

## Council Questions – 17 January 2018

Q.	Party	Question
1.	<b>Lib Dem</b>	<p>What studies have been done of the impact of 'rat runs' and congestion in the Prestwich area caused by roadworks on the A56, and what plans are there to monitor this once the roadworks have been completed?</p> <p><b>Councillor S Wright</b></p>
	<b>Answer: Councillor Quinn</b>	<p><i>TfGM's Highways Forecasting and Analytical Services (HFAS) were commissioned, during the design phase, to examine the potential impacts of the completed scheme to traffic on Bury New Road. This was undertaken using both modelled and observed journey times.</i></p> <p><i>The statistical analysis of their results concluded that any minor changes in journey times could not be considered to be statistically significant and that the scheme was unlikely to have any detrimental impact on traffic.</i></p> <p><i>Considering the expected 'status quo' in traffic flow, and without any reports of traffic using unsuitable routes to circumvent the works, we do not propose to commission any further traffic monitoring unless contrary information is brought to light.</i></p>
2.	<b>Labour</b>	<p>Following the first township level Neighbourhood Engagement and Pitch events in November, could the Cabinet Member feed back on the impact of the events and next steps in the implementation of the new framework.</p> <p><b>Councillor Leach</b></p>
	<b>Answer: Cllr Tariq</b>	<p>The first round of Neighbourhood Engagement events comprised of 6 evening networking events. The events were open to residents, community groups, businesses and anyone who lives, works or has an interest in each of our neighbourhoods. Each event provided an opportunity to get together and help shape our new approaches to engagement and delivering outcomes on the issues that matter most to our communities. The events were delivered in a 'market place' style with a number of local groups and services on hand to ensure attendees were aware what is available to them locally and also how to go about connecting with other members of their community.</p> <p>The events were attended by 445 people and these extremely encouraging attendance figures show a 120% increase when compared to the final round of Township Forums (203 in March 17). A number of key issues and priorities were identified by attendees across the six events, which will now form the basis for the work at Ward level. This includes themed action groups being established in each Township over the coming weeks and months.</p> <p>The first township level 'Pitch' events were a tremendous success, with over 70 new projects being presented to local residents from a wide range of groups across the borough. The Pitch events, which put the community at the heart of the decision making process, were attended by over 670 residents, with standing room only at many venues. Over £67k of funding was allocated to new projects, which will now be monitored and evaluated</p>

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		<p>to ensure that successful outcomes are being delivered for the people of Bury.</p> <p>The Development Team supported each of the evening Neighbourhood Engagement workshops and Pitch events, promoting the Helping Yourself to Wellbeing programme, Street Soccer and The Bury Directory and Quality of Life Wheel. This provided a great opportunity for local people to hear about and test the Bury Directory understanding more about the services available to them. It also enabled the team to recruit new services onto the system and check existing services pages were up to date with relevant information and link any wellbeing projects. This was very successful and routes to work together with local people and organisations in the future were established. The Bury Directory has been nominated for the iNetwork Innovation Awards in the category of Innovative Access to Public Services. Each nominated entry has been through a public vote and stringent judging process in order to select the shortlisted four. The awards ceremony will take place in Manchester on 30th January, where the announcement of the category winners will be announced.</p>
3	Labour	<p>The Greater Manchester Hate Crime Awareness Week commences on the 5 February. Please can you let us know what activities are planned for that week to raise awareness of what is an important topic for everyone?</p> <p><b>Councillor Black</b></p>
	<p><b>Answer:</b> <b>Cllr Tariq</b></p>	<p>Hate Crime Awareness Week commences 5th February. I am pleased to announce that, in conjunction with partners, we will be undertaking the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Running a competition in schools to design a logo and strapline to promote a zero tolerance approach to hate crime. The winning design will be used in future campaigns.</li> <li>• Undertaking some pro-active work with the communities where Hate Crime is most prevalent, engaging directly with the public through door-knocking and displaying messages on a digivan.</li> <li>• Putting stalls up in the Millgate Centre covering each of the main Hate Crime strands, raising awareness and challenging misconceptions</li> <li>• Undertaking Hate Crime training for Senior Management Team</li> <li>• Senior Leaders signing a pledge to oppose Hate Crime</li> </ul> <p>Additionally, following a £10,000 Hate Crime grant from GMCA we have invited bids from community organisations to challenge Hate Crime in the borough. Importantly whilst launching in Hate Crime Awareness Week these projects will stretch beyond that week, continuing to reinforce the message that Bury Council actively opposes Hate Crime.</p>
4	Conservative	<p>While welcoming the decision to maintain and indeed expand the Bury Central Library provision following the recent Libraries Review, could the Leader explain who took the decision to reduce the service hours, including an all day closure on Mondays, and why - since the possibility never featured in the consultation? <b>Cllr. R.Walker</b></p>

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	<b>Answer:</b> <b>Cllr Briggs</b>	<p>The Library Review reduced the service's controllable budget from £2M to £1M. The proposals agreed by Cabinet enabled the Authority to retain 4 rather than 3 libraries, despite the funding allocation not increasing.</p> <p>The 10 libraries which have been closed provided 20% of service use – meaning that the 4 libraries which have been retained provided 80% of service use and membership. The reality is that the library service cannot afford to employ enough staff to cover the former opening hours.</p> <p>However, as was indicated in the Cabinet Reports, we are looking to increase significantly the use of library buildings for community activities which will benefit both existing library users and those who have, so far, not seen the service as relevant.</p>
5	<b>Labour</b>	<p>Can the Leader tell us how Bury is performing with winter pressures on our health and social care system? <b>Councillor Black</b></p>
	<b>Answer:</b> <b>Cllr Simpson</b>	<p>The pressures on the health and social care system are a National issue and Bury is no different in experiencing significant pressures over this winter period. Like other areas Bury has seen a number of pressures in the system, such as the number of patients who are seriously ill and require admission to hospital, a growing frail and elderly population, the demands on our critical beds as well as the wider impact of respiratory illness and an increase in the number of reported cases of the flu.</p> <p>We are working together as a system to try to put in place initiatives which will support Bury people and the wider system. The actions the Council has taken to mitigate those pressures in Bury include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14 beds block booked for use as a 'Discharge to Assess' model. This allows those people who are medically fit for discharge, to move to a Care Home that is more conducive to recuperation than a hospital ward.</li> <li>• Residential and nursing vacancies data is disseminated to the relevant professionals on daily basis.</li> <li>• An incentive payment is in place to encourage our contracted homes to complete same day assessments on receipt of a hospital referral.</li> <li>• The 'Home in a day' project is being utilised and allows people to be assessed and moved off the ward to their home on the same day.</li> <li>• Continued utilisation of both Reablement and the new zoned Care at Home model.</li> <li>• Full utilisation of the Council's Intermediate Care services.</li> </ul>
6	<b>Labour</b>	<p>The 2016/17 Academic year saw an increase in the number of young people permanently excluded from secondary schools. Could the Leader set out what is being done to reduce those numbers in future, securing a</p>

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		better outcome for young people who might be at risk of exclusion. <b>Councillor Skillen</b>
	<b>Answer:</b> <b>Cllr Briggs</b>	The Council has been working with secondary schools over the autumn term, as part of its wider review of arrangements and provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs, to look at the causes that often result in exclusion, and the arrangements that can be put in place to support any child that is at risk, to enable that child to remain in his or her mainstream school. This work has been positively embraced by secondary schools and, it is hoped that this will see a significant reduction in the number of young people permanently excluded.
7	<b>Conservative</b>	Following the amendment made to the Notice of Motion put forward by the Conservative Group to suspend the operation of the Bus Lane on Bolton Road, Bury, can the Leader outline what progress has been made to determine the costs associated with the removal of the Lane and the consultation in respect thereof? <b>Cllr. S.Nuttall</b>
	<b>Answer:</b> <b>Cllr Quinn</b>	<p><i>The Notice of Motion presented at the last Council meeting resolved to undertake the following actions ...</i></p> <p><i>1) Await the completion of the GM Manchester Congestion Plan and the Air Quality Action Plan;</i></p> <p><i>2) Identify the costs associated with the removal of said Bus Lane and relevant consultation required;</i></p> <p><i>3) Review the information contained in points 1 &amp; 2 and delegate the decision as to the future of the Bus Lane on Bury Bridge to the Cabinet Member for the Environment.</i></p> <p><i>The work coming out of action point 1) will inform action point 2). Consequently, the Congestion Plan and the Strategic Outline Case for the Air Quality Action Plan (which are still on target for March 2018 reporting) need to be completed. In addition, the extensive traffic modelling currently underway around the A58 will also provide options for potential improvements to the junctions approaching Bury Bridge in order to increase their efficiencies.</i></p> <p><i>Officers from Engineering Services are due to meet with me on 02 February 2018 to discuss the multitude of issues that need to be considered, weighed and balanced before any action is decided upon.</i></p>
8	<b>Labour</b>	Can the Leader confirm how are the Council's Regulatory Services working together with colleagues in Greater Manchester to provide the best bespoke advisory service to local businesses? <b>Councillor Kerrison</b>

	<p><b>Answer:</b> <b>Councillor Kelly</b></p>	<p><i>Bury Council is a Partner in the newly created Greater Manchester Regulatory Centre of Excellence .The Better Business for All is a national programme sponsored by Regulatory Delivery of The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy that aims to bring together regulators, business facing organisations and business in a region to reduce regulatory burden and promote growth.</i></p> <p><i>Adopting the status of "Primary Authority" enables a business or business organisation to form a legally recognised partnership with a local authority to access assured advice about how they can comply most efficiently with regulation. This advice must then be taken into account by other local authorities when dealing with that business e.g. when carrying out inspections or addressing issues of non-compliance. Primary Authority ensures consistent interpretation of regulations, regardless of where stores, factories or offices are based or products are sold, thereby reducing costs of compliance.</i></p> <p><b>The Greater Manchester Regulatory Centre of Excellence</b> programme is unique because –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Businesses will have access to expertise across all 10 Local Authorities and the fire service. All partners have committed to a common charging regime based on cost recovery.</i></li> <li>• <i>A business will have access to specialist support which might not be available in a single authority</i></li> <li>• <i>All regulatory services can be accessed via a single point of contact.</i></li> <li>• <i>Services can be accessed via the Growth Hub or any Local authority / fire service in GM</i></li> <li>• <i>Primary Authority and other regulatory support will give reassurance about what business needs to do and confidence that it is doing it right.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>This is a proactive service that this Council is proud to be a part of, reinforcing our justifiable claim the Bury Means Business.</i></p>
9	<p><b>Labour</b></p>	<p>Can the Leader confirm how the new virtual residents' parking permits being introduced this year will benefit residents? In particular, how will older residents and those without internet access manage? <b>Councillor Smith</b></p>
	<p><b>Answer:</b> <b>Councillor Kelly</b></p>	<p><i>Over the last 5 years there has been a considerable increase in the number of claims that residents' parking permits have been lost in transit, the number of permits not being displayed and instances of permit counterfeiting. Furthermore, the number of schemes introduced has continued to grow as more vehicles compete for parking spaces – between 2011 and 2016, the number of licensed cars in Bury has risen by nearly 11,000, the equivalent of around 10 typical multistorey car parks."</i></p> <p><i>The residents parking permit scheme has been upgraded to a virtual system to address these issues and to provide a more efficient permit</i></p>

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		<i>system. Without the introduction of this system the cost of permits would have to increase. Computers and scanners have been installed in the Town Hall for customers to use and staff will assist and create permits on their behalf where necessary. Residents can also ring up and have vehicles covered over the phone.</i>
10	Lib Dem	What discussions took place with community or volunteer groups on the use of volunteers in libraries to avoid the drastic reduction in hours for the four remaining libraries? <b>Councillor D'Albert</b>
	<b>Answer: Councillor Briggs</b>	The Library Service has worked with community groups and volunteers for many years and at the end of last year had over 100 volunteers. A good number of these volunteers are now actively engaged on projects connected with the Community Asset Transfer programme. The service will be continuing and expanding the use of volunteers including establishing training programmes, job descriptions and specialised roles such as Digital Support Assistants and Archives Assistants. However it would have been inappropriate (and unacceptable) to draft in volunteers to try and extend hours or replace missing staffing. We consider that the role of the volunteer is not to replace well trained, experienced staff but to add variety and value to what libraries provide - and indeed to the lives of the volunteers.
11	Conservative	Can the Leader give some indication of the proposed schedule for "Grit Bin refilling", as there is still the potential of heavy frost over the next few weeks and many of the bins remain empty? <b>Councillor Schofield</b>
	<b>Answer: Councillor Quinn</b>	<p>There are approx. 350 grit bins in place across the borough, which are filled by staff on the Street Cleaning service.</p> <p>It is a significant time consuming task to fill this many grit bins, from a stockpile at Bradley Fold Depot, and a drain on the time of Street Cleaning staff. These staff are responsible for the emptying of litter and dog waste bins, litter picking and mechanical sweeping of the borough.</p> <p>All grit bins are filled at the start of the winter season and are then replenished when required throughout the season. Bins are not necessarily refilled immediately after use but are filled ahead of any forecast wintry weather.</p> <p>Unfortunately we do suffer with problems of theft of grit for use on private drives and sometimes for resale. It may take time to fill grit bins but it doesn't take long to empty them!</p>
12	Labour	What progress has been made in relation to supporting young people with mental health needs in school? <b>Councillor J Walker</b>
	<b>Answer:</b>	Burys Local Transformation Plan (Future In Mind) is being refreshed



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	<b>Councillor Briggs</b>	<p>currently to reflect the December 2017 Green Paper which builds on the 5 Year Forward View and outlines 3 main areas for Schools to take forward SEMH agenda. Bury LA/Bury CCG have continued to develop the Healthy Young Minds Stepped Care Model to ensure the following provision is available to Bury Schools in relation to emotional mental health and wellbeing;</p> <p>Single Point Of Access</p> <p>Every Referral is triaged via an enhanced duty team and directed to the most appropriate service for interventions. School Link Workers have also been assigned to school clusters and this assertive in reach model provides connections for consultations /practical support to schools and staff training in how to initiate conversations.</p> <p>Investment into the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector also includes resource funding for a bereavement service and Mindfulness programme (delivered by Early Break) and First Point to work with parents /carers and young people with SEND/complex needs. Streetwise 2000 also offer a young person's drop in provision.</p> <p>Additional developments will include a schools pilot with 2 Secondary Schools and a Primary school to deliver BEST training and group work to build an evidence base and quality assure impact.</p> <p>Additional Investment into a transition team to ensure that children and young people receive a seamless service is also being established.</p>
13	<b>Labour</b>	<p>Jeremy Hunt has apologised for cancelling thousands of people's operations and outpatient appointments to allow hospitals to deal with winter pressures. Will the Leader join with me in condemning the Secretary for Health and the Government for the lack of investment and planning to protect services for patients nationally and also in Bury?</p> <p><b>Councillor Adams</b></p>
	<b>Answer:</b> <b>Councillor Simpson</b>	<p><u>Increased demand on our services</u></p> <p>Like the rest of the NHS and hospital trusts across the country, our hospital sites and services are experiencing significant pressure and increased demand on our services than in previous years. This is due to a combination of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increased A&amp;E attendances and high acuity patients brought by ambulance;</li> <li>• delays in ambulance handovers;</li> <li>• more patients needing to be admitted;</li> <li>• our hospital bed occupancy giving limited capacity to deal with demand surges</li> <li>• demand on our critical care beds;</li> </ul>

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- delayed discharge and transfers of care out of hospital;
- increasing number of seriously ill patients being admitted with respiratory illness and Flu

### Winter Plans in place – local response

We know that this pressure is likely to continue over the coming weeks. The weather has not yet been at its seasonal worst and we are seeing an increase in highly contagious viruses (for example, Influenza Flu A&B and Norovirus).

All of our winter plans are being deployed, enabling us to open 100+ additional beds across our group of hospitals. Work continues on a daily basis with our local healthcare partners, including our GP and primary care colleagues, local commissioners (CCGs), and Local Authority social care partners, as well as our community healthcare colleagues, to speed up effective discharge arrangements for patients who are well enough to go home or transferred to a local care home.

### National context – Update from the NHS National Emergency Pressures Panel

NHS England and NHS Improvement issued national guidance on 2nd January 2018 to help hospitals manage winter pressures. This included a recommendation for Trusts to consider deferring some non-urgent inpatient elective care until 31st January.

Each local Trust, including our Care Organisations and hospital sites, are working through the implications of this guidance with local CCGs and drawing up operational plans to free up bed capacity and improve patient flow. A number of non-urgent operations and appointments have been rescheduled – patients have been contacted directly.

### Cancellation and rescheduling of non-urgent operations – notifying patients

We can confirm that unfortunately like many other Trusts we have had to contact a number of patients who were booked in to have a non-urgent elective procedure/operation to inform them that their operation will have to be rescheduled. This decision has not been taken lightly but part of our plans to deal with the increased demand on our services and to free up our clinical workforce and beds for those sick medical patients who need to be admitted to hospital. All efforts are taken to contact patients directly in advance by letter, mobile and landline telephone to notify them of their appointment or operation having to be cancelled and rescheduled. Every effort is taken to avoid any disruption and cancellation of appointment, particularly operations.

### Impact in Bury

For the period 1st January 2018 to 10th January 2018 - 253 planned routine operations and 73 Out Patient appointments were cancelled, there



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		<p>was no cancellations of any urgent or two week wait procedures to ensure that clinical care was not compromised.</p> <p>Whilst it is unfortunate to cancel patients whose surgery has been carefully pre planned, this action ensured that we were able to re direct resources to achieve the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff resources and elective bed capacity utilised to open an additional 52 medical beds on the FGH site in the first two weeks in Jan . This enabled the site to safely emergency presentations that have been between 3% &amp; 8.7% higher when compared to the same period in the previous year (Jan 2017) – on some days this equalled 40 more patients per day.</li> <li>• Theatre staff have been re deployed to support the significant critical care demand which has been exacerbated by flu .</li> <li>• Additional consultant and nurse support deployed to the Emergency dept which has helped maintain a good flow in the dept with a significant improvement on the numbers of patients being seen within the 4 Hours standard this year compared to last year.</li> </ul> <p>In addition there have been no 12 hour trolley waits in comparison to 8 patients between 1st and 10th Jan 2017.</p> <p>The site management team are working with the clinical staff in reviewing the pressures position daily and will be working to reinstating the elective work in the coming weeks.</p>
14	<b>Conservative</b>	<p>Can the Leader confirm the criteria for households to qualify for an additional grey bin, the process involved and any charges levied on the household? <b>Cllr. D.Silbiger</b></p>
	<b>Answer: Councillor Quinn</b>	<p>Any household is able to apply for additional grey bin capacity, regardless of size, if they think they have a need.</p> <p>In the first instance they should ring the Council's Contact Centre (CCC) and request an application form which will be sent out in the post. The form asks for details of household size, number of bins in use and recycling activity.</p> <p>Upon receipt of a completed application form a Recycling Officer will contact the resident and arrange to pay a home visit to undertake a waste audit. This will usually take place just before the next scheduled collection of the grey bin. The audit involves looking at exactly which bins are in place and how they are being used by the household – 'Is the right stuff being put in the right bin?'</p> <p>If the household is recycling all the waste it possibly can (including food waste) using the 4 bins provided, but requires additional grey bin capacity then the application will be approved. The resident then has to pay £30 for the additional bin (through the CCC) which will then be delivered by</p>

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		<p>Waste Management.</p> <p>All authorised additional grey bins are issued with a red lid, so as to distinguish them.</p>
15	Labour	<p>Can the Leader tell us what the aims are of the Communities In Charge of Alcohol pilot in Radcliffe? <b>Councillor Cathcart</b></p>
	<b>Answer: Cllr Simpson</b>	<p>This new regional initiative aims to create a network of 'alcohol champions', building on the principle that local communities should be empowered to take charge of their own health and people in those communities are best placed to influence their friends, families and colleagues.</p> <p>The aim of the Communities In Charge of Alcohol in Radcliffe is:</p> <p>The Alcohol Health Champions will tackle the harmful effects of alcohol on individuals, families and communities, providing brief advice and support through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informal conversations about alcohol and health with family, friends and colleagues</li> <li>• Support people to reduce drinking through brief advice or guiding them towards specialist services</li> <li>• Attending local community events to speak to people about alcohol and health</li> <li>• Provide support for communities to get involved with licensing decisions by helping them raise issues with the local authority about venues selling alcohol.</li> </ul>
16	Labour	<p>Can the Leader explain where the idea of Bury Friendly Communities came from, what this involves and what benefits this has for the people of the Borough? <b>Councillor Preston</b></p>
	<b>Answer: Councillor Simpson</b>	<p>The idea of a 'Friendly Bury' came about because there was a push to develop dementia friendly communities, age-friendly communities and autism friendly communities as separate workstreams. It was realised very quickly that it was more efficient to develop this approach as one. As a council, we are building up our neighbourhood engagement approach and we thought it was more beneficial to join this work up. There are certain national / GM parameters which need to be met for each condition but a lot of the principles are the same.</p> <p>Each of the workstreams will have a similar business planning approach but will have an individual workplan related to the condition with specific GM or national objectives but where outcomes can be met jointly this will be the agreed approach.</p> <p>At the moment, there are 6 dementia friendly community groups in Bury (one in each township). They are currently looking at how they can raise awareness of dementia across the townships and how they can support local action to improve the lives of people living with dementia, and their</p>

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		<p>carers. The groups have already acknowledged that the changes they can make will support people who live with other conditions.</p> <p>A 'Friendly Bury' would mean that a person, regardless of any particular need, will be supported and feel safe in their local community and will continue to live as independently as possible</p>
17	<b>Conservative</b>	<p>Some years ago the allocation of members questions to the leader was changed from being allocated equally between the political groups to a system which allocated questions in proportion to the number of members in each group. Would the Leader agree with me that this system stifles democracy as questions from opposition members are severely curtailed.? Would the Leader also agree to look again at the basis on which questions are allocated to produce a more equitable distribution? <b>Cllr. M.Hankey</b></p>
	<b>Answer: Councillor Shori</b>	<p>This matter was considered by the Democratic Arrangements Forum in August 2014, when the Group Leaders and the Mayor at that time discussed the system of rotation of questions to the Leader.</p> <p>It was agreed that questions would continue to be asked through a political rotation system, but that the sequence would follow political proportionality. As a result of this, the time limit for questions to the Leader was extended so that questions from opposition members would not be curtailed.</p> <p>There has to be some order to the questions and if Members would wish to discuss this issue again, the appropriate place is the Democratic Arrangements Forum, who would then make any recommendation to the Council to amend standing orders.</p>
18	<b>Lib Dem</b>	<p>January is often used to promote a reduction in alcohol consumption. What progress has been made in Bury to reduce alcohol consumption how does this progress compare with the Greater Manchester, North West and England average performance? <b>Cllr Pickstone</b></p>
	<b>Answer: Councillor Simpson</b>	<p>Alcohol consumption is a public health issue which we take very seriously in Bury.</p> <p>Bury promotes and endorses all the national campaigns including dry January aiming to get as many residents as possible having a month off alcohol.</p> <p>In addition both the lifestyle service and our GP's make every contact count by actively opening discussions around alcohol consumption with clients and patients to understand the levels they are drinking at. Then where necessary provide brief interventions giving clients and patient's advice and support on how they can reduce their alcohol consumption to below the recommended levels, in some cases this may mean making referrals to the specialist substance misuse services.</p> <p>On a neighbourhood level we are currently running the Community in Charge of Alcohol (CICA) scheme in Radcliffe. This new initiative aims to</p>

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		<p>create a network of 'alcohol champions', building on the principle that local communities should be empowered to take charge of their own health and people in those communities are best placed to influence their friends, families and colleagues.</p> <p>We also provide a raft of information on our Bury directory to help people understand safe levels of drinking and how they can support themselves, friends and family to reduce their alcohol consumption.</p> <p>In regards to reducing overall consumption while there is no one overall definitive measure to say on average how much Bury residents drink there are a number of measures which indicate the levels of alcohol consumption. One of these measures is hospital admission episodes for alcohol related conditions, and we know from the data Bury has been improving on this. There were significant reductions in these admission rates during 2015 and 2016 and we now have lower rates of alcohol related admissions than both the North West and England.</p> <p>At Greater Manchester work is going on to create a high level substance misuse strategy and a set of standards local areas should aim to achieve. Bury staff are very much involved in those conversations and are helping to shape the approach to addressing this issue locally and on a wider level.</p>
19	Labour	<p>Can the Leader explain what the Council can do to address the escalation in the number of takeaways in the Borough? What can the Council do to limit concentrations of takeaway establishments, particularly near to schools, and so help to improve the borough's health. <b>Councillor Preston</b></p>
	<b>Answer: Councillor Simpson</b>	<p>The Council held an 8-week public consultation on the Bury Local Plan from August to October 2017. Comments were invited on a report which set out the key issues for the emerging Local Plan to address and proposed a broad direction that planning policies could follow in order to address these issues.</p> <p>The report covers a range of topics including health and wellbeing and it recognises that key issues for Bury are that it is a high ranking area for the number of fast food outlets per head of population and that Bury has significant and rising obesity levels for both children and adults. In response, the report proposes that the Local Plan could help to address these issues by introducing various policies, including a policy designed to control the development of hot food takeaways.</p> <p>We are aware that a number of other local authorities have introduced planning policies aimed at controlling the concentration and location of hot food takeaways and the Council commit to exploring whether it is possible and necessary to introduce a similar policy through Bury's Local Plan. Planning and Public Health officers are working closely on this issue and this will continue as we aim to ensure that any new policy and supporting</p>

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		<p>evidence is fit for purpose.</p> <p>The Draft Local Plan is programmed for public consultation in Summer 2018, with adoption scheduled for 2020. It should be noted, however, that until such time that a policy restricting hot food takeaways is adopted, this approach would not hold weight on current applications to warrant or sustain a refusal of planning permission.</p>
20	<b>Labour</b>	<p>Can the Leader update the Council on the potential impact of the Homelessness Reduction Act, which comes into force in April 2018?</p> <p><b>Councillor Grimshaw</b></p>
	<p><b>Answer:</b></p> <p><b>Councillor O'brien</b></p>	<p>The Homeless Reduction Act provides us with an opportunity to refresh our approach to helping homeless people. The main parts of the Act come into force on 3rd April and other elements later in the year.</p> <p>Members will be aware that homelessness is on the rise nationally and particularly at this time of year with freezing temperature it is something we all should think about. Homelessness is often a consequence of people's wider circumstances and customers often just need some support to empower them to change their lives. Not all homeless people want support from us.</p> <p>The new Act presents us with a number of new opportunities</p> <p>To help more people earlier. Our help will begin within 56 days of being threatened with homeless, working through an integrated neighbourhood approach to find solutions. We are proud to say that Bury is one of the best performers in GM in terms of preventing homelessness but we must not be complacent.</p> <p>Under the new legislation, customers will be provided with a housing plan that outlines what our responsibilities and what they are expected to do. This has already started in Bury, promoting where appropriate a model of helping people to help themselves.</p> <p>We will need to refresh our Homeless Strategy, Strategic Tenancy and Housing Allocations Policy.</p> <p>We anticipate that there may be a substantial increase in the numbers seeking help and the transitional funding only goes a small way in helping us to work through the challenges.</p> <p>Greater Manchester has received trailblazer funding through GMCA to prepare for the new Act and in particular to work with rough sleepers.</p> <p>Rough sleepers is something we are all aware of and I am pleased to advise that we are taking a proactive approach to the small number we have in Bury we believe our numbers to be around 10. We have a service specifically for rough sleepers and we also have increased the cold weather provision by commissioning a local church. GMCA are also</p>

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		<p>undertaking work with new rough sleepers and entrenched rough sleepers through a new commissioned service. I would urge members not to give money but to donate in a different way.</p> <p>Working with entrenched rough sleepers is a long process and engagement takes a long time. Members will aware that work has been done on begging in the Town centre. The Team working with the rough sleepers go out proactively to try and gain their trust and work hard to encourage people to engage with services.</p> <p>We also recognise the contribution of other services and our partners in meeting needs and addressing homelessness, for example, I recently attended a consultation event on homelessness and I was delighted to hear Doctor Chauhan launch the GP friendly homeless scheme in Bury which means all homelessness people will have access to health care.</p> <p>In terms of challenges, where do I begin? Every new initiative faces barriers but there are perhaps some opportunities.</p> <p>One of challenges is the local housing market which is changing and solutions to provide people with warm and safe homes is becoming more of a challenge. There is less social housing available, there is less turnover in our own stock and you will be aware that the private sector properties are difficult to find at reasonable rents.</p> <p>Officers have been tasked to be creative in breaking down of challenges and are working on a number of work streams- looking at the profile of our stock, innovation with private sector landlords and working with partner agencies. We also looking at how we provide services within the community through our neighbourhoods.</p> <p>In summary, we are clearly making a difference to people’s lives and any reduction in the homelessness is welcome. Breaking the cycles of entrenched behaviour which causes homelessness requires longer term measurement and perhaps a rethinking of the way we provide services.</p> <p>I will update members as this work progresses</p>				
21	Conservative	<p>Ramsbottom Councillors are receiving constant complaints from residents regarding missed bin collections, most commonly brown bins. Could the Leader of the Council advise how many missed bin collections there have been in Ramsbottom in the last twelve months ( all bins and by type ) and what measures are being taken to resolve these issues, particularly as regards the rural bin collections? <b>Cllr I.Bevan</b></p>				
	Answer:  Councillor Quinn	<p>The Council does not have data regarding the number of missed bins as a result of mechanical breakdown or inclement weather. The total number of bins reported to the Customer Contact Centre as missed, from any property with a Ramsbottom postal address. Figures are for the 12 months January to December 2017.</p> <table><tr><th>Type of bin</th><th>Missed Collections</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	Type of bin	Missed Collections		
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		<table><tr><td>Brown</td><td>333 (out of 153,400)</td></tr><tr><td>Blue</td><td>100 (out of 100,300)</td></tr><tr><td>Grey</td><td>210 (out of 100,300)</td></tr><tr><td>Green</td><td>124 (out of 100,300)</td></tr><tr><td><b>Total</b></td><td><b>767 (out of 454,300 collections)</b></td></tr></table> <p>There are a disproportionately large number of brown bin collections reported from the Monday 'Farms' round. This collection serves approx. 1400 predominantly hard to reach and some rural properties utilising the smaller, bespoke 'Farms' vehicle. This vehicle is only available on Mondays for brown bins as it is used every Tuesday to Friday to empty other scheduled bins.</p> <p>Monday to Friday this vehicle travels along some farm lanes that are in a poor state of repair, which puts significant stresses and strains on it, causing multiple ongoing mechanical problems, which often means it has to be taken off the road for repair. When it breaks down later in the week it is usually possible to catch up with the work through the course of the week, or the following Saturday, but when it breaks down on a Monday there is little room for manoeuvre because it is collecting a different waste stream. In that case residents have to be told that unfortunately we cannot return until the next scheduled collection.</p> <p>Given the bespoke smaller size of the 'Farms' vehicle it is almost impossible to hire in a like for like replacement at short notice when it is being repaired.</p>	Brown	333 (out of 153,400)	Blue	100 (out of 100,300)	Grey	210 (out of 100,300)	Green	124 (out of 100,300)	<b>Total</b>	<b>767 (out of 454,300 collections)</b>
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22	<b>Labour</b>	Following the terrible events at Grenfell, what is the position in Bury in respect of the issues highlighted and what action are we taking. <b>Councillor Cummings</b>										
	<b>Answer:</b> <b>Councillor O'Brien</b>	<p>The Grenfell Tower incident brought into sharp focus the issues of fire risks, particularly in high rise residential tower blocks with external cladding.</p> <p>As a result, there has been considerable activity from the government, housing providers, the fire and rescue service and local authorities both nationally and regionally. Locally, we have been looking at this issue with our key partners and stakeholders and are active members of the GM Task Group which was set up in the wake of this tragedy.</p> <p>The position in Bury is that we have no high rise accommodation in the social housing sector, but that we do have a small number of high rise blocks in the private sector.</p>										

## Council Questions – 17 January 2018

		<p>Despite not having any high rise accommodation owned, managed or commissioned by the Council, we have nonetheless put the spotlight on fire safety in some of this accommodation; namely mid- rise and accommodation occupied by vulnerable people.</p> <p>In particular we have made sure that the stock the council own, the majority of which is managed by Six Town Housing, has up to date fire risk assessments, that action is being taken to rectify any issues and that any fire safety procedures are reassessed and reissued to residents.</p> <p>As commissioners of property and services, we have also written to providers to remind them of their responsibilities.</p> <p>Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) have also been involved in providing advice and assistance to the Council and others and will be inspecting some of these properties in the coming weeks.</p> <p>We have also engaged with other housing providers, including Housing Associations, to ensure that they are taking necessary steps in relation to their properties.</p> <p>In relation to the private sector high rises, at The Rock, Bury and Radius at Prestwich, there are some 6 blocks with some cladding. We have worked in partnership with GMFRS, engaging with managing agents and others in relation to these blocks. We will continue to monitor this with GMFRS.</p> <p>Beyond housing, we have also considered other aspects as a result of Grenfell. For instance we have ensured that our schools are taking the appropriate approach in relation to fire safety and have reviewed our emergency planning arrangements, updating some policies and procedures etc.</p> <p>Thus, whilst we do not have the significant issues which some of our neighbouring districts across Greater Manchester and beyond unfortunately have, the Council has nonetheless investigated the issues in the district and taken appropriate and proportionate action following the Grenfell tragedy. Members should be reassured of this and that we will follow through on our response.</p>
23	Labour	<p>Please can the Leader update the council on the ongoing pay negotiating for Local Government staff. <b>Councillor James</b></p>
	<p><b>Answer:</b></p> <p><b>Councillor Holt</b></p>	<p><i>The National Employers made a final pay offer to the trade unions on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017 covering the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2020. The offer is:</i></p> <p><i><u>1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 ('Year One'):</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Bottom-Loading spinal column points 6-19 resulting in a new bottom rate of £8.50 per hour in order to continue to close the significant gap with the National Living Wage (NLW)</i></li> <li><i>• Increase on points 20 and above of 2.0%</i></li> <li><i>• This first year of the pay offer would increase the national</i></li> </ul>

## Council Questions – 17 January 2018

		<p><i>paybill by 2.707%</i></p> <p><u><i>1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 ('Year Two'):</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• A bottom rate of £9 per hour</i></li> <li><i>• Pair off the bottom 12 points into 6 new points 'ironing out' the current random gaps between pay points and having even increments of 2.0% between new Spinal Column Points 1 to 22 (covers approximately 60% of NJC employees)</i></li> <li><i>• From new SCP23 onwards, a flat-rate increase of 2.0% and retention of the current random differentials</i></li> <li><i>• This second year of the pay offer would increase the national paybill by 2.802%</i></li> </ul> <p><i>The total increase to the national paybill over the two-year period would be 5.584%</i></p>
24	<b>Conservative</b>	<p>Could the Leader confirm the projected overspend for the current financial year and the impact this will have on the finances of the Council over the next 3 financial years? <b>Cllr J.Daly</b></p>
	<b>Answer: Councillor O'Brien</b>	<p><i>The month 6 financial monitoring report was presented to Cabinet on 15<sup>th</sup> November, and highlighted a forecast overspend of £3.491m.</i></p> <p><i>Latest figures (month 8) highlight this now stands at £2.641m – demonstrating that control measures are taking effect.</i></p> <p><i>Clearly any overspend is a matter of concern, and we continue to make efforts to reduce it before year end.</i></p> <p><i>The scale is containable within available balances, however this is not something we want to rely upon.</i></p> <p><i>In terms of future years, pressures will remain, in fact they will continue to grow, and it essential that we respond to this through our budget proposals, and joint working with partners e.g. NHS.</i></p> <p><i>Finally, it would be remiss of me not to say that the Council has had to make cuts of £65 million since 2010, and further cuts of £32 million are required by 2020.</i></p>
25	<b>Lib Dem</b>	<p>Could the Leader inform members into what progress the Council has made in procuring energy from renewable sources (e.g. what proportion of energy used)? Has there been any progress on a Bury renewable energy company? <b>Councillor S Wright</b></p>
	<b>Answer: Councillor O'Brien</b>	<p><i>The Council procures energy through a collaborative public sector framework which enables us to take advantage of bulk purchasing power and increased leverage with suppliers. Electricity is currently supplied by Npower on a contract that expires at the end of March 2019. In 2016-17,</i></p>

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		<p><i>the latest year for which figures are available, Npower reported that 18% of the electricity supplied by them nationally was derived from renewable sources.</i></p> <p><i>In terms of local activity, the Council continues to support and promote the use of renewable sources of energy. This is demonstrated by projects such as:-</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Installation of photo-voltaic solar array schemes (Bradley fold security lodge, Prestwich arts college, Radcliffe Market, Killelea House, Redbank EPH)</i></li> <li><i>• Installation of micro combined heat and power plants (Millwood SEN School, Killelea House)</i></li> <li><i>• Installation of thermal solar array schemes (Heaton Park Primary School, Millwood SEN School, Elmhurst EPH)</i></li> <li><i>• Installation of ground source heat production (Millwood SEN School)</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Consideration of renewable energies is now embedded in the design stage of all the construction projects undertaken by the Council.</i></p> <p><i>Furthermore the cost of renewable energy has reduced significantly and has become more affordable through schemes such as the Clean Energy Switch scheme championed by the Leader of the Council. Schemes such as this have greatly contributed to tackling fuel poverty.</i></p>
26	<b>Conservative</b>	<p>When is the new draft GMSF published and what input have Bury Council had in respect of it's preparation? <b>Cllr J.Harris</b></p>
	<b>Answer: Councillor O'Brien</b>	<p><i>In response to the first part of the question, the revised draft of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework is currently timetabled for a 12 week period of public consultation in June or July this year.</i></p> <p><i>In terms of the Council's input into its preparation, the GMSF will form part of the statutory development plan of each of the ten districts within Greater Manchester, including Bury. As such, officers from this Council have been heavily involved in the preparation of the GMSF alongside officers from the other nine Greater Manchester districts and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.</i></p>
27	<b>Lib Dem</b>	<p>Could the Leader inform members of reports of illegal fly-tipping within the Borough - so far this financial year, and in the previous three financial years? <b>Councillor D'Albert</b></p>
	<b>Answer: Councillor</b>	<p>Table 1 - Fly tipping cases taken via Contact Centre and online</p>

	<div>Quinn</div> <div>(01/04/2014 – 12/01/2018)</div> <div><table><tr><td>2014/15</td><td>2263</td></tr><tr><td>2015/16</td><td>2713</td></tr><tr><td>2016/17</td><td>3830</td></tr><tr><td>2017/18*</td><td>2790</td></tr><tr><td>* To 12/01/2018</td><td></td></tr></table><div>Table 2 - Number of incidents referred to Environmental Health for enforcement</div><div><table><tr><td>2014/15</td><td>475</td></tr><tr><td>2015/16</td><td>583</td></tr><tr><td>2016/17</td><td>437</td></tr><tr><td>2017/18*</td><td>277</td></tr><tr><td>* To 12/01/2018</td><td></td></tr></table><div>Illegal fly tipping involves the dumping of a wide range of wastes including commercial waste, construction and demolition, bulky waste such as furniture, asbestos and some black bag type household waste at locations as diverse as back streets and rural public rights of way.</div><div>As the cost of waste disposal has increased in recent years unscrupulous traders have sought to undercut legitimate rivals by avoiding the cost of disposal by dumping waste illegally. There has also been a clampdown on illegal deposits of waste at Household Waste Recycling Centres across GM, which has also contributed to the increase in fly tipping across the borough.</div></div></div>	2014/15	2263	2015/16	2713	2016/17	3830	2017/18*	2790	* To 12/01/2018		2014/15	475	2015/16	583	2016/17	437	2017/18*	277	* To 12/01/2018	
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28	<div>Conservative</div> <div>Could the Leader confirm how much money the Council has raised by way of revenue generation over the last financial year, outside of it's statutory</div>																				

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		responsibilities? <b>Cllr I.Gartside</b>
	<b>Answer: Councillor O'brien</b>	<p><i>In 2016/17, the Council received income from a number of sources. Outside of government grants, we received income of £280m relating to customer and client receipts, fees and charges and various other income. This also excludes any income relating to Persona, Six Town Housing and the Housing Revenue Account.</i></p> <p><i>Examples of revenue generation outside of our statutory responsibility include income from external payrolls, donations received, income from room hire, sales income, sponsorship income and advertising income. Income from all of these in 2016/17 was £2.9m.</i></p> <p><i>The Council will continue to find ways to generate more income outside of its statutory responsibilities to help protect the services we provide to vulnerable people and to continue to help make Bury a better place to live.</i></p>
29	<b>Conservative</b>	Further to the appointment of a new Chief Executive, could the Council confirm the expected monthly pension contributions to be met by the Bury tax-payer for that position and whether the new Chief Executive will be separately remunerated for the role of Returning Officer on top of basic salary and pension contributions? <b>Cllr I.Schofield</b>
	<b>Answer: Councillor Shori</b>	<p>The employers % pension contribution is 20.5% so the monthly amount would be £2870 - £2989</p> <p>The returning officer payments for local elections are incorporated into the salary of the Chief Executive. Payments for parliamentary elections, European elections, The GM mayoral election and the referendum have separate funding arrangements so are not funded by the Council.</p>
30	<b>Lib Dem</b>	Could the Leader of the Council please inform members how many school crossing patrols are currently not operational, and how many others do not have permanent allocated staff members in place? <b>Councillor Pickstone</b>
	<b>Answer: Councillor Briggs</b>	<p>There are currently have 15 crossing points that are not operational. 12 of these are assisted crossings where there is a puffin/pelican in place and 3 are unassisted. These crossing points do not meet the criteria for a staffed crossing point and are due to be disestablished. The Council has adopted guidance from the School Crossing Patrol Service Guidelines (November 2014) to determine the criteria for the establishment and/or retention of school crossing points</p> <p>There are 20 crossing points that do not have a permanent member of staff allocated to them. However, they remain operational utilising relief staff, and by reallocating members of staff from the assisted crossing</p>



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		<p>points referred to above.</p> <p>Council staff continually monitor the crossing points that are left vacant, and prioritises the points requiring cover based on the number of pupils using the crossing and the volume of traffic passing through.</p> <p>The Council faces continued pressure to recruit and retain sufficient staff to cover all points at all times.</p>																				
31	Conservative	<p>Could the Leader itemise all government grants received by Bury Council in the last financial year? <b>Cllr I.Gartside</b></p>																				
	<b>Answer: Councillor O’Brien</b>	<p><i>In 2016/17 the Council received £260m in respect of government grants. Rather than read the list, I will forward it to you. The biggest grant relates to the DFES General Grant of £146m. This includes the Dedicated Schools Grant of £145m plus grant monies in respect of Leaving Care, Fostering &amp; Adoption, Special Education Needs &amp; Disabilities and a music grant.</i></p> <p><i>It should be noted that alongside reductions in our mainstream Settlement Funding Assessment (-11% in 2017/18) we also saw reductions of £2.2million in grants</i></p> <p><i>The Council will continue, as it has done for many years, to lobby Parliament in order to maximise the amount of grant monies we receive from the government.</i></p> <p><i>(not for reading)</i></p> <table><tr><td><i>Section 31 grants</i></td><td><i>2,239,101</i></td></tr><tr><td><i>Public Health Grant</i></td><td><i>12,241,000</i></td></tr><tr><td><i>DWP - Discretionary Housing Payments</i></td><td><i>310,240</i></td></tr><tr><td><i>DWP – Housing Benefit Subsidy</i></td><td><i>30,998,867</i></td></tr><tr><td><i>DWP- Administration Grant</i></td><td><i>275,019</i></td></tr><tr><td><i>DWP – Home to School Grant</i></td><td><i>54,895</i></td></tr><tr><td><i>European Social Fund Grant</i></td><td><i>255</i></td></tr><tr><td><i>Rent Rebates Subsidy Income</i></td><td><i>19,086,560</i></td></tr><tr><td><i>Probation Service Grant</i></td><td><i>18,687</i></td></tr><tr><td><i>New Home Bonus Grant</i></td><td><i>2,659,596</i></td></tr></table>	<i>Section 31 grants</i>	<i>2,239,101</i>	<i>Public Health Grant</i>	<i>12,241,000</i>	<i>DWP - Discretionary Housing Payments</i>	<i>310,240</i>	<i>DWP – Housing Benefit Subsidy</i>	<i>30,998,867</i>	<i>DWP- Administration Grant</i>	<i>275,019</i>	<i>DWP – Home to School Grant</i>	<i>54,895</i>	<i>European Social Fund Grant</i>	<i>255</i>	<i>Rent Rebates Subsidy Income</i>	<i>19,086,560</i>	<i>Probation Service Grant</i>	<i>18,687</i>	<i>New Home Bonus Grant</i>	<i>2,659,596</i>
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		<p><i>Youth Justice Board</i> 304,907</p> <p><i>Department Of Transport</i> 231,262</p> <p><i>Formula Grant – Revenue Support Grant</i> 22,247,627</p> <p><i>Education Service Grant</i> 2,601,264</p> <p><i>DFES General</i> 146,137,123</p> <p><i>Skills Funding Agency</i> 1,512,852</p> <p><i>Pupil Premium Grant</i> 16,605,898</p> <p><i>Universal Free School Meals</i> 2,096,428</p> <p><i>Year 7 Catch Up Grant</i> 156,375</p> <p><i>Primary Sports Grant</i> 1,086,687</p>
32	<b>Conservative</b>	<p>Could the Leader confirm Bury's annual wage bill, inclusive of pension contributions over the last financial year and for the previous 3 financial years? Cllr <b>K.Hussain</b></p>
	<b>Answer: Councillor O'Brien</b>	<p><i>The pay bill over the past 4 years inclusive of basic pay, employers national insurance contributions and employers superannuation contributions is as follows:</i></p> <p><i>2013/14: £184.345 million</i></p> <p><i>2014/15: £184.548 million</i></p> <p><i>2015/16: £181.953 million</i></p> <p><i>2016/17: £183.695 million</i></p> <p><i>Additionally, there has been a noticeable reduction in the payments made for additional hours, overtime, holiday pay and payments for sleep ins over the course of the 4 years.</i></p>