

Council Questions – 11 July 2018

Q.	Party	Question
1.	Lib Dem	<p>Could the Leader inform members what the Authority is doing to inform local people and local employers on the potential impact of 'Brexit'? Would the Leader consider production an update for members on this issue, similar to the report recently produced for the Scrutiny process in Oldham? Councillor Pickstone</p>
	A: Cllr Shori	<p>In response to your question I would like to reassure Members that we will continue to support our businesses, we will continue to support a stronger, inclusive, vibrant economy, we will continue to embed business friendly polices into everything that we do and we will continue to ensure the Bury voice is heard across the city region.</p> <p>Furthermore we will ensure that all Members receive the Greater Manchester Brexit Report. I fully support wider economic and business support activity updates to members. I encourage all of you to sign up for weekly business related updates. I will ensure an email link is sent to all members.</p>
2.	Labour	<p>Following the joint Ofsted/CQC inspection of provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and disabilities in 2017, can the Leader/Cabinet Member provide an update on progress that is being made in response to the recommendations arising from the inspection? Councillor D Jones</p>
	A:Cllr Briggs	<p>Following the inspection, the local authority prepared a written statement of action setting out how it intended to respond to each of the recommendations, and this is subject to quarterly monitoring by the Department for Education and NHS England. The statement of Action has brought clear focus on the role of the local authority; has strengthened the relationship with strategic partners; has engaged schools to respond more effectively to the needs of children and young people with SEND; and has resulted in a strong partnership with Bury2Gether, working with parents to co-produce services. The recent Engagement event, is an example of joint working, attended by over 120 parents, young people, professionals from all key agencies, and opened by the Council Leader and James Frith MP. The feedback from DfE and NHS England to the Statement of action has been very positive, with clear evidence of good progress being made.</p>
3	Labour	<p>During the academic year 2016/2017 a total of 97 children and young people were permanently excluded from a Bury school. I'm sure that the Leader/Cabinet Member will agree that this number is far too high, is not always an appropriate response, and means that many of the young people affected do not go on to achieve their full potential. With the end of the current academic year fast approaching, can the Leader/Cabinet Member provide an update on what has been done to address this?</p>

		Councillor Preston
	A:Cllr Briggs	The local authority has been working with all schools to develop new ways of working that enable far more effective support to be put in place for children and young people in danger of exclusion. Through the establishment of a number of inclusion partnerships, schools have taken far greater responsibility for the identification of needs, the development of alternative packages of support, and for making appropriate arrangements to prevent exclusion. The work of the schools has to be commended with a significant reduction in the numbers of children and young people being permanently excluded. With two weeks of term to go, the numbers for the 2017/18 academic year are 52.
4	Conservative	<p>Can the Leader or relevant Cabinet Member please give a full financial update as to the progress that has been made towards becoming a fully sustainable and self-funding Council? Has the Council set a target date for this and if so are we on track to meet it?</p> <p>Councillor Gartside</p>
	A: Cllr O'Brien	<p>It has long been recognised that the Council is underfunded – if we were funded at the national average, we would have an extra £7.8 million in our budget; and an extra £16.5 million if we were funded at the GM average.</p> <p>By 2020 we will have made cuts totalling £97 million; as austerity continues, it is becoming abundantly clear that we cannot continue to make further cuts to service budgets.</p> <p>Our strategy needs to focus on income generation and growth going forward.</p> <p>We have a number of projects underway to achieve this;</p> <p>On “income generation”, we are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remodelling of our Schools Traded Services offer – with a greater focus on price, quality and customer care • Continuing to expand our Payroll offer which now delivers over 30 external contracts <p>Key however will be “growth”, and generation of Council Tax / Business rates receipts and the council taking a more active and business income like role in housing growth and regeneration of town centres to generate new income streams;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We now formulating the expertise and undertaking a transformation of the council to actively deliver growth engaged in house building and regenerating town centres, next to looking at new forms of wellbeing

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		<p>infrastructure that supports preventive care methods to enable people to self-care and deliver supportive care – via the new Exec Director – Paul Patterson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •This will lead towards announcing in the near future exciting developments in respect of Prestwich (Longfield) and East Lancs Paper Mill site •Progress is being made – a Development Agreement has now been signed with St Modwen to develop the Chamberhall site offering new office and light industrial space creating economic and employment growth •Work at an advanced stage at a number of other key housing sites being currently evaluated for viability and house types to ensure the people of Bury have the right housing offer and choice <p>Bury is a place where people want to live, invest, and start their businesses</p> <p>We have a plan, we have the expertise, and we have a raised profile at GM (who are key to securing funding).</p> <p>Regeneration projects do not happen overnight, and the challenge to raise funds is now.</p> <p>The work we are doing firmly lays the foundations and puts us in a strong position.</p>
5	Labour	<p>Can the Leader update the Council about the latest on the GMSF? Councillor Rafiq</p>
	A: Cllr O'Brien	<p>It has been agreed that there will consultation on a second draft of the GMSF. This was originally programmed for June but, given the changes in administrations and Portfolio Members across Greater Manchester after the May elections, it was decided to put this date back until July.</p> <p>Since that decision, a new set of population projections have been issued by the Office for National Statistics, which is indicating a slower rate of population growth than previously projected. This is likely to have implications for the estimated growth in household growth and, in effect, the amount of new homes that may be needed across the country and Greater Manchester. As such, the 10 Greater Manchester authorities have decided that it would be appropriate to wait to see what these new household projections are before consulting on the second draft.</p> <p>It is now envisaged that this will be consulted on in the Autumn.</p>
6	Labour	<p>Can the Leader give an update on Bury's Homelessness Partnership? Councillor Hayes</p>
	A: Cllr O'Brien	<p>As members are aware Homeless is a pressure nationally and one of the GM mayors priorities.</p> <p>I have tasked officers to look at innovative ways in which we can tackle</p>

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		<p>this issue.</p> <p>The voluntary and the third sector are key to us doing things differently and I am delighted that we are working in partnership with the sector to do things in a different way.</p> <p>The council and the voluntary sector are keen to work together in a different way and the new partnership is the platform for us to make a difference.</p> <p>The landscape of homelessness has significantly changed in Bury, therefore it is essential that not only is the authority involved in addressing housing needs, but also partners across the sectors.</p> <p>The Bury Homeless Partnership was formally launched on the 25th May. I was delighted to attend the marketplace and launch event where many organisations both local, regional and national organisations that work in Bury showcased the good work that is going on in Bury. There was a strong sense of commitment in the room to make a difference and to work together on the challenges we face.</p> <p>The Partnership will focus on a robust collaboration across the sector. Underpinned with a solution focussed approach, it will engage fully with opportunities to influence policy and strategy.</p> <p>New Chairs have been announced for the Partnership who are both housing providers from the Voluntary Sector.</p> <p>There will be further partnership meetings in the future that will have a clear agenda to address barriers for housing and helping the most vulnerable in our communities.</p> <p>The partnership will receive support from the Council initially to get started and then hopefully it can move forward with the Council as a partner.</p> <p>This an excellent start and there is more work to do and I will bring further updates to Council as the work progress.</p>
7	Conservative	<p>Can the leader let us have the breakdown for monies spent on pothole repairs and road resurfacing in the 6 weeks leading up to the recent local elections versus the rest of the year, and in which wards this was spent.</p> <p>Cllr Silbiger</p>

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	<p>A: Cllr Quinn</p>	<p>Thank you for your question. With regard to Pothole numbers:</p> <p>The four weeks prior to the election highway operations averaged 400 pothole repairs per week.</p> <p>The four week following the election highway operations averaged 386 pothole repairs per week. This increased level of repair activity has been possible due to additional pothole repair crews being employed as a result of the extra £10m of monies made available by this Labour Group.</p> <p>With regard to resurfacing of roads I am happy to provide you with figures which I have in table form.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Labour</p>	<p>Can the leader tell me what impact implementing the homeless friendly scheme will have on the most vulnerable in our communities?</p> <p>Councillor Preston</p>
	<p>A: Cllr Simpson</p>	<p>Members are aware of the pressures that we face in tackling homelessness. Bury is trying to be innovate in its approach to tackling homelessness</p> <p>The key to tackling homelessness is not just finding a building but also tackling the wider determinants such as health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Bury is breaking new ground and I am delighted to advise that the Council is the first nationally to become homeless friendly</p> <p>The average life expectancy of a homeless person is 47 years. A significant reason for this is that many Homeless people struggle to access appropriate health care. In Bury, many homeless people have ended up going to Fairfield or one of the Manchester Hospitals to receive medical advice and treatment after surgeries turn them away.</p> <p>I am delighted to say that now homeless people in Bury will now be able to access healthcare. All GP surgeries have signed up to the scheme. At the recent launch the first homeless people received their cards</p> <p>Bury Council, Homeless Friendly and BARDOC launched a Homeless Card. This is to be given to Bury's homeless people. If the person is experiencing issues they can telephone the number on the card which is staffed 24hours a day for advice, ranging from which GP's are <i>Homeless Friendly</i> to local dentists, to how to access support from the local authority and also what</p>

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		<p>support is available locally.</p> <p>This initiative is making a difference to local people and give people the medical care and attention they deserve.</p> <p>The scheme is now developing other areas and it is great to see Bury leading the way and we will give further updates as the work unfolds.</p>
9	Labour	<p>Can the Leader inform the Council about the budget position for the last financial year?</p> <p>Councillor Whitby</p>
	A: Cllr O'Brien	<p>The Council experienced an overspend position of £844,000 in 2017/18 which was 0.6% of the total net budget.</p> <p>In 2017/18 we faced cuts to the budget of £13.3m, and significant demand pressures.</p> <p>Early forecasts, at month 3, suggested an overspend position of £3.5m. Therefore, the reduced overspend represents a great deal of hard work by Portfolio Holders, Management and staff.</p> <p>I am grateful to all concerned for this excellent performance.</p> <p>Behind the figure of £844,000 however, there are significant areas of concern;</p> <p>In reducing the overspend, a number of the measures implemented were "one-off" in nature, and are unlikely to be available again in 2018/19. However, many pressures remain in the budget which will need to be addressed in 2018/19.</p> <p>Children's Services ended the year with an overspending of £2.8m primarily due to pressures on the demand-led social care agency budgets.</p> <p>The same applies to Communities and Wellbeing who have also faced considerable demand levels relating to all their client groups. They reported a £1.25m overspend.</p> <p>Other services continued to suffer as a result of the prevailing economic conditions, e.g. property income and car parking income.</p> <p>Overall, the Councils financial position was underpinned by the continued strong performance of the Treasury Management function.</p> <p>Members will of course be aware that we still face an extremely difficult financial situation in the coming years, with pressures arising from increasing demands on our services, exacerbated by the very severe cuts in national public spending ahead.</p> <p>As such, 2018/19 presents another major challenge as ongoing pressures need to be addressed and cuts of £9.5m need to be delivered.</p> <p>This is in addition to the £13.3m of cuts from 2017/18 and the £9.0m of</p>

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		<p>cuts that are required in 2019/20. Work has already started on addressing these.</p> <p>Whilst balances are robust, I cannot stress enough the importance of maintaining these at their current level, given the financial challenges that await the Council in 2018/19 and beyond. This means that the savings targets each year must be met.</p> <p>We are confident that we have set an achievable budget for 2018/19, however the challenges cannot be underestimated.</p>
10	Lib Dem	<p>Now that the A56 works in Prestwich are complete, could the Leader inform members what work, if any, is being undertaken to assess the long term impact of the scheme on other roads through Prestwich, or if a study to assess such any such impact is planned?</p> <p>Councillor S Wright</p>
	A: Cllr Quinn	<p>Transport for Greater Manchester's Highways Forecasting and Analytical Services Department undertook detailed traffic modelling of the scheme prior to construction.</p> <p>Their analysis concluded that the changes in configuration could not be considered to be statistically significant, and the results demonstrated that overall, the scheme was unlikely to have any detrimental influence upon traffic.</p> <p>As this is the case then any impact on surrounding roads in Prestwich could not be statistically quantified and any changes would be of the size that could not be detected above the normal fluctuations and perturbations of daily traffic flows. It is for these reasons that no follow-up studies have been planned.</p>
11	Conservative	<p>Following the recent publicity given to the Taxpayers' Alliance survey of local authorities' on Aircraft fares in the past three years (Jan 2015 - Feb 2018) which revealed some very high costs incurred by rate payers in many boroughs, can I ask what was spent on Bury Councillors and Officers' air fares in that time ?</p> <p>Cllr R E Walker</p>
	A: Cllr O'Brien	<p>There has been no cost to the Council for any air fares over the past three years as all flights have been paid for directly by other organisations such as the British Council or reimbursed to Bury Council.</p>
12	Labour	<p>I live close to the Summerseat Bridge so am well aware of the inconvenience caused to residents since the 2015 floods. Can the leader please state what the current situation is and when can we expect to have the bridge reconstructed?</p> <p>Councillor Thomas</p>

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	<p>A: Cllr Shori</p>	<p>Kay Street Bridge in Summerseat forms part of the adopted highway and is one of the main roads into the village. The damaged caused by the flooding left the bridge with no physical barrier on one side and was therefore closed to vehicular traffic. The Council’s intention as publically stated from the beginning has always been to re-open the bridge to vehicles and at the same time to accommodate a segregated footway in order to improve pedestrian safety.</p> <p>In order to carry out these works, the Council requires land and air space in private ownership. It has always been hoped to acquire the necessary land by agreement. So far this has not been achieved and therefore following Cabinet agreement the Council has served the relevant owners with a Compulsory Purchase Order. If objections are received, it is likely that an Inquiry will be held for objections to be heard. It will be for the DfT to confirm the CPO and if the Order is confirmed, the Council will then take steps to take possession and the ownership of the land.</p> <p>In parallel with the land acquisition process, the Local Highway Authority has submitted a planning application in respect of the proposed bridge works. This application has been widely consulted upon and a decision is expected to be made by the Planning Control Committee on 31st July.</p> <p>The bridge construction works can only commence once the Council has the necessary land ownership confirmed and that planning approval is secured.</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>Labour</p>	<p>Can the Leader of the Council inform the Council about the plans for a Local Government Insurance Mutual? Councillor Bayley</p>
	<p>A: Cllr O’Brien</p>	<p>The Council currently spends approximately £1.3 million per annum purchasing cover from insurance companies, covering risks such as Public Liability, Motor, Property.</p> <p>The Local Government Association is setting up an “Insurance Mutual” whereby groups of Authorities could seek to collectively “self insure” certain risks.</p> <p>Where risks were perceived to be too high to self insure, the Mutual would still have the option to purchase external cover, however this should be at a cheaper price given the economies of scale created by joint working.</p> <p>The Council has been invited to become a founding member of the LGA mutual;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no requirement that the Council uses the mutual once it is established – a decision can be taken locally assessing costs / risks at that time • Should the Mutual fail in any way, the Council’s exposure is limited to £100

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		Cabinet have now approved the Council becoming a founding member, and we look forward to working with the LGA on this exciting and innovative project.
14	Conservative	<p>Could the Leader give an update on the promised investigation into the causes of flooding in Brandlesholme?</p> <p>Councillor Hankey</p>
	A: Cllr Quinn	The Council is not aware of which 'promised investigation' Cllr Hankey refers to. If more information could be made available to officers, then it may be possible to update the Cllr as he wishes.
15	Labour	<p>Can the Leader update the Council on how much of our budget is now spent on Adults' and Children's' Social Care?</p> <p>Councillor Sarah Southworth</p>
	A: Cllr O'Brien	<p>Out of our total net budget of £125m £80m is due to be spent on Adults and children's social care, which equates to almost 65% of our total budget.</p> <p>Bearing in mind our Council tax requirement is also £80m, this effectively means that all the council tax we raise is spent on adult and children's social care.</p> <p>Even though the social care precept has helped to provide additional funding for the budgets, the fact that we have an ageing population places additional burdens on our already depleted financial resources. However, Bury's Local Care Alliance, known as Together 4 Bury, means Bury Council will be working closely with its partners to create a financially sustainable and affordable health and care system with a reduction in waste, inefficiency and duplication. For our residents in Bury this will lead to improved care, improved health outcomes and individual experiences and people will remain well for longer. And working together we will empower our population to have the knowledge, skills and confidence to make informed choices about what matters to them.</p>
16	Conservative	<p>Can the Leader explain how he proposes to return the £1.1m spent on Radcliffe Market by him in 2013/14 to the Council funds?</p> <p>Councillor Caserta</p>
	Cllr Shori	<p>The refurbishment of the market hall building is viewed by the Council as being a vital element in the ongoing regeneration of Radcliffe town centre. Indeed this investment, along with the creation of a new bus station and the development of a high quality food store, was highlighted within the master plan for Radcliffe, prepared by Urbed, as being key components of their regeneration strategy.</p> <p>Cllr Caserta will be aware that the refurbishment cost was actually paid for by the land receipt generated by sale of the adjoining site and so those monies have already been recouped.</p>

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		<p>Through creating the conditions to attract private sector investment within Radcliffe, such as the construction of much needed new houses, the return on the Council's interventions will be measured by future economic activity within Radcliffe as a whole and not by a narrow pound for pound return on a single building. Furthermore, the Council Tax and Business Rates revenues generated by new development activity will be critical to the Council in its drive to become financially self-sustaining.</p>
17	Lib Dem	<p>Could the Leader of the Council inform members of the number and proportion of home care visits undertaken within the borough in 2017-18 that were 15 minutes or less, and 5 minutes or less, and how does this compare to previous years?</p> <p>Councillor D'Albert</p>
	A: Cllr Simpson	<p>Bury Council commission's Care at Home services for Adults which are based on the individually assessed needs of each customer, delivering 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 appropriate to their needs.</p> <p>15 minute visits would not be commissioned in isolation only as part of a bigger care plan.</p> <p>There are a number of situations where 15 minute visits are appropriate and beneficial in supporting people to maintain their independence and not feel intrusive, for example; an oversight visit or to check that a customer has taken their medication or eaten appropriately.</p> <p>In 2017/18 the majority of visits commissioned by the Council were scheduled for 30 minutes or over. The Council does not commission visits of less than 15 minutes.</p>
18	Labour	<p>We have talked about the problems to residents caused by the virtual residents' parking schemes being introduced in the borough. This has caused great difficulties to some, especially those without Internet access, and residents have found visitors' permits especially difficult to manage. Can the leader comment on any changes this council has considered to make the scheme easier for residents to use?</p> <p>Councillor Holt</p>
	A: Cllr Shori	<p>In an attempt to modernise and introduce efficiencies around the administration of the resident parking schemes across the Borough (which requires the management of around 6,000 permits annually), the Council sought to introduce a virtual permitting system. The system chosen is</p>

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		<p>used by other Local Authority within the UK and allows residents to self-serve - thereby minimising back office costs that would otherwise have to be passed on to permit holders.</p> <p>It was intended that the new system would be rolled out over a 12 month period. The initial area for which the system was first trialled in Bury worked well. However, in rolling it out to a larger area, the strength of the objections from residents made it clear that an urgent rethink on how the system operated was necessary. Initial attempts were made to modify the system but it was clear that a large number of residents were inherently unhappy with the process.</p> <p>The Council pursued the implementation of the system with the intent of reducing costs but was willing to listen to the concerns of residents at the time they were being voiced. The Council is committed to doing the right thing even if, sometimes, that means returning to previous working practices as is the case here - as I can inform you all that the virtual permit system has now been abolished, and that the previous paper system will be reinstated.</p> <p>New technologies and systems are constantly being developed and deployed in many differing fields of endeavour up and down the length of the country. It is for this reason that I cannot give members and the public a cast iron guarantee that a virtual permit system will never be considered again. It is incumbent on any public body to examine and explore emerging technology and to seek to adopt it if the benefits justify doing so. However, we would seek to undertake a much more comprehensive consultation process if this was the case.</p>
19	Labour	<p>Can the Leader provide an update on the new housing site of 2 and 3 bedroom homes situated on the former Radcliffe Civic Suite site?</p> <p>Councillor Jamie Walker</p>
	A: Cllr O'Brien	<p>The Great Places housing group have recently completed a development of 40 affordable homes on the former Radcliffe Civic site, within the town centre of Radcliffe. The site was vacant following the demolition of the Civic Centre and as part of partnership working, the Council sold the site to Great Places to redevelop it for affordable housing, as well as to further the regeneration of the town centre.</p> <p>The development called 'The Larks' involves 26 homes for affordable rent and 14 two and three bedroom homes for shared ownership. The shared ownership homes offer local people the chance to get onto the property ladder. It is a government-backed scheme which provides local people with an affordable way to buy a new home. The buyer purchases a share of the new home (usually between 35 and 75 per cent) and pays a small rent on the remaining part until they can take further shares to own the home outright. Three house types were on offer – the two bedroom Sherwood and three bedroom Leighfield and Dalby homes. The Sherwood</p>

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		<p>started at £50,033 for a 35 per cent share. The Leighfield started at £54,408 for a 35 per cent share and the Dalby at £54,233 for a 35 per cent share.</p> <p>All the shared ownership houses have been sold/ reserved and all the rented properties let.</p>
20	Conservative	<p>The Conservative Group tabled a motion requesting the suspension of the bus lane on Bolton Road. We received assurances from the Leader that he would look at the feasibility of suspending the bus lane. So far no response has been forthcoming. When will the result of the feasibility study be published?</p> <p>Councillor Harris</p>
	A: Cllr Quinn	<p>A transportation study of Bury and Radcliffe commissioned by the Council has recently reported back. The study has identified 207 potential interventions that require further investigation. Of these, 7 interventions relate to bus including a corridor-wide review of bus priority along the A58 to improve reliability and resilience of services. All interventions need to be investigated further but, prior to doing so, the traffic modelling currently being undertaken on the Council's behalf by Transport for Greater Manchester needs to be completed so that a view can be taken on the future traffic volumes on the A58 in the context of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework and associated housing pressures in the region. This will then inform the extents of infrastructure upgrades required on the highway network to facilitate such development. The future of the bus lane on the A58 will be considered as part of this process which still has many months to run. Given the complexities of understanding future housing demands, traffic growth, population growth, the role of public transport, air quality, structural changes to the highway network etc. and to consider these factors holistically it is not anticipated that the Council will be in a position to fully determine the role of the A58 bus lane inside of the next 18 months</p>
21	Labour	<p>Can the leader tell me what the identified outcomes of the loneliness seminar in Besses was looking at youth loneliness and what we can implement in our own communities ?</p> <p>Councillor Leach</p>
	A: Cllr Simpson	<p>Loneliness can affect any person at any time of life and this includes our younger people. Although it is likely that we have all experienced being lonely at some point in our lives, it is when it is prolonged and a day to day normality that it becomes chronic and likely to impact on our health and wellbeing. This can lead to difficulties in connecting with others and forming relationships. Research has shown life transitions including moving home; changing schools or work; coming to the country as an asylum seeker; leaving the armed forces; leaving care; becoming a carer; experiencing family breakdown or bereavement and or developing a health</p>

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		<p>condition all can lead to chronic loneliness.</p> <p>A very positive and well attended event was held in Besses in late June to raise the profile of youth loneliness and also start a discussion to look at the challenges linked to this. This was attended by Cllr Simpson (Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing) and council officers who are continuing to support this work following the event. A Facebook community page around youth loneliness has now been set up for colleagues and partners across the borough to discuss and share good practice around combatting loneliness of our young people.</p> <p>Our Neighbourhood Engagement Manager has met with the event organiser to discuss how the councils grant funding could potentially assist in supporting this work. There is an intention for further workshops, seminars, engagement and communication around youth loneliness to be rolled out over the coming months and the neighbourhood engagement team will be on hand to support these.</p> <p>On the topic of loneliness you will likely be aware before her death in 2016, MP Jo Cox set up the Loneliness Commission. This has grown and gained momentum and highlights the detrimental impact of loneliness on people's lives and the economy. Jo Cox's own experience of feeling lonely at university and then seeing it first hand in her constituency areas fuelled her to derive the commission.</p> <p>Recognising the importance of this work a loneliness and isolation strategy and action plan has been developed, bringing together several areas of existing work but also looking how we can further raise awareness and as Councillors, officers, partners and residents how we can combat loneliness by starting a simple conversation. Providing people with the understanding and tools to recognise people who might be lonely and then being able to signpost or support them accordingly is extremely important. This strategy of course will look at loneliness of people of all ages and backgrounds and this will of course include our younger people who are lonely. Further information on this strategy and how you can get involved will be circulated in the near future.</p>
22	Labour	<p>Can the leader tell us what difference to the people of Bury will the additional £20m funding to the NHS?</p> <p>Councillor D Jones</p>
	A: Cllr Simpson	<p>At this stage it is unclear what additional monies Bury CCG will receive as regards this high level funding announcement for the NHS, nor is it understood what expectations regarding commissioning of services will be linked to any additional resources received.</p> <p>It is understood NHSE will issue guidance on the implications in the Autumn.</p>
23	Conservative	<p>With the current spell of hot dry weather expected to continue, does this Council have contingency plans for the safety of Bury's residents in case of</p>

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		<p>a record drought and serious water shortage</p> <p>Councillor Kersh</p>
	A: Cllr Shori	<p>Yes, contingencies plans are in place.</p> <p>We work very closely with a range of partners such as the Environmental Agency, United Utilities, the VCSE sector and emergency services to plan for and respond to issues in relation to water resources, such as water shortage. This includes ensuring the safety of Bury's residents as well as considering other potential impacts, such as impact on wildlife and ecology, agriculture and industry, etc. We routinely work with partners to undertake multi-agency assessments of civil risk (including the risk of water shortage) which inform our contingency plans. Training of staff and exercising of plans also takes place.</p> <p>The initial focus of contingency plans is on preventing serious impacts, such as water shortages, including by providing information and guidance to encourage people to use water wisely. Water levels continue to be monitored closely to inform this type of messaging.</p> <p>Short term water supply issues would be addressed in the same way that main bursts are dealt with, i.e. either by providing tankered supplies to pump into mains or provide bottled water to residents.</p> <p>For more series water shortages, multi-agency major incident plans are in place to ensure a rapid and coordinated response by a range of partners. This would include activating arrangements for identifying and supporting those most vulnerable, as well as the wider public.</p> <p>Bury Council also operates in accordance with the Heatwave Plan for England, which focuses on addressing other impacts of hot weather.</p>
24	Lib Dem	<p>Could the Leader please inform members how many schools in the Borough are not covered by 20mph zones (ie the road outside the school and any other major 'pick-up/drop-off' areas for the school)?</p> <p>Councillor S Wright</p>
	A: Cllr Quinn	<p>Transport for Greater Manchester's Highways Forecasting and Analytical Services Department undertook detailed traffic modelling of the scheme prior to construction.</p> <p>Their analysis concluded that the changes in configuration could not be considered to be statistically significant, and the results demonstrated that overall, the scheme was unlikely to have any detrimental influence upon traffic.</p>

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		<p>As this is the case then any impact on surrounding roads in Prestwich could not be statistically quantified and any changes would be of the size that could not be detected above the normal fluctuations and perturbations of daily traffic flows. It is for these reasons that no follow-up studies have been planned.</p>
25	Labour	<p>I understand that the Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy expires this year. Are there plans to refresh this strategy and to ensure that there is clear strategic direction for this vital area of work? Cllr Preston</p>
	A: Cllr Tariq	<p>Thank you for the question</p> <p>That's correct. The current Domestic Violence & Abuse Strategy ran from 2015-18 and I am pleased to announce that I have asked officers to commence work on a 2018-21 strategy will be launched this year. As the Co-Chair of the Domestic Abuse Strategic Group I have been involved in the development of this Strategy.</p> <p>The Strategy is underpinned by the Government's Violence Against Women & Girls Strategy which was launched in 2016 and also from a local Health Needs Assessment which was undertaken last year.</p> <p>This work has enabled us to refocus the work in this area and I am committed to keeping the residents of Bury safe from harm and support those that require our help.</p> <p>The Strategy has identified the following objectives:</p> <p>Strategic Co-ordination – bringing together all the key partnerships and boards to review the strategic direction, coordination and commissioning approach to DVA services.</p> <p>Reducing Re-offending –tackling the Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse at an early stage to ensure that no opportunity is missed to prevent re-offending</p> <p>Reduce Revictimisation – Understanding why revictimisation occurs and then putting in place the pathways to give the victim alternative options is at the heart of this priority.</p> <p>Inequalities/Gaps in Provision – we need to understand why people don't report and find mechanisms to encourage reporting</p> <p>Workforce Development –ensuing that we train staff and give them effective tools to support the residents of Bury</p> <p>Primary Prevention – Raising awareness of the causes and impacts Domestic Abuse to as broad an audience as possible is key to preventing</p>

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		<p>it.</p> <p>Alongside the Strategy will run an Action Plan which will be the vehicle for delivering the above priorities? This Plan will also be overseen by the Strategic Group.</p> <p>I am committed to keep people of Bury safe and ensuring victims get the support they need and perpetrators also get support to understand their behaviour. We also need to focus on the unseen victims, children that see horrific incidents.</p> <p>I will be happy to provide an update on our progress against the strategy later in the Municipal Year.</p>
26	Labour	<p>What progress have we made with community engagement, following the introduction of the neighbourhood engagement framework last year?</p> <p>Cllr Cathcart.</p>
	A: Cllr Tariq	<p>Following sign off of the implementation plan for the new 'Neighbourhood Engagement Framework' in October 2017, a series of Neighbourhood Engagement events were scheduled across the month of November. The events were designed to provide an opportunity for residents, community groups, businesses and anyone who lives, works or has an interest in each of our 6 Townships to come together to shape our new approaches to engagement and delivering outcomes on the issues that matter most to our communities.</p> <p>We recognised that local people across our Townships are uniquely positioned to identify what they need and want in their areas, the events offered members of the community the opportunity to share thoughts and ideas about how Bury Council and key partners such as the Police, health services and the VCFA can mobilise and support our communities to drive forward their ideas. All those who attended were able to find out what is available for them in their community and learn how they can get involved and work together to make a difference. There was information about how to pitch for funding for projects, as well as the chance to help inform planning for future initiatives. The message at each event was that we want people to feel empowered to take charge of their own lives.</p> <p>The engagement events were delivered in an informal setting with a 'Market Place' style networking format and all six were very well attended with over 480 residents. Each event had in excess of 20 information stands featuring local community groups, partner agencies, third sector groups and various community initiatives. Many residents came to talk to us about what issues matter most to them and about their own ideas for how to improve their community. Attendees were given the chance to learn more about how we will engage with them going forward and help</p>

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shape our approach in each area to ensure it works for that locality.

Alongside our engagement events we also undertook six 'Pitch' funding events in November, where we have put the community at the heart of the decision making process when investing grant funding. Over **670** local people joined us at the events to hear about and vote for potential new projects aimed at improving health & wellbeing and it was the community that decided which projects would make the biggest difference in their local area.

Now into 2018/19 the Neighbourhood Engagement Team have worked hard with their extensive community networks to support the development of potential new community led projects. For our first round of Pitch events of the municipal year we had over **80** new project applications with over **60** of these projects being successful in securing funding to date. Since launching our 'trailblazer North & South Pitch events in July 2017 we have funded a total of **188** new community projects across the borough, which is a testament to the hard work of the Neighbourhood Engagement team and the tremendous passion and commitment of the people of Bury to work together to improve their communities and the lives of themselves and their neighbours.

As part of this round of Pitch events we are taking the innovative step of trialling an online 'Digital Pitch Event' via our new One Community digital engagement platform. This will present an opportunity for those groups bidding for Prestwich funds to complete a 3 minute recorded pitch and use photos to offer details about their project. We will follow the same voting system where the public (including Elected Members) will be eligible to vote for their favourite projects as they do at the events but online rather than face to face. This process will enable us to fully engage the local communities of Prestwich in the process whilst also giving an opportunity for the bids to be publicised in advance and generate local support.

Planning is now underway for our 'One Community' branded (i.e. One Radcliffe/One Bury East/One Prestwich) Neighbourhood Engagement events, where once again we will be engaging people across each of our Townships, celebrating all that is good within our communities and empowering local people to get involved and learn how they can work with us and each other to deliver better outcomes for their areas. The events will take place on the following dates:

- Bury East – Tuesday 4th September
- Radcliffe – Thursday 6th September
- Prestwich – Thursday 13th September

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bury West – Tuesday 18th September • Whitefield & Unsworth – Wednesday 19th September • RTNM – Monday 24th September <p>The new model has delivered real outcomes for local people over the last 8 months and we have engaged over 1500 residents as part of our Pitch and Neighbourhood Engagement events, alongside the community networks which the Neighbourhood Engagement teams work with on a daily basis. We do however recognise that we are still in our infancy, but we are excited by the work ahead as we continue to develop community led solutions that will help people to help themselves and others to live a better life within the neighbourhoods of Bury.</p>
27	Conservative	<p>At the last full Council meeting the Leader commented on how many potholes had been filled in. considering the appalling state of Bury's Roads is it possible to know how many times the same pothole has had to be filled in?</p> <p>Councillor Hussain</p>
	A: Cllr Quinn	<p>Bury Council employs a right first time approach to pothole repairs in line with national good practice guidance. Occasionally temporary repairs are carried out when it is prudent to do so. These temporary repairs are then replaced with permanent repairs.</p> <p>The additional investment in highway maintenance has allowed the backlog of highway maintenance repairs to be reduced over recent months. Our teams are working hard to continue this trend.</p>
28	Conservative	<p>As a resident of Hollins I read with concern of the proposed lifting of the HGV weight limit on Croft Lane, Hollins Brow and Pilsworth Road. Could the Leader please explain the reasoning behind this as the widths and surface condition of these roads, together with the current usage levels make them completely unsuitable for yet more heavy traffic?</p> <p>Councillor Hankey</p>
	A: Cllr Quinn	<p>The Council always seeks to strike a balance between the interests of communities and facilitating the needs of local businesses in its decision making processes. The current weight restriction on Croft lane is an environmental one as no highway assets require the physical protection of a weight limit. Furthermore, the proposed suspension of the restriction is experimental, with people able to give their views and the findings analysed over a number of months.</p> <p>The Council is attempting to reduce congestion and improve air quality across the whole borough, and retaining a weight restriction on Croft Lane could be making these problems worse elsewhere in Bury. It should be noted that the restriction on Hollins Lane will remain in place unaltered.</p> <p>Subsequent to receiving representations from local ward councillors and residents, the Council has introduced a brief hiatus and, consequently, no action will be taken before October whilst the details of the proposal are</p>

		reviewed.																								
29	Lib Dem	<p>What proportion of children gained a place in their secondary school of first choice, second choice and third choice in the current round of school place allocations? How does this compare to previous years?</p> <p>Cllr D’Albert</p>																								
	A: Cllr Briggs	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4">TRANSFER TO HIGH SCHOOL APPLICATIONS - % PREFERENCES SATISFIED</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>TRANSFER 2018</th> <th>TRANSFER 2017</th> <th>TRANSFER 2016</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1ST PREFERENCE</td> <td>2035 - 86.4%</td> <td>1971 - 85.7%</td> <td>1945 - 83%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2ND PREFERENCE</td> <td>155 - 6.6%</td> <td>169 - 7.4%</td> <td>159 - 6.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3RD PREFERENCE</td> <td>57 - 2.4%</td> <td>59 - 2.6%</td> <td>122 - 5.2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>OVERALL PREFS SATISFIED</td> <td>95.4%</td> <td>95.7%</td> <td>95%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Several schools are oversubscribed and there have been appeals for places at a number of schools, however all Bury residents for 2018 allocations have been offered a school place. 3 secondary schools have vacancies for admission in September 2018.</p>	TRANSFER TO HIGH SCHOOL APPLICATIONS - % PREFERENCES SATISFIED					TRANSFER 2018	TRANSFER 2017	TRANSFER 2016	1ST PREFERENCE	2035 - 86.4%	1971 - 85.7%	1945 - 83%	2ND PREFERENCE	155 - 6.6%	169 - 7.4%	159 - 6.8%	3RD PREFERENCE	57 - 2.4%	59 - 2.6%	122 - 5.2%	OVERALL PREFS SATISFIED	95.4%	95.7%	95%
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30	Conservative	<p>As a change from seeking action on the demolition and the future use of the former Bury Police Station, can I now turn the Leader's interest to the other side of the centre of the Borough (at Moorgate) and ask him what is the planned use of the increasingly derelict former Fire Station as this and the largely vacant site (with ugly advertising hoardings) on the opposite corner constitute a visually poor welcome gateway for those approaching from the Rossendale and Calderdale directions?"</p> <p>Councillor R E Walker</p>																								
	A: Cllr Shori	<p>The Council is currently in discussions with high profile end users over the comprehensive redevelopment of the fire station site. Cllr Walker quite rightly recognises the strategic importance of the site as one of the major gateways to the Town Centre and consequently we are seeking a scheme which will complement The Rock development opposite and not be dwarfed by it.</p> <p>We have considered other proposals for the site, but they would not have delivered the benefits to the Town Centre that the site merits, and so were</p>																								

