

Council Questions – 5 July 2017

Q.	Party	Question
1	Con	<p>Now that we are in the summer months and the grass is growing, could the Leader of the Council explain to the residents of Callender Street, Albert Street, Woodhey Road, Bye Road and numerous other streets around Ramsbottom whether he will review the Council's previous decision not to cut grassed areas and grass verges, particularly bearing in mind that once these areas become overgrown and cannot be used as recreation areas, it can quickly become unsightly and lead to fly tipping and dog fouling? Cllr Bevan</p>
	<p>Answer: Cllr Quinn</p>	<p>All grass banking around the Borough has been risk assessed by the Councils Health and Safety officers following HSE guidelines to adequately and safely carry out works using machinery on sloping ground as well as considering Hand arm vibration when using specific equipment</p> <p>Site specific risk assessments have been carried out by Health and Safety officers taking into considerations, Slope angles, safe access, topography and operator safety. The decision was taken to stop mowing banking that is over 30 degrees. For example Callender Street in Ramsbottom is approximately 60 degrees in severity.</p> <p>Where banking is no longer cut, the gardeners will still continue to strim or mow the edges of the site on a periodic basis where it is safe to do so. The Council no longer keeps the equipment that was previously used for banking.</p> <p>Other non sloping sites that have been removed from grass cutting is following the Governments cuts to Council budgets resulting in a reduced service. Where sites are no longer maintained, the edges will continue to be cut back periodically during the mowing season.</p> <p>Grass areas which have been removed from maintenance are generally not deemed recreational areas or the slopes are severe enough to limit any recreational activities. The Grounds service is not aware of any increase in dog fouling of fly tipping where the grass is longer.</p>
2	L/D	<p>Nationally smoking amongst young people has fallen faster than other groups in the last five years. Could the Leader inform members how Bury compare to the national statistics, and what is the authority doing to achieve an above average smoking reduction in Bury. Cllr Pickstone</p>
	<p>Answer: Cllr Simpson</p>	<p>The latest research conducted by Trading Standards North West (2017) indicates that there is a downward shift in levels and perceptions of smoking among young people, reporting that fewer than 5% of children aged eight to 15 in England have smoked - representing the lowest level on record.</p> <p>According to the report, between 2009 and 2017, the smoking rate in the North West among 14-17 year olds has fallen from 22% to 9%. Whilst at present, the Bury cut of data has not been made available, it is interesting to note that Bury had the largest volume of responders to the survey within the NW, so the data is likely to be representative of the trend locally (although this cannot be guaranteed).</p> <p>The biggest impact on reducing the uptake of smoking by young people has come from measures taken at a national level including:</p>

		<p>Increasing the price of tobacco products Plain packaging legislation Banning the sale of packs of 10's cigarettes Raising the legal age of tobacco sales from 16 to 18yrs The ban on smoking tobacco in cars when accompanied by children The ban on tobacco advertising There are a number of measures being undertaken locally here in Bury to support the further reduction of smoking rates among young people including:</p> <p>E-cigarette guidance and support to refresh smoking policies in schools Pilot program to de-normalise smoking around children in sporting spaces Development of an information pack for Primary schools' use to raise awareness of how children and young people may be targeted with illegal and illicit tobacco.</p>
3	Lab	<p>Can the Leader give us an up-to-date report on how the A56 work is progressing? Cllr Black</p>
	<p>Answer: Cllr Quinn</p>	<p>Construction works on the A56 to improve Prestwich High Street are progressing well and are broadly in line with the contractor's updated programme of works.</p> <p>Assuming that the current rate of progress continues and barring any unforeseen circumstances, this should see all the works (other than the final road surfacing) complete by early November 2017.</p> <p>It is hoped the road surfacing can also be completed in November, however, as reported previously, it may be better to delay this so it does not conflict with Highways England's proposals for works at J17 & J18 of the M60. This would push the surfacing works into the run up to Christmas where it is usual to suspend such road works so as to not impact on local economies. Consequently, this would result in completion in the New Year.</p>
4	Lab	<p>Can the Leader give an update on the programme to switch to LED street lighting? How many street lights have been converted from Sodium to LED, why is it being done and are there any cost savings? Cllr Adams</p>
	<p>Answer: Cllr Quinn</p>	<p>The LED Invest to Save programme is now in it's final year, having completed 8100 out of a plan to fit 11,000 LED lanterns within side/estate roads</p> <p>As part of ongoing routine maintenance, some 400 LED lanterns have also been fitted on main/classified roads, where columns have been replaced, and during faults where the existing lantern is beyond repair.</p> <p>LED lanterns are a cost effective solution to reducing energy costs, carbon emissions, and maintenance costs, whilst still providing a street lighting service to the public.</p> <p>There are cost savings, due to the reduced energy and maintenance costs and a percentage of year on year rises in energy are avoided through having more efficient street lighting.</p>

Council Questions – 5 July 2017

5	Con	<p>Can the Leader of the Council give us any details and timescales for the "Radical re-writing of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework" that was promised on May 11th this year by Andy Burnham and Paul Dennett? Cllr Gartside</p>
	<p>Answer: Cllr O'Brien</p>	<p>The Greater Manchester Spatial Framework seeks to deliver a growth in job opportunities across the conurbation and provide new homes to meet the needs of a growing population.</p> <p>As we have previously discussed in this chamber, the Spatial Framework is being undertaken with our Greater Manchester colleagues. There are clear benefits in doing so as we can work together collectively to understand the need for and to deliver on the strategic infrastructure that will be needed in our roads and schools over the next two decades.</p> <p>As set out in the draft Spatial Framework, this Council is seeking to provide opportunities for existing businesses to expand and modernise within the Borough, and also to attract new investment into the Borough. This will help to retain existing jobs and create new quality job opportunities within the Borough - helping to reduce the need for our residents to commute long distances. I think we would all agree that making Bury a more prosperous and attractive place to work and do business is a good thing and any Council that did not strive to achieve this vision would be letting their residents down.</p> <p>Likewise, our residents are living longer and our children are forming new households of their own - creating new families along the way. It is my view that, in addition to creating job opportunities, a key role of all Council's up and down the country is to plan to meet the housing needs of its residents. Any Council that did not do so would be failing them and exacerbating the national housing crisis.</p> <p>Doing nothing is not an option for these very reasons. We must have a long term plan for new jobs and new homes - as well as the required physical and social infrastructure that we want to provide.</p> <p>Setting aside the duty of Council's to plan for current and future needs - the Government would simply not allow us to do nothing and they are continuing to exert pressure on local authorities across the Country to get their plans in place.</p> <p>The Spatial Framework seeks to address these issues and understandably, the initial draft has come under the spotlight as it proposed to alter the boundaries of Greater Manchester's Green Belt. Around 25,000 representations were received on the first draft of the GMSF and the ten districts, together with the new Mayor, will consider these representations very carefully to help determine how and when the GMSF is taken forward.</p>
6	Lab	<p>Can the Leader please tell us if any CCTV has been used in challenging fly tipping and what is the Council doing to help residents blighted by fly tipping on unadopted spaces? Cllr Mallon</p>
	<p>Answer: Cllr Kelly</p>	<p>The Council's Community Safety Service has been actively involved along with other Council departments in setting up CCTV to detect fly tipping. This has included covering unadopted spaces.</p>

Council Questions – 5 July 2017

		<p>For CCTV to be effective, it has to be used as part of a series of measures to deter, detect and monitor such activity.</p> <p>Measures include awareness raising, gathering information from neighbours, members of the public, businesses and other agencies before a successful prosecution can be brought to court.</p> <p>CCTV has previously been used to assist the Council in taking an individual to court for fly tipping and who was convicted.</p> <p>We are presently seeking an individual who has been caught on a business premises CCTV fly tipping on an unadopted road.</p>
7	Lab	<p>When will there be a decision about GM Transformation fund bid and what are the options to mobilise Bury's locality plan if we are not successful in obtaining the funding? Cllr Preston</p>
	<p>Answer: Councillor Simpson</p>	<p>Health and Social Care partners from across Bury have jointly submitted an investment proposal to the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Transformation Fund. This is currently progressing through a rigorous independent evaluation process and we expect a final decision to be made at the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership Executive on 8th August 2017.</p> <p>The bid was for £27m, and although we may not receive the full amount, based upon feedback to date, we expect the Bury proposal to stand up to scrutiny and for funding to be approved on that date. In the highly unlikely event that no funding is forthcoming we will seek to mobilise the proposed changes from within existing system resources.</p>
8	Con	<p>Following on from last week's cabinet meeting, could the Leader confirm how many community groups / voluntary organisations have contacted the Council to express their interest in providing a library service in areas of the Borough where existing libraries are due for closure and what steps are the Council taking to support such groups, giving them the best opportunity to preserve these important community assets? Cllr Keeley</p>
	<p>Answer: Councillor Briggs</p>	<p>Open meetings have been held in libraries to discuss the potential for continuing and developing community use of <u>all</u> library buildings. In addition meetings have been held with individual community groups to help them consider possible relocation of their activities or, for larger groups such as Tenants and Residents Associations, the possibility of community management of buildings. For groups interested in community management details of the potential costs, liabilities, ideas for income generation and possible use of buildings have been covered. This process will continue with meetings as requested. The library service will continue to keep groups informed of the review process and the implications for them. To date only the Friends of Tottington Library have taken steps towards community management. For other groups the reality of the costs of keeping buildings open seems to be the major factor in preventing them continuing towards community management.</p>
9	Lab	<p>Can you tell me how many schools have signed up to the "daily mile" and what we can do as Councillors to encourage more. Councillor Kerrison</p>

	<p>Answer: Councillor Simpson</p>	<p>For those who are not aware, the Daily Mile is a simple, no cost initiative that involves children in primary schools running/walking for 15 mins per day. It was instigated by a head teacher in Scotland and has since spread across the country with more and more schools taking part. It has been proven to improve children’s wellbeing, reduce childhood obesity rates, and improve educational attainment and sporting achievement.</p> <p>21 Bury Schools are actively involved in the Daily Mile so far, although to date only 7 have formally registered on the Daily Mile website.</p> <p>Following a Daily Mile workshop in March, a campaign has been launched, headed by myself and Cllr Briggs, with the aim of getting every single primary school in Bury actively doing the Daily Mile by 2018.</p> <p>Stefan Taylor is leading a cross council team to contact every school & deliver a social marketing campaign from the 3rd – 9th July raising the awareness of the benefits of the Daily Mile and how schools can get involved.</p> <p>Last Friday, I along with Cllr Sharon Briggs and the Director of Public Health, Lesley Jones attended Chantler’s Primary School to witness the Daily Mile in action. I have to say it was heart-warming to see the enthusiasm and sheer joy of the children taking part.</p> <p>I would like to urge all Councillors to encourage participation in the Daily Mile in their role as school governors also within their local communities. I and Cllr Briggs would be happy to talk to colleagues further and everything you need to know can be found on the Daily Mile website.</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Lab</p>	<p>Can the Leader comment on the significance of Bury being awarded Purple Flag status for the third year running? Cllr Preston</p>
	<p>Answer: Councillor Kelly</p>	<p>This is the third consecutive year that Bury has achieved the accreditation and Bury continues to be the only town in Greater Manchester to fly the Purple Flag in recognition of its thriving night time entertainment.</p> <p>Purple Flag is a town and city centre quality award – similar to the Green Flag for Parks and Blue Flag for beaches – which aims to raise the standard and broaden the appeal of town and city centres between 6pm and 6am.</p> <p>The Purple Flag initiative is managed by the Association of Town and City Management (ATCM) working alongside a partnership of key stakeholder groups backed by the Government, police and businesses.</p> <p>To retain its Purple Flag status the Bury team had to provide detailed evidence-based information to meet a comprehensive set of PF requirements including cleanliness and safety, movement and transport, the range of attractions, entertainment and events, high quality environment and strong partnership working.</p> <p>This was followed by a late night visit from external assessors in March to see the town centre in action.</p> <p>The assessors were particularly impressed with the strong partnership that has been built up over the last few years with key stakeholders, businesses, Pub</p>

		<p>Watch, street pastors and GMP all working together looking to continually improve the night time offer. The assessors also commented on the huge enthusiasm and pride in Bury.</p> <p>The assessors were also impressed with the East Lancashire Railway Evening Diner Train which they viewed on the assessment, and have asked for further details about the attraction to be shared with other Purple Flag areas.</p> <p>The benefits of Purple Flag include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The continuation of effective partnership working which supports a clear Strategy and Purple Flag Action Plan for Bury's night time economy. - An increased profile for the town centre and improved image and perception whilst helping to support our night time economy businesses in a sector which continues to grow. - A stronger and more diverse evening offer and a mixed used economy with broader appeal <p>Bury is leading the way in GM in terms of Purple Flag. GM Mayor Andy Burnham is keen that other areas emulate Bury and that Purple Flag is adopted across GM.</p> <p>Our Purple Flag success is yet another example of a strong partnership working with all partners on board to support businesses and the local economy, reflecting the wider Bury approach.</p>
11	Con	<p>What processes are being put in place by Bury MBC to facilitate the appointment of a new Chief Executive? Councillor Hankey</p>
	<p>Answer:</p> <p>Councillor Shori</p>	<p>Leader to respond.....</p>
12	L/D	<p>Could the Leader update members on discussions with the Forestry Commission on taking on some of the Borough's parks? Which parks are involved and will ownership remain with the Council? Councillor S Wright</p>
	<p>Answer:</p> <p>Councillor Quinn</p>	<p>Cllr Wright will recall that at Council on 19th April, during a speech on air quality, Cllr Quinn announced that Bury would be working in partnership with the Forestry Commission, Salford City Council and the City of Trees to develop schemes that will bring the Countryside to the Community in the North of Manchester.</p> <p>The Council has been approached by the FC regarding extending the land holding they already have (Waterdale) which was part of the Newlands project, to create a 1000 acre Greater Manchester woodland.</p> <p>This is being considered due to the prospect of attracting major investment into one of Bury's oldest parks, Philips Park plus other sites through to Outwood in Radcliffe, due to the lack of Council resources, the lack of external funding opportunities and to protect these open spaces for local residents.</p> <p>This project is still at a very early stage and user groups and Ward Councillors will be involved as well as consultation and information that will be available for residents regarding the proposals as the project starts to develop.</p>

Council Questions – 5 July 2017

		The Council will be ensuring any agreement would provide the best outcomes for local communities and also ensure that the woodland, park and other open spaces remain accessible to the public in the long term.
13	Lab	Does the Leader agree that the first line of defence against terrorism is the local Police Officer? Councillor Quinn
	Answer: Councillor Tariq	<p>The role of the police is central to our defence of terrorism, however we are all responsible for safeguarding our communities against extremists. We should, as Community leaders, keep our eyes and ears open and look for signs when in the community or visiting people in their homes. Recent events show us that terrorists are pursuing soft targets so we all need to be vigilant as we go about our daily business.</p> <p>In Bury, The Council and the Police have a very strong partnership approach to keeping our Communities safe. Officers are currently reviewing our joint approach to preventing terrorism with the Mayor’s Office, Counter Terrorism Unit and other GM authorities.</p> <p>Terrorism and Extremism cover disparate ideologies including far right, far left and animal rights groups. You will be aware that reviewing the Prevent strategy, which seeks to disrupt the spread of these ideologies, is one of the new Mayor’s priorities and I have been asked to lead the GM review of the Prevent strategy.</p> <p>I also want to take this opportunity to compliment all of our emergency services, the voluntary sector, religious leaders and other partners in their response to recent events.</p> <p>This country should be proud of its emergency services and their personal commitment to stand together to fight this.</p> <p>Bury will be defiant and stand up to terrorism to protect our Communities and we are reviewing our resilience to such events. I will bring back more details to Council as this work unfolds.</p>
14	Lab	Last year our strong and stable PM stated she would help those “just about managing”. As Bury is “just about managing”, can the leader tell us if Bury has received any extra funding from Central Government? Cllr J walker
	Answer: Cllr O’Brien	<p>Unfortunately, the Council has been “just about managing” for years in terms of its inadequate funding settlement.</p> <p>The Council will receive an average £260 per resident in core funding for 2017/18, compared to an England average of £304, and a GM average of £352.</p> <p>In fact, were we funded at the GM average, our budget would have an extra £17 million.</p> <p>Despite this appalling inequity, through the sterling efforts of our staff and portfolio holders, we managed to deliver a year end position within 1.33% of our budget.</p> <p>Have we received any funding – yes – but it’s a case of too little and too late.</p> <p>We have received £7m additional funding for Adult Social Care, but this is fixed</p>

		<p>for the next 3 years - £3.5m, falling to £2m, then to £1.5m.....and then to nil.</p> <p>This at a time when pressures and demands upon services are increasing.</p> <p>If only we could shake another £1 billion from the magic money tree....</p>
15	Con	<p>Could the Leader of the Council inform us of the number of Food Banks in the Bury Metropolitan Borough and where they are located? What are their opening times and how many Bury residents make use of their provision on a regular, as well as temporary basis? Cllr R Walker</p>
	<p>Answer:</p> <p>Councillor Kelly</p>	<p>For a long time, "Porch boxes" has been the only significant providers of food parcels in Bury. Since they started in 2001, over 50,000 packs have been given out.</p> <p>Porch Boxes is a registered charity based in Bury, providing crisis packs of food and toiletries for local people in urgent need.</p> <p>They don't have a central depot for customers to turn up to, instead food parcels are delivered from various locations across Bury.</p> <p>Many of these locations are council buildings where services have historically relied heavily on Porch Boxes to supply emergency food provision for their customers/clients.</p> <p>The Customer Support and Collections teams work very closely with Porch Boxes and have been looking at improving this provision as demand is increasing.</p> <p>The numbers of packs given out in 2016 is 5,395 averaging 450 per month. The Council has provided Porch Boxes with storage space at Bradley Fold. Porch Boxes have continued to be in discussion with the Council about the possibility of setting up some form of direct access for food in Bury town Centre.</p> <p>There are also several churches/faith groups within the borough who provide assistance to their parishioners/congregations: several organisations also hold 'hot free food' drop-ins aimed at the homeless/rough sleepers within the borough.</p> <p>Radcliffe and Prestwich Deanery support refugees, asylum seekers and others in need.</p> <p>Back in October 2016, The Freedom Church started a weekly drop-in service; 2 hours every Wednesday.</p> <p>There are many reasons why people find themselves in a position where they have to ask for help with food. From experience, to name a few:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rises in food /fuel bills: generally struggling to make ends meet – rising living costs ● Low working incomes ● Unemployment/sickness ● Benefit issues: complexities of the benefits system, new claims, changes in circumstances and delays in payment. ● Universal Credit: we are expecting demand for help to increase when this is fully rolled out in Bury in May 2018.

Council Questions – 5 July 2017

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Benefits stopped or sanctioned ● Welfare Reforms such as the under occupancy, benefit cap ● Dependencies (Alcohol/Drugs) ● Debts/budgeting issues
16	Lab	Can the Leader update us on any investment in education in Prestwich? Cllr Bayley
	Answer: Councillor Briggs	I am pleased to inform Council of £4m investment in new facilities that will enable an increase in pupil capacity at Parrenthorn High School. Parrenthorn is the most oversubscribed school in the borough and the investment will enable the school to meet some of that demand in an area of the borough where pupil numbers are increasing.
17	Lab	Will Parklife be donating money to Prestwich good causes via the Parklife Community Fund? Councillor Black
	Answer: Councillor Quinn	Yes Parklife will be contributing to the Community Fund for 2017. In 2016, over £5k was given to Prestwich and 7 groups benefited from the grant. The amount for 2017 is still to be confirmed
18	Con	Could the Leader of the Council provide an update on the environmental issues raised by residents regarding the areas around Rupert Street? Cllr Kersh
	Answer: Councillor Quinn	<p>The Radcliffe Hub Environmental Health officer has been dealing with a number of environmental issues in the Rupert St area which include rubbish being dumped in back yards, dog fouling, running an unauthorised waste facility and an abandoned vehicle. Legal notices have been served on occupiers of the relevant premises and work has been done with landlords where tenants are causing problems to their neighbours.</p> <p>At the most recent site visit on 28th June with Council leader Rishi Shori it was noted that some improvements have been made by occupiers and landlords but a couple of yards will be cleared by the Council in default of notices which haven't been acted upon and the occupiers will be charged for this work. A few other matters were raised at the site visit and will be referred to relevant officers at the hub. The abandoned vehicle and waste left in the back street is being actioned by our Waste Management team</p>
19	Lab	Can the Leader tell us the cost to Bury if the outbreak of Chalara amongst the Ash population is as bad as feared? According to the trees officer at Oldham MBC it would cost them @£44 m according to information collected by Oldham and processed by the US Forestry Service via their iTree app. Cllr Cummings
	Answer: Councillor Quinn	<p>Ash die back is nationwide problem that mainly affects young ash tree stock the more mature ash trees are less affected and appear more resilient to the disease</p> <p>Bury council has approx. 24,000 council owned ash trees from highways, housing, parks and woodland. The cost for the removal of all the Ash tree stock from local authority land would be in the region of £6 million based on an average of £250 per tree.</p>

		<p>In spite of Ash die back (chalara Fraxinea) Ash trees shall remain part of the Bury landscape in the short term and are still likely to be present in the future even though possibly in reduced numbers.</p> <p>Whether we shall see an outbreak like the Dutch Elm disease that the country experienced in the 1970's is unlikely.</p> <p>However the steps that Bury council are taking in trying to contain the outbreak are sterilising all cutting equipment after felling and pruning of all Ash trees and the Council not planting new Ash trees.</p> <p>The forestry commission via their online website show records in Bury, Bolton and Rochdale where the disease has been identified but these symptoms were subtle and not easily spotted.</p>
20	Lab	<p>How has the Council responded to recent events in Manchester? Cllr Jones</p>
	<p>Answer:</p> <p>Councillor Tariq</p>	<p>As Executive Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods I have been saddened by recent events in London and Manchester. The events in Manchester touched all our hearts as families lost loved ones and the devastation of this will be felt for many years to come.</p> <p>I am proud of the Council's response to these recent events. You will all be aware that our Lady Mayor led the Bury Vigil. This was an extremely emotional evening given the links some of the victims had to Bury but with over 2000 people standing together against terrorism the message was clear.</p> <p>Officers should be complimented in organising this event with just over twenty four hours notice. I was particularly impressed with the young people present who showed great dignity and respect in difficult circumstances.</p> <p>The Council with its partners has supported both families directly affected by the attack. My thoughts prayers go out to them and the Council will continue to support them and the wider community as we stand together.</p> <p>I have also been impressed with the work that has gone in schools particularly at Tottington in supporting our Young People and further work is underway in schools to help children understand what has happened and how we can move forward as a community.</p> <p>Working with the Police, faith leaders, partners and the voluntary sector we are reviewing our resilience to such tragic events and the police have been proactive in working with religious leaders to ensure that community cohesion is encouraged and effectively managed.</p> <p>Additionally, we have looked to support our Muslim communities following a rise in Hate Crime across Greater Manchester. We have done this through helping colleagues in the Police to safeguard people as they go about their lives and also by spreading the message that Hate Crime is not tolerated in Bury. Further work with these communities and other is continuing and the world is a very different place now and As Executive member I will ensure that we do our best to keep the public safe. The Council can't do this alone - it is everyone's responsibility to stand up to terrorism.</p>
21	Con	<p>Could the Leader update Council on how the new arrangements for replacing Township</p>

		<p>Forums are progressing? Cllr Harris</p>
	<p>Answer: Councillor Tariq</p>	<p>The new Neighbourhood Engagement Framework and Grant Investment process were approved at CWB Wider Management Board, SLT, Labour Group, Cabinet, Scrutiny and Full Council in April. As such the mechanism for engaging our communities is now removed from the Council Constitution, as we want all those who live, work and have an interest in our Neighbourhoods to feel they are an equal partner in the new framework that will ultimately help them to help themselves and others to enjoy a better quality of life.</p> <p>A full draft implementation plan, with operating principles, has been developed for the new framework and this will be presented to Cabinet in September 2017. With this in mind, work has begun in earnest and we are in the latter stages of procuring the new digital engagement platform that will provide 24hr engagement provision at borough level for our communities, connecting people up with their neighbours and empowering communities to work together to develop solutions to local issues.</p> <p>Officers from the Engagement Team have worked closely with their respective Systems Leaders in each locality to ensure that the direction of the new Neighbourhood Engagement Framework is aligned with the focus of the Systems Leaders and the process of whole system transformation. The team have developed detailed Engagement Packs with deep dive data on each locality and key local information. Area tours have taken place with each Systems Leader to showcase the assets we have across the borough and some of the key priorities in each community.</p> <p>Elected Member Engagement Leads have been identified and appointed in each locality to work alongside the System Leader and Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinators to implement the new framework. A development workshop with Elected Member Engagement Leads will take place on Monday 10th July to secure their input into the implementation plan and following this a wider session will be planned involving Systems Leaders. Listings of borough wide events and opportunities for engagement with communities have been compiled and distributed to Leaders, Elected Members and key stakeholders as part of this process.</p> <p>We have set the dates for the first annual Neighbourhood Wide Engagement Events in October, where we will engage our communities in the development of the new engagement structures within their areas. The dates for these meetings are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radcliffe: 2nd October 2017 • RTNM: 3rd October 2017 • Bury East: 10th October 2017 • Prestwich: 2th October 2017 • W&U: 16th October 2017 • Bury West: 17th October 2017 <p>Planning is under way for Ward Level Engagement events in each of our 17 wards in November 2017, where Ward Councillors, residents, businesses and</p>

		<p>key stakeholders will come together to identify what assets exist in their areas and identify priorities, in terms of key issues, which they will work to address through a set of clearly identified outcomes for the year ahead.</p> <p>As part of the implementation of the new grant investment framework, we will be having 2 Participatory Budgeting events in July, one in the North of the borough and one in the South, the dates and locations are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 'The Pitch' North - Tuesday 11 July, 5.30pm at the Derby High School ● 'The Pitch South - Tuesday 25 July, 5.30pm at the Longfield Suite, Prestwich <p>The engagement team have done an extensive amount of work engaging with members of the community and local stakeholders over recent months and will continue to do so as we continue the implementation of this innovative new approach to engaging with and empowering the communities of Bury.</p>
22	L/D	<p>Could the Leader of the Council inform members if there are any further delays to the A56 works in Prestwich village, and what is the expected completion time for the works? Cllr D'Albert</p>
	<p>Answer: Councillor Quinn</p>	<p>Construction works on the A56 to improve Prestwich High Street are progressing well and are broadly in line with the contractor's updated programme of works.</p> <p>Assuming that the current rate of progress continues and barring any unforeseen circumstances, this should see all the works (other than the final road surfacing) complete by early November 2017.</p> <p>It is hoped the road surfacing can also be completed in November, however, as reported previously, it may be better to delay this so it does not conflict with Highways England's proposals for works at J17 & J18 of the M60. This would push the surfacing works into the run up to Christmas where it is usual to suspend such road works so as to not impact on local economies. Consequently, this would result in completion in the New Year.</p>
23	Lab	<p>How will the process for investing local community funding change under the new Neighbourhood Engagement Framework"? Cllr Haroon</p>
	<p>Answer: Councillor Tariq</p>	<p>As part of the new Neighbourhood Engagement Framework, we will be putting communities at the heart of the decision making process when investing grant funding. Through an innovative new Participatory Budgeting model, we will ensure that local people decide which projects will make the biggest difference in their local area.</p> <p>As part of the implementation of the new model, we will be having 2 PB events in July, one in the North and one in the South, the dates and locations are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 'The Pitch' North - Tuesday 11 July, 5.30pm at the Derby High School ● 'The Pitch South - Tuesday 25 July, 5.30pm at the Longfield Suite, Prestwich <p>At 'The Pitch' events, both constituted and non constituted groups will have the chance to complete a 3 minute pitch to detail how their projects will contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of people within their communities. The process will then involve those in attendance voting for their favoured projects</p>

		<p>via an allocated ballot slip. The votes are then counted and winners announced on the evening.</p> <p>Following the launch of two pilot PB events in 2016, a number of successful local projects have been funded and subsequently implemented in Radcliffe and Bury East. As part of the upcoming July events, previous 'The Pitch' winners will come back to showcase the success of their projects and the positive impact they made on the lives of residents within their communities.</p>
24	Lab	<p>Would the Council consider developing a "Care Charter" in partnership with all stakeholders to ensure high quality standards for users of residential care homes and a good working environment for staff? Cllr Mallon</p>
	<p>Answer: Councillor Simpson</p>	<p>Bury Council consider the development of a Care Charter as an important next step in ensuring high quality standards for customers, residential care homes and staff.</p> <p>The Greater Manchester Heads of Commissioning Group is considering the development of a 'Care Charter' as part of the Residential Care priority work-stream. Locally, we are in full support of this approach with Officer's represented at monthly meetings taking this work forward.</p> <p>The Care Charter concept is to create a recognisable 'kite mark' that can be awarded to providers who excel against a framework of high quality standards.</p> <p>The Council's approach to improving quality has been recognised across GM and our existing Quality Assurance Framework (QA) has been sited as something to aspire to. Our methodology is being used as a benchmark standard across GM and a small Task and Finish Group is actively working to introduce this with the aspiration that this will be implemented in all GM Local Authority areas.</p> <p>Council Officers are also part of two NW ADASS Action Learning Sets focused on Residential Care and Care at Home, sharing best practice and learning from our local system.</p> <p>The success of the Councils QA approach in driving up quality over the last 4 years should be celebrated. This a direct result of the importance the Council placed on this area of work by prioritising resources and increasing the capacity to manage performance, enabling us to work in close partnership with our local providers and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to achieve this.</p> <p>Developing a 'Care Charter' in partnership with all stakeholders will further endorse the Council's commitment to improving the experience of our citizens, those who use services and the staff that work within those services.</p>
25	Con	<p>What steps are the Council taking to support job creation within the Borough? Cllr Daly</p>
	<p>Answer: Councillor Shori</p>	<p>Creating the right environment for inclusive growth across the borough is a key priority for Bury Council. Our objective is to support a healthy economic environment that will ensure all our residents can benefit.</p> <p>Bury Council has a dedicated Business Engagement Team whose role is to ensure our business base can access support from the Council in a number of ways.</p> <p>Bury Council's dedicated Business Growth Advisor supports businesses to</p>

grow. This has been hugely successful with recent successes supporting both Melba Swintex and Molygran bringing in substantial funding via the Greater Manchester Export Fund. This has safeguarded hundreds of local jobs. Both organisations have increased their turnover and are looking to recruit more staff over the next year.

Through our brand Bury Means Business this Council has developed a comprehensive offer to employers that brings together multiple funded services to help our businesses flourish. The offer includes access to finance, digital support, recruitment support, employee health and wellbeing support, start up, premises and expansion advice, waste management, environmental health and licensing, carbon reduction, apprenticeships, skills... The list goes on.

Our officers are currently supporting Continental Fine Foods who are relocating their manufacturing to Bury in 2018, bringing 400 new jobs to the area.

Bury Council have pulled all the activity together under one wrap around service by working with our partners and ensuring that our business community are aware of and can access funded support.

In autumn this year we will be launching the Bury Means Business website. This is a dedicated platform to promote Bury as a great place to invest. This is a platform where we can tell the world just how great Bury is. Excellent connectivity, highly skilled workforce, good housing stock, diverse cultural offer, distinct townships, beautiful countryside. We want to attract inward investment in the longer term by reaching out and showcasing all that is great about the borough.

Why? Because we want to achieve inclusive growth, growth that will enable all our residents to participate in a full and active life. It is our ambition to grow the number of apprenticeships. We will support our manufacturing sectors, who tell us they struggle to attract young people. We will support the growing Digital and Creative Sector who are also telling us they cannot find candidates with the skills they need.

We are continuously building our relationships with our business partners. Our regular 'meet and greets' with business leaders are firmly embedded in the Leader's and Chief Executive's diary.

Our Bury Business Leadership Group has been in operation for 12 months and is developing plans to support the Council in its ambitions for the next 12 months and beyond. We have 13 business leaders from across sectors and business size supporting the Council's ambitions.

In addition our 'offer' to schools has touched every high school in the borough. This brings a wide source of information, advice and guidance to young people to equip them with the knowledge about the world of work. The menu of activity offers apprenticeship sessions, manufacturing sessions, local democracy, industry visits, life skills, mock interviews and more. From this autumn we will be brokering business visits to year groups, informing our young people about the jobs of the future and the skills that employers will need.

It is also important that we provide development opportunities within the Borough for those businesses that wish to grow but are currently constrained by their location or premises. We also want to attract new investment and

		<p>create new quality job opportunities. Our Local Plan and the Grater Manchester Spatial Framework will look to provide these opportunities, helping to reduce the need to commute outside of the Borough to obtain work.</p> <p>We understand that our businesses create the jobs and it is entrepreneurs that create the businesses. The Council has an important role in working with these businesses to deliver new jobs and to deliver the economic growth that will benefit all of our residents.</p>
26	Con	<p>What steps are the Council taking to encourage and support an active, healthy lifestyle for all residents? Cllr Schofield</p>
	<p>Answer:</p> <p>Councillor Simpson</p>	<p>In Bury, 2/3 of adults are overweight or obese, 19% of adults smoke, over 1/4 of adults are inactive. Yet, we have seen some encouraging trends. The proportion of physically active adults has risen from 52.3% in 2012 to 57.6% in 2015, undoubtedly helped by our successful I Will If You Will Programme. Our smoking in pregnancy rates have fallen by 5.1% over 5 years, and the number of children taking up smoking is at an all time low.</p> <p>Tackling unhealthy behaviours is a complex business and requires a multi-faceted approach. In Bury we have a range of strategies in place, such as those around Physical Activity, Tobacco Control and Substance Misuse, from which we are implementing a range of actions. Our Trading Standards and Environment Health Services are at the forefront of local enforcement - from smoke free spaces, to seizing illicit alcohol and tobacco. Public Health and Planning Policy colleagues are working together to utilise our planning levers to support healthy lifestyles, including the control of unhealthy hot food takeaways and facilitating active travel. Additionally Bury has 12 fantastic Green Flag Parks and other green spaces allowing residents to be active outdoors in their own communities.</p> <p>We also have initiatives being led within a range of community settings. Nearly all our nurseries and children's centres have achieved the Golden Apple Award which encourages healthy eating from an early age. The Daily Mile and Bury'd treasure initiatives are currently being rolled out in schools, through which pupils and staff will achieve recommended physical activity levels. We are also working with many employers, to support healthy behaviours in the workplace.</p> <p>Public health campaigns and identifying those who currently have unhealthy lifestyles and motivating them to change, with the right information, support and tools is important. Our successful NHS Health Check Programme for those aged 40-74 is an example of this 'find and treat' approach, where we can spot problems early on and offer appropriate interventions. Bury Lifestyle Service, Bury Leisure Services, our Bury Exercise Referral Scheme (BEATS) and One Recovery Bury variously offer one-to-one behaviour change support. We expect to scale up this approach for a range of people with long-term conditions, as part of our Locality Plan work.</p> <p>The Greater Manchester Population Health Plan sets out a range of initiatives to facilitate healthy lifestyles from which Bury will benefit. One example is the development a GM Digital Hub to support those who want to positively change</p>

		their lifestyles.
27	Con	Could the Leader update Council on the progress of the £2 million scheme to upgrade Prestwich High Street? Cllr Silbiger
	Answer: Councillor Quinn	<p>Construction works on the A56 to improve Prestwich High Street are progressing well and are broadly in line with the contractor's updated programme of works.</p> <p>Assuming that the current rate of progress continues and barring any unforeseen circumstances, this should see all the works (other than the final road surfacing) complete by early November 2017.</p> <p>It is hoped the road surfacing can also be completed in November, however, as reported previously, it may be better to delay this so it does not conflict with Highways England's proposals for works at J17 & J18 of the M60. This would push the surfacing works into the run up to Christmas where it is usual to suspend such road works so as to not impact on local economies. Consequently, this would result in completion in the New Year.</p>
28	L/D	Could the Leader of the Council inform members of the number and proportion of home care visits undertaken within the borough in 2016-17 that were 15 minutes or less, and 5 minutes or less, and how does this compare to previous years? Cllr S Wright
	Answer: Councillor Simpson	<p>Bury Council commission's care at Home services for Adults which are based on the individually assessed needs of each customer, to deliver the care and support required to enable the customer to remain as independent as possible.</p> <p>Currently, the Council commission's external providers to deliver care at home services in 15 minute blocks. As the visits are based on the assessed needs of the customer the duration of each visit should enable the customer to receive the service they require.</p> <p>The typical number and duration of weekly visits to customers is as follows:-</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Total Number of Visits per week - 12782 (100%)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Number of 15 minute visits - 4790 (37.47%)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Number of 30 minute visits - 5796 (45.35%)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Number of 45 minute visits - 1433 (11.21%)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Number of 60 minute visits – 578 (4.52%)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Number of visits over 60 minutes 185 (1.45%)</p> <p>The majority of visits commissioned by the Council are scheduled for 30 minutes or over (62.53%) and this is comparable to previous years.</p> <p>The Council commissions a seemingly significant proportion of 15 minute visits (37.47%) however, there are a number of situations where 15 minute visits have their place in supporting people to maintain their independence, for example:-</p>

Council Questions – 5 July 2017

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • purely as an oversight visit, or • to check that a customer has taken their medication, or eaten appropriately
29	Lab	Can the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People update Council on capital investment in schools. Cllr James
	Answer: Councillor Briggs	<p>Despite the significant reduction in the level of capital funding made available by Government to Bury since 2010, to meet much needed investment in its schools, the Council has continued to prioritise the use of such investment where it is needed most.</p> <p>Following the completion of a new teaching block at Elms Bank Specialist Arts College in 2016, I am pleased to announce a further £3m has been allocated to renew or refurbish facilities. As an 'outstanding' school, this will enhance Elms Bank's ability to serve some of our most vulnerable young people.</p> <p>I am also pleased to inform Council of £4m investment in new facilities that will enable an increase in pupil capacity at Parrenthorn High School. Parrenthorn is the most oversubscribed school in the borough and the investment will enable the school to meet some of that demand in an area of the borough where pupil numbers are increasing.</p>
30	Lab	Can the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People update Council on the refurbishment of The Met, Bury. Cllr Bayley
	Answer: Councillor Kelly	<p>The capital work on the Met took 10 months to complete and was possible with £3.1m grant support from Arts Council England, plus donations from trusts and the public.</p> <p>The changes have transformed both theatre spaces, adding capacity in the main theatre (renamed Derby Hall) from 300 to 400 standing, or 273 from 220 seated, and improving the look and usage possibilities of studio theatre The Box.</p> <p>The work has doubled the size of the bar area - now called the Stanley Bar in memory of the Earl's family name - showing off its intricate cornicing, decorative columns, and impressive old fireplace.</p> <p>The building has been made more accessible with new toilets on all floors and an improved public lift. Dressing rooms and technical areas have been relocated to beside the stages, and function rooms are available for hire for meetings and workshops on all levels - including the new third floor.</p> <p>The Met's recent application to continue as one of the Arts Council England's National Portfolio Organisations has been successful, securing an investment of £100,580 per year during 2018-22.</p>
31	L/D	Could the Leader inform members how many street trees have been removed in each of the last five years, and how many new street trees have been planted in the same period? Cllr D'Albert
	Answer: Councillor Quinn	Highways trees would only be removed through root damage or where a tree has outgrown its environment such as severely blocking the footway. Highway trees and footways are subject to a programme of regular inspection.

		<p>Highway trees removed over the past 5 years include –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2012 - 11 highway trees removed • 2013 - 17 highway trees removed • 2014 - 20 highway trees removed • 2015 - 6 highway trees removed • 2016 - 9 highway trees removed • Total 63 deciduous highway trees removed. <p>New street trees planted include -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2013 – 6 highway trees replanted • 2014 - 12 highway trees replanted • 2017- 30 highway trees replanted to be completed by the end of 2017 <p>I am sure that Cllr D’Albert will be pleased that the 2017 tree planting figure relates to 30 new street trees that are being planted as part of the Prestwich High Street in partnership with City of Trees.</p> <p>While we do not maintain specific figures, the Council also looks to plant new trees in non highway locations such as in parks and countryside areas.</p>
32	L/D	<p>Could the Leader update members on the number of secondary school children in Bury who are taught in classes of more than 30 children, and how this compares to previous years? Cllr Pickstone</p>
	<p>Answer: Councillor Briggs</p>	<p>There are a total of 63 classes of thirty or more pupils spread across all but two of the boroughs secondary schools. There is no statutory limit on KS3/4 class sizes and it is, therefore, a matter for each school to determine.</p> <p>This is a significant increase on last year's figures of 23 classes in excess of 30 from the same number of secondary schools.</p>