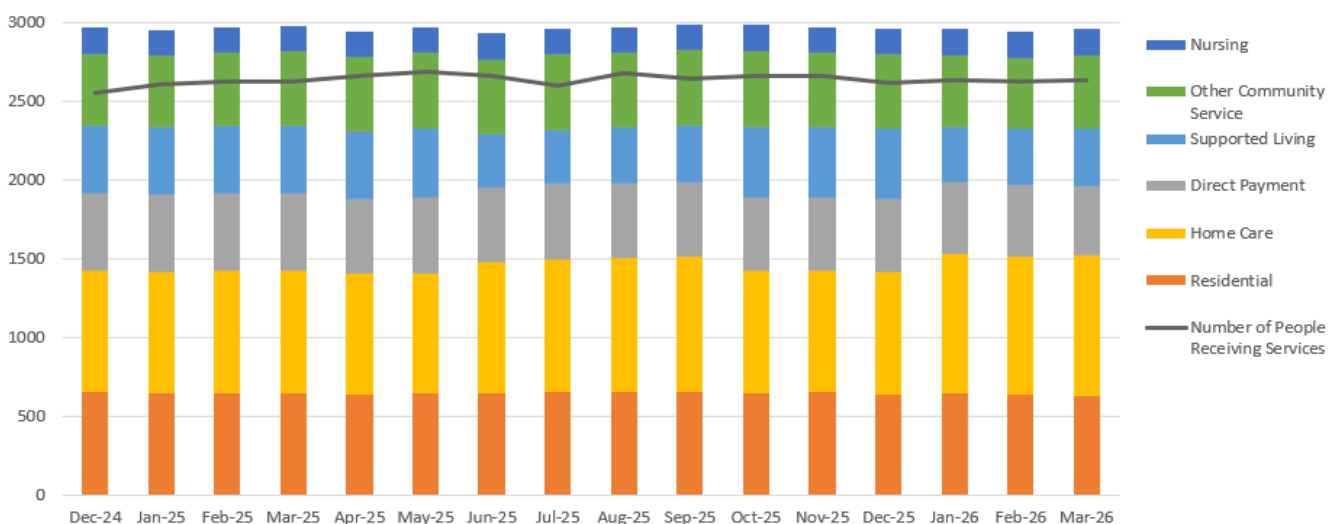
3.5 Services

Adult Social Care services may be short-term or long-term. Short-term care refers to support that is time-limited with the intention of regaining or maximising the independence of the individual so there is no need for ongoing support. Long-term care is provided for people with complex and ongoing needs either in the community or accommodation such as a nursing home. It is preferable to support people in their own homes for as long as it is safe to do so.

Number of Intermediate Care (short-term) services completed each month.



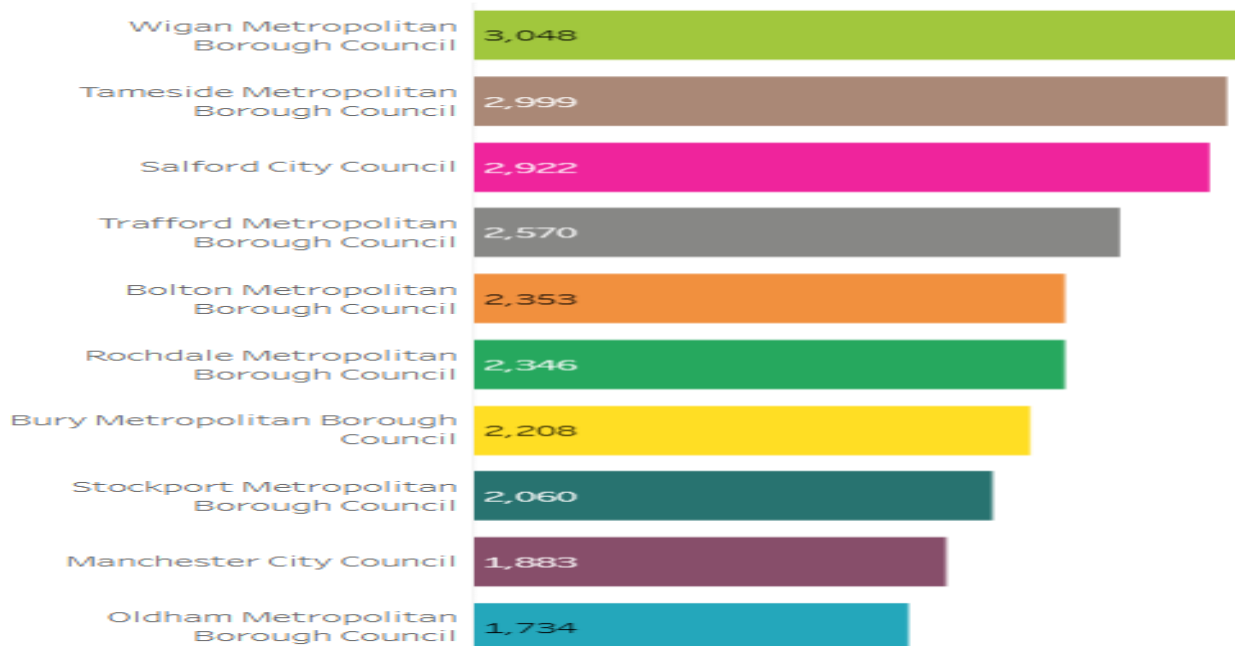
Number of Long-term Adult Social Care services open on the 1st of each month.



	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26
Residential	656	649	648	648	640	645	647	651	654	656	650	652	641	643	638	624
Nursing	173	166	161	163	161	160	163	159	158	165	162	161	161	163	163	166
Home Care	769	766	776	775	762	761	831	844	850	855	775	774	777	891	877	896
Direct Payment	491	490	489	492	475	485	471	479	476	474	467	463	459	453	450	444
Supported Living	429	432	431	428	433	432	343	345	355	359	448	450	448	351	358	360
Other Community Service	451	453	468	471	470	485	476	482	478	479	482	474	478	456	455	471
Residential Placement	656	649	648	648	640	645	647	651	654	656	650	652	641	643	638	624
Supported at Home	1729	1789	1815	1817	1858	1880	1848	1785	1865	1824	1850	1848	1815	1830	1826	1848
Number of People Receiving Services	2558	2604	2624	2628	2659	2685	2658	2595	2677	2645	2662	2661	2617	2636	2627	2638

People receiving services - how does Bury Compare?

People receiving services per 100,000 population February 2026 - All



Services – Q4 commentary

This section summarises the number of people supported across our service types in Quarter 4, including both intermediate care (short-term) and longer-term support.

The first chart shows the number of people supported in our intermediate care services. These services aim to prevent, reduce and delay the need for long-term care and support, so sustained activity and timely throughput remain key measures of success.

During Quarter 4 we have focused on maintaining flow through intermediate care and strengthening the interface with reablement and community therapy to support timely discharge home. Activity has been supported through continued oversight of length of stay

and daily operational grip, alongside targeted work to reduce delays where people are clinically ready to step down.

Work to optimise length of stay has continued through Quarter 4, including ongoing multi-disciplinary board rounds with geriatrician input. Quality improvement activity is now embedded, with a focus on reducing avoidable delay and supporting people to return home earlier with therapy continued in their own environment where appropriate. Transformation work on reablement has progressed during Q4 to better understand demand and capacity and to improve step-down pathways.

Our Rapid Response and Hospital at Home services continue to perform strongly and remain a key part of supporting timely discharge and preventing unnecessary hospital admission.

Overall, the number of people receiving our support has again increased, this can be seen in the table above but rose only by 10. If this had risen in line with population growth an additional 70 people would be in receipt of services. What is also evident is a reduction in care home placements and supported living placements as we encourage the use of more cost-effective support in people's own homes.

3.6 Adult Safeguarding

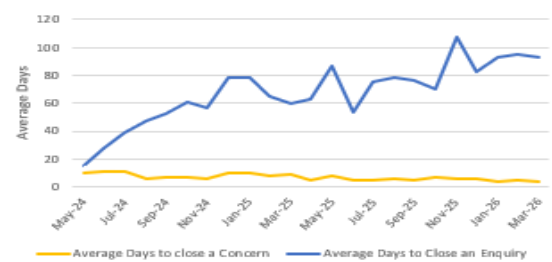
Safeguarding means protecting an adult’s right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working **together** to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time making sure that the adult’s wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action.

Safeguarding and DoLS Activity Summary

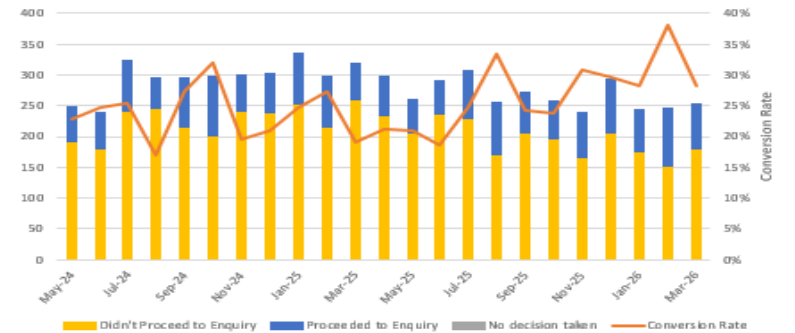
Increase the number of people who have their safeguarding outcomes met		Mar 26
Obsession	Percentage of people who were asked what outcome they would like	93%
	Of the people that expressed outcomes, were the outcomes achieved?	Not Achieved
		Partially Achieved
Fully Achieved		

Open Safeguarding Enquiries			
	Number	Av. Days	Max Days
ACS Safeguarding Team	138	81	613
Hospital Social Work Team	0		0
Learning Disability Team	0		0
OPMHT	0		0
Total	138	81	613

Av no. of days to close Concerns and Enquiries each Month



Concerns Started Each Month



Active DoLS Requests		
	Urgent	Standard
Assessment in progress	4	106
Processing	1	10
Total	5	116

Standard Authorisations in Place: **645**

Adult Safeguarding - how does Bury Compare?

Metric	Bury	Rank in Northwest (out of 22)
Conversion Rate	25%	10th
Making Safeguarding Personal – Asked	88%	16th
Making Safeguarding Personal - Outcomes	96%	8th

Last Updated: Q4 2025/26

Safeguarding – Q4 commentary

Regionally Bury is still performing strongly in asking people their outcomes and either partially or fully meeting those outcomes, and we have returned to our usual rate of around 89%. We expect this to continue now we are coming to the end of ensuring all safeguarding concerns are screened by the safeguarding team. The conversation rate has dropped from 30% to 25% but this is still a good rate of conversion to S.42 as we are receiving enough safeguarding concerns that it is felt people are raising appropriate but not so many concerns that do not convert as to overwhelm the system. However, we continue to review this at the Safeguarding

Operational Group and check against the appropriateness of referrals coming through our front door.

We continue to see good practice in most safeguarding concerns, enquiries within the safeguarding service. We continue to work with the frontline on the importance of education and giving referrers feedback when they raise safeguarding and whilst this has been improved it continues to be picked up in supervision on an individual level. We will continue to monitor this in Safeguarding Operations Group to inform future practice.

Happily, we are now seeing the results of the work we have undertaken to improve our qualitative feedback from safeguarding enquiries. We have received over 50 individual pieces of feedback from people with lived experience since January 2026; and this is being monitored via our safeguarding operations group to further inform our practice.

We will be committing in our new service plan to reduce the number of days a s.42 enquiry is open to <85 days. Although there is no duty or statutory timeframe under the Care Act to complete a S.42 enquiry it is important that we progress the outcomes of safeguarding in a timely manner. We are proud to state that we currently are achieving this goal and are now working to embed this practice.

Key Achievements this quarter:

All adult safeguarding is now based within the safeguarding team and is being managed without an impact on performance. The teams report that they have appreciated this transformation, and we are seeing reductions in length of time to complete enquiries and ensuring that we maintain no waiting list for allocation for safeguarding or Deprivation of liberty safeguards.

Our safeguarding service is now fully staffed with permanent members of staff, and they are reporting that they are enjoying their work. Our audit work shows that they are performing well, and asking the right questions, focusing on outcomes and the person being at the centre of their safeguarding.

We are continuing to develop and hold continuing professional development sessions and peer supervision sessions that are open to the whole adult care system. We are promoting these through our share point site.

Our Head of Safeguarding has been completing safeguarding awareness sessions over the last quarter with the organisations including young people who are not in education, training or employment.

We are coming to the end of our transformation and are beginning the work to amend/develop our documentation to further improve our outcomes and timescales in safeguarding.

3.7 Complaints and Compliments

Complaints

Period 2025/26	Number of complaints received	Decision			20 working day timescale	
		Upheld	Partially Upheld	Not Upheld	Within	Outside
Q4	24	3	12	3	7	11

5 complaint ongoing + 1 complaint closed

Compliments

Period 2024/25	Number of compliments received	Source		
		Person receiving or had received services	Relative of person receiving or had received services	Other (incl. various survey responses/thank you cards)
Q4	253	9	20	224

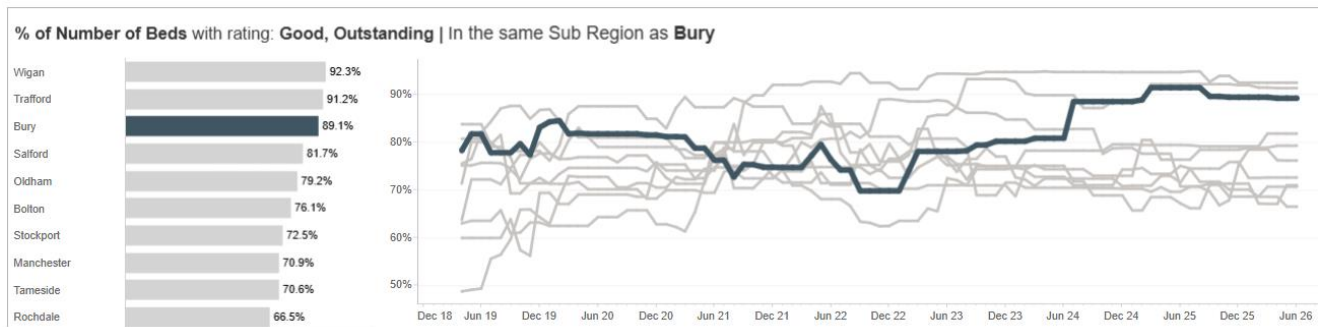
Complaints and Compliments – Q4 Commentary

The 24 complaints received in Q4 are broadly consistent with the previous year, when 23 complaints were received in Q4 2024-25.

Of the five complaints that remain ongoing, all are outside the 20-working day timescale. As a result, 16 of the 24 complaints received were responded to outside the required timescales, representing 66.6% of all complaints in Q4 2025-2026.

3.8 State of the Care Market

Number of care home beds rated good or outstanding.



State of the Care Market – Q4 commentary

The graph above shows Bury's CQC performance in Care Homes compared to its GM neighbours as well as the Northwest and England averages.

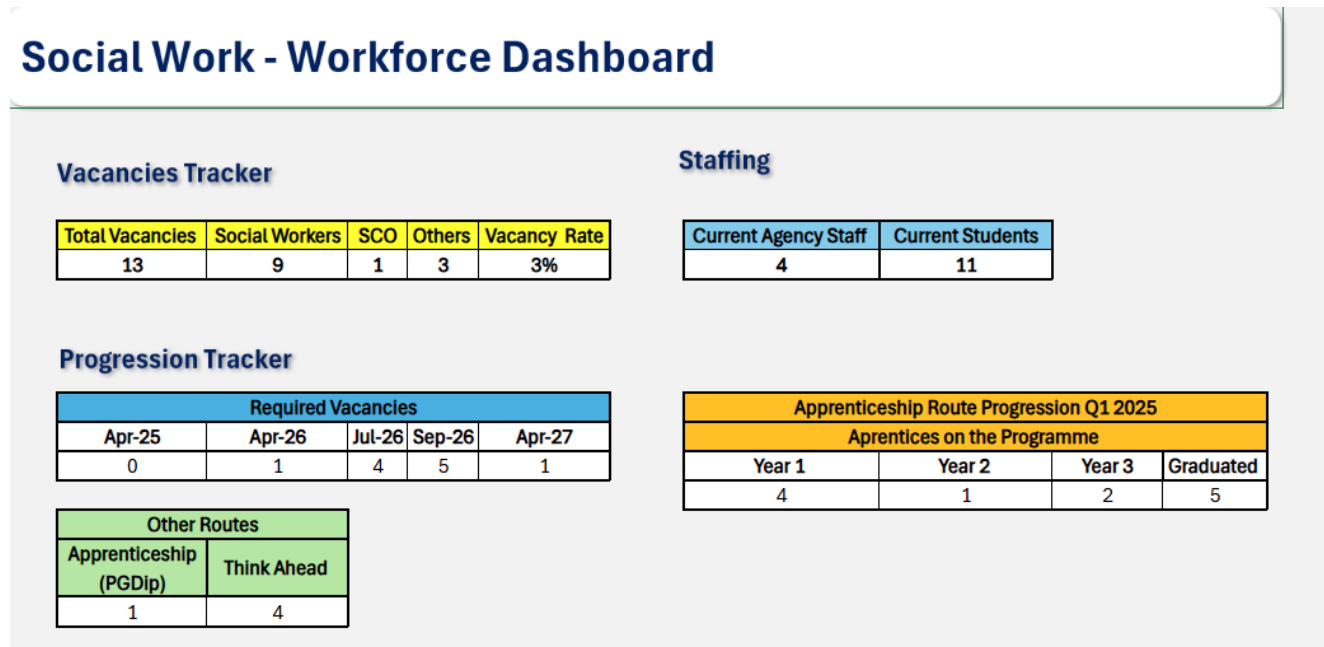
Residential and Nursing Homes:

At the end of Quarter 3, 89.1% of care home beds in Bury are in Good or Outstanding rated services.

Bury is still ranked 1st in GM for learning disability supported living as well as 1st in GM for care at home, outperforming the Northwest and England averages.

Bury remains continues to perform well above the England average and the average of all Northwest regions. Bury is ranked in the top 20 in England for the quality of its care home beds. The annual review of our quality assurance review process and implementation of an Outstanding Provider Program is all designed to continue to push for improvements in the quality of care and support provided to the people of Bury.

3.9 Workforce Development Q4



The chart above illustrates the favourable workforce position. Currently, we have a low level of vacancies within the operational department, which enhances team performance, practice consistency, and overall service stability.

We continue to provide support for our eight social work apprentices and four 'Think Ahead' trainees as they advance through their respective programs. Currently, half of our operational teams host a social work student, and we have practice educators available to mentor additional students from the four Greater Manchester universities. We are committed to fostering a learning culture by actively supporting the development of future social workers.

The pilot of Magic Notes has been completed, and procurement processes are being pursued alongside the development of practice implementation plan and the development of co-produced guide for ethical use for full implementation in Quarter 1 2026/2027.

The social work job description is being updated to promote consistency approach to recruitment. We had a positive visit from Skills for Care quality who felt we delivered a supportive and comprehensive programme of support for our Newly qualified Social Workers.

4.0 Survey of adult users in England 2025/26

This quarter we can report on the Annual Survey of Users of social care services here in Bury.

All indicators have improved and all except on are now above the current England averages

This is a marked improvement from last year

	2025/26		2024/25	
	Bury	DoT	Bury	Eng Avg.
(1A) Social care-related quality of life	19.6	↑ 0.5	19.1	19.0
(3A) The proportion of people who use services who have control over their daily life	83.4%	↑ 6.1%	77.3%	77.4%
(5A1) The proportion of people who use services who reported that they had as much social contact as they	47.4%	↑ 0.5%	46.9%	45.4%
(1B) Adjusted Social care-related quality of life – impact of Adult Social Care services	0.456	↑ 0.064	0.392	0.419
(1D) Overall satisfaction of people who use service with their care and support	70.3%	↑ 6.0%	64.3%	65.2%
(3C1) The proportion of people who use services who find it easy to find information about services	67.7%	↑ 2.9%	64.8%	67.8%
(4A) The proportion of people who use services who feel safe	76.7%	↑ 6.0%	70.7%	70.2%

Frustratingly as these have not yet been published nationally the CQC would not accept or reflect them in our inspection report

Appendix - Data sources and what good looks like

Section	Chart	Data Source	What does good look like?
Contacts	Number of Adult Social Care (ASC) Contact Forms recorded each month.	Contact Records in LiquidLogic: Contact Type Contact Outcome	Six Steps to Managing Demand in Adult Social Care: ≈ 25% of contacts go on to receive a full social care assessment.
	GM Comparison		
Waiting Lists	Waiting List Summary	Professional Involvement in LiquidLogic: Awaiting allocation work trays Brokerage Work trays Overdue Review Tasks DoLS data from the database.	Lower is better
	Needs and Carers Assessments: No of Cases Waiting for Allocation		
	GM Regional Comparison		
Assessments	Number of Adult Social Care (ASC) Assessments Completed each month	Assessment forms in LiquidLogic	
	GM Regional Comparison	Av. number of days from the contact start date to the assessment end date	Lower is better
Services	Number of Intermediate Care (short-term) services completed each month	All IMC Service data from four data sources	
	Number of Long-term Adult Social Care services open on the 1 st of each month.		
	Proportion of Home Care vs Nursing and Residential Care Services compared against 2 years ago	Service data from Controccc Grouped by Service Type Count of service types, not people	Lower Residential & Nursing Care is better
	Northwest Regional Comparison		
Reviews	Number of Adult Social Care Reviews Completed each month	Review forms completed in LiquidLogic	Higher number of completed reviews. Lower proportion of Unplanned reviews.
	Number of Overdue Adult Social Care Reviews on the last day of each month	Review Tasks in LiquidLogic past the due date	Lower is better
	Regional Comparison	As above	
Safeguarding	Percentage of people who have their safeguarding outcomes met	Completed safeguarding enquiries: Making Safeguarding Personal questions	Higher is better
	Outcomes were achieved		
	Open Safeguarding Enquiries	Safeguarding enquiry forms on LiquidLogic and CMHT/EIT spreadsheets	Target: Enquiries closed in 56 days or less
	Concerns Started Each Month	Contact Forms on LiquidLogic: form type safeguarding concerns	
	Average number of days to close Concerns and Enquiries each month	As above	Targets: Concerns closed in 3 days or less. Enquiries closed in 56 days or less
	Regional Comparison	As above	Higher is better



Classification: Open	Decision Type: Non-Key
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Report to:	Cabinet	Date: 08 July 2026
Subject:	Outcome of CQC local authority assessment of Adult Social Care	
Report of	Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Health and Public Service Reform	

Summary

1. To share the results of first CQC assessment of Bury Local Authority and summarise the key strengths and areas where improvement is required from the draft Care Quality Commission (CQC) assessment of Bury Council's adult social care responsibilities.

Recommendation(s)

2. To note outcome of the CQC inspection of Adult Social Care.

Reasons for recommendation(s)

3. To note outcome of the CQC inspection of Adult Social Care.

Alternative options considered and rejected

4. N/A

Report Author and Contact Details:

Name: Adrian Crook
Position: Director of Adult Social Services
Department: Health and Adult Care
E-mail: a.crook@bury.gov.uk

Purpose

To share the results of first CQC assessment of Bury Local Authority and summarise the key strengths and areas where improvement is required from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) assessment of Bury Council’s adult social care responsibilities.

Overall Position

- The overall assessment finds that Bury delivers **GOOD** standard of adult social care, with strong leadership, effective safeguarding, good partnership working and a clear strategic vision.
- Some operational shortfalls remain, particularly around timeliness, consistency of experience, carer support, out-of-hours arrangements, which the Council has largely already recognised and begun addressing.

Quality Statements	Assessing needs	Supporting people to live healthier lives	Equity in experience and outcomes	Care provision, integration and continuity	Partnerships and communities	Safe systems, pathways and transitions	Safeguarding	Governance, management and sustainability	Learning, improvement and innovation
Overall numerical score	2	3	3	2	3	2	3	3	3

Background

CQC assessments of councils are a formal, statutory regulatory regime for adult social care introduced under the Health and Care Act 2022. They involve the Care Quality Commission (CQC) independently assessing how well a local authority discharges its duties under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014 and delivers adult social care across the whole system (not just council-run services).

Each authority receives a single overall rating: Outstanding / Good / Requires Improvement / Inadequate

The framework is structured around 4 themes; working with people, providing support, ensuring safety, leadership

Adult Social Care Services in Bury have been judged to be **GOOD**.

Amongst many strengths it highlights **strong, visible leadership and supportive culture** saying there was a stable and experienced senior leadership team, and that senior leaders and staff were passionate and committed, with leaders having created a positive, supportive workplace culture.

The report states people received Care Act assessments from **“skilled, knowledgeable and committed staff”** and describes assessment and care planning as **person-centred and strengths-based**, with many positive examples of staff adapting communication, building trust, and focusing on people’s strengths and goals

The report is clear that there were **effective systems, processes and practices** to keep people safe and protected from abuse and neglect, and it also references **strong multi-agency safeguarding partnerships**

The report highlights **good partnership arrangements** and collaborative working across internal and external stakeholders, including the role of **Integrated Neighbourhood Teams** bringing together health, social care and voluntary sector services. It also notes a **nationally recognised Hospital Discharge Programme** with streamlined processes to reduce delay.

CQC say people with lived experience were able to shape strategies and services through co-production, and that organisations/people involved in co-production gave **“extremely positive feedback”** about their experiences. They cite examples such as the co-produced **Bury Adults Carers Strategy 2025–2029**.

There are things we need to improve to be even better and what was reassuring is that we already knew about them and are already working on them.

It was highlighted that we need to improve our waiting list and timeliness of assessments and our support for carers, especially the availability of respite services. We knew this already as our carers had told us when we were developing our carers strategy. Whilst work is underway and our most recent carers survey results now show things are improving it wasn't fast enough to be evident at the time of the CQC's visit. The most recent carers survey results are found later in this report where we are now above England averages.

We have been told, and it is correct, that we need to improve access to information and advice. The inspection found people reporting being digitally excluded and some people with sensory impairments struggling to find information. We know this and our sensory impairment strategy will address how people with impairments can be supported to find information and advice. Information on our website continues to improve but much more still needs attention.

And finally, some people reported challenges accessing support in a crisis especially out of hours so again we will look at this. We now have overnight services provided by our rapid response service and a commissioned care provider, we have emergency respite beds available and people can be admitted at very short notice to our intermediate care beds, so we think that the findings in the report relate to a lack of awareness within our system, rather than a lack of service.

All of the improvements required have been built into our next 3-year business plan and will be overcome in coming months and the relevant elements of the plan are appended to this report.

A huge thanks to all our workforce and all our partners across our integrated health and care system who contributed to this great result.

LET'S gives us these rock-solid foundations here in Bury to further improve our work with communities in our neighbourhoods and if we resolutely continue with the ambitions of LET'S, working locally with our communities, taking a strengths-based approach, being innovative and enterprising with our commissioning and working together with all our partners whilst benefiting from strong stable, consistent leadership, we will improve further.

What the Report Says is Working Well (Strengths)

1. Leadership, Governance and Culture

- The Council has a stable, experienced and visible senior leadership team, with strong political and executive oversight of adult social care performance.
- Governance arrangements are clear, with regular Cabinet reporting, strong use of data dashboards, and clear escalation of risk.
- A positive, supportive workplace culture was evident, with staff feeling valued, supported and encouraged to innovate.

2. Person-Centred and Strengths-Based Practice

- Care Act assessments are generally person-centred, strengths-based and respectful, with people feeling listened to and involved in decisions.
- Staff demonstrated flexibility and commitment, including working creatively with people who are homeless, in transition, or with complex needs.
- The “My Life, My Way” assessment approach was highlighted as a strong enabler of personalised care planning.

3. Prevention, Early Help and Community Support

- Bury has a strong preventative offer, including Integrated Neighbourhood Teams, Staying Well services, reablement and intermediate care.
- Intermediate care and reablement outcomes compare well to national averages, supporting independence and reducing hospital stays.
- Innovative use of technology-enabled care, including award-winning digital approaches to falls prevention.

4. Safeguarding

- **Safeguarding arrangements are effective, with** no waiting list for Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) authorisations.
- A central safeguarding team and transformation programme have improved consistency and oversight.
- Strong multi-agency working, including effective Safeguarding Adults Board leadership and learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews.

5. Partnership Working

- Very strong integration with NHS partners, including hospital discharge, mental health and intermediate care.
- Bury is recognised regionally for its integrated working within Greater Manchester.
- Positive, collaborative relationships with providers and the voluntary, community and faith sector.

6. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- The Council has a clear understanding of local demographics and uses data to identify and address inequalities.
- Strong examples of culturally competent practice and targeted engagement with under-represented communities.
- Co-produced strategies and growing use of lived experience to shape services.

7. Learning, Improvement and Innovation

- A strong learning culture, with reflective supervision, peer learning and continuous improvement embedded in practice.
- Positive feedback from external reviews (including LGA peer review).
- Strong co-production examples influencing recruitment, service design and communication.

Where the Report Says Improvement Is Needed

1. Timeliness and Waiting Times

- Although waiting times are improving, delays in Care Act assessments, reviews and carers' assessments were identified, particularly during periods of staff capacity pressure.

2. Consistency of Experience

- While many people had positive experiences, others reported variation depending on team, pathway or timing. This includes inconsistencies in carers being offered assessments, advocacy or timely reviews.

3. Support for Unpaid Carers

- Feedback from unpaid carers was mixed.
- Access to respite and emergency replacement care, particularly out-of-hours, was highlighted as a weakness.

4. Advocacy and Early Referral

- Advocacy is available and valued, but referrals are not always made early enough, limiting its impact.

5. Data Quality and Information

- Information and advice are improving, but digital exclusion remains a barrier for some residents, particularly older people and those with sensory impairments.

6. Transitions and Out-of-Hours Arrangements

- Transitions (including hospital discharge and service changes) are generally effective but not consistently experienced.

Key Message

- The report presents a positive picture of adult social care in Bury, with strong leadership, safeguarding, partnership working and a clear strategic direction.
- Most areas for improvement are already known, are operational rather than systemic, and are being actively addressed through workforce investment, commissioning plans and service redesign.
- There is no indication of unsafe practice, but continued focus is needed on timeliness, carers, and consistency of experience.

Links with the Corporate Priorities:

The outcome of this inspection demonstrates the departments commitment to LETS. From our commitment to co-produce with our local residents, to our strong partnerships, to our innovative commissioning and positive strengths based approaches to delivery, all are highlighted in this report.

Equality Impact and Considerations:

There are no equality impact considerations of noting this inspection outcome

Environmental Impact and Considerations:

N/A this report is for noting

Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
N/A	

Procurement Implications:

- 5. No Procurement implications.

Legal Implications:

- 6. There are no legal implications however this report provides Members with the outcome of the CQC inspection and details how the Council meets its statutory duties under the Care Act 2014, the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and the Mental Health Act 1983 and what improvements can be made.

Financial Implications:

- 7. There are no financial implications, or changes required to the councils MTFS, as a result of the recommendations in this report.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - List of Improvement actions

Appendix 2 - Full CQC outcome report

Background papers:

None

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

Term	Meaning

Appendix 1

The following improvement actions contained within the Department's new business plan which is available on request

- Reduce waiting lists for social work assessments to less than 10 – Director of Social Work Operations
- Reduce waiting lists for Occupational Therapy Assessments to less than 50 – Principal OT
- Improve timeliness of advocacy referrals – Principal Social Worker
- Improve business processes and ensure consistent experience and Improve transitions between services – Director of Social Work Operations and Senior Programme Manager
- Continue to embed carers strategy – Strategic Lead for Carers
- Improve information and Advice services – Strategic Lead of Carers

Progress against the business plan will be reported quarterly to executive and to cabinet

Appendix 2

Full CQC report can be found on this link <https://www.cqc.org.uk/care-services/local-authority-assessment-reports/bury-0626>



Classification: Open	Decision Type: Key
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Report to:	Cabinet	Date: 08 July 2026
Subject:	Part A - Advocacy Contract Extension & Tender	
Report of	Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Health and Public Service Reform	

Summary

1. Independent advocacy services are necessary to meet all the Councils statutory requirements under the Care Act 2014, the Mental Capacity Act 2025, the Mental Health Act 2007 and the Health and Social Care Act 2012. Statutory independent advocacy services provide support to people:
 - who may require assistance throughout the care and support assessment and through the review process,
 - who lack mental capacity to make decision about themselves
 - who are detained under the Mental Health Act
 - who require support to complain about services provided by the NHS.

Most people who receive these services reside within Bury, with a smaller number of people placed in care and support services located outside Bury also eligible to receive support.

2. Bury Council commissions n-Compass Towards a Brighter Future Limited (Company number 06845210) 'n-Compass' to deliver the adult advocacy service. The existing contractual arrangements for provision are due to reach their full term on 31st December 2026. This report provides a position update and seeks approval for a 3-month extension to the current contract and permission to retender the contract.

Recommendation(s)

3. The report recommends that Cabinet approves the:
 - i) Tactical extension to current contractual arrangements for a further 3 months to a new expiry date of 31 March 2027.
 - ii) Authorisation to commence a tender process for an independent advocacy service, awarding a 4-year contract with the option to extend for a further 12 months, commencing on 1 April 2027.
 - iii) Delegation of contract award, following engagement, service development and tender evaluation, to the Director of Adult Social Services, with ongoing monitoring and delivery of outcomes.
 - iv) Note that the new advocacy contract will be funded from the adult social care community care budget.

Reasons for recommendation(s)

4. The above recommendations align with the Procurement Act 2023. It is also a legal requirement for local authorities to provide an independent advocacy service that includes; Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA), Independent Mental Health Advocacy (IMHA), Care Act Advocacy and Independent Complaints Advocacy.

People are supported by an advocate to have their voice heard, understand their rights and make informed choices, especially when they find it difficult to speak up for themselves.

Legislative changes to the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) and the updated Mental Health Act 2025 will be considered as part of the new service requirements.

A project group including health and social care professionals, lived experience experts, commissioners, finance and procurement will complete a service review, collate engagement feedback from; service users, staff and stakeholders and develop an updated co-produced service specification prior to tendering the new contract.

Historically, the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board (GM ICB) has contributed financially to this contract, as a joint commission to execute their duties relating to health issues. The Council will request a contribution to the new contract and seek to maintain the same annual budget.

Alternative options considered and rejected

5. Summary of options considered below.

Option	Advantage	Disadvantage
Option 1 - Contract expires and no re-tender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial saving • Time and resources saved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory duty not fulfilled
Option 2 - Contract not extended and re-tendered for 1 January 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tender process secures a new contract that offers a quality and commercially competitive service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of legislative changes in relation to DoLS ruling on 2 June 26 not fully understood. • CYP commissioners scoping work for an all-age contract not complete. • GM ICB decision to jointly commission a service not known in time. • Launching a new service on 1st January that involves transferring support is challenging over Christmas break.

<p>Option 3- (preferred) Contract extended and re-tendered for 1 April 2027</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tender process secures a new contract that offers quality and commercially competitive service • Considers legislative changes, and has the potential to be jointly commissioned with Council CYP and NHS colleagues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 3 month extension period includes an inflationary increase of 5.2%.
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Report Author and Contact Details:

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Department: Health and Adult Care

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Background

6. Advocacy is about supporting the person to express their own views and make their own decisions using information provided to do this. Advocacy in all its forms seeks to ensure that people, particularly those who are most vulnerable in society can have their voice heard on issues that are important to them; defend and safeguard their rights and have their views and wishes considered when decisions are being made about their lives.
7. Bury Council has a statutory duty to provide a range of independent advocacy services under the Care Act 2014, the Mental Capacity Act 2005, the Mental Health Act 2007 and the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
8. The NHS has a statutory duty to provide Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA) for certain issues relating to serious medical treatment, some accommodation and safeguarding decisions.
9. The current commissioned provider for adult advocacy is n-Compass, it is a joint commission between Bury Council and GM Integrated Care Board (GM ICB). The contract commenced in January 2024, with the option to extend for +1year and +1 year. Following review in October 2025, the contract was extended for the final year until 31 December 2026. A further extension is permitted within The Procurement Act.
10. The contract value was increased in year 2 (2025) by £100k to account for additional demand generated from Cygnet Bury Hospital starting to refer into

the service. Cygnet Bury patients are eligible to access IMHA advocacy from the Bury commissioned service. Priory Bury patients also access this service.

Service Review

11. Current service performance is very good. The provider achieves strong outcomes for people supported and has adapted well to changes in practice. It delivers good value for money. A contract extension would allow for:
 - Budget clarification with GM ICB
 - Develop a greater understanding of legislation changes and their impact on advocacy practice
 - Scope the inclusion of children and young people's advocacy into one all age advocacy contract
 - Gathering further feedback from service users, stakeholders and staff via Healthwatch Bury surveys
 - Market engagement with providers
12. In summary, the service supported 1,064 people in the last 12 months, which equated to 8,135 hours of advocacy support. 593 people were supported with IMHA advocacy and 353 with IMCA, RPR and DoLS advocacy, only a small number 68 accessed Care Act advocacy and 31 NHS complaints advocacy.

Service Design and Co-production

13. A project group, including practitioners from health and social care teams, people with lived experience, commissioning, finance and procurement will oversee the service design stage, underpinning the new contract.
14. Co-production will be focused on three care areas which will include what is working well, what is not working well and improving the advocacy offer.
15. It will test the Community Commissioning Co-production Charter which provides a structured approach to ensure that all participants are involved in shaping a new innovative service. It will include events to gain views on the future of independent advocacy services which will include people who access the service, professionals and service providers.
16. The project group will review service data, engagement feedback, engage with providers and work together to refresh the advocacy service specification, that will be included in the tender documents.
17. The new specification will reflect feedback from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection report for Bury Council Adult Social Care Service, published in June 2026.
18. The project group will consider the implications of the UK Supreme Court landmark judgement issued on 2 June 2026, which significantly changes how

deprivation of liberty is understood and assessed for. The advocacy service includes Paid Relevant Persons Representative and 39a Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy, both elements will be affected by the legal change.

19. The group will also consider benchmarking information shared by other local councils.
20. As part of the ongoing review of Independent Mental Health Advocacy (IMHA) provision within Children's Commissioning, further work is being undertaken to assess current and future demand and to explore the most appropriate commissioning arrangements. Expanding the adult contract will be considered.

Procurement Tender

21. The tender process will align to the Procurement Act 2023, a panel will design the evaluation criteria in line with Council policy. The tender documents will be published on The Chest portal in October 2026 and a robust evaluation process covering quality, price and social value criteria will be applied to all bids submitted on time.
22. A report detailing the evaluation and the proposed leading bid will be prepared and submitted to the Director of Adult Social Care with delegated authority, to award the contract.
23. The mobilisation period will commence in January 2027, and the new contract will be live from 1 April 2027.
24. The timescales can be accessed in Appendix 1.

Finance

25. The Bury advocacy service has been jointly commissioned by Bury Council and GM ICB for the last 3 years.
26. The Council costs are allocated to the adult social care, community care budget.
27. A request has been submitted to GM ICB for financial commitment to the new contract.

Links with the Corporate Priorities:

28. The advocacy service supports the principles of the Bury's Let's Do It Strategy by;

- **Local** - improving access to local support, people are supported in the community and in hospital settings; advocates are local and travel to the person needing support.
- **Enterprise** – innovative ways of working and efficient operations to allow maximum case time; securing good value competitive prices following open tendering.
- **Together** – working together to design a service that delivers the best outcomes for people; health and social care professionals working together with people and their advocate for smoother progression.
- **Strengths** – supporting people to have their voice heard, understanding their rights and make informed choices, strengthening early intervention; ensuring people are supported with their health and social care needs.

Equality Impact and Considerations:

29. An Equality Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix 2. Potential impacts were identified across several characteristics which are neutral with suggested mitigations. These mitigations will be adopted into the commissioned service at tender.

Environmental Impact and Considerations:

30. The proposal is not expected to have a significant environmental impact. Environmental considerations will be built into procurement requirements at the point of tender.

Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
Market capacity	There are limited organisations with the specialist skills, a pre-market event will be held to gauge the market interest and help shape the specification.
Cost pressures for the Council and providers	The budget was increased in 24/25 due to significant growth in demand, it delivers good value. The tender exercise will seek good value.

Continued good service	Monitoring of contract performance will continue, evaluation and analysis of service data is useful to understand future requirements.
Legal implications – impact on advocacy practice	The LPS and Mental Health Act 2025 will potentially alter advocacy practice; legislative changes will be monitored to ensure a good understanding of the phased introduction and their implications.

Procurement Implications:

31. The existing contract expires end of December but in discussions with stakeholders have agreed to a tactical extend for a further 3 months to ensure the implementation is post Christmas as opposed going live with a potential new service 1st January. The Pre-Market engagement notice on approval of the paper will be published which mitigates the risk of any legal challenge to the 3 month extension. The exercise will be conducted in accordance with Procurement Act 2023

Legal Implications:

32. The local authority has statutory duties to secure independent advocacy under the Care Act 2014, Mental Capacity Act 2005 (IMCA) and Mental Health Act 1983 (IMHA), alongside provision for independent complaints advocacy. Services must be independent, accessible and lawfully commissioned in compliance with procurement and Equality Act 2010 duties. Non-compliance may give rise to legal challenge. The proposed extension to the current contract and re-procurement of this service provision will ensure that the Council is meeting these obligations.
33. The contract provides for an initial one-year term with two one-year extensions, which have been fully utilised up until 31st December 2026. There is therefore no contractual right to extend the agreement further. The Council seeks to 'extend' the contract by a further 3 months so that it has sufficient lead-in time to re-procure the service. However, it should be noted that any proposed continuation beyond the current expiry would constitute a new arrangement rather than an extension under the existing contract, and may amount to a material modification for the purposes of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. Proceeding without a lawful procurement basis carries a risk of challenge for the Council and audit criticism. If a short period of continuation is considered unavoidable to ensure service continuity, this would need to be treated as a strictly time-limited interim arrangement, supported by a clear and documented procurement law justification, alongside the commencement of a compliant procurement exercise.

34. The Council must ensure that the chosen procurement route complies with the Procurement Act 2023, including the statutory objectives of transparency, equal treatment and value for money, and with any applicable transitional provisions depending on the timing of the procurement, in addition to following our Contract Procedure Rules. Failure to follow the applicable procurement regime or internal rules may expose the Council to challenge, including procurement disputes and potential remedies such as ineffectiveness or damages.
35. Procurement via The Chest (the North West local authority e-procurement portal) supports compliance with the Procurement Act 2023 by providing a transparent, open and auditable platform through which opportunities are advertised and competed. The Act requires contracting authorities to conduct procurements in accordance with the principles of transparency, equal treatment and fair competition, and to ensure proportionate and value-for-money outcomes. Use of The Chest facilitates these requirements by enabling equal access to the market, structured electronic submission of tenders, and a clear audit trail of the procurement process, thereby supporting a lawful and robust award decision.
36. Cabinet can delegate the contract award decision under the Council's Constitution and Scheme of Delegations. Approving the recommendation would enable the award decision to be made by the delegated decision maker within the parameters already agreed by Cabinet, and in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. The delegated officer must ensure that the procurement has been conducted lawfully and in accordance with the published evaluation criteria. Delegation avoids the need to return to Cabinet and does not present additional risk, provided that the award is within the scope of the approvals already given.

Financial Implications:

A three-month extension through to the end of March 2027 will lead to a projected overspend of £3.3k in the current financial year that will need to be mitigated in the wider service budget.

The recommissioning of this service going forward will need to be within existing budget provision.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Adult Advocacy Tender timescales

Appendix 2 – Equality Impact Assessment

Background papers:

None.

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

Term	Meaning
GM ICB Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board	NHS Greater Manchester (NHS GM) is the Integrated Care Board for Greater Manchester and is responsible for making decisions about health services across Greater Manchester and in the ten boroughs and cities.
IMCA Independent Mental Capacity Advocate	trained professionals who support individuals who lack capacity to make important decisions, ensuring that their views and wishes are respected. The role was introduced by the Mental Capacity Act 2005 to provide legal safeguards for those unable to make decisions about their living arrangements or medical treatment.
DoLS Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards	A legal framework to protect individuals who cannot consent to their care and may be deprived of their liberty in care settings.
RPR Paid Representative	A PRP is a paid advocate who represents individuals who may be deprived of their liberty in a care home or hospital, ensuring their rights and best interests are upheld throughout the process.
LPS Liberty Protection Safeguards	The Liberty Protection Safeguards were introduced in the Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act 2019 and will replace the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS). It will provide protection for people aged 16+ who are or who need to be deprived of their liberty

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Appendix 1 - Adult Advocacy Service Tender Timeline

The below project plan suggests an approach to the recommissioning of Bury’s Adult Advocacy Service. Recognising governance and procurement will require a significant lead in time, activity commences in April to prepare for this project.

This plan takes a co-design approach, with colleagues from health and social care teams, people with lived experience of advocacy services, finance and procurement. Healthwatch Bury are supporting with engagement, gathering feedback from service users, stakeholders and advocacy staff.

target		2026/27												2027
		APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
Initial scoping, service review and EqIA	Scoping													
	Analyse service data review													
Benchmarking with other localities		Benchmarking												
Service design	Project group	Practitioners from health and social care teams, lived experience experts												
	Engagement	Service users, stakeholders & staff												
	Provider engagement	Provider engagement												
	Service Specification	Draft service specification												
Governance		SLT - 21 May 25 Jun final report Cabinet paper – requesting delegated authority 8 July– Cabinet Meeting												
Procurement & evaluation		Design evaluation Prepare tender Tender open Evaluation & Award Mobilisation												
		★ Service goes live												

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Equality Impact Analysis

This equality impact analysis establishes the likely effects both positive and negative and potential unintended consequences that decisions, policies, projects and practices can have on people at risk of discrimination, harassment and victimisation. The analysis considers documentary evidence, data and information from stakeholder engagement/consultation to manage risk and to understand the actual or potential effect of activity, including both positive and adverse impacts, on those affected by the activity being considered.

To support completion of this analysis tool, please refer to the equality impact analysis guidance.

Section 1 – Analysis Details (Page 5 of the guidance document)

Name of Policy/Project/Decision	Adult Advocacy Service
Lead Officer (SRO or Assistant Director/Director)	Adrian Crook, Director of Health & Social Care
Department/Team	Health & Social Care
Proposed Implementation Date	April 2027
Author of the EqIA	Jannine Robinson, Commissioning Manager
Date of the EqIA	03/06/2026

1.1 What is the main purpose of the proposed policy/project/decision and intended outcomes?
<p>It is a legal requirement for local authorities to provide an advocacy service that provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA) • Independent Mental Health Advocacy (IMHA) • Care Act Advocacy • Independent Complaints Advocacy (ICA) <p>Bury Council commissions NCompass to deliver the Bury Advocacy Hub for adults. The service provides one-to-one advocacy support and a range of educational and intervention materials, in user friendly formats.</p>

The principles of the Bury Advocacy Hub align with the Bury Let's Do It Strategy. Advocate's support people locally, in their own home, hospital or accessible place, the support is strengths-based and helps people to understand their rights, express their wishes and obtain the care and support they need.

People detained under the Mental Health Act in hospital or those who lack capacity are supported by an advocate at a vulnerable time. People are supported to have a greater understanding and involvement in the planning of their care and support. The service supports people without capacity who are subject to a Deprivation of Liberty Safeguard (DoLS).

For IMHA and IMCA advocacy an 'opt out' approach is adopted, everyone is offered support and they can decline it if they prefer or have someone to advocate for them.

Type advocacy	No. supported (over 12mths)	
IMCA	353	People who lack capacity and are either in hospital or a care home
IMHA	593	People who are mentally unwell and detained in hospital settings
Care Act	68	People are supported to be involved in social care assessments, care planning and safeguarding concerns to understand their rights and share their wishes.
ICA	31	People are supported to make a complaint about the NHS.
Generic	19	Community based issues regarding accommodation

This EqIA relates to the adult advocacy service for people aged 18+.

The current contract ends in March 2027 and a tender exercise will be completed to award a new contract.

Section 2 – Impact Assessment (Pages 6 to 10 of the guidance document)

2.1 Who could the proposed policy/project/decision likely have an impact on?

Employees: **No** Council employees will continue to refer to this service.

Community/Residents: **Yes** People who are eligible for advocacy support


Third parties such as suppliers, providers and voluntary organisations: **Yes** The current contract will end, and a tender process will commence to award a new contract. Healthwatch Bury have surveyed stakeholders, staff and service users for feedback on the current service. Lived experience representatives are being sought to help co-produce the new service specification for the tender and a pre-market engagement event is scheduled for July with providers prior to tendering.

If the answer to all three questions is 'no' there is no need to continue with this analysis.

2.2 Evidence to support the analysis. Include documentary evidence, data and stakeholder information/consultation

Documentary Evidence:

Healthwatch Bury advocacy report May 2026



Healthwatch%20Advocacy%20Services%20

Data: Out of 1,064 referrals over 12 months, 946 (91%) were medically unwell or did not want to disclose, detained under the Mental Health Act or lacked capacity, making it difficult to capture accurate data. Only 118 people accessing the service had capacity.

Protected Characteristic	Bury Population Data (from the JSNA/Census 2021)	Service Data (from nCompass)
Age	<p>Bury has 114,526 (59.1%) working age adults (18-64 years).</p> <p>People in Bury are living longer; life expectancy for both men (79.1 years) and women (82.1 years) has been improving over time, but the rate of this increase has slowed and there is still a significant gap between the life expectancy in Bury and the England average.</p>	<p>The service supports people aged 18+.</p> <p>Majority of people supported are aged between 26 and 64 years.</p> <p>18-25yrs – 122</p>

		There are 35,447 (18.3%) older adults in Bury (65 years and over).	26-64yrs – 603 65+yrs – 337
	Disability	19% of the population report having a disability, the rate is relatively evenly split over the 5 Bury neighbourhoods. The proportion of people with a disability in Bury is higher than average, with 19 out of 100 people having a disability, while the general average is 18 out of 100. (Source ASC Data Portal)	7% (70) of people accessing support from this service have a disability. Less than 1% (4) do not have a disability 93% of people preferred not to say or were medically unwell and couldn't say.
	Gender Reassignment	The question on gender identity was new for Census 2021. It was a voluntary question only asked of those aged 16 years and over. The question asked, "Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?" with 3 answer options of Yes, No or to write in their gender identity. 94.4% of the population aged 16 years and over in Bury answered Yes.	2 people supported are transgender.
	Marriage & Civil Partnership	37.9% have never been married / civil partnership an increase from 26.3% in 1991.	Service data reports 9 – divorced 21 – married

	46.9% are married / civil partnership a decrease from 58.4% in 1991.	129 – single 19 – widowed 8 – civil partnership 878 – preferred not to say
Pregnancy and Maternity	The census did not capture pregnancy data.	The service doesn't capture pregnancy data.
Race	<p>Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh – 10.6%</p> <p>Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African – 1.9%</p> <p>Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups – 2.6%</p> <p>Other ethnic group – 1.9%</p> <p>White: English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British – 78.2%</p> <p>White: Other – 3.5%</p> <p>Research shows people from minority ethnic backgrounds can face barriers to getting help, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •not recognising they have a mental illness because mental health was stigmatised or never talked about in their community •not knowing that help is available or where to go to get it •language barriers •turning to family or friends rather than professional support, especially for people who don't trust formal healthcare services •financial barriers, such as paying for private counselling •not feeling listened to or understood by healthcare professionals 	<p>35% (372) of people supported were white British</p> <p>2% (18) Asian / Asian British</p> <p>1% (12) Pakistani</p> <p>1% (10) European</p> <p>1% (8) Black British</p> <p>7 Other</p> <p>5 African</p> <p>5 White other</p> <p>4 White Irish</p> <p>1 Chinese</p> <p>(58%) 624 preferred not to say</p>

		•White professionals who do not understand their experiences of racism or discrimination	
Religion and Belief		<p>Buddhist - 0.3%</p> <p>Christian – 48.8%</p> <p>Hindu – 0.5%</p> <p>Jewish – 5.5%</p> <p>Muslim – 9.9%</p> <p>Sikh – 0.3%</p> <p>Other religion – 0.3%</p> <p>No religion – 29.4%</p> <p>Not answered – 4.9%</p>	<p>3% (27) no religion</p> <p>5% (51) Christian beliefs</p> <p>2% (17) Jewish</p> <p>The following are all less than 1%</p> <p>(9) Muslim</p> <p>(6) Catholic</p> <p>(4) Other</p> <p>(2) Jehovah Witness</p> <p>89% (951) prefer not to say</p>
Sex		<p>51% female</p> <p>49% male</p>	<p>Female 414 39%</p> <p>Male 524 49%</p> <p>Prefer not to say 127</p>
Sexual Orientation		<p>The question on sexual orientation was new for Census 2021 and was voluntary only asked of those aged 16 years and over:</p> <p>Heterosexual/Straight – 90.6%</p> <p>Gay/Lesbian – 1.6%</p> <p>Bisexual – 1%</p> <p>All other sexual orientations – 0.3%</p> <p>Not answered – 6.5%</p> <p>Estimates provided by the LGBT Foundation and Stonewall state that between 5% and 7% of the</p>	<p>19% (198) heterosexual / straight</p> <p>Less than 1% (1) bisexual</p> <p>81% (868) prefer not to say</p>

	<p>population identify as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual nationally.</p> <p>There is almost certainly an underestimation of the actual national diversity of sexual orientation.</p>																																								
Carers	The percentage of people providing unpaid care in Bury is 9.2%.	Not captured by the service																																							
Looked after children and Care leavers	n/a as an adult service	N/a																																							
Armed forces personal including veterans	3.3% of the population aged 16+ and over who had previously served in the UK armed forces.	Not captured by the service																																							
Socio-economically vulnerable	<p>Average household income East £36,560, West £40,743, Whitefield £44,525, Prestwich £33,880 and North £47,080.</p> <p>Economic activity of people with limiting illness or disability</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Bury</th> <th>East</th> <th>North</th> <th>Prestwich</th> <th>Whitefield</th> <th>West</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>In active</td> <td>28.67%</td> <td>26.27%</td> <td>30.11%</td> <td>30.07%</td> <td>28.09%</td> <td>29.19%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Active</td> <td>70.48%</td> <td>72.83%</td> <td>69.10%</td> <td>69.25%</td> <td>70.92%</td> <td>70.11%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>% of residents claiming</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>East</th> <th>North</th> <th>Prestwich</th> <th>Whitefield</th> <th>West</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Disability living allowance</td> <td>6.9%</td> <td>4.0%</td> <td>6.7%</td> <td>6.8%</td> <td>5.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PIP</td> <td>8.2%</td> <td>4.1%</td> <td>5.4%</td> <td>6.9%</td> <td>5.2%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Bury	East	North	Prestwich	Whitefield	West	In active	28.67%	26.27%	30.11%	30.07%	28.09%	29.19%	Active	70.48%	72.83%	69.10%	69.25%	70.92%	70.11%		East	North	Prestwich	Whitefield	West	Disability living allowance	6.9%	4.0%	6.7%	6.8%	5.1%	PIP	8.2%	4.1%	5.4%	6.9%	5.2%	<p>Employment status not captured by the service.</p> <p>A small number of people (1.2%) are supported with housing issues under IMHA advocacy.</p> <p>Majority of people are supported with issues linked to legal frameworks, such as detention, appeals, tribunals and ward rounds.</p> <p>The number of new referrals during Quarter 4 of 25/26 are; North 13 East 119 West 85</p>
	Bury	East	North	Prestwich	Whitefield	West																																			
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	<p>44.19% of people living in Bury are living as a couple: married or in a civil partnership, the neighbourhood with the lowest percentage is East.</p>	<p>Prestwich 24 Whitefield 4 Unknown 17</p> <p>However, the data is skewed by the location of the hospitals, Fairfield Hospital is in Bury East and Cygnet Bury is in Bury West.</p>
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Stakeholder information/consultation:

The service is monitored quarterly, reports are shared with Commissioners and a meeting follows. The quarterly contract meetings also include a representative from the DoLS team as a significant number of referrals come from this team. The meeting with nCompass examines performance, considers opportunities for improvement, pressures and legislative changes. The report captures feedback from professionals, clients and family of clients.

Q4 report for 2025/26



Bury%20Advocacy%
20Hub%20Q4%20ref

An Advocacy Tender Project Group has been established to review the service and includes representatives from ASC Mental Health Team, PCFT Specialist Mental Health Team, PFCT inpatient ward management, principal social worker, Children’s commissioner and Older adults.

GM ICB has commissioned Gaddum to support people with lived experience to engage in co-production, there are 6/7 people who actively support Bury projects and they have been asked if they would like to support the advocacy work. Other local VCSE

providers, such as BIG and Creative Living Centre have also been approached as they have service user groups. PCFT were also exploring opportunities with their patient voice group.

2.3 Consider the following questions in terms of who the policy/project/decision could potentially have an impact on. Detail these in the impact assessment table (2.4) and the potential impact this could have.

- Could the proposal prevent the promotion of equality of opportunity or good relations between different equality groups?
- Could the proposal create barriers to accessing a service or obtaining employment because of a protected characteristic?
- Could the proposal affect the usage or experience of a service because of a protected characteristic?
- Could a protected characteristic be disproportionately advantaged or disadvantaged by the proposal?
- Could the proposal make it more or less likely that a protected characteristic will be at risk of harassment or victimisation?
- Could the proposal affect public attitudes towards a protected characteristic (e.g. by increasing or reducing their presence in the community)?
- Could the proposal prevent or limit a protected characteristic contributing to the democratic running of the council?

2.4 Characteristic	Potential Impacts	Evidence (from 2.2) to demonstrate this impact	Mitigations to reduce negative impact	Impact level with mitigations Positive, Neutral, Negative
Age	Mental illness shows no boundaries regarding age, young adults are a vulnerable group to the pressures of life, older people are often lonely and isolated. Working age adults are impacted by the pressures of family and work.	The service is available to anyone over the age of 18. There is a separate children's advocacy service.	The staff are skilled to support all ages with strengths-based practice. People can access information and referral forms on the provider website, or phone to request information in the post, to ensure people aren't excluded who are not digitally enabled.	Neutral

	<p>Older adults are vulnerable to dementia and lacking capacity.</p>		<p>Most people who require advocacy support don't have mental capacity or are detained under the Mental Health Act.</p> <p>People are referred for support by a professional, the service is for anyone aged 18+, with no upper limit.</p> <p>It is an adult service, currently exploring whether an all age service could be developed.</p>	
<p>Disability</p>	<p>Some people with learning disabilities with lack mental capacity.</p> <p>Living with a learning disability can impact people's mental health.</p>	<p>A high percentage - 93% preferred not to say or were medically unwell and couldn't answer the question about whether they have a disability so data is limited.</p> <p>Advocates explore with care teams the accurate recording of information in relation to disability when the person can't answer the question.</p> <p>Physically noticeable disabilities are recorded.</p>	<p>Advocates support clients in person and remotely if appropriate, advocate's offer person-centred support, each person's needs are individual to them.</p> <p>Most people are referred to the service by professionals due to their mental illness regardless of whether they have a disability.</p> <p>Advocates attend the ward in person and adjust their support to reflect any disabilities.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>

Gender Reassignment	People undergoing gender reassignment report to face mental health challenges and the stigma associated with the change.	Service data is limited for this category.	Advocates provide support that is person centred and will respect their wishes with regards to their gender. An advocate carries out research on specific issues where needed, to help them best advocate for someone.	Neutral
Marriage and Civil Partnership	Mental health is often impacted for those people experiencing marriage / relationship breakdown	Majority of people supported either preferred not to share their status or they were unable to share their status due to their mental capacity.	Advocates support people who are un-befriended who don't have family or a friend to be their advocate. The advocacy model is person centred and people are supported to understand their rights.	Neutral
Pregnancy and Maternity	Women's mental health can be impacted during and post pregnancy.	The service doesn't capture data on pregnancy / maternity.	Advocates support people who are mentally unwell to represent their views and wishes, this includes people who are pregnant or in the maternity period.	Neutral
Race	People from some races report challenges discussing the issue of mental health and barriers to	The service data reports majority as white British, however for a large proportion of people their	Advocates complete a range of cultural training models to help them offer the most appropriate support.	Neutral

	accessing specialist support, as it isn't culturally accepted.	race isn't captured due to their mental illness.	The service utilises translators to overcome language barriers.	
Religion and Belief	<p>People's religion and beliefs may impact how they engage with a service.</p> <p>People feel unsafe practising some religions in this country, and these worries can impact their mental health.</p>	The service data reports majority as Christian, however for a large proportion of people their race isn't captured.	<p>Advocates provide support that is person centred and will respect their wishes with regards to their religion / belief.</p> <p>Advocates complete a range of cultural training models to help them offer the most appropriate support.</p>	Neutral
Sex	Men are at a higher risk of suicide, around 3 in 4 suicides are male, and men aged 50-54 are the highest risk group.	The male / female split is relatively balanced, however for 127 clients no gender is recorded due to lacking capacity to answer the question.	Advocates provide support that is person centred and will respect their wishes with regards to gender.	Neutral
Sexual Orientation	People from the LGBT+ community report their sexual orientation has an impact on their mental health due to stigma.	A large proportion (93%) of service users preferred not to say, or couldn't say due to lacking capacity.	Advocates provide support that is person centred and will respect their wishes with regards to sexual orientation.	Neutral

Carers	People caring for others often feel under pressure and exhausted, which can impact their mental health.	This data is not captured by the service.	The advocacy service extends to people needing support and 'their carers'. The advocacy service raises awareness of their service to other organisations like the bury Carers Hub.	Neutral
Looked After Children and Care Leavers	n/a adult service	n/a adult service	n/a	Neutral
Socio-economically vulnerable	Often mental illness is impacted by socio economic factors, such as housing, finances, relationships and community safety.	Little service data is captured relating to this category and the neighbourhood data is skewed due to hospital locations.	The Bury advocacy service does provide non-statutory support relating to generic issues around housing and social care, people are signposted to self-help tools online. Advocates provide guidance to people to help them access support from other services to improve their socio-economic position.	Neutral
Veterans	People who have served with the armed forces have mental health challenges from their experiences and	This data is not captured by the service.	Advocates provide support that is person centred. The advocacy service raises awareness of the service to	Neutral

	adjusting to life after the forces.		other services in Bury, such as the Military Veterans Service.	
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Actions required to mitigate/reduce/eliminate negative impacts or to complete the analysis

2.5 Characteristics	Action	Action Owner	Completion Date
Age	Monitor legislative developments for the Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) to understand the impact on providing advocacy support for detained 16/17 year olds	Jannine Robinson, Adult Commissioner Ellie Costello, CYP Commissioner	December 2026
All	Improve reporting by introducing 'unable to say' as a recording option on case recording system	Jannine Robinson, Commissioner	December 2026

Section 3 - Impact Risk

Establish the level of risk to people and organisations arising from identified impacts, with additional actions completed to mitigate/reduce/eliminate negative impacts.

3.1 Identifying risk level (Pages 10 - 12 of the guidance document)

Impact x Likelihood = Score	Likelihood			
	1	2	3	4
	Unlikely	Possible	Likely	Very likely

Impact	4	Very High	4	8	12	16
	3	High	3	6	9	12
	2	Medium	2	4	6	8
	1	Low	1	2	3	4
	0	Positive / No impact	0	0	0	0

Risk Level	No Risk = 0	Low Risk = 1 - 4	Medium Risk = 5 – 7	High Risk = 8 - 16
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3.2 Level of risk identified	Low risk
3.3 Reasons for risk level calculation	<p>A low risk level has been calculated.</p> <p>The reasons for the low risk level are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice from Corporate Procurement and Legal colleagues is that the Council will be compliant with the Procurement Act 2023, by undertaking an open tender. • All customers will still receive the same level of support • The Advocacy Project Group will work together to develop the service specification and tender process. • Lived experience representatives will be part of the Project Group to ensure the specification is co-produced.

Section 4 - Analysis Decision (Page 11 of the guidance document)

4.1 Analysis Decision	X	Reasons for This Decision
There is no negative impact therefore the activity will proceed		
There are low impacts or risks identified which can be mitigated or managed to reduce the risks and activity will proceed	X	Bury Council must follow procurement regulations and tender this service in 2026. All customers will

		continue to receive the same level of support and be offered reasonable adjustments to support protected characteristics managed in a sensitive manner.
There are medium to high risks identified which cannot be mitigated following careful and thorough consideration. The activity will proceed with caution and this risk recorded on the risk register, ensuring continual review		

Section 5 – Sign Off and Revisions (Page 11 of the guidance document)

5.1 Sign Off	Name	Date	Comments
Lead Officer/SRO/Project Manager	Jannine Robinson	15/06/26	Approved – final version. Commissioner will work with the provider on contract award.
Responsible Asst. Director/Director	Adrian Crook	15/06/2026	Agreed
EDI	Lee Crawley	15/06/26	QA Complete: The analysis has considered several potential impacts which, with mitigations are neutral for all characteristics. These mitigations will be adopted into the commissioned service.

EqIA Revision Log

5.2 Revision Date	Revision By	Revision Details
June 2023	Jannine Robinson	EIA updated prior to tendering in 2023
June 2026	Jannine Robinson	EIA updated and transferred to the new template

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Classification: Open	Decision Type: Non-Key
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Report to:	Cabinet	Date: 08 July 2026
Subject:	Bury's Local Area SEND Monitoring Inspection	
Report of	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	

Summary

1. Between 9 and 11 March 2026, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) undertook a monitoring inspection of the Bury Local Area Partnership to assess progress against the six Areas for Priority Action (APAs) identified in the full Area SEND inspection that took place in February 2024.
2. The monitoring inspection concluded that effective action has been taken in all six priority action areas.
3. This represents a significant milestone in Bury's improvement journey, evidencing that:
 - a. Leadership across education, health and care is stronger with prompt action when needed, leading to improved professional confidence in supporting children and young people with SEND
 - b. Governance and oversight arrangements are working well, with effective use of data
 - c. Multi-agency working and co-production have improved, with wider stakeholder input
 - d. Systems and services have been strengthened to better support children and young people with SEND
4. As noted in the report, "Effective action does not mean that the area for priority action is no longer a concern or that the local action can stop taking action to address it". However the report marks a transition point from recovery to system-wide transformation, with the Council and partners expected to continue delivery through the SEND and wider children's services reform agenda.

Recommendation(s)

5. Cabinet should note the outcome of the monitoring inspection and the plans for continued transformation through the local SEND Reform Plan.

Reasons for recommendation(s)

6. Ofsted and CQC carry out joint inspections of local areas at the request of the Secretary of State for Education under section 20(1)(a) of the Children Act 2004. At their discretion, they may also carry out monitoring inspections of local areas using their power in section 20(2) of the Children Act 2004.
7. Inspectors assess the extent to which the local area partners are complying with relevant legal duties relating to arrangements for children and young people with SEND. This includes duties under the Children and Families Act 2014, the Equality Act 2010 and the Human Rights Act 1998.
8. The inspection framework was devised jointly by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) for use from 2023, and reviewed and updated in June 2025. The purpose of inspection is to:
 - provide an independent, external evaluation of the effectiveness of the local area partnership's arrangements for children and young people with SEND
 - where appropriate, recommend what the local area partnership should do to improve the arrangements
9. Area SEND inspections are delivered jointly by Ofsted and CQC and assess how effectively local area partnerships:
 - a. Identify and meet the needs of children and young people with SEND
 - b. Improve outcomes across education, health and care
 - c. Work in partnership with families through co-production
10. Inspections evaluate how well members of a local area partnership work together to improve the experiences and outcomes of children and young people with SEND. The 'Local area partnership' refers to those in education, health and social care who are responsible for the strategic planning, commissioning, management, delivery and evaluation of arrangements for children and young people with SEND who live in a local area.
11. When evaluating the local area partnership, inspectors focus mainly on how effectively the local authority and integrated care board (ICB) jointly plan, evaluate and develop services for children and young people with SEND.
12. The scope of the inspection covers children and young people with SEND who live in the local authority area and attend education settings or receive health and/or care services outside of the local authority's geographical boundaries. However, it does not cover those who live in other local areas and attend an education setting within the local authority's boundaries.

Report Author and Contact Details:

Name: Jeanette Richards

Position: Exec Director, Children & Young People

Department: Children & Young People Department

E-mail: J.Richards@bury.gov.uk

Background

13. The local area monitoring inspection took place over two weeks and 3 days, from the notification call on 23 February 2026 to the on-site field work between 9 and 11 March 2026. The report is due to be published on 29 June 2026.
14. As part of the inspection a range of documents were shared with inspectors (over 70 in the initial upload), and during on-site activity the 2 Ofsted inspectors and CQC inspector spoke to almost 100 professionals from across the local SEND system, including staff from across the Council, our health partners and schools. Inspectors also met with parent and carer representatives and young people from our Changemakers group.

Areas for Priority Action from the 2024 Inspection

15. The monitoring visit focused on the 6 areas for priority action that were identified in our Local Area SEND Inspection of February 2024. These were:
 - a. Priority Action 1 - Leaders across the partnership should ensure that the SEND strategy continues to be implemented to improve the lived experiences of children and young people with SEND. This should be overseen by shared strategic governance to ensure that the pace of improvement is maintained.
 - b. Priority Action 2 - Leaders across the partnership should work collaboratively and effectively to improve the early identification of children and young people's SEND as part of the graduated approach. In particular, they should urgently improve:
 - children's access to support from education, health and social care to improve the early identification of needs
 - children, young people's and professionals' access to an effective, well-resourced educational psychology service.
 - c. Priority Action 3 - Leaders across the partnership should improve the quality and availability of support for children, young people and their families while they wait for specialist assessments. This includes:
 - children and young people waiting for a speech and language therapy assessment and subsequent intervention
 - children waiting for a community paediatric assessment and subsequent intervention

- children and young people on a neurodevelopmental pathway for an assessment of ADHD or autism.

Leaders across the partnership should also ensure that young people aged up to 25 years old have access to a locally agreed neurodevelopmental diagnostic pathway.

- d. Priority Action 4 - Leaders across the partnership should improve preparation for adulthood from the earliest ages for all children and young people with SEND in Bury. This should include a well understood and co-produced strategy to embed preparation for adulthood effectively across the partnership.
- e. Priority Action 5 - Leaders across the partnership should establish and implement a strategic approach to high-quality transitions for children and young people with SEND from birth to 25.
- f. Priority Action 6 - Leaders across the partnership should further improve the quality of the statutory EHC plan process. This should include:
 - improving the quality of advice received from professionals as part of the needs assessment process
 - improving the timeliness and quality of updated EHC plans following annual reviews
 - improving appropriate social care contributions to EHC plans so that children and young people's social care needs are reflected more accurately improving the focus on preparation for adulthood in children and young people's EHC plans so that their experiences and outcomes improve.

Continued improvement and transformation: next steps

16. In February 2026 – on the same date that Bury received notification of the inspection - the government published its reforms to the SEND system in England as part of its White Paper, 'Every Child Achieving and Thriving'. This paper sets out expectations for major transformation across the school and SEND system.
17. As part of the wider transformation, all local areas were asked to co-produce a local area SEND Reforms Plan and submit to the DfE by 19 June 2026, which has been successfully completed.
18. The SEND Reform Plan will replace the Priority Impact Plan (PIP) as our main area of transformation, as a natural step on our improvement journey. The plan is focused on the four pillars of SEND reform:
 - a. Strengthening inclusion across settings - ensuring mainstream education can meet a wider range of needs

- b. Improving access to specialist support and local placements
 - c. System leadership, partnership and co-production
 - d. Inclusive culture and behaviours (enabled by system enablers)
19. Our robust partnership approach to governance will continue to oversee delivery of the SEND Reforms Plan. External scrutiny through the DfE will be in place as part of the Reforms, with regular meetings with our Senior SEND Delivery Case Lead and quarterly data returns. We will also continue to meet with Ofsted annually as part of the Area Engagement Meeting process which will include scrutiny of our Self-Evaluation. A full re-inspection would be expected 3 years after our original inspection in February 2024 or 18 months after the monitoring inspection.

Links with the Corporate Priorities:

20. Improving the lives of children and families remains one of the council's key priorities.

Equality Impact and Considerations:

21. Good quality children's services are instrumental in improving the outcomes for children for all children, but particularly those who face greater challenges than their peers.

Activities, actions, strategies and projects arising from this report will be individually impact assessed supporting the equitable provision of children's services and equitable outcomes for all children

Environmental Impact and Considerations:

22. Not applicable.

Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

23. The Local Area SEND inspection framework places significant emphasis on the extent to which partners are working together effectively to improve outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), and on whether those improvements are experienced consistently by families. This report indicates that the partnership is moving in the right direction, however there remain risks in relation to risk of insufficient pace or sustainability of improvement and/or risks that improvements are not yet consistently experienced by children, young people and their families.

24. In mitigation, the core of our improvement activity is set out within the local area SEND Reforms Plan which sits under the existing governance in relation to improvement (as set out in paragraph 23). As part of these governance arrangements a risk register is maintained and owned by the partnership, and shared with the DfE under their own scrutiny arrangements.
-

Procurement Implications:

25. Procurement will continue to support the SEND team in delivering against the priorities.
-

Legal Implications:

26. As detailed above, following a monitoring inspection having been undertaken in March 2026, the conclusion finds that effective action has been taken across all six Areas for Priority Action identified in the previous inspection representing a significant milestone in Bury's improvement journey.
 27. The outcome of the inspection confirms that effective action does not mean the area for priority action is no longer a concern. There is an ongoing legal duty for Bury Council to ensure the improvements are sustained.
 28. The areas identified with effective action may be identified again as priorities if progress is not sustained or fails to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND. It is noted that the Priority Impact Plan will be replaced by the SEND Reform Plan, being the main area of transformation which will be jointly owned with partners to review and ensure the delivery of the maintained improvements.
 29. The recommendations made for continued transformation through the local SEND Reform Plan will support Bury in meeting its legal duties as defined in the Children and Families Act 2014, Equality Act 2010 and Human Rights Act 1998, mitigating against potential legal challenge, intervention by the Secretary of State or regulatory action by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission.
-

Financial Implications:

30. SEND provision and the related services due to the increasing demand continues to increase the pressure within the Dedicated School Grant (DSG) High Needs block (High Needs block over-spent by £5.462m in 2025-26 before being offset by Programme Safety Valve (PSV) contribution and reserves released against the expenditure as agreed within the programme). Bury DSG deficit balance as at 31st March 2026 is £20.285m.

Bury council plans for the change from PSV to High Needs Stability Grant in 2026-28 for a two-year interim period whilst transitioning to the new model after the ending of the statutory override on 31st March 2028.

The finance service will continue to work closely with operations to align with, monitor and report on, the mandated reform plans along with any support required to seek approval, from school forum, of budget transfers across the DSG funding blocks.

This is not just a Bury council but a national challenge and estimates of unmitigated DSG deficit balances of between £14-£18 billion pounds across England at the point of the statutory over-ride ending.

Appendices:

Bury Local Area SEND Monitoring Inspection Report

Background papers:

SEND Inspection Framework - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/area-send-framework-and-handbook/area-send-inspections-framework-and-handbook>

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

Term	Meaning
CQC	Care Quality Commission
EHCP	Education, Health & Care Plan
Ofsted	Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services & Skills
PIP	Priority Impact Plan
SEND	Special Education Needs & Disabilities

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12 May 2026

Jeanette Richards, Executive Director of Children's Services, Bury Metropolitan Borough Council

Colin Scales, Acting Chief Executive, NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board

Area SEND monitoring inspection to Bury Local Area Partnership

Between 9 March 2026 and 11 March 2026, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) revisited Bury, to decide whether effective action has been made in relation to each of the areas for priority action detailed in the inspection report published on 7 May 2024. The inspection was conducted under section 20 of the Children Act 2004.

I write on behalf of His Majesty's Chief Inspector (HMCI) of Education, Children's Services and Skills and the Chief Inspector of Primary Medical Services and the Chief Inspector of Primary Care and Community Services of CQC.

As a result of the findings of the initial inspection and in accordance with the Children Act 2004 (Joint Area Reviews) Regulations 2015, HMCI required the local area partnership to prepare and submit a priority action plan (area SEND) to address the six identified areas for priority action.

The local area partnership has taken effective action to address six of the areas for priority action identified at the initial inspection. This letter outlines our findings from the monitoring inspection.

The inspection was led by one of His Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) from Ofsted, accompanied by an HMI from social care, and a Children's Services Inspector from CQC.

During the inspection, we spoke to local area leaders, parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), and education, health and social care professionals. We also met with representatives of the parent carer forum (PCF), the Department for Education (DfE) and regional NHS England. We examined relevant documents and correspondence about the performance of the area in addressing the areas for priority action identified at the initial inspection, including the area's priority action plan and self-evaluation.

Findings

Area for priority action 1:

Leaders across the partnership should ensure that the SEND strategy continues to be implemented to improve the lived experiences of children and young people with SEND. This should be overseen by shared strategic governance to ensure that the pace of improvement is maintained.

Outcome: Effective action

Since the previous inspection, the partnership has implemented a range of appropriate actions to improve local services for children and young people with SEND across education, health and social care. Shared strategic governance is stronger, with independent oversight. Performance data is used well to inform and respond proactively to local area priorities. Co-production (a way of working where children, families and those that provide the services work together to create a decision or a service that works for them all) are more effective. For example, a broad range of stakeholders is now involved in strategic decision-making.

Leaders' actions have improved professionals' confidence in the partnership's work to support children and young people with SEND. Systems of support are more self-sustaining and have been shaped by lessons learned from the previous inspection. The co-produced SEND strategy addresses the areas for priority action and progress is checked monthly by the independently chaired SEND Improvement and Assurance Board (SIAB). Leaders' regular reporting to the SIAB helps to maintain effective strategic oversight. Key partners, including the 'Bury2Gether' PCF, contribute to this work effectively.

The PCF provides meaningful support, and challenge, to leaders across education, health and social care. In addition, the PCF contributes to local area decision-making through the SIAB. This strengthened governance has enabled investment in services and staffing. For example, the partnership has expanded educational psychology capacity. However, relationships and communication between the partnership and PCF need further strengthening. Parents and carers do not sufficiently understand the changes taking place in local services. In addition, the PCF experience of co-production is inconsistent. Leaders recognise this and acknowledge that clearer communication and strengthened partnership working are needed.

The partnership has taken reasonable and, in some instances, rapid action to address priority action areas. Leaders understand that there is much work to do. They have identified correctly where further improvement and strengthening of practice is needed. They rightly acknowledge that local area improvements are not experienced equally by children, young people and their families. For example,

primary schools are supported by link speech and language therapy (SALT) therapists. However, secondary schools' access to SALT support is less comprehensive.

Area for priority action 2:

Leaders across the partnership should work collaboratively and effectively to improve the early identification of children and young people's SEND as part of the graduated approach. In particular, they should urgently improve:

- children's access to support from education, health and social care to improve the early identification of needs
- children, young people's and professionals' access to an effective, well-resourced educational psychology service.

Outcome: Effective action

The partnership has prioritised the earlier identification of children and young people's needs. For example, the educational psychology service has been significantly re-designed and expanded. This is providing increased capacity to assess children and young people's needs, and to provide guidance to professionals. In addition, the development of well-understood ways of working together have strengthened multi-agency support in the local area. Practitioners now work in an improved locality model, and these provide an effective role in the early identification of needs by signposting to services for families as part of the graduated approach.

Increased staffing capacity across some services has further supported improvements in the early identification and support available for children and young people with SEND. For example, SALT waiting times for initial assessments have significantly reduced, although long waiting times remain for further intervention, when required. Similarly, the newly established SEND health visiting team has increased capacity for the earlier identification and specialist support for babies and young children with emerging SEND.

The use of evidence-based screening tools is now embedded in universal health visiting practice. This provides improved opportunities for the early identification of speech, language and social communication needs and alerts practitioners to the emerging signs of autism in young children effectively. In addition, babies and young children receive increasingly timely mandated health reviews, through the Healthy Child Programme.

A greater range of multi-agency services coordinate appropriate support for families such as through early help and team around the family meetings. This ensures early help workers provide targeted support and intervention to children, young people and their families. Furthermore, to strengthen help available in education settings,

the partnership has increased the mental health support available to children and young people in schools. More widely, local neighbourhood hubs provide universal, targeted and specialist support to children, young people and their families within accessible community settings. For example, outreach support is delivered in mosques and synagogues. This helps to engage a range of communities in Bury.

School referrals for health support, such as emerging needs relating to neurodiversity, are sometimes closed without notification, frustrating professionals and families. In addition, long waiting times for some services, such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) or autism assessment, leave professionals and families unsure about next steps and wider available support. Often, special schools, independent special schools and alternative provision (AP) require more specialist support than the tiered support model available to mainstream schools. The support available is limited by specialist expertise, for example educational psychology specialisms, leading many of these schools to commission their own specialist services.

Area for priority action 3:

Leaders across the partnership should improve the quality and availability of support for children, young people and their families while they wait for specialist assessments. This includes:

- children and young people waiting for a speech and language therapy assessment and subsequent intervention
- children waiting for a community paediatric assessment and subsequent intervention
- children and young people on a neurodevelopmental pathway for an assessment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) or autism.

Leaders across the partnership should also ensure that young people aged up to 25 years old have access to a locally agreed neurodevelopmental diagnostic pathway.

Outcome: Effective action

The partnership has implemented a range of appropriate 'support while waiting' health-led services. These have improved access to help for many children, young people and families. These services provide useful support to reduce the risk of needs escalating while waiting for specialist assessment and/or intervention. Parent-focused programmes, such as specialist family intervention from the SEND health visitor team, and the newly developed 'Neurodiversity Hub' offer individual and group needs-led support to families.

The partnership acknowledges that children and young people in Bury continue to experience lengthy waits for an ADHD and/or autism assessment. In contrast, adult ADHD and autism diagnostic pathways are now fully commissioned. These pathways

provide timely assessments for young people with SEND aged 18–25 years old. Similarly, child and adolescent mental health services are fully commissioned for young people aged up to 18 years old across diagnostic pathways. There are clear and structured transition pathways in place between child and adult mental health services for children and young people as they grow older.

The SEND health visiting team provides enhanced specialist support for babies and children with additional needs. For example, some families with infants and young children, with emerging needs relating to neurodiversity, are offered a 10-week intensive programme of one-to-one support. This uses innovative parent-child video recordings for families to learn strategies to improve interaction and communication.

All referrals to the community paediatric service are triaged. Babies, children and young people who have complex health needs, such as neurological conditions are prioritised. Strong multi-disciplinary team working, and effective information sharing, ensure coordinated support for these children and young people. However, children and young people with needs relating to neurodiversity face longer waits to see a community paediatrician. As a result, some families feel unsupported during this waiting period. Children and young people with deteriorating health, or those where there are significant safeguarding concerns can be prioritised if their needs change, once on the waiting list.

The partnership is working effectively to upskill the broader children's workforce. Professional learning enables earlier identification and improves support for communication needs. This reduces reliance on specialist intervention. In addition, the partnership ensures that families receive support for their child's speech, language and communication development. For example, 'Chat and Play' groups in family hubs, SALT drop-ins and digital offers provide effective early advice and guidance. Primary schools appreciate improved support from allocated link SALT therapists. In addition, SALT therapists now work closely with early years settings, family hubs and education professionals to provide early advice and guidance.

Area for priority action 4:

Leaders across the partnership should improve preparation for adulthood from the earliest ages for all children and young people with SEND in Bury. This should include a well-understood and co-produced strategy to embed preparation for adulthood effectively across the partnership.

Outcome: Effective action

The partnership now ensures children and young people, aged 16 years old, are more effectively supported through a transition pathway to prepare them for adulthood. The transition pathway is underpinned by a co-produced 'Preparing for

Adulthood Standard Operating Procedure' and preparation for adulthood strongly features in the partnership SEND strategy. This improvement work has been supported by professional networking events and redesigned transition processes. Transition planning now starts earlier.

Preparation for adulthood features more strongly in new EHC plans and annual reviews. This typically begins from Year 9 and the partnership annual review documentation places increased expectations that this will be discussed by professionals. For example, educational psychology advice and EHC plan outcomes are increasingly aligned with preparation for adulthood themes and EHC plan case workers are trained to embed preparation for adulthood more consistently in EHC plans. However, the quality of some information remains variable, particularly in older EHC plans. In addition, preparation for adulthood is not reflected consistently well in EHC plans for those children and young people aged under 14.

The partnership's use of data tracking systems has improved. These ensure better oversight of children and young people who are at different stages of preparation for adulthood. Strengthened systems include identifying children moving into post-16 provision, those transitioning from children's social care into adult services and those known to the multi-agency complex case panel.

Young people with complex health or learning needs experience improved transition support to adult health services. In addition, SALT therapists work with young people aged up to 19 years old in college to support their transition to adult learning disability and therapy services. However, the partnership acknowledges that there is limited specialist provision in Bury for young people aged over 19 years old. The transition pathway enables families and professionals to refer children and young people to the preparation for adulthood team. These referrals help multi-agency professionals identify which children and young people, who do not receive social care intervention, may need support in the future.

Leaders recognise that capacity challenges in the preparation for adulthood team mean children and young people with the most complex needs are prioritised for earlier support, and those assessed to have less urgent needs receive reduced support. More work is needed to understand the impact of this on children, young people and their families. To mitigate capacity challenges, the partnership is increasing capacity in the preparation for adulthood team. Embedded practice includes social workers and the preparation for adulthood team jointly visiting families known to social care at the earliest opportunity. This helps professionals to understand children and young people's needs and plan support.

The Bury careers service provides well-regarded careers and next steps guidance for children and young people from Year 9 onwards. The partnership has enabled the careers service to strengthen its support since the previous inspection. This includes

advisors visiting families at home, running support hubs and ensuring children, young people and parents' views are better reflected in EHC plan annual reviews.

Area for priority action 5:

Leaders across the partnership should establish and implement a strategic approach to high-quality transitions for children and young people with SEND from birth to 25.

Outcome: Effective action

The partnership continues to develop, and embed, a strategic approach to transitions through the graduated approach for children and young people with SEND. They have implemented multi-agency oversight at key transition points. As a result, some children and young people experience more coordinated and consistent transition planning across services.

Schools report earlier information sharing at transition points, with improvements in communication between phases. For example, before the early years to primary transition, professionals attend face-to-face and virtual information sharing events. Groups of providers and professionals offer a range of local support for children and young people. This includes staff training from educational psychologists to help schools better prepare to meet children and young people's needs when they transition between phases of education. However, for placements in AP, transition information is frequently incomplete, particularly for children and young people with outdated EHC plans.

Health services have developed robust transition policies and processes to ensure clinicians provide enhanced advice and support for children and young people during unsettling transition periods. This includes some young people with SEND being supported by multi-disciplinary hubs during adult health transitions. However, this strengthened multi-disciplinary transition work is not equally experienced by children and young people with SEND and their families.

The partnership has developed a school transition guide for parents and carers. In addition, the partnership prioritises reviewing EHC plans for children and young people at important school transition points more effectively. New transition arrangements promote more joined-up planning across services, including when preparing for adulthood.

The partnership is focusing on expanding post-16 transition pathways, with more early support. Furthermore, the partnership has identified that the sufficiency of school places for children and young people with SEND, particularly for specialist provision, needs improvement. A SEND sufficiency strategy is being developed but is not yet published.

Area for priority action 6:

Leaders across the partnership should further improve the quality of the statutory EHC plan process. This should include:

- improving the quality of advice received from professionals as part of the needs assessment process
- improving the timeliness and quality of updated EHC plans following annual reviews
- improving appropriate social care contributions to EHC plans so that children and young people's social care needs are reflected more accurately
- improving the focus on preparation for adulthood in children and young people's EHC plans so that their experiences and outcomes improve.

Outcome: Effective action

The quality of children and young people's EHC plans has notably improved. The partnership has implemented better systems and processes to strengthen their overall quality. For example, comprehensive EHC plan templates, with detailed guidance documentation, ensure EHC plans are both compliant and more accurately reflect the needs of children and young people. In addition, new systems to share learning from multi-agency EHC plan audits help to improve the overall quality.

Newer EHC plans include children and young people's voices more clearly and explain their lived experiences more effectively. The partnership has increased EHC plan case worker staffing and implemented more effective processes, such as a tiered quality assurance framework, to improve the quality of EHC plans. Schools acknowledge more responsive EHC plan case work and better communication with the partnership. In addition, stronger management information systems and consistent educational psychology advice contribute to improvements in overall EHC plan quality and accuracy.

Although the backlog of EHC plan annual reviews is reducing, the process remains slow and does not reliably lead to accurately updated plans. A large but steadily decreasing number of existing EHC plans still need updating. This includes EHC plans where an annual review has already taken place. To check progress, leaders monitor EHC plan completion through a detailed data scorecard. This is regularly scrutinised by the SIAB to help drive positive momentum.

The quality of social care advice about children and young people's needs is typically strong, however this information does not always transfer into children and young people's EHC plans when it should. In contrast, health advice is more fully and accurately represented. More generally, outdated information remains common in older EHC plans. Some information is vague and preparation for adulthood is of

inconsistent quality or missing. However, newer EHC plans typically have more complete preparation for adulthood information, usually beginning in Year 9.

Next steps

Inspectors will reach an effective action outcome if, having gathered and evaluated evidence, they find that the local area partnership has taken reasonable steps to address the area for priority action since the full inspection, based on the relevant evaluation criteria.

Effective action does not mean that the area for priority action is no longer a concern or that the local area can stop taking action to address it. Inspections are a point-in-time evaluation. Areas for priority action that receive an effective action outcome may still be identified as areas for priority action in future inspections. This can happen if the local area does not continue to take action and/or the action has not continued to have a positive impact on the experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

Ofsted and CQC ask the local area partnership to update their priority action plan (area SEND) as a result of this inspection.

I am copying this letter to DfE and regional NHS England.

Yours sincerely

David Mills

His Majesty's Inspector, Ofsted, Lead inspector

Julie Knight

His Majesty's Inspector, Ofsted

Gerry Bates

Children's Services Inspector, CQC

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Classification: Open	Decision Type: Key
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Report to:	Cabinet	Date: 08 July 2026
Subject:	Alternative Provision	
Report of	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	

1. Summary

This report seeks Cabinet approval to recommission Bury's Alternative Provision for children and young people.

The Council currently maintains an approved Alternative Provision Directory, listing both school-based and non-school providers that have met the local authority's due diligence requirements. This directory, published on the Local Offer, supports consistent and quality-assured placements. Local authority teams are required to use the directory when commissioning provision, and schools are strongly encouraged to do the same.

The current Alternative Provision arrangements are due to expire on 31st August 2026. To ensure continuity of provision while a full review and recommissioning process is undertaken, approval is sought to extend the existing arrangements until 31st March 2027.

During the extension period, the Council will undertake a structured programme of preliminary market engagement (PME) with providers and stakeholders. The pre-market engagement will assess the effectiveness of the current service model, assess market capacity and inform the choice of procurement route - either a two-stage Competitive Flexible Procedure or an open tender - based on the findings. (Please refer to Appendix 2 for details on the recommissioning timeline)

The procurement process will establish a four-year Alternative Provision framework, providing stability and sufficient duration to support delivery of the priorities set out in Bury's Alternative Provision Strategy (Appendix 1) and the emerging SEND Sufficiency Strategy.

In the longer term, and in line with SEND reforms and forthcoming Department for Education legislative changes, the Council will explore opportunities to develop shared service arrangements with neighbouring authorities. This approach aims to strengthen quality assurance, improve consistency in practice, deliver greater efficiency, and build system-wide resilience in the commissioning and oversight of alternative provision.

This approach will ensure that the recommissioned Alternative Provision offer is strategically aligned to local need, financially sustainable, and capable of being delivered through a robust and competitive provider market.

Alternative Provision plays a critical role in ensuring that children and young people who are unable to access mainstream or specialist education can continue to receive suitable, high-quality education and support. It provides a structured pathway for children who are permanently excluded or disengaged from education, enabling access to an educational reintroduction programme in line with the Council's statutory responsibilities and duty of care.

Structured market engagement will enable the Council to develop a more sustainable, responsive and high-quality Alternative Provision system aligned to local, regional and national expectations.

2. Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to:

- Approve the recommissioning of Bury's Alternative Provision offer, in line with the Alternative Provision Strategy.
- Approve a structured programme of pre-market and stakeholder engagement including children, young people and families.
- Approve the short-term extension of existing contractual arrangements to 31st March 2027 via a blanket call-off order to the current providers, to ensure continuity of service.
- Approve the substantive procurement of a four-year Alternative Provision framework, with the route, two-stage Competitive Flexible Procedure or open tender, to be confirmed by the outputs of pre-market engagement.
- Note that a further Cabinet report will be brought forward outlining the final delivery model, financial implications and contract award recommendations.

3. Reasons for recommendation(s)

Cabinet approval of these recommendations will deliver several significant and interrelated benefits, for children and young people, families, education providers, and the Local Authority, as outlined below:

Improved outcomes for children and young people

Recommissioning the Alternative Provision offer, in line with the strategy, will ensure that provision is better aligned to identified needs, including rising demand and increasing complexity. A refreshed model will support earlier intervention, more tailored pathways, and improved reintegration into mainstream education where

appropriate. This will contribute to better educational attainment, attendance, emotional wellbeing, and longer-term life chances.

A more responsive and needs-led system

Undertaking structured pre-market engagement and stakeholder consultation will ensure the future Alternative Provision model is shaped by those who use and deliver services. Involving children, young people, families, and providers will strengthen co-production, ensuring services are inclusive, equitable, and responsive to lived experience. It will also help identify gaps in provision and opportunities for innovation.

Market stability and development

Engagement with the provider market will support the development of a strong, diverse, and sustainable supply base. By signalling future commissioning intentions early, the Council can encourage provider readiness, innovation, and investment in local services. This reduces the risk of market failure and better supports long-term value for money.

Continuity of provision and risk mitigation

Extending existing contractual arrangements to March 2027 ensures that there is no disruption to placements for vulnerable children. This stability is critical to safeguarding, maintaining educational progress, and avoiding the risks associated with gaps in provision. It also provides adequate time to undertake robust commissioning and procurement activity without creating operational pressure.

Strong governance and compliance

Proceeding with a compliant and well-planned procurement process ensures adherence to Public Contracts Regulations and best practice commissioning principles. Determining the most appropriate procurement route following PME will enable the Council to balance flexibility, transparency, and competitiveness, reducing legal and financial risk.

Value for money and financial sustainability

A strategic, evidence-informed procurement process will enable the Council to secure high-quality provision at a sustainable cost. By understanding market dynamics and demand through pre-market engagement, the Council can design a framework that maximises efficiency, avoids spot purchasing where possible, and ensures better control over expenditure.

Approval of this report establishes a structured and transparent process for developing the future provision. Bringing a further report to Cabinet with detailed delivery proposals, financial implications, and contract award recommendations ensures continued oversight and informed decision-making at key stages.

Overall, approval will enable the Council to transition from current arrangements to a more strategic, sustainable, and high-quality Alternative Provision system, while maintaining stability and minimising risk throughout the process.

It will also support improved outcomes for children and young people by ensuring provision is responsive, flexible and aligned to identified need, while delivering better value for money through a more sustainable, equitable and financially robust funding approach.

Alternative options considered and rejected

Option	Advantage	Disadvantage
Maintain current model	No procurement required	Does not address gaps, rising costs, poor outcomes
Redesign without engagement	Faster	Substantial risk of failure due to lack of market insight
Redesign through engagement (Preferred)	Informed, sustainable, needs-led	Requires time and resource

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4. Background

The service experienced a significant overspend in the 2025/26 financial year, representing a substantial increase compared with previous years, where only minor overspends had been recorded. This financial pressure has necessitated a more detailed analysis and will inform the development of the forthcoming sufficiency strategy.

Total expenditure amounted to £1,821,222.90 (Including an overspend of £843,222.90). Based on the current level of provision spend, extending the provision to 31st March 2027 would require an estimated financial commitment of £1,062,380.

The financial implications for the Council will need to be updated once full details of the High Needs Stability Grant are confirmed, including conditions, allocation methodology, and duration.

Within the context of the SEND reforms, interim (2026–2028) and longer-term funding arrangements from April 2028 are expected to significantly influence and possibly fundamentally change the funding and commissioning of Alternative Provision. This includes impacts on demand, placement costs, and the role of the

provision within a reformed SEND system, with direct consequences for Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Block pressures and deficit management.

Further analysis will be required to assess the extent to which the SEND reforms and associated funding support sustainable Alternative Provision, including any implications for the General Fund and residual financial risks beyond the transition period.

Given the ongoing national SEND reform programme and the potential implications for future Department for Education (DfE) funding arrangements, it is considered prudent that this report seeks approval at this stage for the recommissioning approach and proposed procurement route only.

A subsequent Cabinet report will be brought forward once there is greater clarity regarding the preferred delivery model, market response, funding assumptions and associated financial commitments, to seek full financial approval. Given the financial pressures within the wider SEND system, a full financial appraisal and affordability assessment will accompany the final Cabinet award report.

5. Links with the Corporate Priorities:

This proposal supports the Council's *Let's Do It* strategy by contributing directly to the ambition to improve outcomes for children and young people, reduce inequality, and build strong, inclusive communities. In particular, the redesign of Alternative Provision aligns with the *Let's Do It for Children and Young People* priority by ensuring that vulnerable children, including those with SEND and those at risk of exclusion, are supported to access appropriate education, achieve positive outcomes, and progress towards adulthood with increased independence.

The proposal also advances the Council's commitment to tackling inequalities by addressing the disproportionate impact of SEND and exclusion on children living in areas of higher deprivation. By strengthening local provision and improving access to flexible, needs-led support, the recommissioned provision will help ensure that children and families can access the right support at the right time, reducing barriers to participation in education and promoting fair outcomes across the borough.

A key element of the *Let's Do It* approach is collaborating with communities to develop sustainable, locally delivered services. The recommissioning of Alternative Provision will support this by strengthening the local provider market, encouraging participation from a diverse range of providers including the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector, and increasing the availability of community-based provision. This will contribute to building local capacity and resilience while reducing reliance on out-of-area placements.

The proposal further aligns with the Council's focus on delivering financial sustainability through system reform, rather than service reduction, making better use of available local resources.

Overall, the recommissioning of this provision supports the development of a more integrated, preventative and outcome-focused Alternative Provision system, aligning with both corporate priorities and national policy direction. It will enable the Council to continue to move towards a more sustainable model that improves life chances for children and young people while delivering better value for money.

6. Equality Impact and Considerations:

An Equality Impact Assessment will be integral to the commissioning process, ensuring the Alternative Provision continues to promote fair access, reduces inequalities, and meets the needs of children with protected characteristics. Equality considerations will be embedded throughout service design, procurement, and contract management.

The needs of children in areas of socio-economic deprivation will also be addressed, with a focus on improving local access, reducing barriers such as travel, and ensuring distribution of provision is fair and balanced.

7. Environmental Impact and Considerations:

No significant negative environmental impacts have been identified from the recommissioning of Alternative Provision.

By strengthening local, community-based provision, the model will reduce reliance on out-of-borough placements and long-distance travel, lowering transport use and associated carbon emissions.

The commissioning process will also encourage providers to adopt sustainable practices, including minimising travel and using local venues.

Overall, while impacts are modest, the redesign supports more sustainable service delivery through improved local access and reduced travel dependency.

8. Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
Market capacity limitations	Early engagement and provider development
Continued reliance on high-cost placements	Strengthen local offer and commissioning
Insufficient specialist provision	Targeted commissioning in key gaps
Financial pressure	Improved oversight and cost benchmarking
Weak outcomes monitoring	Introduce structured outcomes framework

9. Procurement Implications:

All procurement activity will be undertaken in full compliance with the Procurement Act 2023.

Short term - continuity extension. Existing contractual arrangements will be extended to 31st March 2027 via a blanket call-off order applied to the suppliers as identified through the internal review of provider performance, spend and forecast service need. The extension is a tactical, short-term measure to support continuous provision for in-flight pupils. It does not expand scope, increase value, or admit new suppliers outside of current provision. The extension period will be used to gather structured feedback from service users (internally and externally, including schools and partner agencies) to inform the future service.

Medium term - PME and re-procurement. During the extension period the Council will undertake a structured programme of pre-market engagement (PME) with providers, service users, schools, families and partner agencies. The PME will assess the proposed service model, assess market capacity, identify gaps in specialist provision, and strengthen the future landscape of the service. Based on the PME findings, the substantive procurement will be progressed via either a two-stage Competitive Flexible Procedure (where market dialogue and iterative refinement is needed) or an open tender (where the market is sufficiently mature and the specification can be fixed). The procurement will deliver a four-year Alternative Provision framework, providing the stability, predictability and duration needed to embed the graduated pathway and outcomes-based pricing model. The framework will be tiered and lot-based, covering full-time provision for highest need, targeted

and blended provision including part-time reintegration pathways, and vocational, therapeutic and complementary services.

Long term. In line with the forthcoming DfE legislative changes, the Council will explore a shared service arrangement with neighbouring authorities during the life of the four-year framework.

10. Legal Implications:

Bury Council has a statutory duty pursuant to section 19 of the Education Act 1996 to arrange suitable education by way of alternative provision for children of compulsory school age who would not otherwise receive it. Duties arise from the Children and Families Act 2014 to secure the provision specified in Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) which must comply with the Equality Act 2010, which includes duties not to discriminate and to make reasonable adjustments for disabled children and young people.

Bury Council seeks Cabinet approval to recommission Bury's alternative provision for children and young people. To ensure the continuity of provision, consistent with statutory duties Bury Council propose an extension of the existing contractual arrangements to the 31st March 2027, whilst the full review and recommissioning process is undertaken. This is proportionate and reduces the risk of disruption to education.

Legal challenge could arise by any failure to secure suitable or EHCP provision, this includes from judicial review, SEND Tribunal appeals and complaints to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman.

The current contracts provide for a 5 year term, expiring on 31st August 2026, with the option to extend by up to two further periods of 12 months. This extension is therefore lawful.

Bury Council has confirmed the recommissioning will be undertaken in full compliance with the Procurement Act 2023 and relevant procurement principles including by being transparent, proportionate and compliant with the principles of equal treatment and non-discriminatory.

In light of the above, there are no legal reasons why the recommendations cannot be implemented on the basis Bury Council continues to comply with its statutory duties and procurement obligations.

11. Financial Implications:

The cost of the extension has been built into the Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Block financial assumptions.

Appendices:

- Appendix 1: Alternative Provision Strategy
 - Appendix 2: Alternative Provision Re-Commissioning Timeline Plan
-

Background papers:

None.

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

Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

Term	Meaning
DfE	Department for Education
PME	Preliminary Market Engagement
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

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- 5. Due Diligence and Measuring Impact**
- 6. Partnerships and Governance**
- 7. Priorities for development**

1. Context

The Department for Education (DfE) defines **alternative provision (AP)** as education arranged by local authorities or schools for pupils who, due to exclusion, illness, or other reasons, would not otherwise receive suitable education. This includes settings such as pupil referral units (PRUs), further education colleges, and independent providers.

Within Bury AP may be used to support pupils on fixed-period exclusions, those needing off-site education to improve behaviour, or those who cannot attend mainstream school due to health reasons or permanent exclusion. Alternative Provision may also be used to provide interim support whilst a school place is sought or to form part of the provision of an EOTAS package.

This Strategy supports the principles contained within the Bury LET's do it strategy, Bury Education Strategy and SEND strategy

Bury LET's do it strategy	Bury Education Strategy	Bury SEND Strategy
<p>This strategy supports key priorities of LET's, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A better future for the children of the borough • Improved quality of life • Improved educational attainment • Increased adult skill levels and employability 	<p>This strategy supports the key commitments of the Education Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive • Safe • Effective • Collaborative and Connected • Sufficient and Sustainable <p>Bury All-Age Work and Skills Strategy This strategy supports the aim of the work and skills strategy, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping people of all ages in Bury access quality education, training and job opportunities 	<p>This strategy supports the things Bury young people with SEN have said are important to them, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am safe • The people that care for me are respected and supported • I feel healthy and well • I have fun • I have the freedom to choose my next steps, and I am as independent as possible • I have my say and feel heard • I feel included at home, school and in the community

2. Principle and Purpose.

The aim of the Alternative Strategy is to:

Increase the number of young people who are supported in mainstream through early identification, intervention and targeted support and reduce the numbers requiring longer term placements in Alternative Provision settings.

It is a key priority of the Bury Alternative Provision Strategy to:

Ensure that children and young people receive good quality Alternative Provision and EOTAS (Education other than at school) that meets their needs and prepares them for the next stage in their education and/or training.

To ensure this all types of Alternative Provision placements should:

- Hold high aspirations for young people and enable them to achieve to their full potential.
- Are co-produced with families and take account of young people's views and wishes.
- Support early intervention and identification of need to enable young people to continue to thrive in their education setting.
- Provide the right support, at the right time, according to need.
- Ensure that young people feel engaged, safe and well supported
- Enable young people to develop the skills and confidence that they need in order to progress to the next stage of education and employment and become independent.
- Are outcomes focussed, and carefully planned, monitored and reviewed, in order to ensure positive outcomes for young people.
- Provide good education, support and or training which prepares young people for adulthood.
- Provide support to successfully reintegrate and/or transition to the next stage of education and/or training.

A three-tier model for alternative provision

The alternative provision strategy aims to provide support to young people through a three-tiered system of support:

Targeted support in mainstream schools, in order to ensure that young people's needs are identified, and met at an early stage, enabling them to thrive in a mainstream setting. This support will include building capacity within the mainstream setting through advice and training and may include direct support for the young person through outreach services provided by the local authority, multi-academy trusts and independent alternative providers. This may be one to one support, mentoring, counselling or small group intervention delivered on the school site.

Time-limited placements, for those who require more intensive support to address their needs and to re-engage in learning. This may include vocational placements used to compliment school provisions and to support young people with transition to the education and training. Time-limited placements should have a clear focus and be established with the expectation that the young person would return to their mainstream schools with their needs clearly identified and strategies and support in place to support reintegration.

Transitional Placements, in order to support young people to move on to a new mainstream or specialist setting when they are ready, or to a suitable post-16 destination. This includes those young people who require placements under the local authorities Section 19 duty¹. Alternative providers will support these children and young people to recover as much academic progress as possible and support them to develop the skills and confidence to thrive in their next setting.

¹ The Local Authority has a legal obligation under Section 19 of the Education Act 1996 to arrange suitable education (often full-time) for children of compulsory school age who can't attend school due to illness, exclusion, or other significant reasons, ensuring they receive education which would otherwise be unavailable.

3. Exclusion, Managed Move and Off-site Direction Protocols

Many of those young people who access Alternative Provision in Bury, do so because they have been permanently excluded.

All partners within Bury including schools, health and the local authority are committed to working together to prevent exclusion and to ensure that young people are supported to remain in school, wherever possible, and to achieve to their full potential.

All partners are committed to working together to ensure that young people's needs are met and that permanent exclusion is used only as a last resort. Early intervention is paramount, and as such, recommendations that are included in the Bury Graduated Approach Toolkit as suggested additional supportive interventions, should be considered alongside statutory responsibilities and expectations.

Early Intervention	Exclusion Protocol	Managed Move and Off-site Direction Protocol
<p>Bury Ordinarily available provision This refers to the inclusive support and resources provided in schools to meet the needs of all children including those with SEND.</p> <p>Bury Graduated Approach Toolkit Bury SEND Graduated Approach Toolkit</p> <p>Communities of Practice (Schools) Supports clusters of school to work collaboratively with support from services to build capacity and share expertise and best practice</p>	<p>The Bury exclusion protocol is designed to support schools and partners to implement early intervention strategies to prevent the need for Permanent Exclusion. The Protocol includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bury Exclusion Protocol • Alternative Provision Directory • Managed Move and off-site direction protocol • Substance Misuse Protocol • Checklists for Permanent Exclusion • Weapons and Young People Protocol • Sexually harmful behaviour protocol 	<p>Schools may consider the use of managed moves and off-site direction as an alternative to permanent exclusion.</p> <p>Guidance regarding Managed moves and off-site direction (PPP) are outlined in the protocol</p> <p>Managed Moves This is used to initiate the process which leads to the transfer of a pupil to another school permanently.</p> <p>Off Site Direction (PPP) Schools may direct a pupil to attend another setting to improve behaviour. This may include an alternative provision setting.</p>

4. Statutory Responsibilities and Alternative Provision

Section 19 of the Education Act 1996, requires local authorities to make arrangements to provide “suitable education at school or otherwise than at school for those children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise, may not for any period receive suitable education unless such arrangements are made for them”. Bury Councils response to delivering its Section 19 responsibilities are detailed in the Bury Section 19 Policy which can be found [here](#).

Where Alternative provision is used to support young people under Section 19, this is always a temporary provision with the aim of supporting transition and reintegration back into a school setting.

<p>Permanent Exclusion</p> <p>Secondary All secondary aged pupils will be referred to the AP Academy (Ashgrove School) for 6th day provision.</p> <p>Where there is not capacity at the PRU, provision would be requested from registered providers on the AP Directory in the first instance.</p> <p>Primary Provision from the 6th day is to be made using registered alternative provision from the directory in the first instance.</p>	<p>Illness and otherwise</p> <p>Requests for support under Section 19 where a young person is unable to attend school due to illness or otherwise, are considered by the multi-agency panel in accordance with the Section 19 policy</p> <p>Provision is made through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home tuition and Tutoring Service • Alternative Provision Directory 	<p>EOTAS (Educated otherwise than at school) EOTAS status may be granted where the local authority is satisfied that the provision in a young person’s EHCP cannot be delivered in a school or post-16 setting.</p> <p>An EOTAS package may include, but is not restricted to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online schooling or Home tuition • Other tuition centres • Alternative Provision <p>Where alternative provision is agreed and commissioned by the local authority, the provider will always be selected from the AP Directory.</p> <p>Full details can be found in the Bury EOTAS policy</p>
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[The Alternative Provision Directory](#)

The Alternative Provision directory provides details of Alternative Providers who have been approved through the local authority due diligence process. This contains both school and non-school alternative provisions covering a wide range of types of provision and is available on the local offer.

Local authority teams are required to use the directory to source provision, when placing on behalf of the local authority, whilst schools are advised to do so.

5. Due Diligence and measuring Impact

The local authority will maintain oversight of the numbers of Bury children and young people placed in Alternative Provision and will carry out quality assurance and monitoring for those children and young people directly placed by the local authority. Where schools place in alternative provision, the school is responsible for carrying out due diligence and for monitoring the placement. The local authority is committed to ensuring that all providers used by Bury meet the voluntary national standards for non-school Alternative Provision which can be found [here](#).

<p>Use of Alternative Provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By year and school • By SEND status • By Primary SEND need • By reasons for admissions – PEX, Medical, EOTAS, school commissioned. 	<p>Data collection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Numbers of Bury pupils placed in each alternative provision • Numbers placed under Section 19 and as a result of EOTAS • Half-termly/termly collection for all Bury pupils placed at providers on the Bury Directory • Year 11 outcomes data from AP • AP Academy outcomes data • EHC Reviews • NEET data • Exclusion and suspension data
<p>Outcomes of Alternative Provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of individual learning plan outcomes for pupil's placed by Bury local authority • Pupil and parent feedback • Attendance by pupil and average for provider • English and Maths progress where this is part of the provision • Engagement score • Length of time in AP placement • Vocational outcomes where appropriate • EHC Review • Destination data • NEET 	<p>Quality Assurance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement process and due diligence completed for providers to access the Bury AP Directory • QA Visit at least once per year to assess against voluntary national standards for providers where Bury pupils are placed • Focus on Safeguarding and welfare of children, Admissions, guidance and support, Health and Safety and the Quality of Education (including progress and attainment) • LA teams and school intelligence collected through AP Assurance Board and actions identified • 6 weekly contract monitoring visits to assess pupil progress against Individual Learning Plans • EHC Review feedback

6. Partnerships and Governance

SEND Strategic Impact and Assurance Board

Education Board

Alternative Provision, Section 19 and EOTAS Strategy Group

Purpose: To oversee the strategic development of Alternative Provision and ensure effective, provision and support for young people who require alternative provision and EOTAS.

Chair: AP and SEND Sufficiency Lead. **Meets:** Half-termly

Section 19 Multi-Agency Panel

Purpose:

To consider requests for provision under Section 19 and for EOTAS status.

Chair: Attendance and Exclusion Manager

Meets: Fortnightly

Representation from:

Education/Inclusion, Attendance, CAMHS, School Nurse, Hospital School, Early Help

Associated documents:

[Bury Section19 policy](#)

[Bury EOTAS Policy](#)

Alternative Provision Assurance Board

Purpose:

To maintain an oversight and assurance of Alternative Provision across the borough with regard to quality of provision:

Chair: AP and SEND sufficiency Lead

Meets: Monthly

Representation from: Attendance and Exclusion, SEND Support Service, Virtual School, EHC Assessment and Review Team, Children's commissioning, Safeguarding.

Associated Groups:

AP and AP Academy Multi-Disciplinary Team

Multi-agency group chaired by the AP and SEND sufficiency Lead to identify support requirements for young people placed at the AP Academy and with other AP settings.

AP Providers Forum

Forum for providers on the Bury AP Directory which meets as required to share updates and developments in the local area

7. Priorities for Development

1	Develop AP packages to support early intervention and provide targeted support, in order to reduce demand for longer term Alternative Provision and support reintegration to school.
2	Increase the range, quality, and quantity of Alternative Provision placements available in Bury to meet identified need and ensure a wide range of curricula, qualifications and approaches and support reintegration to school.
3	Provide assurance and ensure due diligence through a directory of providers registered with the local authority and who meet the voluntary non-school alternative provision standards.
4	Ensure that all programmes and placements for young people in Alternative Provision are outcomes focussed, regularly reviewed and support reintegration to school where possible.
5	Further develop the range of educational support available to support young people who require Section 19 medical provision.
6	Further develop the range of provision available to the primary age pupils, including those that require provision under Section 19
7	Ensure a multi-agency partnership approach to planning and monitoring Alternative Provision Placements.
8	Collaborate through provider forums to ensure providers work in partnership with the Local Authority and schools to develop provision to meet young people's needs and extend the training offer provided through the Partnership to all local providers.

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Alternative Provision Recommissioning Timeline

Author: Ellie Costello - Project Lead
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Strategic Commissioning Lead (CwD)

Alternative Provision Recommissioning

- The project plan in the following slides suggests an approach to the recommissioning of Bury's Alternative Provision. Recognising governance and procurement will require a significant lead in time, this plan recommends activity to commence **immediately (May 2026)** with a strategic needs assessment, ready for substantive engagement with council colleagues, providers, and children and young people and their families.
- This plan takes a **rapid codesign approach**, namely through a fortnightly working group convening diverse council colleagues (across Children's Services, commissioning, finance, and procurement) who will discuss the service design, drawing in the outcomes, provider, and benchmarking engagement. Resource depending, child and parent / carer representatives could participate directly in the working group to maintain an ongoing lived experience voice in the design process.
- The plan also includes suggested KLOEs to structure the service scoping and strategic needs assessment, the service design and procurement approach.

Key Activities		MAY 26	JUN 26	JUL 26	AUG 26	SEP 26	OCT 26	NOV 26	DEC 26	JAN 27	FEB 27	MAR 27
Early consultation, Initial Scope / Needs Analysis	Draft Strategic needs assessment, provider mapping, benchmarking, early consultation surveys PIN notice, internal stakeholder engagement	█				Contract extension initiated						
Draft Specification and service design	Draft service specification, outcomes/KPIs, financial modelling, working groups, procurement strategy, legal input, draft EqlA		█									
Preliminary Market Engagement	Completed by procurement: Provider consultation, stakeholder engagement, service user input, feedback refinement			█								
Final specification and Tender docs	Final spec, pricing model, evaluation criteria, ITT pack, TUPE considerations, governance approvals to publish, final EIA				█							
Tender Publication Open Period	Tender published, clarification questions, bidder engagement, submission period					█						
Evaluation, Moderation & Due Diligence	Compliance checks, scoring, moderation panels, clarifications, financial checks, risk assessment							█				
Approvals Contract Award	Governance approvals, intention to award, standstill period, contract award notice								█			
Mobilisation & Transition	Mobilisation planning, system setup, performance frameworks, contract management setup									█		Go-Live

	MAY -26	JUN-26	JUL-26	AUG-26
Strategic Needs Assessment	Draft completed by mid-May			
Cabinet Report	Completed by end of May			
Consultation: Survey will be reviewed (AP and EOTAS Strategy Group 21st May) and any comments welcomed before distribution at the start of June. Ellie and Nick will be completing in person forums to facilitate surveys in schools.	Pre-engagement will be live for two weeks (start of June). In this period the needs assessment will be edited and finalised	Surveys will go live at the start of June for a two-week period		
Draft Service Specification		Following extensive engagement, a service specification will be drafted and distributed for comments towards end of July		
Formal Market Engagement Provider forums Parent/carer engagement Working group Model testing			Completed in partnership with procurement. Will encapsulate an online forum and surveys.	
Final specification ready for tender				Final Specification will be written and ready for tender end of August to mid-September

★ DATES ARE SUGGESTIONS AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Initial Suggested KLOEs

Strategic Vision and Alignment

Bury's Alternative Provision Strategy, Alternative Provision reforms, and the wider SEND reforms: explore how does this support early intervention, prevention and family resilience. Measure the impact of the reforms and shape provision to ensure full compliance of regulatory / legal requirements and the financial impact.

How does the vision align with Bury's SEND Sufficiency Strategy, behaviour and attendance priorities.

Demand, Utilisation and Need

What does current and historic demand for Alternative Provision look like, and how is Alternative Provision being utilised (placements, duration, type of provision)?

Which cohorts of children and young people are accessing Alternative Provision (age, SEND profile, level/type of need, exclusion status, demographics)?

What trends, pressures, and projections are emerging (e.g. SEMH, mental health, neurodiversity, repeat placements, exclusion avoidance)?

Effectiveness, Quality and Outcomes

What elements of the current Alternative Provision system are working well, and where are the key challenges or gaps?

What does current performance and quality assurance information tell us about educational outcomes, attendance, reintegration, and wellbeing?

To what extent does Alternative Provision support positive transitions, including reintegration into mainstream settings or progression to post-16 pathways?

Market Position, Benchmarking and Best Practice

How have other local authorities structured and commissioned Alternative Provision, and what are the costs, models, and best-practice approaches that could inform local development?

What does the local and regional Alternative Provision market look like, including maintained, academy, independent, and specialist providers?

What risks and opportunities does the market present in terms of capacity, quality, sufficiency, and sustainability?

Financial Context and Sustainability

What is the financial envelope available for Alternative Provision, and how is spend distributed across different types of provision?

How well does current Alternative Provision spend represent value for money in relation to outcomes, demand pressures, and preventative impact?

What are the implications for future investment, recommissioning, or system redesign?

Alternative Provision Commissioning Timeline Summary

1. Purpose This summary provides an overview of the proposed timeline, for the recommissioning of Alternative Provision. It outlines the key phases, activities, and milestones required to design, procure, and implement a improved Alternative Provision model.

The early stages of the recommissioning programme will commence in May 2026 and follows a structured, phased approach to ensure robust service design, governance, and procurement compliance.

2. Key Phases and Activities

Phase 1: Needs Assessment and Early Engagement (May – June 2026)

Strategic needs assessment, provider mapping, stakeholder engagement, consultation activity, and Cabinet reporting.

Phase 2: Service Design and Draft Specification (June – July 2026)

Development of service specification, KPIs, financial modelling, and Equality Impact Assessment.

Phase 3: Pre-Market Engagement and Model Refinement (July – August 2026)

Provider engagement, stakeholder feedback, and service model refinement.

Phase 4: Final Specification and Procurement Preparation (August – September 2026)

Final specification, pricing model, evaluation criteria, governance approvals.

Phase 5: Procurement Process

Tender publication, bidder engagement, evaluation, and due diligence.

Phase 6: Approval and Contract Award

Governance approvals, standstill, and contract award.

Phase 7: Mobilisation and Transition

Mobilisation planning, system setup, contract management arrangements.

Phase 8: Service Go-Live and Early Support

Service commencement and performance monitoring.

Key Milestones: *June 2026: Draft Needs assessment completed and Cabinet report submitted for consideration and seek approval

*July 2026: Consultation completed *July 2026: Draft specification issued *August–September 2026: Final specification ready for tender



Classification: Open	Decision Type: Key
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Report to:	Cabinet	Date: 08 July 2026
Subject:	Prestwich Village Regeneration Project: Delivery of Phase 1A (Travel Hub) – Additional Funding Request	
Report of	Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Growth	

Summary

- 1.1 The Prestwich Village Regeneration Project will deliver a comprehensive re-development of the Prestwich Village site including the Longfield Centre. The Council has formed a Joint Venture (the JV) with Muse Places to deliver this activity. The project will deliver a new village centre and contribute to the Council's strategic aims (Bury 2030) and 'Let's Do It' Strategy.
- 1.2 Extensive progress continues to be made on the development and delivery of the project. The first phase (Phase 1A Travel Hub) remains on site with construction of the new facility still on schedule to be delivered Summer 2026.
- 1.3 Further to the approval of several previous Prestwich Cabinet reports, this report seeks the approval for £153,009.00 additional capital funding for extra works to fully deliver the first phase of the Prestwich Village Regeneration project.
- 1.4 Additional funding is required to deliver works that have been identified as a late requirement through the statutory planning consultation and subsequent discharge of the planning pre-commencement conditions for Phase 1A (Travel Hub) – planning gain. It also includes meeting the requirements of the Building Control Assessment (linked to the Fire Strategy) and costs of the installation of necessary parking control equipment to enable full operation of the facility. This risk was identified in the Cabinet report July 2024.
- 1.5 The parking control equipment costs have unfortunately risen since approval for the £14m cost envelope nearly two years ago and until the final account figure is confirmed at practical completion, these costs, the planning gain and Building Control requirements fall outside of the project's available contingency. However, these costs (in part or full) will be met by the contingency if it is not fully committed.
- 1.6 Details of the above and an explanation for each requirement can be found in Section 7 of this report. Some works have yet to be delivered as part of the construction programme but are imminent to keep delivery of Phase 1A (Travel Hub) on track and to ensure that the Travel Hub will be in operation without undue delay.

- 1.7 The £14m cost of the Travel Hub will be met via external grant funding secured by officers from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS). The additional costs required to complete the project will be met via Bury Council's Capital Programme and Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 2.1 Approve the additional capital funding requirement of £153,009.00 to ensure the full and successful delivery of Phase 1A (Travel Hub).
- 2.2 Approve the use of the Council's Capital Programme and Medium-Term Financial Strategy to fund the above additional costs using part of the approved funding for Phase 1A that was in place prior to the CRSTS grant being offered.
- 2.3 Subject to legal approval of the terms under which it is provided, formally accept the £14m CRSTS grant funding from Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) via the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA).
- 2.4 Acknowledge that, subject to the funding requirement outlined in the recommendation at Section 2.1, the allocation of £14m from the Council's Capital Programme to the Prestwich Travel Hub is no longer required, following the acquisition of £14m from the CRSTS programme to cover this expenditure.
- 2.5 Delegate to the Director of Place, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer, authority to take all steps necessary to implement this decision, including finalisation of any arrangements, and provision of any Council JV LLP member consents.

Reasons for recommendation(s)

- 3.1 To successfully complete the delivery of Phase 1A (Travel Hub) within the agreed programme timeline.
- 3.2 To meet the planning pre-commencement conditions and delivery of additional works identified since the approval for the £14m cost envelope in July 2024 that cannot currently be met by contingency.
- 3.3 A formal acceptance of the £14m CRSTS funding is required by Bury Council to enable the grant funding to be claimed.

Alternative options considered and rejected

- 4.1 Not carry out the works associated with the planning pre-commencement condition, including Building Control requirements. This would prevent the Council from opening the Travel Hub.

- 4.2 Not carry out the works associated with the parking control equipment. This would prevent the Council from opening the Travel Hub.
-

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Background

- 5.1 As part of the Council's vision for 2030, Bury Council is working collaboratively with our communities to achieve faster growth than the national average alongside lower levels of average deprivation. The 'Let's do It!' strategy focuses on building a better future for our children and young people, promoting inclusion, improving our environment, and delivering improvements in prosperity and quality of life.
- 5.2 The Prestwich Village Regeneration Project will deliver a framework for modern urban living, working and social enjoyment in Prestwich Village centre. It aims to bring forward a cohesive programme of regeneration that will see the development of a new village centre which is inclusive, sustainable, reflects the needs and aspirations of residents and delivers an attractive urban environment alongside a thriving local economy.
- 5.3 As noted in the Cabinet report 12th July 2023, the project has the potential to bring in significant capital investment which will help to deliver multi-faceted regeneration, economic growth, and environmental improvements in Prestwich Village.
- 5.4 To realise the vision, Cabinet approval was given on 13th October 2021 for the Council and Muse Places to legally form the Prestwich Regeneration LLP (the JV) to bring forward a multi-phase mixed use regeneration project. Under this arrangement, Muse Places operate as the developer for the project, delivering construction and development activity on behalf of the JV.
- 5.5 The Prestwich Village Regeneration Project consists of three phases:
- **Phase 1A** – Delivery of a modern Travel Hub facility consolidating parking in a single town centre location and making available land at Rectory Lane for redevelopment.

- **Phase 1B** – Delivery of new retail units including a market hall, new leisure/community facilities, a modern new home for the Prestwich Library and new attractive public realm.
- **Phase 2** – Delivery of 248 new homes.

Progress to Date – Phase 1A (Travel Hub) and Third-Party Operator

- 6.1 Since Cabinet approval 16th July 2024 (£14 million cost envelope for Phase 1A Travel Hub) and 4th December 2024 (appointment of Vinci Construction Limited as the main contractor), significant progress continues with the construction of Phase 1A (Travel Hub), with practical completion Summer 2026.
- 6.2 Further to approval given at Cabinet 15th October 2025 (two-stage procurement process for the appointment of an external operator) and 11th March 2026 (delegated authority to finalise contractual arrangements and execute and award the contract), the procurement process is complete and the contract is in principle agreed subject to finalisation of operation matters and will be entered into prior to any variation to provide for the PARCS equipment.
- 6.3 The above delegated authority was approved to ensure that the preferred third-party operator can be in contract as soon as possible before practical completion of the Travel Hub for mobilisation in advance of its opening and for the Council to meet the procurement timescale.

Additional Works

- 7.1 Since the £14m cost envelope was approved nearly two years ago as mentioned above, it has been determined that £153,009.00 additional funding is required to fully deliver the first phase of the Prestwich Village Regeneration project.
- 7.2 Table 1 below identifies the works and associated costs:

Item	Cost (£)	Description
Pedestrian crossing upgrade	29,337	TfGM requirement to upgrade from a pelican to a puffin crossing.
Parking control equipment	70,000	PARCS installation (parking equipment including roller shutters and barrier), signage, IT and office infrastructure.
Emergency egress works	53,672	Formation of a path, fencing, gating and associated works from the building's emergency exit to provide safe pedestrian access away from the Travel Hub in the event of an emergency.
TOTAL	153,009	

Table 1

7.3 Pedestrian crossing upgrade

TfGM requirement to upgrade from a pelican to a puffin crossing due to the predicted increase in usage from the Travel Hub into the centre of Prestwich Village and to the Metrolink tram stop. A puffin crossing is the newer, more modern upgrade that uses sensors to detect pedestrians and adjusts the crossing time e.g. stays red for longer. It is a safer and more efficient crossing system.

The cost of £29,337.00 will cover Vinci Construction Limited completing the facilitation works and TfGM installing the upgraded crossing equipment.

7.4 Parking control equipment

The total estimated cost two years ago when compiling the cost envelope was £75,000.00 (which is already accounted for within the project's cost breakdown) but it has been more recently confirmed that the total cost is £145,000.00. The difference of £70,000.00 is therefore required to provide a fully operational PARCS system prior to the opening of the Travel Hub.

7.5 Emergency egress works

The Travel Hub has been designed in accordance with the functional requirements of the Building Regulations 2010 and is supported by a Building Control Plan Assessment. Additional works are required to meet Fire Strategy and Building Control requirements prior to opening that extend beyond the original project scope.

The cost of £53,672.00 will ensure that in the event of an emergency, there is a pedestrian route for users of the Travel Hub to safely exit away from the building.

7.6 It is important to note that the additional funding being requested will only be utilised if the final account figure confirms there is no available remaining contingency. The intention is to maximise use of the CRSTS funding and minimise the use of the additional funding.

Funding Mechanism

8.1 Additional works will be funded from Bury Council's Capital Programme and Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

8.2 The funding strategy outlined in July 2024 proposed that the Council's Capital Programme would bear the cost of the construction of the Prestwich Travel Hub. Following acquisition of the £14m CRSTS grant, the Council will now not require this funding from the Capital Programme as previously approved except for the £153,009.00 mentioned above.

8.3 The £14m grant is a set amount agreed as a result of the funding submission in 2025. As such, it is not possible for the Council to secure a grant increase

to cover the additional costs set out in this report. The Council's Capital Programme will therefore need to fund these costs. This is an advantageous position for the Council, as this removes the risk/burden of funding the £14m capital cost assumed in 2024.

- 8.4 The revenue implications of this borrowing commitment will be £14,536 per year over 20 years compared to £1,330,000 per year if the Council had to fund the full £14m build costs. Where it is possible to meet these new additional costs from contingencies within the existing cost budget envelope this will be done and the additional borrowing will not be drawn down, but this is not expected at this stage of the project build.

City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) Round 1

- 9.1 Following the approval of the funding strategy for delivery of Phase 1A (Travel Hub) at Cabinet on 16th July 2024, the Council has been successful in bidding for £14m under the CRSTS Round 1.
- 9.2 The process for fully securing the grant funding takes the form of the submission of firstly, a one-page document outlining the aims and objectives of the project which is followed by an Outline Business Case and then submission of a Full Business Case (FBC) after feedback from a Critical Friend Review by TfGM. This is then approved by the Greater Manchester Delivery Group (GM Delivery Group) and lastly the Bee Network Committee as the final approval stage.
- 9.3 The FBC has been submitted. A request to approve was being targeted for the Bee Network Committee meeting in July 2026. At this current time, it is unclear as to whether this meeting may take place. As such all decisions are being brought forward to the Bee Network Committee meeting on 25th June 2026. Requesting approval of the FBC at this meeting will now be subject to approval at the GM Delivery Group, noting that the Travel Hub is on the agenda for the meeting of this group on 14th July 2026.
- 9.4 The required timescale for spending the grant funding from Round 1 is by the end March 2027. As practical completion of the Travel Hub is expected by Summer 2026, this deadline will be exceeded.
- 9.5 Therefore, Bury Council would like to formally accept this grant funding subject to the approval of the FBC at the Bee Network Committee 25th June 2026 and approval at the GM Delivery Group on 14th July 2026 to enable it to be drawn down.

Timescales

- 10.1 As the completion of the Travel Hub is expected to complete this Summer, it is essential that all the additional works are fully undertaken and completed within

the same timeframe to ensure that the facility will be in operation without undue delay.

- 10.2 Due to keeping to the delivery programme, TfGM has installed the majority of the new crossing equipment, but some works remain outstanding. The PARCS equipment has yet to be installed but this is scheduled to be complete over the next few weeks and in advance of the building being handed over to the Council.

Social Value

- 11.1 The project has a Social Value Vision Statement that quantifies the overall Social Value that it has the potential to bring to the local community in terms of new jobs and additional local spend, as well as the broader social, economic and environmental value benefits. This was previously established alongside Bury Council's Social Value Strategy to identify priorities.
- 11.2 There will also be a Prestwich Village Construction Social Value Action Plan (as there is for Phase 1A) that covers the expected outcomes, measures, associated monetary values and delivery mechanisms to ensure that all construction phases meet their stated objectives. Such outcomes and associated targets will be discussed with the selected contractor and form each action plan that will be part of the contract and regularly monitored.
- 11.3 Both documents will be in line with the Council's Social Value Strategy.

Links with the Corporate Priorities:

- 12.1 The redevelopment of Prestwich Village supports delivery of the 'Let's Do It!' strategy and the four principles that underpin it as they all have a correlation to how the Council will design the future of our towns:

Local Neighbourhoods: The delivery of the project will support the Council fulfil the aims of the neighbourhood delivery model, making the borough a safe place to live, putting the borough on track for carbon neutrality and building houses that are homes.

In summary, the project will:

- Provide a new community hub that will re-provide a modern-day library, adult learning provision, community space and health related services which will be a true connection to the community and integrated public service teams in the village centre.
- Build new homes will endeavour to meet the eco-homes standard and be high quality, carbon neutral and affordable.

- Promote active travel – provision of a travel hub and walking and cycling routes that will connect people with local amenities. Design a new village centre that will include ‘secure by design’ principles to allow people to feel safe and secure.

Enterprise to drive economic growth and inclusion: The project will:

- Create more flexible and innovative/digital workspaces for local entrepreneurs to grow.
- Modern retail space to encourage more new and independent businesses to open and remain in Prestwich.
- Invest in the physical infrastructure and work with key stakeholders such as Transport for Greater Manchester to enable local people to access employment and training opportunities to contribute to the growth of the local economy.

Delivering Together: The project will:

- Make sure that everyone’s voice is heard via community engagement/consultation at various stages of the development of the project and through a variety of media platforms, including a dedicated website.
- Develop new buildings which will promote the use of them as community assets i.e. community hub, market hall and public realm which will in turn, support community involvement and organisations and connect people to them.
- Provide the opportunity to drive digital inclusion using the latest technology in the new buildings.
- Provide better transport connectivity through its design and involvement of the Active Travel agenda.

A Strength-Based Approach: The project will:

- Promote community wealth building and community capacity as community groups have and will continue to be encouraged to be part of the community engagement/consultation processes.
- Build on previous links to develop the project that have been made with Bury VCFA.
- Provide flexible community space in the community hub and outdoor space for events that will promote community inclusion within the village.
- Recognise the importance of population health due to the likely relocation of the existing NHS services into the community hub building, as well as providing the opportunity to increase health provision in the village.

Equality Impact and Considerations:

- 13.1 A full Equality Impact Assessment was completed by a third party as part of planning permission for the Prestwich Regeneration project. This identified some potential temporary negative impacts with mitigations during the demolition and construction phase resulting in reduced or eliminated negative impacts during this phase.
- 13.2 There are no outstanding equalities concerns or considerations at this stage.

Environmental Impact and Considerations:

- 14.1 One of the project’s objectives is to deliver a sustainable development. As noted in the report to the 12th July 2023 Cabinet, delivering sustainable developments is now a primary goal for the Prestwich Regeneration LLP. It has adopted Muse Places’ Sustainability Strategy which includes a Sustainable Development Brief and Sustainable Action Plan which will be utilised on the project – both making up the Sustainable Development Strategy.
- 14.2 The Planning and Regeneration Statement submitted as part of the hybrid planning application provides summary detail on the environmental impact of the project, including carbon emissions and biodiversity. It states that:

“The project will be low and net zero carbon by design – sustainability and carbon reduction are fundamental to the proposals. Proposed measures include new energy and water efficient buildings to minimise carbon in operation, the use of sustainable building materials to reduce upfront embodied carbon, photovoltaic panels and air source heat pumps.”

“The proposals for Prestwich Village will secure a significant increase in biodiversity when compared with what is on the site at the moment. The proposals will uplift biodiversity by more than 40%. This will be supported by significant levels of new tree planting, open spaces and public spaces where people and nature can thrive.”

Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
The project’s contingency cannot support the additional works as identified in this report, either in full or part.	The Council’s Capital Programme and Medium-Term Financial Strategy have the capacity to cover the additional funding of £153,009.00, subject to the approval of this report.

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
The additional works will not be carried out within the required timeline.	Some of the works are already complete with the remaining works already programmed in to the delivery programme.
The CRSTS funding is not approved at the GM Delivery Group and/or Bee Network Committee.	A very robust FBC has been submitted that has undergone a Critical Friend Review by TfGM prior to submission.
The CRSTS funding is not spent within the expected timeline (by end March 2027).	The Travel Hub started on site in March 2025 and will be complete Summer 2026.

Procurement Implications:

- 15.1 Parking costs are a variation to recently tendered procurement and the remaining works are a variation to the Vinci main contract which are compliant with the relevant Procurement regulations at the time of originally sourcing.

Legal Implications:

- 16.1 The Council will enter into a grant funding agreement with either TfGM or GMCA (GFA) in respect of the CRSTS grant funding, which must be reviewed by legal prior to execution.
- 16.2 As the GFA will be entered into near or after completion of the project works, the terms of the GFA, including, drawdown, monitoring, procurement and clawback condition will align with actual project delivery. For example, commencement of the funding period (the period during which expenditure is eligible to be funded by grant) will be backdated to precede or align with the date when incurrence of project costs began.
- 16.3 The Council will thoroughly consider and ensure it agrees with TfGM's Subsidy Control analysis in respect of the grant. The GFA will contain an obligation for the Council to repay the grant in the event of a ruling of Subsidy Control non-compliance.
- 16.4 The development agreement between the Council and Morgan Sindall (DA), its subcontract to Muse and the construction contract between the JV LLP and Vinci may require amendment/variation to reflect the minor change in scope and increase in value required to deliver the additional works. These variations are permissible under regulation 72(f) of Public Contract Regulations 2015 and 'Permitted Variations' under paragraph 3(b) of section N of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. There are no formal notice requirements in relation

to these variations. As required under the terms of the Pagabo framework, the Pagabo website will need to be updated to note the variation to the DA.

- 16.5 The amendments/variations described above will all be in agreed form prior to execution of any, to ensure obligations and deliverables are consistently flowed down the contractual layers.
- 16.6 The terms of the amendments/variation will ensure the additional works are carried out in compliance with the relevant planning pre-commencement condition(s), Building Control(s) and Fire Safety Regulation(s), so that upon completion of the works the basis on which the Travel Hub can lawfully and safely open is clearly evidenced.
- 16.7 Collateral Warranties provided to the Council by Vinci will either be updated to cover, or a separate warranty obtained to cover the additional works, to ensure the Council's direct rights of enforcement are extended accordingly.
- 16.8 Procuring another supplier to provide PARCS equipment compatible with the that being provided by the existing supplier would, given the value of the agreement, be unduly expensive and technically burdensome. As such, a post execution variation is permissible under paragraph (3) of section N of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. The total value (following increase) of the contract remains below the threshold at which the Procurement Act 2023 would apply, and there are no below threshold notice requirements in respect of any variation. The variation will be effected after the contract details notice for original contract is published, to ensure there is a clear audit trail which shows this is a post contract variation, and not a pre-contract increase in value, which is riskier from a procurement law perspective.

Financial Implications:

- 17.1 The revenue implications of this borrowing commitment will be £14,536 per year over 20 years compared to £1,330,000 per year if we had to continue to fund the full £14m build costs. Where it is possible to meet these new costs from contingencies within the existing cost budget envelope this will be done and this additional borrowing will not be drawn down, but this is not expected at this stage of the project build.
- 17.2 The additional costs are required to allow the opening of the asset and to derive benefit from its operational use.

Appendices:

There are no appendices attached to this report.

Background papers:

- Prestwich Regeneration – Joint Venture (Parts A and B) October 2021.
- Prestwich Village Regeneration – Progress Update and Draft Development Plan July 2023.
- Prestwich Village Regeneration Scheme: Delivery of Phase 1A (Travel Hub) – Legal Structure and Funding Approval (Parts A and B) July 2024.
- Prestwich Village Regeneration Scheme: Delivery of Phase 1A (Travel Hub) – Main Works Package (Parts A and B) December 2024.
- Prestwich Village Regeneration Scheme: Procurement of a Third-Party Operator for Phase 1A (Travel Hub) October 2025.
- Prestwich Village Regeneration Project: Appointment of Third-Party Operator for Phase 1A (Travel Hub) March 2026.

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

Term	Meaning
Prestwich Regeneration LLP (JV)	The Joint Venture company that comprises of Bury Council and Muse Places Ltd that has been established to deliver the Prestwich Village Regeneration Project.
Planning gain	A secured contribution as part of granting planning permission to help mitigate the impacts of development and support local infrastructure.
GMCA	Greater Manchester Combined Authority – made up of the ten Greater Manchester councils and the mayor who work with local services, businesses, communities and other partners to improve the city region.
CRSTS	City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement is a Department for Transport funding programme to support economic growth, tackle regional inequality and decarbonise transport.
TfGM	Transport for Greater Manchester – the local government body responsible for delivering Greater Manchester’s Transport Strategy.
LPA	Local Planning Authority manages the rules, permission and development frameworks under national legislation.
Full Business Case	The comprehensive financial and operational proposals required to evidence value for money as part of the CRSTS application process.
PARCS	Parking Access and Revenue Control System – an automated system that manages vehicle entry, parking duration and payments using barrier gates, Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and pay stations.



Classification: Open	Decision Type: Key
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Report to:	Cabinet	Date: 08 July 2026
Subject:	Pyramid Park – Remediation Main Works Contract	
Report of	Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Growth	

Summary

1. The Pyramid Park Remediation Main Works will help unlock and bring a key council-owned, 7.4-acre disused brownfield site forward for high-quality, sustainable residential development in the near future. Situated on the edge of Bury town centre, Pyramid Park has long been identified as a key strategic regeneration opportunity site and is highlighted in the Bury Town Centre Masterplan (2022) as suited for high quality residential development at scale.
2. In order to accelerate the council's ambitious plans to deliver hundreds of much-needed new homes across the borough over the coming years, the council was successful in securing £1.73 million in grant funding, in late-2023, from the Government's Brownfield Land Release Fund (BLRF2) programme, which is overseen by One Public Estate (OPE) and supported by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The BLRF2 grant provides for the remediation and de-risking of the Pyramid Park site, which will prepare it for residential redevelopment in the future and improves viability of the site for a developer.
3. The proposed works packages included within the JCT Design and Build Contract (2016) encompasses the delivery of a full land remediation strategy and associated preparatory enabling works at the Pyramid Park site, to be undertaken by the scheme contractor Conlon Construction Limited (Company number 00708997) ("Conlon"). Subject to Cabinet approval, these proposed main works, which received planning consent in 2024 (ref: 70903), are scheduled to commence in July 2026 and last through to completion, which is currently anticipated in autumn 2026.
4. The proposed Remediation Main Works Contract follows on from the current Pre-Construction Service Agreement (PCSA) period between the council and Conlon. Conlon were appointed in 2024 following a mini competition under the North West Construction Hub (NWCH) Low Value Construction Framework Lot 1, which facilitated early contractor involvement in the Pyramid Park remediation scheme.
5. This collaborative PCSA period has ensured the continued viability of the proposed main works and that the remediation scheme remains within the

approved BLRF2 grant funding envelope and to the agreed delivery milestones, as per the Grant Funding Agreement (GFA) with OPE.

6. It should be noted that following remediation works the site must be disposed of to a private developer by 31st March 2027, who will lead the delivery of the residential development. Undertaking the remediation works in a timely fashion is therefore vital in ensuring the council complies with the existing Grant Funding Agreement.
7. The agreed enabling and land remediation works packages submitted by Conlon within the proposed main works JCT Design and Build Contract, have been independently market tested and verified by the council's appointed cost consultants, to ensure that value for money has been achieved for the proposed main works scheme.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that Cabinet:

8. Authorise the council to appoint and enter into a Schedule of amendments to JCT Design and Build Contract (2016) with Conlon Construction Limited (company number 00708997) as the main contractor to deliver the Pyramid Park Remediation Main Works to unlock the site for residential development, up to a total contract value of £1,554,000.00 including contingency, and term of 90 days.
9. Accept the recommendation that Conlon Construction Limited undertake the Pyramid Park Remediation Main Works as per the estimated contract value set out in this report, subject to the agreement of any outstanding contract amendments and clarifications.
10. Delegate acceptance of the final contract sum up to a total contract value of £1,554,000.00, including contingency, to the Director of Law and Democratic Services in consultation with the Executive Director of Place and Executive Director of Finance, and the council Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth.

Reasons for recommendation(s)

11. Approval for the council to appoint and enter into contract with Conlon to undertake the remediation and associated main works is required in order for the Pyramid Park scheme to progress to the construction works phase, thus enabling the full defrayment of the BLRF2 grant monies, and which upon completion of the remediation works, will unlock this key opportunity site for comprehensive future residential redevelopment.

Alternative options considered and rejected

12. *Re-run the procurement process for a new main works contractor with a view to securing a lower contract sum:* Starting the procurement process again

through the same (NWCH), or an alternative PCR compliant framework, would result in significantly delaying the start-on-site date for the remediation works, by several months.

This would jeopardise the council being able to bring forward this key strategic town centre site for redevelopment in the short-term and risks the Pyramid Park BLRF2 GFA delivery milestones (e.g., requiring a development agreement to be entered into by 31st March 2027) becoming unachievable and subsequently, the timely defrayment of the grant monies, thus risking a full grant clawback by OPE and a potential delay to any capital receipt to be obtained.

Due to the unique nature of the remediation works, it is highly likely that re-running the procurement process would not result in a lower contract value or realise cost savings for the council. Further scheme prolongation, at this point in time, would expose the council to build cost inflation which continues to rise. Additional fees would be incurred by the council's external consultant team and additional internal staff resource would be required to support the new procurement exercise.

Importantly, encountering any unreasonable delay in entering into the main works contract could result in the expiry of Conlon's fixed subcontractor prices, with the resulting risk that the estimated contract value could increase in line with market fluctuations at the time it is retendered. Currently, the prospective works contractor has fixed their tendered contract sum price until the anticipated Cabinet approval decision date on 8th July 2026, and it should be noted its subcontractors are unable to fix prices beyond this date.

13. *Other options considered and rejected:*

Do nothing and / or return the BLRF2 grant to OPE: There is a high level of need for new and affordable housing across the borough, and as recognised in the Bury Housing Strategy 2021-25, Extra Care Strategy 2026 and Local Housing Needs and Demand Assessment (HNDA), there is a particular shortfall in suitable, town centre housing stock for both younger adults, older people and those with specialist needs.

Pyramid Park holds potential as a highly sustainable, brownfield town centre site, which is well suited to deliver a new, mixed typology, inter-generational housing development. This future residential scheme would realise a significant element of the identified housing shortfall, helping the above cohorts to live independently in a sustainable location, improving outcomes, and complementing wider town centre regeneration activity.

In its current form, Pyramid Park, is a long-term, council-owned, vacant brownfield opportunity site which has lain derelict and overgrown for well over

15 years and regularly attracts anti-social behaviour, which is exacerbated due to poor visibility and a lack of natural surveillance. The site sits at a sunken level compared to its surroundings and there is limited access for pedestrians into the Pyramid Park site from the surrounding town centre area.

By failing to appoint the prospective contractor to remediate the site and thus, defray the outstanding BLRF2 grant monies, in line with the agreed GFA delivery milestones, it would severely affect the long-term viability of the site for realising future residential development and the positive outcomes and improvements associated with it. This is due to the large abnormal costs and complex technical work required to bring the site forward for development, that only the allocated BLRF2 grant could feasibly support.

If the proposed remediation works were not to progress, it would significantly erode confidence in the council's ability to bring forward a key strategic priority site in the borough, which is also critical to supporting the delivery of a number of major, corporate strategies including the HNDA, the Bury Town Centre Masterplan, the Bury Economic Strategy, and the forthcoming redevelopment of Bury Interchange, adjacent to the site. The realisation of the wider economic, social and environmental benefits that the future residential scheme would bring, including the generation of new council tax revenue, would also be jeopardised.

It should be noted that a previous Cabinet report in March 2023 gained approval to dispose of the site for residential use.

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Background

14. At its meeting on 15th March 2023, Cabinet authorised the disposal of the long-term disused, council-owned, Pyramid Park brownfield site and approved the pursuance of external funding to remediate and de-risk the site. This approval was required in order to apply to the BLRF2 programme and evidence to the funder (OPE) that the site was surplus to requirements and designated for future residential use, thereby increasing the chances of a successful capital grant funding bid award. The council submitted its full

BLRF2 funding bid for Pyramid Park in late-March 2023, ahead of the submission deadline of 31st March 2023.

15. In October 2023, the council was notified by the government of its successful BLRF2 grant funding award for Pyramid Park, totalling £1.73 million, to support planning and technical design work, land remediation and associated enabling works needed to create a suitable platform for future residential development, at what is currently an unviable, constrained and long-term, vacant site.
16. Pyramid Park is a 7.4-acre (3 hectare) council-owned, disused brownfield site, situated off Market Street (B6218), to the south of Angouleme Way (A58), in a prominent location on the edge of Bury town centre. The Pyramid Park site is enclosed by major transport infrastructure, with the Metrolink tram line spanning the western boundary, and East Lancashire Railway bordering the southern perimeter. The Market Street arched road bridge also passes through the easterly part of the site at a raised level.
17. The site formerly housed the Knowsley Street railway station and associated goods yard, which originally operated as part of Lancashire and Yorkshire Railways (L&YR).
18. Following the closure of the railway line and station by British Rail in 1970, the site was reclaimed and remodelled as 'Townside Fields' during the 1970s for use as public open space. In recent years however, owing to low usage and issues with anti-social behaviour, exacerbated due poor visibility within and across the site, and the lack of an at-grade access from the surrounding area, it was decided to decommission this informal urban parkland in 2010.
19. Today, the current condition of the site is poor; it has become overgrown with vegetation, is strewn with litter and debris and continues to attract anti-social behaviour, worsened due to the sunken nature of the site.

Long Term Vision

20. Pyramid Park has long been identified as a key strategic regeneration opportunity site, especially given its sustainable town-centre location, adjacent to Bury Interchange and Bury College, and only a short walk away from town centre amenities, such as Bury Market and its new food and events hall, Casewell's, the Mill Gate Shopping Centre and The Rock.
21. The site is highlighted within the 'Southern Gateway' area in the Bury Town Centre Masterplan (2022) and is suited for high quality, high density residential development for a range of needs, including family housing, apartments, extra care / specialist and housing for older people. The principle of residential development is also strongly supported by the planning policy

framework (e.g., PfE, Bury UDP and the Bury Local Plan) given its town centre situation and brownfield status.

22. The realisation of residential development at Pyramid Park is a key objective for the council, aligning with ambitious plans to deliver new, affordable and sustainable homes across the borough, whilst supporting town centre regeneration, economic growth and place making.
23. The first stage of the £85m redevelopment of Bury Interchange, immediately adjacent to the site, will see improvements delivered by Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) to the existing Metrolink platforms and the installation of a new pedestrian footbridge, spanning the tram lines across from Pyramid Park to Townside at Knowsley Place (planning ref: 71834).
24. The new Metrolink footbridge will serve as a second, permanent and step-free access route into Bury Interchange and enable permeability through to the Pyramid Park residential site, therefore improving pedestrian access to and from the site to local amenities and services at Knowsley Place.
25. As part of the council's vision for Bury 2030, we are working collaboratively with our communities across the borough to achieve faster growth and reducing levels of deprivation as compared to the national average. Our 'Let's Do It!' strategy focuses on building a better future for our children and young people, promoting inclusion, improving our environment, and delivering improvements in prosperity and quality of life.
26. With this in mind, some residential provision at the site will also be made for care leavers, reflecting the council's commitment to early planning, prioritised access to housing and the delivery of high-quality accommodation.
27. In May 2026, the council also launched its Extra Care Housing Strategy 2026-36, which has a target of delivering accommodation across five sites in the next ten years. The future residential scheme at Pyramid Park will enable the council to deliver one site in a location deemed highly suitable, given its sustainable location and proximity to NHS services and local amenities to those with additional needs.
28. The comprehensive redevelopment and regeneration of the Pyramid Park site fully aligns with the council's Bury 2030 vision, which highlights the need to deliver more, high-quality, low-carbon and affordable homes across the borough, and as part of our 'Building houses that are homes' strategic ambition.
29. The indicative site masterplanning work undertaken to date has established the framework for a vibrant town centre residential scheme mix (of up to 150 units), which blends modern apartments, family townhouses and extra-care /

supported living accommodation, delivered to a high standard of design and access, and ultimately fostering a new cohesive community identity at Pyramid Park.

30. A separate, four-stage procurement exercise seeking a suitable development partner for the delivery of the residential scheme at the Pyramid Park site is currently underway. A further Cabinet report will be submitted upon completion of this process, which will cover the proposed disposal and delivery method.

Appointment of Contractor

31. Following the successful BLRF2 grant funding award announcement in 2023, the council's internal project and external consultant team, alongside Conlon, through the PCSA, have been progressing with further detailed technical design development and site survey work.
32. This has been accompanied by continued, extensive engagement with the local planning authority (LPA) and other key stakeholders such as TfGM and Bury College through the period in order to advance the proposed main works scope, land remediation strategy, construction programme and works methodology.
33. Important conditions that were addressed through this process, included how the Townside Grade B Site of Biological Importance (SBI) which covers the site area, would be dealt with. It was agreed with the LPA that the scheme remediation works would see the SBI habitats, including swamp and marsh, retained and enhanced within an easterly portion of the Pyramid Park site, situated adjacent to Townfields Close. Additional ecological enhancements would also be delivered through off-site compensation measures, in line with Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) legislation requirements.
34. A non-definitive Public Right of Way (PRoW) also exists through the site, which in consultation with the council's PRoW officer, will be temporarily closed until the scheme works are fully completed.
35. This process culminated in the submission of a full formal planning application for the land remediation and associated infrastructure works on 2nd July 2024 (ref: 70903), which received full approval on 19th December 2024.
36. Since receiving planning consent in late-2024, the project team has overseen the detailed scheme works tender process which has been managed directly by Conlon, who have engaged with their supply chain for the delivery of the proposed remediation and associated works. The scope of the proposed BLRF2 grant funded, capital works which will address viability issues at the site, include:

- Site set-up, enabling and mobilisation works
 - Preliminaries, management, plant and testing equipment
 - Geotechnical testing and production of verification reports
 - Earthworks, remediation (including removal of the Pyramids) and addressing level changes.
 - Drainage works
 - Demobilisation
37. Over recent months, working alongside the council's external cost consultants, the project team have been progressing with a commercial due diligence evaluation of the contractor's submitted works packages. This is to ensure that value for money is achieved and that the costs of the proposed remediation works scope remains well within the BLRF2 grant funding envelope and considering an appropriate contingency provision.
38. The estimated works contract sum, as detailed in this report, has continued to reduce significantly through the ongoing tender evaluation exercise and commercial discussions with the contractor. The proposed contract sum has the potential to reduce further, subject to the agreement of the remaining clarifications and amendments with Conlon. The commercial due diligence undertaken during the procurement process has meant the remediation works will be delivered within the allotted budget.
39. As such and in view of the strict BLRF2 grant funding delivery timeframes, it is recommended that the final approval of the JCT Design and Build Contract (2016) main works contract value sum, up to an estimated provisional, maximum figure of £1,554,000.00, including contingency, is delegated to the Director of Law and Democratic Services in consultation with the Executive Director of Place and Executive Director of Finance, and the council Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth.

Construction Programme and Stakeholder Management

40. The enabling and land remediation main works packages are currently scheduled to progress in line with an anticipated Cabinet approval decision date on 8th July 2026. The duration of the proposed works programme is estimated at around 15-weeks, starting with enabling and site preparatory works, followed by the main remediation works which will progress from west to east across the site, concluding with demobilisation and handover works in early autumn 2026.
41. The sequencing of the remediation works, and the duration of the programme has been informed by detailed technical design development and site surveys and is intended to deliver the project as efficiently as possible. The council's comprehensive health and safety requirements, given the sites proximity to Bury College and through sustained engagement with college estates staff,

have also been embedded within the construction logistics methodology plan, most notably in the Market Street area.

42. The project team and Conlon have also carefully coordinated the scope and methodology of the remediation works scheme alongside TfGM, and more recently with their appointed contractor for the Bury Interchange redevelopment works, Wilmott Dixon. This partnership approach with TfGM and the council was endorsed in 2023 during the initial BLRF2 funding bid stage, via a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This MoU has facilitated ongoing collaboration between both schemes, to date, ensuring that:
- The scope, programme, sequencing and phasing of the main remediation works at Pyramid Park, and future housing development are effective and align optimally with TfGM's redevelopment plans and construction programme at Bury Interchange.
 - Any site constraints are shared and reviewed between parties in order to enable continued scheme deliverability.
 - The planning, design and access requirements between both schemes are mutually baselined and agreed upon, (e.g., the new Metrolink pedestrian footbridge which extends into the Pyramid Park site).
 - The remediation works are carefully planned and coordinated with TfGM to guarantee unhindered access for Metrolink servicing vehicles which use the existing Pyramid Park spur road.
43. There will be regular communications and engagement from the council project team and Conlon, with TfGM, who subject to internal approvals, are due to commence their first phase works in late-summer 2026. Other key stakeholders, such as Bury College will also be continually engaged to keep them updated on the construction programme and wider scheme progress.

Social Value

44. The prospective works contractor, Conlon, will be delivering various agreed social value outcomes, as previously established through their qualitative submission for the Pyramid Park scheme on the NWCH framework. To note, this includes the extensive use of the local supply chain, with local Bury-based firm, Cheetham Hill Construction, subcontracted to undertake the main land remediation element of the scheme works.
45. The scheme will realise work experience opportunities for Bury College students, apprenticeship opportunities, and employing ex-service personnel via Project RECCE. Such opportunities and associated targets will be baselined in coordination with the contractor, Conlon, and will form part of the JCT Design and Build contract, which will be regularly monitored throughout the scheme duration.
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Links with the Corporate Priorities:

46. The Pyramid Park Remediation Main Works supports the delivery of the Bury 'Let's Do It!' strategy and the four Bury 2030 principles that underpin it:

Local Neighbourhoods: The Pyramid Park Remediation Main Works will support the local neighbourhoods strategy by enabling future housing development at a core town centre, sustainable brownfield site. A new urban residential community will be fostered at Pyramid Park through the forthcoming development, which will deliver circa.150 new, affordable and sustainable homes, whilst also supporting the council's wider objectives for regeneration, economic growth and place making. This new neighbourhood will deliver new, high-quality housing serving a range of needs, with family housing, apartments, extra care / specialist accommodation and housing for older people planned at the site.

An Enterprising Spirit: Our spirit of enterprise and innovation will be harnessed through the Pyramid Park remediation works, which will transform what is currently an unviable, constrained and vacant town centre site, into a new, inter-generational residential community. The scheme will support development and good growth, through investment in physical infrastructure. A new pedestrian link will be facilitated through from the town centre across to Bury Interchange, adjacent, which is currently undergoing a multi-million-pound overhaul to deliver a modern and integrated transport facility. The council's project team continue to work closely with TfGM, who are overseeing the redevelopment of Bury Interchange, in order to maximise outcomes for both schemes and for the wider borough. We will connect local people to new opportunities via the remediation scheme and through the future residential development. Work experience, apprenticeships, placements and skills enhancement with local education providers, such as Bury College, will be realised.

Delivering Together: The remediation scheme and future residential development will foster a new community at Pyramid Park, allowing new relationships and connections to grow. The future housing development will deliver new sustainable homes and high-quality public realm, which will support community uses and strengthen connectivity and permeability to existing communities at Town Fields Close and in east Bury. We will continue to engage and update key stakeholders and local residents on the construction scheme progress.

A Strengths-Based Approach: We will value and build on the strengths of our residents and communities by continuing to engage, listen and empower, through the duration of the remediation works and via the realisation of social value outcomes. The strengths, successes and expertise of our Bury based business will be harnessed through the extensive use of the local supply chain. The future residential scheme at Pyramid Park will take an evidence-

led approach to intervention, by delivering much needed town centre housing for identified groups, including extra / specialist care accommodation provision.

Equality Impact and Considerations:

47. An initial equality impact screening has been carried out. This showed that there are unlikely to be any equality impacts on people or organisations arising from this activity. Equality impacts will be continually reviewed as the development progresses however there are no equalities concerns at this stage.
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Environmental Impact and Considerations:

48. A full planning strategy, which addresses the ecological and environmental impacts of the Pyramid Park Remediation Main Works has been approved by the local planning authority. This strategy has fully considered and evaluated the environmental impacts of the proposed scheme works, in line with local and national planning policy legislation requirements.
49. The remediation scheme will help unlock and bring a disused brownfield site forward for high-quality, sustainable residential development. Noting the interface between the proposed remediation works, and the future residential scheme development (separate to this Cabinet paper topic), a phased, joint approach to biodiversity and ecology matters at the site was agreed with the LPA and the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU). This approach ensures that through the remediation works, and considering the separate future residential scheme, that a 10% BNG uplift and a sufficient provision for the long-term management of these improved habitats is secured.
50. Specifically, the habitat characteristics that define the Townside Grade B SBI, which falls within the site area, will be enhanced both through the partial re-provision across a section of the Pyramid Park site and through some off-site BNG gain. This approach was agreed following prolonged consultation with the LPA and GMEU. Some off-site biodiversity gain was required as it would not have been possible to deliver the full BNG uplift entirely on-site without significantly compromising the developable space and viability of the future residential scheme. The unique species that could not be re-provided within the Pyramid Park site area, including some mixed scrub, lowland meadows and fens, have been augmented and improved elsewhere, at a habitat bank located nearby within the Manchester Pennine Fringe National Character Area and managed by a trusted national provider of off-site biodiversity areas.

51. Through the remediation excavation and earthworks, it is anticipated that there will be some recovery and re-use of site-won materials, but that there will also be some excavated materials that will be unacceptable for re-use (e.g., due to potentially contaminated soils). Any contaminated soil discovered will need to be removed from site. There may also be a requirement to import fill material required to make up the levels on-site. Any reuse of materials generated on the site will be subject to a Materials Management Plan (MMP) prepared in accordance with the Definition of Waste Code of Practice (DoW CoP) and CL:AIRE protocols. This will need to be submitted to the Environment Agency by a nominated Qualified Person (QP). Monitoring during the works will be required and a verification report prepared upon completion of the works. Conlon have included within their tender submission, allowances for the preparation, monitoring and discharge of the MMP, in connection with these works.

Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
Reputation risk – erosion of confidence in the ability of the council to successfully deliver the remediation main works scheme	<p>An expert and experienced project delivery team with effective project management and governance structures</p> <p>Appropriate contingency provision and risk management strategy</p> <p>The procurement of Conlon under a PCR compliant framework (via the NWCH).</p>
Permissions risk – delay in discharging pre-commencement planning conditions that affect a start on site and during construction	<p>Scheme planning consent granted in 2024</p> <p>Pre-commencement conditions already discharged or part discharged.</p>
Delivery risk – site conditions, including unforeseen conditions resulting in cost increases.	Site investigations, appropriate cost planning and contractor engagement, form of contract, warranties etc.
Delivery risk – build risk associated with contractor management.	Effective contractor management through regular contract meetings and contract retentions.
Delivery risk – supplier risk i.e. availability of specialist sub-contractors.	Effective procurement strategy and robust contractual arrangements including due diligence.

<p>Financial risk – increase in costs during construction</p>	<p>Early contractor involvement (via the PCSA) to ensure a robust cost plan is adhered to that will be regularly monitored throughout the contract</p> <p>Tender price due diligence and evaluation of the contractor’s submitted works packages</p> <p>Appropriate contingency provision sums to cover inflation, risk, asbestos etc</p> <p>Effective financial monitoring / management systems will be in place.</p>
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Procurement Implications:

- 52. Award tendered via compliant framework. – No further implications

Legal Implications:

- 53. The NWCH Low Value Construction Framework and mini-competition expressly permitted a two-stage process, allowing for the direct award of the main works following satisfactory completion of pre-construction services. Therefore, this award is lawful provided it is made strictly in accordance with those terms and without material change to scope, value or risk allocation.
- 54. Failure to appoint a contractor to undertake the remediation works at Pyramid Park in a timely manner may jeopardise the drawdown and retention of BLRF2 funding and the achievement of GFA delivery milestones. This in turn could materially impact the long-term viability of the site and undermine its redevelopment as a sustainable brownfield town centre location. While these risks are capable of being material considerations, they do not displace the requirement to follow a compliant procurement route; rather, they underscore the importance of ensuring any direct award is properly justified within the framework structure or otherwise regularised.
- 55. In progressing the scheme, the Council is exercising its broad powers to promote economic development, regeneration and housing delivery, including through the Localism Act 2011 and section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972. The proposals align with wider strategic objectives to bring forward brownfield land and deliver mixed, inter-generational housing. In doing so, the

Council must continue to comply with its statutory duties, including the best value duty, equality obligations under the Equality Act 2010, and any applicable subsidy control and procurement requirements. Robust governance and decision-making arrangements are essential to mitigate legal, financial and reputational risk.

Financial Implications:

- 56. A RICS red book valuation of the site will be undertaken to help inform the separate, four-stage procurement exercise for a suitable development partner for the delivery of the residential scheme, that is currently underway. This valuation will also be used to benchmark future offers at the point of disposal to third-party developers, which will be subject to separate approval(s) later in 2026.
- 57. The Remediation work is to be fully funded from the grants received and there are no revenue implications resulting from this.

Appendices:

None.

Background papers:

- March 2023 Cabinet Paper
<https://councildecisions.bury.gov.uk/documents/s34600/Proposed%20Disposal%20of%20Pyramid%20Park.pdf>

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

Term	Meaning
Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	To ensure new development has a measurably positive impact ('net gain') on biodiversity, compared to what was there before development, schemes must deliver a BNG uplift of 10%. BNG became mandatory in February 2024 under Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021).
Brownfield Land Release Fund (BLRF2)	The BLRF2 programme has provided up to £60m in capital funding to enable local authorities across the

	<p>country to release council-owned sites on brownfield land for housing development.</p> <p>BLRF2 enables councils to take a brownfield-first approach to development by unlocking otherwise unviable brownfield sites for new homes, whilst supporting regeneration, economic growth and place making.</p> <p>The programme is funded and supported by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG); and delivered by One Public Estate (OPE).</p>
Bury Unitary Development Plan (UDP)	<p>The Bury Unitary Development Plan UDP was adopted by the Council on 29th August 1997 and acts as a guide for the future development or protection of land in the borough and together with other adopted Development Plan Documents its policies and proposals form the basis for the Council's decisions on planning applications.</p> <p>The Council is now working to replace the adopted UDP with a new document called the Bury Local Plan. Until the new Local Plan is produced the UDP will continue be used to make planning decisions.</p>
Grant Funding Agreement (GFA)	<p>A legally binding contract that outlines the terms under which a funder provides grant funding to a recipient and responsibilities of the grant recipient in meeting those terms.</p>
Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU)	<p>The GMEU provides specialist advice to, and on behalf of, the ten district councils that make up Greater Manchester Combined Authority on biodiversity, nature conservation and wildlife issues.</p>
Joint Contracts Tribunal (JCT)	<p>The Joint Contracts Tribunal is the UK's leading provider of building contracts. A JCT contract is a standard form agreement which provides clear, legally tested terms for construction works. These contracts allocate responsibilities, risks, and payment obligations between the employer (client) and the contractor. They streamline project delivery by using recognisable clauses that cover design, procurement, quality standards, and dispute resolution.</p>
Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)	<p>A Memorandum of Understanding sets out the general terms and objectives of a partnership between two or more parties in a formalised but non-legally binding agreement.</p>

North West Construction Hub (NWCH)	The North West Construction Hub is a leading public sector construction procurement framework provider serving the North West of England.
One Public Estate (OPE)	One Public Estate is a partnership between the Office of Government Property (OGP) in the Cabinet Office (CO), the Local Government Association (LGA), and MHCLG. Their aim is to bring public sector bodies together in place in order to create better places; to use public assets more efficiently; to create service and financial efficiencies; and to release land for development to create new homes and provide jobs for communities.
Places for Everyone (PfE)	<p>Places for Everyone (PfE) is the joint statutory development plan for nine Greater Manchester authorities (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan) for jobs, new homes and sustainable growth.</p> <p>It sets out where we will build the new homes we need, where our businesses will locate to sustain and create jobs for our people, what infrastructure is needed to support the development and to protect and enhance our towns, cities and landscapes. It covers a timeframe up to 2039.</p>
Pre-Construction Services Agreement (PCSA)	A form of contract that allows for the appointment of a contractor to undertake pre-construction services in advance of the main building contract.
Public Rights of Way (PRoW)	Public Rights of Way are public highways protected in law. They include footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and byways used for travel, exercise and leisure.



Classification: Open	Decision Type: Non-Key
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Report to:	Cabinet	Date: 08 July 2026
Subject:	Economic Development & Regeneration Grant Funding	
Report of	Cabinet Member for Culture, Economy and Skills	

1. Summary

This note provides an update regarding the extension of the Local Growth and Place Flexible Grant (LGPFPG) programme 2025/26 and the new year of funding, now called Economic Development & Regeneration Grant Funding 2026/27, including Bury's grant allocation.

2. Recommendation(s)

- Cabinet members note the update and the allocations for the Economic Development & Regeneration Grant Funding for 2025/26.
- Cabinet Members to approve the proposals submitted to GMCA as listed below for Economic Development & Regeneration Grant Funding 2026/27
- Cabinet to delegate powers to Executive Director of Place in conjunction with Portfolio holders and the Director of Finance to make changes to the programme as issues arise through the year.
- Cabinet to note the special requirements of the grant and vesting arrangements for EDRGF funding pertaining to the Casewell's and Midlands Events LTD.

3. Reasons for recommendation(s)

n/a

4. Alternative options considered and rejected

n/a

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Department: Place

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Background

5. GMCA Programme Update

- 5.1 The Economic Development & Regeneration Grant (EDRFG) is a UK government funding stream introduced for 2026/27 as part of the Greater Manchester Integrated Settlement. It is essentially a transitional programme formerly known as Local Growth and Place Flexible Grant (LGPFPG) and UK

Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), designed to provide local authorities with more flexibility in delivering regeneration and economic development projects.

5.2 There has been a strategic shift in the focus of the grant for 2026/27 to better align with the functional responsibilities of the Economic Development and Regeneration pillar (previously Local Growth and Place). Future use of the grant will focus on business productivity, unlocking floorspace, enabling job creation, supporting public realm improvements, regeneration activity and funding cultural activity.

While outcomes and outputs for the 2026/27 Financial Year are still under negotiation, the outcomes and outputs for 25/26 can be found here: [Greater Manchester Combined Authority – Integrated Settlement Outcomes Framework 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK](#).

5.4 2025/2026 – Project Delivery Update

Local Growth and Place Flexi Grant Project Delivery 2025/26	
<p>Town Centre Regeneration</p> <p>£680,000</p>	<p>Delivering the aspirations set out in Town Centre Plans and Institute of Place Management Action Plan for Ramsbottom (2022) & Whitefield (2024) and the Bury Town Centre Masterplan.</p> <p>Bury Town Centre – improvements included the upgrade of seating along The Rock and the enhancement of the footway adjacent to Kay Gardens, plus increased street cleansing capacity through the purchase of new footway sweeper(electric) be utilised by both Bury Council and Bury Town Centre Business Improvement District.</p> <p>Ramsbottom Civic Hall/ Enterprise Centre -To bring the unused upper floor into use and support business facilities in the town centre. Designs completed to RIBA stage 3 RIBA and feasibility study for Market Chambers.</p> <p>Landscape Improvements - designs for key sites developed/developing with stakeholder engagement at key sites in Ramsbottom e.g. Market Place and Bridge Street Gardens, and Whitefield e.g. Old Town Hall Gardens - increasing accessibility and usage and Victoria Park, including the addition of play equipment. Implementation to be completed through 2026/27 funding programme.</p> <p>Ramsbottom Market feasibility - review of the Ramsbottom Saturday Market site and identify options for the future - included public consultation.</p> <p>Town centre websites - produced for Ramsbottom and Whitefield to share business, community and events information with the aim of driving footfall. Each site includes events and</p>

	<p>business listings and will be the basis of driving footfall and spend to the town centres.</p> <p>Place Branding - Place Branding developed for Ramsbottom and Whitefield with community and business stakeholders. Branding has been used on both town centre websites to create a clear identity and an increased profile and will be incorporated wayfinding schemes which are currently being developed.</p>
<p>Bury Means Business Creative Content/Place Promoter</p> <p>£43,500</p>	<p>The project focuses on creating engaging, educational, and entertaining content with a positive message for digital platforms to promote Bury to its residents, businesses and visitors. In the first-year activity has included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place marketing and business development activity supporting Bury's regeneration, investment priorities • Business engagement working with local businesses to promote good-news stories and raise awareness of opportunities review of Bury Means Business website • Promotion of key regeneration project updates, including the Bury Flexi Hall, Radcliffe Hub, and Radcliffe Enterprise Centre.
<p>Bury Culture Strategy Project</p> <p>£236,000</p>	<p>Project has delivered a series of cultural events and activity, with a significant increase in community led participation and engagement.</p> <p>Events supported have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bury Art Festival • Heritage open days – including walking tours and events • Ramsbottom Come together Festival • Spirit in Radcliffe <p>As well as engagement through programmes such as Early Years and well-being related events.</p>
<p>Radcliffe Enterprise Centre</p> <p>£770,000</p>	<p>Part of the regeneration of Radcliffe town centre, which includes Radcliffe Hub (LUF) and the Market Chambers Project, bringing opportunities for business investment through the creation of an Enterprise Centre in the Radcliffe Library building.</p> <p>2025-26 saw the completion of Phase 1 (redevelopment of ground floor).</p>
<p>Total</p> <p>£1,729,500</p>	

5. Economic Development & Regeneration 2026/27

- 5.1 The total amount awarded to Bury is £1,791,650. This amount includes an award for administration costs of £65,000 which means the total amount available for project delivery is £1,726,650. The funding must be spent by 31st March 2027.
- 5.2 The key focus for the programme will be Economic Development & Regeneration.
- 5.3 Local authorities are asked to prioritise practicality when programme planning to ensure that outputs and outcomes are deliverable.
- 5.4 The grant can be used to continue existing LGPFG/UKSPF activity, and fund "shovel ready" projects however, the projects proposed cannot replace existing committed projects, they must be projects that could not exist without the flexible grant i.e. must be new activity. It was also stressed that funding will be to support additional activity and should not be used to deliver core services/fill funding gaps in resources that do not deliver the outcomes directly.
- 5.5 Reporting will be light touch on a quarterly basis, submitted to GMCA for approval. The grant funding will be paid in full once the Grant Funding agreement is signed by Bury and GMCA.. Internal monitoring and evaluation will focus on ensuring that the terms of the grant funding are adhered to including mitigating any potential clawback issues and ensuring spend is made by the deadline of 31 March 2027.

6. Project shortlisting

- 6.1 All project leads were asked to complete a Local Authority Project Template providing an overview/description of the EDRGF proposal and demonstrating how the project fits with Outcomes and Outputs Framework. Project leads were asked to demonstrate ability to deliver the project spend within the deadline and provide a financial profile.
- 6.2 Project submissions were assessed by an internal project panel against deliverability, outcomes and outputs, value for money and alignment with corporate priorities and existing strategies that were unfunded.
- 6.3 These were presented to Executive Leadership Team on 1st April 2026 and Leader and Portfolio holder on 2nd April 2026. Followed by Regeneration and Sustainability Board on 27th April 2026.
- 6.4 The deadline for all grant funding to be spent is 31 March 2027, leaving a short timeframe for delivery. To ensure that spend and activity is completed in the required timeframe, for the 2026/27 funding round the focus is on supporting or extending projects which are already underway, or those

projects that have been identified in previous rounds and are therefore at an advanced stage of planning. For the town centres programme this therefore includes the delivery/completion of priority projects within the Whitefield and Ramsbottom town plans, Bury Masterplan and the completion/ support of the Radcliffe Enterprise Centre.

- 6.5 Cabinet delegate powers to Executive Director of Place to make any necessary changes to the programme in consultation with Portfolio holders.
- 6.6 The table below shows an overview of the final projects recommended by the internal panel and subsequently approved by the process above.
- 6.7 The Bury proposal was submitted to GMCA by the required deadline of 10 April 2026.

Project Name	Description	Total Project Costs
Bury Means Business Creative Content/Place Promoter (borough wide)	Continuation of existing funded post to promote place and growth across all media channels	£44,805
Bury Culture Project (borough wide)	A range of projects including events to support visitor economy, creative industries and investment in our venues and spaces with the community	£136,000
Town Centres Regeneration Bury/Ramsbottom/Whitefield	Deliver a series of public realm initiatives to enhance key areas within our town centres and deliver some of the aspirations of existing the Town Plans. E.g. Bury – Casewells and surrounding area, Whitefield – Old Town Hall Gardens, Ramsbottom – Bridge Street Gardens £200k of this funding is to be transferred to Midlands Events Bury LTD via a grant funding agreement. £97k of this funding will be released via a vesting certificate process to facilitate procurement of items with long lead times. This is to avoid undue delay to the opening of the Casewell's building.	£1,345,845
Radcliffe Enterprise Centre and business Support	Completion of the transformation of Radcliffe Library building to Enterprise centre.	£200,000
Admin Fee	Costs set out in the GFA to manage the programme.	£65,000

TOTAL EXPENDITURE SUMMARY	£1,791,650
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7. Next Steps

- 7.1 Project Leads have been notified and templates for reporting will be shared once received from GMCA.
- 7.2 EDRGF Delivery Project Board has been set up with Terms of Reference produced and monthly meeting scheduled.
- 7.3 Governance of schemes that are to be defrayed through other organisations to be agreed and confirmed (e.g. Culture grants to community organisations) and Grant funding agreements arranged as necessary including any back-to-back provisions from the GMCA funding agreement to limit risk to Bury MBC.

Links with the Corporate Priorities:

- 8. Local – Town centre improvements across Bury, Whitefield and Ramsbottom to support delivery of Town Centre Plans and Bury Market development proposals.
- 9. Enterprising – Radcliffe Enterprise Centre completion to deliver SFR aspirations to support local businesses and deliver growth in the town
- 10. Together – Bury Culture Strategy delivery and support for communities to engage.
- 11. Strengths – Place Promotion post to promote Bury to residents, businesses and visitors.

Equality Impact and Considerations:

- 12. EIA not required as this is an update on this Grant Funding Agreement with GMCA with no changes to policy or practices within the council.

Environmental Impact and Considerations:

- 13. n/a

Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
Inability to spend funding within timeframe	Project Management governance in place to monitor and manage

Costs exceeding budget	Cost planning before start and monitor and manage monthly with Project Board
Third Party grants via Culture	Governance to be set up and monitor and manage in service

Procurement Implications:

14. Requirements/contract variations will be compliant with the relevant Procurement Regulations at the time of sourcing.

Legal Implications:

15. The Council has broad statutory powers to promote economic development and regeneration within its area, including under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 (general power of competence) and section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972. In exercising these functions, it must have regard to its best value duty under the Local Government Act 1999 and ensure that funding is used lawfully, efficiently and in a manner that supports local priorities. The EDRFG forms part of the Greater Manchester Integrated Settlement and must be applied consistently with the objectives and conditions set by Government and the Combined Authority. The Council must also have regard to its continuing duties in relation to equality (Equality Act 2010) and public sector transparency.

In delivering programmes under the EDRGF, the Council must ensure compliance with any applicable subsidy control requirements under the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and with procurement obligations where funding is used to commission goods, works or services. Appropriate governance arrangements must be maintained, including adherence to the Council's constitution, financial regulations and scheme of delegation, particularly where decision-making is delegated to officers. Any variation to programme delivery must remain within the scope of approved policy and funding conditions, with material changes requiring further Member approval. Robust monitoring and audit arrangements should be in place to mitigate financial, legal and reputational risk.

Cabinet may lawfully delegate executive decision-making to a Director under the Local Government Act 2000, subject to the Council's constitution and scheme of delegation. Any delegation must clearly define its scope and remain within approved policy and budget parameters. Changes to the programme must not constitute a new key decision unless properly authorised and compliant with procedural requirements. The Director must also comply with all conditions attached to the grant funding. Any variation outside these limits will require further Cabinet approval.

Financial Implications:

16. Funding for the projects will be received up front on signing of the GFA with GMCA. The level of support to the projects will be limited to the amount of funding received less the £65k administration taken to fund the costs of staff already in post who deliver programme management, administration and monitoring and evaluation of the projects within the programme.

There is no requirement to match fund any of the awards, and awards are to be a set maximum amount to each project. Any amount that cannot be spent by the deadline of March 2027 will be identified through the monitoring process and redistributed to other projects to ensure that there is no grant to be repaid and all agreed outputs and outcomes (and other grant conditions) are met.

17. Payments to external parties will be through a grant funding agreement and monitored to the same level as the internal projects.

18. It is a condition of the GMCA grant that the projects should be additional not displacement of existing funding.

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 –EDRFG 26-27 Grant Funding Agreement – BURY
- Appendix 2 - Bury -Schedule 1A EDRGF 2026-27
- Appendix 3 - Bury-Schedule 1B EDRGF 2026-27
- Appendix 4 - Schedule 3

Background papers:

None.

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

Term	Meaning
UKSPF	United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund
LGPF	Local Growth and Place Flexible Grant
EDRGF	Economic Development & Regeneration Grant Funding

GMCA Grant Agreement Number [1806]

Dated

2026

GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY

AND

The Metropolitan Borough of Bury

FUNDING AGREEMENT FOR DELIVERY OF

**GREATER MANCHESTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION
FLEXIBLE GRANT 2026-27**

THIS AGREEMENT is made the _____ day of _____ 2026

BETWEEN

(1) **GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY** of First Floor, Tootal Buildings, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 6EU (the "**GMCA**")

and

(2) **The Metropolitan Borough of Bury** whose principal office is The Town Hall, Bury Council, Knowsley Street, Bury BL9 0SW (the "**COUNCIL**")

each a "**Party**" and together "**the Parties**".

WHEREAS

A. The GMCA is the combined authority for the GM Area. The Recipient is one of the ten local authorities within the GM Area (the "**GM LAs**") who are the "constituent councils" of the GMCA. The ten GM LAs, together with the Mayor of Greater Manchester and the Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester, constitute the Members of the GMCA.

B. On 18 December 2025 HM Treasury advised that GMCA will receive an "indicative" total Greater Manchester Integrated Settlement (the "**GMIS**") for the period from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027 of £637,153,280. As at the date of this Agreement details of the GMIS for the 2026-2027 Financial Year are set out in the MHCLG document entitled "Greater Manchester Combined Authority Integrated Settlement – Spending Review 2025" (the "**GMIS Allocation Document**"). The GMCA's use of the GMIS during the 2026-27 Financial Year is governed by the MHCLG Integrated Settlement: policy document and Greater Manchester Combined Authority Integrated Settlement Outcomes Framework 2026/27 to 2028/29 (the "**GMIS Framework**").

C. As at the date of this Agreement, the six "functional responsibilities" which are covered by the GMIS are described in the MHCLG Policy Paper entitled "Functional Responsibilities for the Integrated Settlements 2026 to 2030" (the "**Functional Responsibilities Paper**") under the following headings:

- Economic Development and Regeneration
- Transport and Local Infrastructure
- Skills and Employment Support
- Housing and Strategic Planning
- Environment and Climate Change
- Health, Wellbeing and Public Sector Reform.

D. The GMIS is intended to allow the GMCA, working in collaboration with the GM LAs, to take greater control over the delivery of the above "functional responsibilities" across the GM Area. The GMCA and the GM LAs are committed to ensuring that the funding provided to the GMCA under the GMIS arrangements is used effectively in accordance with the requirements of the GMIS Allocation Document and the GMIS Framework. The GMCA and the GM LAs recognise that the GM LAs are often best placed to lead in delivering programmes in their own GM LA area in respect of the six GMIS functional responsibilities listed at paragraph C.

E. The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (Functions and Amendment) Order 2017 provides that the GMCA (in relation to the GM Area), has the function under section 31

of the Local Government Act 2003 to be able to pay grant to any GM LA towards expenditure incurred or to be incurred by such GM LA.

F. Pursuant to the GMCA's functions under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003, on the 5th May 2026, the GMCA agreed to provide the Council with GMIS grant funding of up to **£1,791,650** (the "**Total Funding Amount**") which is to be used by the Council to deliver the Greater Manchester Economic Development and Regeneration Flexible Grant Fund ("**EDRFG**") Programme in the Council's LA area during the period from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027 (the "**Purpose**"). The Total Funding Amount comprises revenue grant funding of **£1,006,007** (the "**Revenue Grant**") and capital grant funding of **£785,643** (the "**Capital Grant**"),

G. This Agreement sets out the terms and conditions on which the Funding is made by the GMCA to the Council and these terms and conditions are intended to ensure that the Funding is used for the delivery of the Purpose for which it has been provided.

IT IS AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Definitions and Interpretation

1.1 This Funding Agreement (the "**Agreement**") consists of these terms and conditions and the Schedules hereto.

1.2 In this Agreement:

Claims Deadlines means dates set out in the Payment Schedule on which the Council can submit a Grant Claim to the GMCA.

Commencement Date means the 1 April 2026.

Council Economic Development and Regeneration Flexible Grant (EDRFG) Programme means the delivery by the Council of the GM EDRFG Programme in the Council's LA Area during the Funding Period as detailed at Schedule 1.

Data Protection Legislation: all applicable data protection and privacy legislation in force from time to time in the UK including the UK GDPR; the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018); and the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations 2003 (SI 2003 No. 2426) as amended; and all other legislation and regulatory requirements in force from time to time which apply to a party relating to the use of Personal Data (including, without limitation, the privacy of electronic communications); and the guidance and codes of practice issued by the Information Commissioner or other relevant data protection or supervisory authority and applicable to a Party.

Data Sharing Agreement means a separate data sharing agreement which will be entered into between the Parties where any Personal Data is to be shared under this Funding Agreement.

Eligible Expenditure means the costs incurred by the Council in the delivery of the Council EDRFG Programme as detailed at Schedule 1.

End Date means the 31 March 2027.

EIR means the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

FOIA means the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and any subordinate legislation made under this Act from time to time together with any guidance and/or codes of practice issued by the Information Commissioner or relevant government department in relation to such legislation.

Functional Responsibilities Paper means the MHCLG Policy Paper entitled “Functional Responsibilities for the Integrated Settlements 2026 to 2030” which sets out the six functional responsibilities which are covered by the GMIS as at the date of this Agreement. The Functional Responsibilities Paper states that there will be scope at Spending Review 2027 to review the functional responsibilities.

Funding means the Funding payable by the GMCA to the Council under the terms of this Agreement for the Purpose of delivery of the Council EDRFG Programme, which shall not exceed the Funding Amount.

Funding Amount is the maximum sum of **£1,791,650** (One Million, Seven Hundred and Ninety One Thousand, Six Hundred and Fifty Pounds).

Funding Period means the period from the Commencement Date to the End Date.

Grant Claim means the payment request submitted by the Recipient to the GMCA for payment of the Grant. The Grant Claim will take such form (e.g. invoice, grant claim form) as required by the GMCA.

GM Economic Development and Regeneration Flexible Grant (EDRFG) Programme means the GM EDRFG Programme which is to be delivered across the Greater Manchester Area by the GMCA in partnership with the 10 GM LAs during the Funding Period.

Greater Manchester Integrated Settlement (GMIS) means the agreement between HM Treasury and the GMCA whereby from the 1 April 2025 HM Treasury will provide the GMCA with annual integrated funding.

GMIS Allocation Document means the MHCLG document entitled “Greater Manchester Combined Authority Integrated Settlement – Spending Review 2025” which details the GMIS for the 2026-2030 Financial Years, as amended from time to time. As at the date of this Agreement, HM Treasury advised that GMCA will receive an “indicative” total GMIS for the period from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027 of £637,153,280.

GMIS Framework means the MHCLG documents entitled “Integrated Settlement: policy document” and “Greater Manchester Combined Authority Integrated Settlement Outcomes Framework 2026/27 to 2028/29” which sets out the overarching governance and monitoring framework which has been agreed between HM Treasury and the GMCA in respect of the GMCA’s use of the GMIS for the 2026-2030 Financial Years, as amended from time to time.

Intellectual Property Rights or IPRs means copyright, rights related to or affording protection similar to copyright, rights in databases, patents and rights in inventions, semi-conductor topography rights, trade marks, rights in internet domain names and website addresses and other rights in trade names, designs, know-how, trade secrets and any modifications, amendments, updates and new releases of the same and all similar or equivalent rights or forms of protection which subsist or will subsist now or in the future in any part of the world;

IPR Material means all material produced by the Council or its Representatives in relation to the Council EDRFG Programme during the Funding Period (including but not limited to, materials expressed in any form of report, database, design, document, technology, information, know how, system or process);

Law or Legislation means any applicable Act of Parliament, subordinate legislation within the meaning of Section 21(1) of the Interpretation Act 1978, exercise of the royal prerogative, regulatory policy, guidance or industry code, or judgment of a relevant court of law.

Monitoring Information means the information which the Council is to provide to the GMCA in respect of the delivery of the Council EDRFG Programme (including achievement of the Outputs and Outcomes) which is detailed in the GMCA's template **Monitoring Information Form** attached at Schedule 3. Where the Monitoring Information includes any Personal Data the Parties will enter into a separate Data Sharing Agreement in relation to the processing of this Personal Data.

Outcomes and Outputs means the outcomes and outputs which the Council aims to achieve through the delivery of the Council EDRFG Programme and which are set out in detail in the Proposal attached at Schedule 1. The Outcomes and Outputs may be amended by written agreement between the Parties at any time.

Payment Schedule means Schedule 2.

Proposal means the Council's submission to the GMCA which details the Council EDRFG Programme as set out in Schedule 1. The Proposal may be amended by written agreement between the Parties at any time.

Purpose means the provision of the Council EDRFG Programme as detailed in Schedule 1.

Representatives means any of the Parties' duly authorised directors, employees, officers, agents, professional advisers and consultants;

Request for Information means a request for information made under the EIR or FOIA relating to this Agreement and/or the delivery of the Council EDRFG Programme.

State Aid Law means the law embodied in Articles 107- 109 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and any related legislation adopted by the Council, European Parliament and/or the Commission (including implementing legislation) decisions and communications to the extent it applied or continues to apply at any time in the United Kingdom.

Subsidy means a financial benefit which is subject to the Subsidy Control Rules or the Subsidy Control Act.

Subsidy Control Act means the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and any subordinate legislation made under that Act from time to time together with any guidance or codes of practice issued by the relevant government department concerning the legislation.

Subsidy Control Law: means the Subsidy Control Rules and the Subsidy Control Act.

Subsidy Control Rules means State Aid Law, Articles 363 to 375 of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, the World Trade Organisation Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, Article 2 of the World Trade Organisation Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures and any and all applicable subsidy control rules

under any current Free Trade Agreements between the United Kingdom and another state.

Trade and Cooperation Agreement: means the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one part, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, of the other part (as that agreement is modified or supplemented from time to time in accordance with any provision of it or of any future relationship agreement).

UK GDPR: has the meaning given in section 3(10) (as supplemented by section 205(4)) of the Data Protection Act 2018.

VAT means value added tax in accordance with the provisions of the Value Added Tax Act 1994;

Working Day means Monday to Friday, excluding any public holiday in England and Wales.

- 1.3 References to any statute or sub-ordinate legislation in this Agreement include references to any amendments or replacements to the statute or sub-ordinate legislation that may be enacted from time to time.
- 1.4 Whenever required by the context the singular includes the plural and vice versa and words importing one gender shall include all other genders.
- 1.5 Reference to a clause is a reference to a clause in this Agreement.
- 1.6 The headings in this Agreement are for ease of reference only.

2. Funding Offer and Capacity

- 2.1 This Agreement shall take effect on the Commencement Date and shall continue in full force and effect until the End Date.
- 2.2 The GMCA does not commit to renew or continue financial support to the Council in respect of the Council EDRFG Programme beyond the End Date.
- 2.3 Subject to the Council complying with the terms and conditions set out in this Agreement, the GMCA shall pay the Funding to the Council for the Purpose of the delivery of the Council EDRFG Programme.
- 2.4 The Council acknowledges that the GMCA agrees to provide the Funding to the Council for the amount agreed in this Agreement. The Council shall be responsible for funding any shortfall if the cost of the delivery of the Council EDRFG Programme exceeds the Total Funding Amount for any reason.
- 2.5 Subject to the GMCA having received payment of the GMIS from HM Treasury and following receipt by the GMCA of a Grant Claim from the Recipient, the Funding shall be paid by the GMCA to the Council by way of one instalment in advance as set out in the Payment Schedule.
- 2.6 This Funding is conditional upon the Council satisfying the GMCA that:
 - (a) The Council is able and willing to deliver the Council EDRFG Programme in accordance with Schedule 1;

- (b) The Council has undertaken any risk assessments, health and safety assessments or similar as required by Law which are required for the delivery of the Council EDRFG Programme;
- (c) The Council holds appropriate insurance in respect of the Council EDRFG Programme.

3. Purpose and Extent of the Funding and Collaborative Approach

- 3.1 The Council shall use the Funding only for the Purpose of the delivery of the Council EDRFG Programme, and in accordance with this Agreement or as approved in writing by the GMCA. The Council shall not use the Funding for any other purpose.
- 3.2 The Council recognises and acknowledges that the Funding forms part of the wider GMIS and the Council agrees to work in collaboration with the GMCA and the other GM LAs to ensure that the Funding is used in accordance with the overarching requirements of the GMIS Allocation Document and the GMIS Framework.
- 3.3 The Council recognises and acknowledges that the Council's EDRFG Programme forms part of the wider EDRFG Programme. The Council will collaborate with the GMCA and the other GM LAs to share learning and best practice derived from the Council's delivery of each of the Council EDRFG Programme.

4. Payment of the Funding

- 4.1 In order for any payment of the Funding to be released, the Council is required to:
 - (a) have signed and returned a copy of this Agreement to the GMCA, and
 - (b) have provided bank details to the GMCA, and
 - (c) be in compliance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement.
- 4.2 The GMCA expects to receive payment of the agreed annual amount of GMIS funding for the 2026-27 Financial Year from HM Treasury on or before 1 April 2026. Subject to the GMCA having received payment of the agreed annual amount of GMIS funding for the 2026-27 Financial Year from HM Treasury, the GMCA will pay the Funding in accordance with the Payment Schedule.

5. Managing the Funding

- 5.1 At the end of the Funding Period, any unspent monies from the Funding remaining must be notified to the GMCA and must be returned to the GMCA no later than one month from the end of the Funding Period, unless the GMCA agrees otherwise.
- 5.2 If an overpayment of the Funding amount has been made by the GMCA to the Council, the Council shall return such overspend to the GMCA promptly.

6. Records to be Kept

- 6.1 The Council must provide the GMCA with completed Monitoring Information Forms in respect of the Council EDRFG in accordance with Schedule 3.
- 6.2 The GMCA reserves the right to require the Council to provide the GMCA with any information in respect of the Council EDRFG Programme that HM Treasury may require

the GMCA to provide to HM Treasury regarding the GMCA's use of the GMIS 2026-27 and the GMCA's compliance with the GMIS Framework.

- 6.3 The Council must keep a record of the Council EDRFG Programme (including original invoices, receipts, and any other relevant documentation, whether in writing or electronic form) for a period of six (6) years from the date of completion of the Council EDRFG Programme and provide a copy to the GMCA on request.

7. Lawful Conduct and Activities Funded by the Funding

- 7.1 The Council must ensure that it complies with any and all applicable Law and regulations in relation to the Council EDRFG Programme and the Funding.
- 7.2 The Funding must not be used for any activity which is party-political in intention, use, or presentation, or be used to support or promote religious activity.

8. Breach of Funding Terms

- 8.1 If the Council fails to comply with any of the terms set out in this Agreement, or if any of the events referred to in clauses 8.2 occur, then without prejudice to any other rights or remedies of the GMCA under this Agreement, the GMCA, acting reasonably, may reduce, suspend, or withhold Funding payments, or require all or any part of the Funding to be repaid.

- 8.2 The events referred to in Clause 8.1 are as follows:

- (a) the Council uses the Funding for purposes other than the delivery of the Council EDRFG Programme (and such usage has not been approved by the GMCA, acting reasonably); or
- (b) the Council, in the reasonable opinion of the GMCA, takes inadequate measures to investigate and resolve any reported serious issue or irregularity in respect of the delivery of the Council EDRFG Programme; or
- (c) the GMCA is of the reasonable opinion that the Council has refused or otherwise failed to offer or provide the Council EDRFG Programme in accordance with the agreed Proposal without adequate grounds to do so;
- (d) the Council has not commenced delivery of the Council EDRFG Programme in accordance with the Proposal;
- (e) the delivery of the Council EDRFG Programme breaks down prior to its completion and the Parties, acting reasonably, are unable to agree to a revised Council EDRFG Programme; or
- (f) the Council obtains or has obtained the same funding from a third Party for the same Purpose; or
- (g) a court, tribunal or independent body or authority of competent jurisdiction requires any Funding paid to be recovered by reason of breach of any Subsidy Control Law;
- (h) the Council knowingly provides the GMCA with any misleading or inaccurate information in relation to the Funding or the Council EDRFG Programme.

- 8.3 Upon becoming aware of a breach, potential breach or other serious cause for concern relating to this Agreement, the GMCA will notify the Council of the same in writing. The Council must act within 30 days (or such other period as the GMCA specifies in writing) to address the GMCA's concerns or rectify a breach if possible. The Council may consult the GMCA or agree with it an action plan for resolving the issue(s). The Parties will work together in a spirit of collaboration to resolve any breach, potential breach or other serious cause for concern relating to this Agreement. If the GMCA, acting reasonably, is not satisfied with steps taken by the Council to address its concern or rectify the breach, the GMCA may take steps to withhold or suspend the further payment of Funding, or to recover Funding already paid in accordance with clause 8.1.
- 8.4 Where the GMCA, acting reasonably, requires all or any part of the Funding to be repaid, the GMCA, shall inform the Council in writing of the amount of the repayment owed and a repayment plan shall be agreed between the GMCA and the Council, both acting reasonably. In the event that the Parties fail to agree a repayment plan the dispute will be referred for resolution under clause 12.2.

9. Termination of this Agreement

- 9.1 The GMCA may terminate this Agreement forthwith by serving a written notice on the Council if:
- (a) the Council has knowingly made any false, incorrect or misleading statement in order to obtain this Funding or has been involved in any illegal activity or improper act in its administration; or
 - (b) the Council commits a material breach of any of its obligations under this Agreement and, in the case of a breach which is capable of remedy, fails to remedy the same, as set out at clause 8 above. For the avoidance of doubt a material breach shall include, inter alia, not using the Funding for the delivery of the Council EDRFG Programme.
- 9.2 Where termination of this Agreement pursuant to clause 9.1 above applies the GMCA shall cease to be under any obligation for payment of the Funding if not already paid. If the Funding has already been paid the GMCA, acting reasonably, may require the Council to repay all or any part of the Funding, which has not already been spent by the Council on Eligible Expenditure.
- 9.3 The Council must repay any amount reasonably required by the GMCA to be repaid under this clause 9 within 30 days of receiving the demand for repayment. Any termination of this Agreement will be without prejudice to any other rights or remedies of the Parties under this Agreement or at law and will not affect any accrued rights or liabilities of the Parties at the date of termination.
- 9.4 Nothing in this Agreement shall affect the coming into force or the continuance in force of any provision of this Agreement which is expressly or by implication to come into force or continue in force upon termination or expiry of this Agreement.

10. Liability

- 10.1 The GMCA accepts no liability to the Council or to any third Party for any costs, claims, damage or losses in connection with the Funding or the delivery of the Council EDRFG Programme, however they are incurred (except to the extent that they arise from personal injury or death which is caused by the GMCA's negligence which cannot be excluded by Law or for any breach of applicable Law by the GMCA).

10.2 For the avoidance of doubt, the GMCA accepts no liability for any consequences, whether direct or indirect, to the Council arising as result of the Council's delivery of the Council EDRFG Programme (either where any of the Council EDRFG Programme is delivered directly by the Council or where the Council makes arrangements for the Council EDRFG Programme to be delivered on its behalf by a third party).

11 Confidentiality and Intellectual Property

11.1 For the purposes of this clause:

- (a) **"Confidential Information"** means information of a confidential nature, including but not limited to information relating to the operations, plans, intentions, know-how, copyright and other intellectual property rights, software, market opportunities, strategies, customers and potential customers, competitors and potential customers, business and/or financial affairs of the Parties,
- (b) **"Disclosing Party"** means the Party disclosing Confidential Information, and
- (c) **"Receiving Party"** means the Party receiving Confidential Information.

11.2 Each Party agrees to keep Confidential Information disclosed to it by the other Party strictly confidential and not to use any such Confidential Information for any purpose other than for purposes directly related to the provision of the Funding. The Receiving Party will restrict access to Confidential Information of the Disclosing Party to such of its employees as need to know the same for the purposes set out in this clause and will not disclose any such Confidential Information to any third party without the prior written consent of the Disclosing Party and, in the event that such disclosure is permitted, the Receiving Party will procure that such third party agrees to be bound by the terms of this clause in relation to such Confidential Information. The requirements of this clause will not apply to the disclosure of information which:

- (a) at the time of disclosure is in the public domain in the form supplied otherwise than through a breach of this Agreement, or
- (b) was lawfully within the possession of the Receiving Party prior to its disclosure by the Disclosing Party Provided that the source of such information was not bound by obligations of confidentiality in respect of such information, or
- (c) the Receiving Party is required to disclose by law and/or any court of competent jurisdiction or any governmental or regulatory body

11.3 The Parties acknowledge that damages may not be an adequate remedy in respect of a breach of this clause and that equitable reliefs including injunctions and orders for specific performance may be appropriate for the enforcement of this clause.

11.4 Intellectual Property

11.4.1 Intellectual Property in all IPR Material will be the property of the Council.

11.4.2 The Council grants to the GMCA a non-exclusive irrevocable and royalty-free, sub-licensable, worldwide licence to use all the IPR Material and IPR therein for the purpose of supporting the Council EDRFG Programme, the GM EDRFG Programme and other projects.

11.4.3 Ownership of Third-Party software or other IPR necessary to deliver the Council EDRFG Programme will remain with the relevant Third Party.

11.4.4 The Council must ensure that, where applicable, they have obtained the relevant agreement from the Third-Party proprietor before any additions or variations are made to the standard 'off-the-shelf' versions of any Third-Party software and other IPR. The Grant Recipient will be responsible for obtaining and maintaining all appropriate licences to use the Third-Party software.

12. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

12.1 The GMCA and the Council will use all reasonable endeavours to resolve any issues arising in respect of this Agreement informally and to avoid formal disputes.

12.2 Where a formal dispute arises between the Parties in respect of this Agreement, it will be referred in the first instance to the GMCA's Elisha Keswick and to the Council's Paul Lakin who will each act reasonably in seeking to resolve the dispute.

13. VAT

The Funding is believed to be outside the scope of VAT (Value Added Tax) but if any VAT shall become chargeable in respect of the Funding the Funding shall be inclusive of any irrecoverable VAT and exclusive of recoverable VAT.

14. General Provisions

14.1 This Agreement sets out the entire agreement between the Parties and replaces all previous negotiations, agreements, understandings and representations between the Parties, whether oral or in writing.

14.2 Any amendments to this Agreement shall only be valid if they are in writing and signed by an authorised representative of both Parties.

14.3 This Agreement is personal to the Council and the Council shall not assign or otherwise deal with the benefit of this Agreement.

14.4 No person who is not a Party to this Agreement shall have the right to enforce any its terms under the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999.

14.5 This Agreement shall be subject to and construed in accordance with English Law and subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of England and Wales.

14.6 The Parties agree that the terms of this Agreement shall remain confidential between themselves and their representatives and shall not be disclosed to any third Party save as required by Law.

14.7 Failure by the GMCA or the Council at any time to enforce the provisions of this Agreement shall not be construed as a waiver or any such provision and shall not affect the validity of this Agreement or any part thereof or the right of the GMCA or the Council to enforce any provision in accordance with its terms.

14.8 Any notice which is to be given by either Party to the other shall be in writing, sent to the address listed above and served on the recipient personally by hand delivery or

sent by first class recorded delivery post or by special delivery post. The notice shall be deemed to have been served on the day of delivery if delivered by hand or 2 (two) Working Days after the day on which it was posted.

- 14.9 Either Party may change its address for service by serving a notice in accordance with this clause.
- 14.10 This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts and by the different Parties in different counterparts each of which when executed and delivered shall be deemed to constitute one and the same instrument. Each Party agrees that the delivery of this Agreement by electronic transmission, including copies of the executed signature pages via PDF, shall have the same force and effect as delivery of original signatures and that each Party may use such copies of the executed signature pages as evidence of the execution and delivery of this Agreement by all Parties.
- 14.11 This Agreement may be signed by any Party by electronic signature (whatever form the electronic signature takes) and this method of signature is as conclusive of such Party's intention to be bound by this Agreement as if signed by each Party's manuscript signature.

14. Subsidy Control

- 14.1 The Council acknowledges and agrees that the award of the Funding by the GMCA to the Council is not considered to be an award of Subsidy by the GMCA to the Council. The Council acknowledges and agrees that the Council will ensure that the Council's use of the Funding for the delivery of the Council EDRFG Programme does not put the GMCA or the Council in breach of Subsidy Control Law.
- 14.2 The Council will maintain appropriate records to demonstrate that the Council's use of the Funding for the delivery of the Council EDRFG Programme is in compliance with Subsidy Control Law and will take all reasonable steps to assist the GMCA to comply with the same and respond to any proceedings or investigation(s) into the Funding and/or the Council EDRFG Programme by any relevant court or tribunal of relevant jurisdiction or regulatory body.

15. DATA PROTECTION AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

- 15.1 The Parties shall comply with all requirements of Data Protection Legislation, the EIR and FOIA, and will not knowingly do anything or permit anything to be done which might lead to a breach by the other party of Data Protection Legislation, and/or the EIR and/or FOIA.
- 15.2 Where any Personal Data is required to be shared under this Agreement in relation to the Council EDRFG Programme, the Parties shall enter into a Data Sharing Agreement in relation to any such Personal Data shared.
- 15.3 It is acknowledged that the Parties are both subject to the requirements of the EIR and FOIA and each Party shall assist and cooperate with any Party in receipt of a Request for Information relating to this Agreement and/or the delivery of the Council EDRFG Programme (at the receiving Party's expense where applicable) to enable the receiving Party to comply with their Information disclosure requirements.

SCHEDULE 1

THE PROPOSAL



Bury-Schedule 1A
EDRFG 2026-27 Fina



Bury-Schedule 1B
EDRFG 2026-27 Fina

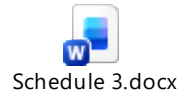
SCHEDULE 2

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

1. The GMCA agrees to pay to the Council the Funding Amount of **£1,791,650** in a single instalment in advance within thirty (30) days of the date of this agreement.

2. The GMCA and the Council have agreed that the Funding Amount will be used by the Council to fund the Council's Eligible Expenditure in respect of each of the Council EDRFG Programme as detailed in the Proposal attached at Schedule 1.

**SCHEDULE 3
MONITORING INFORMATION FORM**



IN WITNESS whereof the Parties have executed this Agreement on the day and year above written

Signed on behalf of the
**GREATER MANCHESTER
COMBINED AUTHORITY**
by an authorised signatory
of the said Authority:

Authorised Signatory

Signed on behalf of
The Metropolitan Borough of Bury
by an authorised
signatory of the said Council:

Authorised Signatory

Economic Development and Regeneration Flexible Grants – Local Authority Proposal

Name of Local Authority	Bury Council
Lead contact name and contact details	Sarah Porru

<p>Section A: Information on overarching Flexible Grants proposal <i>The following questions relate to your proposal, information on individual projects where known is requested in section B.</i></p>
<p>1. Please provide an overview/description of the overall Flexible Grants proposal in your Local Authority area. Please note – Projects should be new or enhanced activity enabled specifically by the Flexible Grant. While the grant can be used to continue or extend existing works, it can't be used to replace any already committed funding.</p> <p>The Bury EDRFG proposal supports the delivery several new projects as well as the further development of existing projects and themes. Activity will be particularly focused on place-based regeneration and economic growth within Bury's town centres through the continued delivery of key aspects of town centre plans.</p> <p>The proposal will support and deliver a combination of physical regeneration projects, drive footfall and spend, and improve cultural engagement and through a series of town centre events. In addition, the funding will also deliver the final stages of the Radcliffe Enterprise Centre, unlocking further commercial floorspace.</p>
<p>2. Please describe the strategic fit of your proposal including how it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Delivers against the Greater Manchester Strategy</i> • <i>Delivers against your Local Strategic Priorities</i>
<p>The proposals will align with the expected outputs and outcomes linked to integrated settlement and the Greater Manchester Strategy.</p> <p>a. Delivers against the Greater Manchester Strategy</p> <p>By focusing on projects which drive economic growth through place based regeneration we will support the following GM Strategy work streams:</p> <p>Safe and strong communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear line of sight to high quality jobs • Everyday support in every neighbourhood • A great place to do business • Digitally connected places and people <p>The Bury proposals are focused on collaboration and community participation to empower people to create inclusive town centres.</p>

b. Delivers against Local Strategic Priorities

The Bury proposal will strongly support the Lets

- The proposal will strongly support the Bury’s LET’S Principles (Bury’s *Let’s Do it!* Strategy) by contributing to thriving local neighbourhoods, boosting enterprise and enabling working together.
- Bury Economic Strategy – 3 pillar strategy, People, Place and Economy & Business
 - Build the capabilities of people to find, sustain and progress in employment and achieve economic security.
 - Create an inclusive, sustainable and prosperous place, where people choose to live, work, invest and visit.
 - Create the conditions for business to prosper and accelerate the transition to a fairer, greener and more resilient economy.
- Bury’s Culture Strategy - which outlines 5 Strategic Pillars, Stories, Skills, Strength, Space and Support. This strategy aims to gives everyone the opportunity to experience and define our unique borough
- Radcliffe Strategic Regeneration Framework (SRF), that deliver improvements to health, skills and employability, cultural engagement, and economic recovery of the town centre.
- Bury Town Centre Masterplan, Ramsbottom and Whitefield Town Plans will create attractive and vibrant town centres with interventions led by local businesses and residents.

3. Stakeholder engagement

Please describe any engagement with local stakeholders you have undertaken on the proposed projects.

Bury Council’s proposal has been developed in consultation with elected members and senior officers from across the organisation. The programme prioritises interventions that will support the delivery of key strategies by way of a variety of activity to build in its towns and communities across the borough and support its residents.

The proposals aim to deliver/develop projects that have been identified through engagement in the development of strategies and specific project plans/initiatives and includes responses from local residents ,business and wider stakeholders across the various projects listed below.

4. Subsidy Control

All proposals must also consider how they will deliver in compliance with subsidy control legislation. All projects will need to be delivered in line with the Subsidy Control Act and this will be part of your responsibilities in the Grant Funding Agreement.

Please confirm you have considered this as part of your proposal .

<p>Bury Council has read the guidance on subsidy control on the GOV.UK website and does not believe that its overall proposal constitutes contravening the Subsidy Control Act.</p> <p>As a guide, subsidy is most likely to be present in the ‘supporting local business’ intervention priority. Bury Council believes that its individual projects under the ‘communities and place’ intervention will not benefit economic actors (an entity or a group of entities constituting a single economic entity, regardless of its legal status and including public bodies, that is engaged in an economic activity by offering goods or services on a market).</p> <p>For e.g., public realm interventions, or activities that benefit individual people (which Bury Council’s proposal will) are considered highly unlikely to be subsidy.</p>
<p>5. Deliverability</p> <p>Please explain what processes you will have in place to ensure that your proposal will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Align with the Economic Development and Regeneration Pillar of the Integrated Settlement • Deliver within the required timescales (FY 2026-27) • Meet the agreed expenditure profile • Align with the Integrated Settlement Outcome Framework and deliver the proposed outputs and outcomes
<p>The projects included in the Bury Proposal were assessed by an internal panel against the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment with the Economic Development and Regeneration Pillar of the Integrated Settlement • Timescales - To ensure delivery within timescales, most projects are a continuation of activity commenced in 2025/26, with project plans already in place. New activity is generally about adding value to projects that are already underway e.g. Bury Flexi Hall. • Expenditure Profile - this has been developed following a review of previous grant funding programmes and existing project plans.to reflect the most accurate forecast. • Align with the Integrated Settlement Outcome Framework and deliver the proposed outputs and outcomes – • All Project proposals were assessed by an internal panel against deliverability, outcomes and outputs, VFM and alignment with corporate priorities (Let’s Do It Strategy) town centre plans and plans and wider strategies. • All projects selected have been measured against the draft outcomes Framework to ensure best fit. With a focus on unlocking floorspace, supporting public realm improvements, regeneration, and cultural activity. • A Project Board (including project leads and finance officers) has been set up to monitor and review progress.
<p>Please detail the internal governance approval/sign-off process for this proposal</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project proposals submitted using the LA Proforma, detailing the project description, spend profile and fit with the Integrated Settlement Outcome Framework and local priorities. - Projects were shortlisted following an assessment by council officers including the Exec Director of Place. - The final draft proposal was approved by the Council Leader - Upon submission to GMCA the proposal will be taken to the Councils Regeneration Board and Finance Boards respectively.

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Project Name	Bury Place Promoter
Project Overview	This will continue the Bury Means Business creative content creator/ place promoter role. Embracing digital storytelling via social media platforms will help boost the way Bury town centres are promoted, accessed, used, organised and understood. It will help with the promotion of wider tourism promotion, supporting local businesses and attractions and will help engage residents in town centre activity, driving footfall, supporting inclusive economic growth and developing pride in 'Place'.
Intended Impact	Fundamentally the role is designed to facilitate local growth and promotion of place. However, the content created will fully align with the expected outputs and outcomes linked to integrated settlement and the Greater Manchester Strategy. Content will include highlight local transport schemes and initiatives, Housing and Regeneration projects.
Start Date	1/4/2026
Completion Date	31/3/2027
Proposed Outputs	
Number of people reached – 100,000	
Proposed Outcomes	
Strategic Fit	<p>Outcome 2: Develop the places needed to foster place-based economic growth in GM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting public realm improvements, regeneration, and cultural activity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let's Do it- investing in our Town Centres', Delivering Economic Growth • Ramsbottom Town Centre plan • Whitefield Town Centre Plan • Bury Town Centre Masterplan • Bury Economic Strategy

Project Name	Town Centre Regeneration

Project Overview	To continue the town centre regeneration – through separate, but coherent projects which support the delivery of town centre strategies some of which work started in the previous UKSPF funding such as Radcliffe Strategic Regeneration Framework, Bury Town Centre Masterplan, and Ramsbottom and Whitefield town centre plans. Activity will also support the continuation of Bury’s Culture Strategy.
Intended Impact	<p>The Town Centre Regeneration project will deliver a series of improvements and linked activity across the borough centres. This is likely to include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrades and improvements to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the public realm, - local community spaces/existing assets • initiatives e.g. research/cost assessments to help guide future town centres • Continued marketing and promotion of town centres (e.g. continuation of visit websites and social media campaigns) • Delivery of masterplan/feasibility studies and/or detailed design for proposals identified in town centre plans. including e.g. Ramsbottom Civic Hall to RIBA stage 4 (inc project management costs) • Interventions outlined in town plans and subsequent works to deliver town centre improvements. • Casewells - (previously known as Bury Flexi Hall) - a new food and events venue in Bury Town Centre. Funding the addition of stage and lighting within the facility which will enable a broader range of uses and will bring events/activities into the town centre. The upgrade will generate income as well as offering opportunities for local musicians/other- additional floor space unlocked. • Bury Market - wider improvements alongside the new Flexi hall, activity includes a programme of improvement works to rationalise the build out space (external trading areas) to the existing market stalls making better use of market space, facilitating the unlocking of additional floorspace and leading to increased business opportunities.
Start Date	1/4/2026
Completion Date	31 /3/2027
Proposed Outputs	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Realm improved • Feasibility Studies, plan/surveys produced • Number of local events and activity supported • Number of people reached • Community/cultural asset supported 	
Proposed Outcomes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional Floorspace unlocked • Neighbourhood improvements undertaken • Number of event attendees 	

<p>Strategic Fit</p>	<p>Outcome 2: Develop the places needed to foster place-based economic growth in GM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting public realm improvements, regeneration, and cultural activity. • Additional Floorspace unlocked - through the development or conversion of floorspace to a new economic purpose of higher value • Bury Strategic fit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Let's Do it- investing in our Town Centres, Delivering Economic Growth - Ramsbottom Town Centre plan - Whitefield Town Centre Plan - Bury Town Centre Masterplan - Bury Economic Strategy
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<p>Project Name</p>	<p>Radcliffe Enterprise Centre</p>
<p>Project Overview</p>	<p>Completion of the transformation of Radcliffe Library to an Enterprise Centre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refurbishment of service on 1st floor to future proof final transformation once library has decanted to Hub • For construction costs / Contingencies • Marketing/Webpages <p>Including temporary post to manage and support the launch and management of the building</p>
<p>Intended Impact</p>	<p>Complete the delivery of workspace and business support to local Radcliffe Business as outline in the SRF</p>
<p>Start Date</p>	<p>April 2026</p>
<p>Completion Date</p>	<p>March 2027</p>
<p>Proposed Outputs</p>	
<p>Amount of commercial space completed or improved.</p>	
<p>Proposed Outcomes</p>	
<p>2.1 Additional floorspace unlocked because of intervention</p>	

<p>Strategic Fit</p>	<p>Outcome 2: Develop the places needed to foster place-based economic growth in GM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting public realm improvements, regeneration, and cultural activity. • Bury Strategic fit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Let's Do it- investing in our Town Centres, Delivering Economic Growth - Bury Economic Strategy - Radcliffe Strategic Regeneration Framework
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Project Name	Bury Culture
Project Overview	Continuation of the Bury Culture Project including an Events Officer post to co-ordinate and develop events and wider programmes which create vibrant town centres, support local business and drive economic growth, plus the administration and monitoring of events and activity funding.
Intended Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a programme of cultural activity, together with members of the community, businesses, and town centre stakeholders. • Support communities to engage with culture and embed equality in access to creative opportunities and cultural expression across a borough. • Support the Bury's Culture strategy 5 Strategic Pillars, Stories, Skills, Strength, Space and Support. This strategy aims to gives everyone the opportunity to experience and define our unique borough. •
Start Date	April 2026
Completion Date	March 2027
Proposed Outputs	
<p>Number of local events or activities supported (Output) Number of people reached</p>	
Proposed Outcomes	
<p>3.1 Number of community led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support (Outcome) - number of events attendees - number of opportunities to build community cohesion</p>	
Strategic Fit	

	<p>Programme of events and activity to support Bury Council's 'Let's Do It' and Culture Strategy. The project will support a range of arts activity across the borough of Bury, responding to the key pillars outlined in Bury's Culture Strategy and Bury Council's LET's principles.</p>
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Name of Local Authority:
Lead Contact:

Bury
Sarah Porru

Allocation
2026/27
£ 1,791,650.00

Project Name	Delivery Timescales (Start / End)	Total Project Costs	Year	Local Growth and Place Flexible Grants								TOTAL		
				Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4		Capital	Revenue	Total
				Capital	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Total
Town Centres Regeneraton	April 2026-March 2027	£ 1,345,845	2026/27	£ 25,000	£ 45,000	£ 270,643	£ 129,357	£ 260,000	£ 395,000	£ 30,000	£ 190,845	£ 585,643	£ 760,202	£ 1,345,845
Raddcliffe Enterprise Centre	April 2026-March 2027	£ 200,000	2026/27			£ 100,000		£ 100,000				£ 200,000	£ -	£ 200,000
Creative Content Post	April 2026-March 2027	£ 44,805	2026/27		£ 11,201		£ 11,201		£ 11,201		£ 11,201	£ -	£ 44,805	£ 44,805
Bury Culture Project	April 2026-March 2027	£ 136,000	2026/27		£ 24,000		£ 34,000		£ 44,000		£ 34,000	£ -	£ 136,000	£ 136,000
Management Costs	April 2026-March 2027	£ 65,000	206/27		£ 65,000							£ -	£ 65,000	£ 65,000
												£ -	£ -	£ -
												£ -	£ -	£ -
												£ -	£ -	£ -
												£ -	£ -	£ -
TOTAL EXPENDITURE SUMMARY		£ 1,791,650	2026/27	£ 25,000	£ 145,201	£ 370,643	£ 174,558	£ 360,000	£ 450,201	£ 30,000	£ 236,046	£ 785,643	£ 1,006,007	£ 1,791,650

Outputs & Outcomes

Name of Local Authority:
Lead Contact:

Bury
Sarah Porru

Project Name	2026/27	Outcomes								Outputs												
		Additional floorspace unlocked due to intervention	Number of neighbourhood improvements undertaken	Number of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support. (Number of Events)	Number of event attendees	Number of opportunities created that contribute to social cohesion and the GM economy					Public Realm improved M2	Feasibility Studies /surveys/plans developed	Number of local events and activities supported	Number of people Reached	Number of Volunteering opportunities	Town Centre Regeneration projects supported	Community & cultural asset improved					
	TOTAL																					
Town Centre Regeneration	Q1																					
	Q2																					
	Q3																					
	Q4	1,800	3		40						300	1	1	750								
	TOTAL	1,800	3	0	40	0	0	0	0	0	1,445	4	4	750		1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Radcliffe Enterprise Centre (REC)	Q1																					
	Q2																					
	Q3																					
	Q4	163														1						
	TOTAL	163	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Creative Content /Place Promoter	Q1																					
	Q2												50,000									
	Q3												50,000									
	Q4																					
	TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bury Culture Project	Q1											2	5,000									
	Q2				500							5	7,500									
	Q3				500							5	5,000									
	Q4			5	250	500						2	2,500									
	TOTAL	0	0	5	1,250	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	20,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Q1																					
	Q2																					
	Q3																					
	Q4																					
	TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUMMARY	2026/27	1,963	3	5	1,290	500	0	0	0	1,745	5	19	121,500	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	

Schedule 3 – Monitoring Information Form

This schedule sets out the monitoring, reporting and sign-off requirements for the Economic Development and Regeneration Flexible Grant (EDRFG) 2026/27.

Monitoring Information Form

Grant Recipients must submit quarterly monitoring returns in line with GMCA requirements to support reporting against the Greater Manchester Integrated Settlement (GMIS) Framework.

This should be provided in the format of the Monitoring Information Form provided by the GMCA. This includes, as a minimum, details of programme expenditure (including capital and revenue breakdown), outputs and outcomes achieved to date, narrative on progress including risks and delivery issues, and information on reasons for any slippage and plans to get back on track.

Sign-off required

A six-month and end of programme reconciliation is required and must be signed off by the relevant Section 151 Officer, confirming they are content that what has been provided is accurate and deliverable.

Quarterly Monitoring

All monitoring returns must be submitted in line with the deadlines set out below:

Reporting Period	Report Due Date	Information Required
1 April – 30 June 2026	14 July 2026	Quarterly reporting returned in Monitoring Information Form
1 July – 30 September 2026	14 October 2026	Six-month reconciliation & review of actual spend to date & achievement of claimed Outputs/Outcomes Quarterly reporting returned in Monitoring Information Form
1 October – 31 December 2026	14 January 2027	Quarterly reporting returned in Monitoring Information Form
1 January – 31 March 2027	14 April 2027	Quarterly reporting returned in Monitoring Information Form+ Final reconciliation of full programme spend & achievement of claimed Outputs/Outcomes

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Classification: Open	Decision Type: Key
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Report to:	Cabinet	Date: 08 July 2026
Subject:	Bury Art Museum Appointment of Contractor	
Report of	Cabinet Member for Culture, Economy and Skills	

1. Summary

Bury Art Museum (BAM), located in the heart of Bury Town Centre, is a purpose-built Grade II listed building, located in the town's conservation area. The museum was built to house the Wrigley Collection, gifted to the town by the Wrigley Family to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and on the condition that there was a building to house it. The museum houses a collection of over 2,000 works of art and 60,000 museum artefacts. The collection of paintings amassed by Thomas Wrigley contains the work of the better-known British painters of the 19th Century. The collection contains paintings of international significance including J. M. W. Turner's *'Calais Sands at low Water: Poissards collecting Bait'*. Since its opening in 1901, the museum has been a cultural landmark for the community. It houses a Victorian collection of importance, a great contemporary collection and has a deep connection with the local community.

BAM and its' collection belong to the people of Bury. The core function of the Arts Service is to preserve BAM and the objects and artworks inside, ensuring that future generations get to enjoy, and contribute, to the history of Bury. This includes having a central role in collecting/acquiring artworks and objects for the collection. The team provide access to a wide range of exhibitions, events, workshops, talks, outreach and community engagement activities. Inside BAM is an art gallery, a museum space, a contemporary sculpture centre and a shop. Of central importance is providing a service to our local community, which is relevant, inclusive and engaging.

The community that is served by BAM has high levels of economic disadvantage, which in turn, statistically, leads to limited access to the cultural capital that is most likely to develop future opportunities. BAM provides access to the highest quality contemporary art from across the world in our immediate locality. The Wrigley Collection and regularly refreshed museum exhibits offer a local and national context to this work, with the innovative curation ensuring that these concepts are considered. The impact of these opportunities for the museums audiences and community cannot be overstated.

In March 2024, Bury Council secured a restricted grant of £589,545 from the Arts Council, through the Department of Culture, Media and Sport's MEND Capital Programme, supplemented by £65,505 in match funding from Bury Council's

Capital Programme (“Grant”). The grant funding received from the Arts Council must be spent by 31st March 2027.

The Grant is specifically allocated for essential and urgent repairs to BAM’s roof (“Building Works”). It will cover the costs of engaging a quantity surveyor, a conservation architect, and a building contractor. It is anticipated that the Building Works will take between 6-9 months to complete.

As part of the Funding Agreement with the Arts Council, Bury Council has entered into a Deed of Covenant with the Arts Council of England (dated 15th December 2025), placing a 15-year restriction over the freehold of BAM. This covenant requires that, upon completion of the Building Works, BAM will continue to operate as an Accredited Museum for at least 15 years. An Accredited Museum is a museum that has met the nationally agreed professional standards set by the UK Museum Accreditation Scheme, which is administered by Arts Council England in partnership with the Welsh Government, Museums Galleries Scotland, and the Northern Ireland Museums Council.

To deliver Building Works, a procurement process was undertaken by the Council to appoint a contractor. Five local contractors were invited to submit quotes for the role, with procurement support from Constellia.

BAM is prioritising essential repairs and upgrades, particularly to the roof, to ensure the long-term preservation of the building and its collections. This work is supported by targeted grants, such as the Museums Renewal Grant and the Museum Estate and Development Fund (MEND), which aim to address maintenance backlogs, improve environmental performance, and enhance accessibility for all visitors. During periods of closure or restricted access, the BAM will develop alternative provision and maintain strong connections with the community through outreach and digital engagement.

1. Recommendation(s)

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the receipt of £589,545 restricted grant funding from the Arts Council, and £65,505 match funding from Bury Council, together totalling £655,050.04, which is specifically allocated for essential and urgent repairs of the roof at Bury Arts Museum (“Building Works”).
2. Notes that Bury Council as part of the funding conditions has entered a Deed of Covenant with the Arts Council dated 15th December 2025, this places a 15-year restriction over the freehold of Bury Arts Museum. This is in accordance with an earlier Cabinet approval (September 2024).
3. Notes that the Council has committed an additional £247,833.59 towards the cost of the Building Works.
4. Notes the procurement process that has been undertaken by the Council to identify a contractor to undertake the Building Works.
5. Approves the appointment of Craftsman Restoration Ltd (07339652) trading as UK Restoration Services as the contractor (“Contractor”) to undertake the Building Works, with a total estimated contract value of up to £888,801.63 (“Fee”).

6. Notes that in line with the recommendation of the project panel, the form of contract with the Contractor, will be JCT Intermediate Building Contract with Contractor's Design 2024 Edition including amendments.

3. Reasons for recommendation(s)

Approval to appoint the Contractor is sought so that the urgent Building Works required to the BAM roof can commence. The Contractor has been selected by the project panel as the most qualified/experienced to carry out the work on a Grade II Listed building, and with the most competitive quote of the tenders. The project panel included the Arts & Museums Manager and Senior Curator from BAM, Chambers Conservation Ltd (Architect), Poole Dicke Associates Ltd (Quantity Surveyor), and Constellia Ltd providing procurement support.

Craftsman Restoration Ltd, trading as UK Restoration Services, has demonstrated substantial experience in the delivery of heritage, cultural and public sector restoration projects of a similar nature and complexity to the proposed works. The company has successfully completed restoration and conservation projects for a range of local authorities and public bodies, including works at the Grade II* listed former St John's Church in Scunthorpe, Burnley Town Hall, and the Fusilier Museum in Bury. These projects provide assurance of the contractor's understanding of working within sensitive heritage environments, managing specialist conservation requirements, and delivering projects within operational public buildings.

As part of the procurement process, additional due diligence was undertaken to assess both the contractor's capacity and capability to deliver the contract. This included a review of financial standing, project references, workforce arrangements and delivery model. The contractor provided evidence of a sustainable business with a proven track record of delivery and demonstrated access to an established network of specialist subcontractors, enabling resources to be scaled appropriately to meet project requirements whilst maintaining quality, health and safety, and programme control. The Council is therefore satisfied that the contractor possesses the necessary experience, technical expertise, operational capacity and supply chain arrangements to successfully undertake the works. Ongoing performance and financial monitoring will be maintained throughout the contract to provide continued assurance during delivery.

4. Alternative options considered and rejected

The Council has a statutory duty to protect Grade II listed buildings under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. If the urgent repairs to the BAM roof are not carried out, the water ingress will continue, and the condition of the building will deteriorate further.

There are no alternative options, as the BAM roof needs urgent repairs and the Arts Council have awarded a grant to enable this work to be carried out. If the

grant is not drawn down, the work cannot continue. Do nothing is not an option as the building requires urgent work to the roof and protects the Cultural estate.

Report Author and Contact Details:

Name: Sarah Evans

Position: Arts & Museums Manager

Department: HAC

E-mail: s.h.evans@bury.gov.uk

5. Background

The Arts Council MEND is a capital fund targeted at non-national Accredited Museums and Local Authorities based in England to apply for funding to undertake vital infrastructure and urgent maintenance backlogs which are beyond the scope of day-to-day maintenance budgets.

The criteria for the MEND Fund have been set by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), Arts Council England, Historic England (HE) and The National Lottery Heritage Fund. The grants are administered, awarded and monitored by Arts Council England.

Bury Council has been awarded a restricted grant of £589,545 from the MEND Fund to carry out essential repairs to the BAM roof. This has been matched with £65,505 funding from Bury Council's Capital Programme as set out in the Capital Funding Agreement between The Arts Council and Bury Council.

Bury Council is required under the terms of the Capital Funding Agreement to enter into a Deed of Covenant with The Arts Council of England with restriction on title over the freehold of the building for a period of 15 years. This means Bury Council commits BAM to a minimum period of 15 years as an Art Museum. This process has been completed.

Bury Council is required under the terms of the Capital Funding Agreement, procurement law and its own Contract Procedure Rules to ensure that a competitive tendering process is undertaken in identifying a Contractor to undertake the Building Works. In order to ensure that it complied with these requirements, Bury Council invited 5 local Quantity Surveyors and Heritage Architects to quote for the work, followed by it undertaking an Open Procedure (one of the two competitive tendering procedures under the Procurement Act 2023) on the Chest to identify a contractor.

6. Progress to date

Bury Council submitted the MEND Grant application in August 2023, at RIBA Stage 3 of the project. The requested funding has since been approved by the Arts Council, with matching funds secured from Bury Council's capital programme. Cabinet approval is now being sought to appoint the Contractor and draw down the Grant.

Listed Building Consent (LBC application 70518) has been obtained.

The matter was presented to Cabinet in in September 2024, who subsequently gave approval to enter into a Deed of Covenant. The Deed of Covenant is set out in the appendices to this report.

As part of tender exercise, five local companies were invited to submit quotations for the contractor role.

The procurement was conducted through an open invitation to tender on the Chest, with submissions evaluated by the project team, including the Quantity Surveyor and Architect.

Two tenders were received out of those invited. They were from Craftsman Restoration Ltd (07339652) trading as UK Restoration Services and HH Smith & Sons Co. Limited Both tenders' submissions came back with quotes at just over £1million, leaving a significant shortfall in the funding secured. The original construction costs were valued at £526,942. However, there have been significant increases in the cost of labour and materials since the scheme of works was costed. A meeting took place with the Arts Council Relationship Manager for Museums and the MEND Fund to discuss the outcome of the contractor's tenders and establish from MENDs point of view what we need to do. At this meeting it was confirmed that no further funding was available from this round of MEND funding.

The BAM Team have explored additional funding from Heritage Fund, but this is not feasible within the scope of the project and the time frame. There might be scope to apply to other funders, such as the Pilgrim's Trust who might fund a discrete part of the project, e.g. the restoration of the decorative plaster work.

A value engineering exercise has been undertaken. This involved reprioritising the schedule of works, with a view to phasing some of the work. Both contractors who submitted tenders have been given the opportunity to revise their pricing based on the amended schedule of works. Two key components of this process were reassessing the scaffolding requirements, which is a significant cost of the project and taking out work that is below the roof line. This could be done in a second phase. The priority is to do the work that stops the water ingress into the building and diverts water away and repair any areas that are a health and safety hazard.

Both contractors resubmitted revised tenders following the value engineering exercise and in response to the revised scheme of works. From this a decision has been made by the Council as to the selection of the contractor. The Fee from the Contractor for the completion of the Building Works is £888,801.63. This still left a shortfall of £247,833.59; a business case was made to fund this, and it was agreed that this would be funded by the Authority.

The revised scheme of works has been approved by the Arts Council.

7. Links with the Corporate Priorities:

'The government estimates that creative industries generated £126bn in gross value added to the economy and employed 2.4m people in 2022. A range of research is also examining the way in which creative industries and the arts can positively impact wellbeing' DCMS 2022

GMCA launched its new Cultural Strategy, 'Create GM' in August 2024. It sets out the strong links between culture and economic growth, care and health through its Creative Health work.

Bury Council has published its Cultural Strategy setting out how the cultural institutions in Bury will contribute to the Let's do it! principles of Inclusive Growth, Wellbeing and Equality and Diversity.

The Cultural Strategy is rooted in strong co-operation between the various cultural partners in Bury including the BAM who between them have developed a strong cultural and events offer across the Borough. This has led to an increased footfall across Bury Town Centre as evidenced in Council monitoring around the use of the UKSPF grant. Increased footfall leads to increased spend in the town centre and is a catalyst for attracting new residents to Bury. This includes the very successful Bury Art Festival, the Food and Drink Festival, Pride and National Heritage Weekend which BAM has delivered with partners.

The events programme has equality and diversity at its core and BAM events is working with locally based community groups and individuals through the Community Arts Grants Programme ensuring that art and creativity reaches all parts of the Borough and its diverse communities of place and interest.

It is essential that the BAM is fit for purpose and the repair of the roof is key to both protecting the collection, preserving the listed building and contributing to the delivery of the Let's do it! Strategy.

Using the collection's, the BAM team engages with a wide range of groups/organisations in the community. This work is informed by Bury Council's LET's 2030 strategy: BAM's collections, activities and events attract visitors to the borough who then spend money in the gallery and the town, contributing to the cultural economy. Improvements to the building will contribute to reductions in carbon emissions and reductions in energy costs. BAM uses the Collection to contribute to regeneration projects, e.g., *Spirit of a Place* generated interest in the local heritage, reigniting civic pride, using the collection to understand the history of the townships and neighbourhoods and engaging communities. The collection is used to support other services and the groups that they work with such as ESOL Learners and groups working with residents with various mental health issues. The BAM team uses the collection to engage formal and informal learners, linking to the national curriculum and topics covered at college/university—creating learning

experiences in a non-classroom-based environment, attracting schools from across the northwest.

The collection is also used to inspire artists and visitors to create work and gain a deeper understanding of current issues including those relating to LGBTQ+ and BAME groups, creating opportunities for inclusive engagement. This has kickstarted a wider discussion about how to present the collections and increase access to the collections by people who have not visited the Gallery before. This includes developing a programme of events that will reach a wider audience such as local sports group and neurodiverse visitors. The museum is a space for artists to collaborate with marginalised people, including working with people from the local community with dementia, school children who are in danger of exclusion, and people with experience of homelessness.

BAM is free to enter, it provides a safe, warm, compassionate space for people to socialise, learn, have fun, enjoy cultural and heritage activities. It is a space where diversity and difference are welcomed.

BAM is actively seeking new income streams to ensure financial resilience. This includes procuring a new supplier for the gallery café, developing ideas to increase income, and leveraging grants to offset losses during repair periods. The museum's income targets are ambitious, with a focus on maintaining and growing revenue through innovative programming and partnerships.

BAM is expanding its reach through partnerships across Greater Manchester, collaborating with schools, community centres, and other cultural venues. These partnerships will deliver mobile exhibitions, joint programming, and volunteer exchanges, ensuring the museum's impact is felt across boroughs and supporting regional cultural priorities.

8. Equality Impact and Considerations:

Once the building contractor is appointed, a full schedule of works will be available which will determine how much of the building may have to temporarily close for Health and Safety reasons. We are aiming to partially close and mitigate a full closure. The museum will continue to deliver a programme of events, workshops, and outreach activities, with a focus on inclusivity and relevance to the local community during this refurbishment. Plans include promoting the gallery to schools to increase footfall, raising the museum's profile as a welcoming venue for children, young people, and families, and keeping audiences informed during building works. The procurement specification will set out the need for minimum disruption, and an Equality Impact Assessment will follow once any closures are known. This will be included in a further Cabinet report once the procurement of the building contractor approved.

9. Environmental Impact and Considerations:

- The project to make essential repairs to the BAM roof includes the following work: Repair to glazed roof lights (skylights)
- Repairs to parapets and valley gutters
- Increase capacity for rainwater disposal
- Better understanding of below ground drainage
- Masonry repairs
- Repair of internal plasterwork

As part of the social value considerations, the procurement process sought any further enhancements the companies can provide to support Bury Council meet its carbon neutral and wider climate change commitments although these may be limited due to the listed status of the building.

BAM is part of the Future Preparedness Programme, run by Museum Development North's. The programme supports museums to develop their skills and knowledge around the impact of Climate Change on historic buildings.

Solar panels were considered during the application process to MEND. Standard solar panels could not be used as these would have blocked out the light to the upper galleries. The gallery was built as a top-lit gallery, with natural light, so to block out the light would spoil the original characteristics of the Grade II Listed Building. Integrated solar panels were considered but the physical/geographical positioning of the roof means that solar panels would not generate enough power to make them viable.

Insulation will be added to the slate roof. The glass replacing the existing panels will be double-glazed and therefore the thermal efficiency of the building will be improved.

10. Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
1. Risk of unknowns once building work begins.	Surveys have already taken place by a heritage architect in order to submit the MEND bid.
2. Building work causes a closure period for the ART Museum.	The work completed to date on surveys indicates that it will be necessary to close the upper floor during the building work and if necessary for health and safety reasons there may be periods of full closure.
3. The design work will not be compatible with listed building status.	The heritage architect was subject to a competitive tendering process where experience of working on listed buildings

	will be critical. The architects who have quoted for work are all from the HE preferred list.
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11. Procurement Implications:

Procurement compliant with Contract Procedure Rules and below threshold exercise conducted by Constellia – strategic procurement partner.

Craftsman Restoration Ltd (07339652) trading as UK Restoration services is the legal entity registered at Companies House, established 9 Aug 2010 and has three named officers - Philip Braithwaite (Director); Leanne Taylor (Director) and Philip Braithwaite (Resigned Director). <https://restoration-services.uk.com/>

There are no links to the following similar named organisations:

UK Restoration Service Ltd (16166963) and U.K Restoration Limited (02710154) are both dissolved and none of the officers referenced on Companies House are linked to Craftsman Restoration Ltd

Craftsman Restoration Ltd trading as UK Restoration services have undertaken the following contracts:

- Grade II* Listed former St John's Church, now art centre in central Scunthorpe for North Lincolnshire Council
- Burnley Town Hall for Burnley Council
- Public Museum in Bury for the Fusilier Museum in Bury,

While Craftsman Restoration Ltd is assessed as presenting a low financial risk, supported by strong liquidity, positive growth trends, and favourable financial indicators, credit scores should not be relied upon as the sole basis for decision making. Financial assessment should take account of the wider financial position, previous public sector work/references and structure of the supplier (SME) and the specific risks associated with the project. Furthermore, procurement legislation requires that any minimum turnover requirement must not exceed twice the estimated contract value unless there are exceptional and justified circumstances. Craftsman Restoration Ltd satisfies this requirement and therefore demonstrates sufficient financial capacity in relation to the contract value.

Any financial risk is also further mitigated through effective contract management arrangements. These include monitoring supplier performance throughout the contract term, ensuring payments are made in arrears and/or against agreed milestones, and utilising CreditSafe's automated monitoring functionality. This enables timely notification of material changes, including deteriorating credit scores, insolvency events, director changes and adverse legal developments, allowing appropriate intervention where necessary.

On balance, based on the financial information available and the proposed controls, there is no evidence to suggest that Craftsman Restoration Ltd lacks the financial

standing necessary to deliver the contract. However, ongoing monitoring will be maintained throughout the contract.

Given the enhanced level of due diligence and proactive engagement undertaken by Craftsman Restorations Ltd, arising from circumstances beyond their control, there are no initial concerns regarding their ability to successfully deliver the required works.

12. Legal Implications:

Under section 66(1) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, the Council is under a statutory duty to have *special regard* to the desirability of preserving a listed building, including Grade II buildings, and its setting when determining relevant planning applications. This duty requires decisionmakers to give considerable weight to the preservation of designated heritage assets and to apply the statutory presumption in favour of their conservation.

As a contracting authority, the Council must ensure that all procurements comply with the relevant legislative framework (namely the Procurement Act 2023 or – where relevant, its predecessor, the Public Contract Regulations 2015), and in addition must follow its own Contract Procedure Rules (“CPRs”).

The Council has complied with this obligation in this instance, by undertaking an Open Procedure tender exercise to identify the Contractor to undertake the Building Works on the BAM Roof.

It is understood that the project panel identified JCT Intermediate Building Contract as the form of contract for the works, initially considering the 2016 edition. Legal advice to the Council is that the 2024 edition of the JCT Intermediate Building Contract should be used instead of JCT 2016 because it incorporates essential updates required by new legislation—most notably the Building Safety Act 2022 and modern insolvency laws. The 2016 suite is now outdated in several key areas.

Owing to the value of this contract to comply with the Council’s CPRs, the contract should be executed by a Deed under seal.

13. Financial Implications:

The revised capital works costs of £902,884, will be funded from a combination of grant £589,545 and prudential borrowing £313,339, the associated revenue financing costs of borrowing are c.£30k.

The existing capital programme includes £655,050 from previous approvals allocated to the BAM works, the additional request for £247,834 will be allocated from the corporate amount set aside within the property and estates theme, therefore, no increase to the overall capital programme approved at February 2026 Council.

The revenue budget approved at February 2026 Council included the associated revenue financing costs of the overall borrowing requirement to support the capital programme, therefore, no additional budget implications.

It is anticipated that there may be some disruption to day-to-day BAM activities. However, funding was secured from the Arts Councils Museums Renewal Fund to compensate for some of the loss of income due to the urgent Building Works.

As with any capital project there is a risk that costs could increase once the works are underway. The financial estimate from the contractor includes a 10% contingency, however if costs do increase further then the service will need work to minimise the costs and request further funding from the Finance Board if still required.

As detailed in the report the Council is responsible for these essential works, and all options for additional or increased grants to minimise the need for borrowing have been explored by the service.

14. Appendices:

1. *Completed Deed of Covenant ACE*
2. *Completed Deed of Covenant Bury*
3. *MEND Acceptance Full Details*
4. *Certificate of Title – Signed Mark Townsend*
5. *Signed Undertaking – Deed of Covenant*
6. *Standard Terms & Conditions MEND January 2024*

Available on request

15. Background papers:

[Bury Art Museum Updated Report on Tender Following VE Exercise.pdf](#)

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

Term	Meaning
BAM MEND DCMS	Bury Art Museum Museums Estate Development Fund Department for Culture Media and Sport

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

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