

Q.	Party	Question
1.	<b>Labour</b>	<p>Can the Leader update the Council about the launch of Bury's Street Support website, which aims to help reduce homelessness and support local services who deal with it? <b>Cllr McGill</b></p>
	<b>Cllr O'Brien</b>	<p><b>As Executive member, for Housing. I am delighted to advise Council on Street Support Network connects people and organisations locally to End Homelessness together.</b></p> <p><b>The website is a central online resource on homelessness, making it easier for services and customers to find help in their housing problems. It details support services that are available nearby for support, details how to access them, and where the gaps are.</b></p> <p><b>The website is live now, however it needs updating and developing further, which housing partners have committed to do.</b></p> <p><b>I am pleased that Bury is featuring on the resource and urge members to have a look and this provides an opportunity for our residents and partners to have access to a useful tool which identifies resources that will help people at vulnerable times in their lives. I believe more work is underway on the tool.</b></p>
2.	<b>Labour</b>	<p>With more and more residents living in the private rented sector, will the Leader update the Council on what is being done to protect tenants and drive up standards? <b>Cllr Hayes</b></p>
	<b>Cllr O'Brien</b>	<p><b>The Government has been increasingly active in the sector in recent years and introduced additional legislation designed to strengthen consumer protection for tenants and tackle rogue landlords. This includes new laws requiring letting agents and managing agents to belong to a redress scheme, providing protection for tenants against retaliatory eviction, increasing civil penalties, extended rent repayment orders and Banning Orders for the most serious criminal landlords. In addition, as of the 1st October 2018 it a mandatory requirement to licence all Housing of Multiple Occupancy with 5 or more tenants regardless of the number of storeys. All these have been implemented to drive up standards within the Private rented sector.</b></p> <p><b>The Private Sector Housing Team carry out inspections on privately rented properties to abate disrepair and make the property safe for the tenants. We have a statutory duty under the Housing Act 2004 to serve notice for serious disrepair but in addition to enforcement we act as a negotiator between Landlord and Tenant to bring the property up to a good standard. Our work involves more than just looking at the property, we also address tenant's needs and make appropriate referrals to other services.</b></p> <p><b>The Council are a key partner in a multi-agency task group - tackling various issues which often provide a major route for the police to gather intelligence.</b></p>

		<p><b>We successfully bid for £80,000 to tackle poor standards within the private rented sector, an area of Bury has been identified (Baguley Crescent) that requires intensive intervention from the Private Sector Housing team, Police, Fire and Immigration enforcement. Other areas will also be targeted in the near future.</b></p>
3	<b>Conservative</b>	<p>Can the Leader / Relevant Cabinet Member please update Council as to what progress has been made in securing the funding for some new 3G / 4G football pitch facilities within the Borough? Have any particular locations for the facilities been identified? ( <b>Cllr. I.Gartside</b>)</p>
A	<b>Cllr Quinn</b>	<p><b>Bury Council is currently working in partnership with the Lancashire Football Association and Football Foundation on a 3G pitch strategy for the borough. This will be incorporated into a wider Playing Pitch Strategy which is also currently being developed.</b></p> <p><b>Bury has been identified by the Lancs FA as a priority area for external funding for 3G pitches, subject to meeting the criteria for investment.</b></p> <p><b>As part of the 3G strategy, a feasibility study is now being carried out at a number of locations to determine their suitability for development and we will look to announce these sites when the detail has been worked up and subject to any grant conditions for public announcement.</b></p>
4	<b>Labour</b>	<p>Can the Leader provide an update on how the Council is working to eradicate fuel poverty in the Borough? <b>Cllr Skillen</b></p>
	<b>Cllr O'Brien</b>	<p><b>We have a Fuel Poverty Action Plan this includes four objectives to tackling fuel poverty. These are:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1) improving energy efficiency standards in private sector housing</b></li> <li><b>2) enabling people to afford to heat their home</b></li> <li><b>3) improved health and wellbeing and</b></li> <li><b>4) increased comfort and improved, understanding and targeting.</b></li> </ol> <p><b>Under these objectives we have aims and actions and we also link in with Six Town Housing. The main headline actions that we are currently working on that have the most impact in tackling fuel poverty are:</b></p> <p><b>The Local Energy Advice Programme</b></p>

		<p><b>We refer residents to this scheme which offers free home energy advice visits. Small scale energy efficiency measures are installed, and checks that the resident is on the cheapest energy tariff so they can switch providers immediately should they wish. Residents are also referred on for other services if required e.g. fire safety visits from the fire service, benefit entitlement checks etc.</b></p> <p><b>The Emergency Central Heating Offer</b></p> <p><b>Shortly to be relaunched this month this scheme is a FREE emergency boiler repair and replacement scheme for those meeting the eligibility criteria.</b></p> <p><b>Warm Homes Fund</b></p> <p><b>We are currently identifying suitable homes for potential gas connections and first time central heating installation via this fund which GM was successful in bidding for. Each GM Authority has been allocated a potential of 40 installations.</b></p> <p><b>Big Clean Switch</b></p> <p><b>Although not targeted towards the fuel poor – this is a GM energy price comparison website that allows residents to switch to a cheaper energy provider but from a renewable clean energy source.</b></p>
5	<b>Labour</b>	Can the Leader inform the Council about the progress of our Medium Term Financial Strategy? <b>Cllr L Smith</b>
	<b>Cllr O’Brien</b>	<p><b>The Council’s current Medium Term Financial Strategy is published on the Council Website as the 4 year “Efficiency Plan”.</b></p> <p><b>Preparing the plan in this way enabled the Council to secure certainty over its core funding allocations for the period 2016/17 to 2019/20.</b></p> <p><b>Forecasts are continually updated to reflect the latest information in respect of inflation, interest rates, pay awards, levies from other bodies, and specific grants.</b></p> <p><b>Work is commencing on a new MTFS for the 5 year period beyond 2020.</b></p> <p><b>Whilst “internal costs” are known and understood, the process is hampered by the absence of any Government funding information beyond 2020, and heightened economic uncertainty as Brexit</b></p>

		<p><b>looms.</b></p> <p><b>The MTFS will also be complemented by a Commercial Strategy; this will recognise the increasing need to become self-sufficient and examine ways of generating income and growing the local tax base.</b></p>
6	<b>Conservative</b>	<p>Could the Leader explain why Bury has the second highest number of empty houses (in percentage terms) within the Greater Manchester area?  <b>Cllr. D.Gunther</b></p>
	<b>Cllr O'Brien</b>	<p><b>From data sourced from statistical returns to Central Government for Council tax purposes, Bury is actually ranked sixth not second within the GM area for total number of empty homes in its area. When relating this data to empty homes it must be treated with caution as the total number of empty homes for example in Bury is 2484 is inclusive of all empty properties under 6 months and those which are second homes or given an exemption to being empty.</b></p> <p><b>The Council tracks the number and distribution of empty residential properties. The Urban Renewal Section have several projects and programmes to tackle empty properties; concentrating resources on those which are empty for over 6 months, and in particular those that are empty for over 2 years; those which are causing the most negative impact and those where action to tackle them will bring about the greatest impact. Over the last few years we have:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>• Used Compulsory Purchased;</b></li> <li><b>• Enforced Sale;</b></li> <li><b>• Used Demolition Order powers;</b></li> <li><b>• Made Voluntary Acquisitions;</b></li> <li><b>• Engaged with Owners;</b></li> </ul> <p><b>In Bury the total number of private sector empty properties that have been empty for 6 months and over has reduced over the last few years, largely as a result of the 150% Council Tax Levy. (I am happy to provide the statistical tables confirming the exact figures across Greater Manchester.)</b></p> <p><i>Tables provided for info:</i></p>

		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>LA</b></th> <th><b>Vacant Homes</b></th> <th><b>Total Homes</b></th> <th><b>Percentage/Rank</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Bolton</b></td> <td>3497</td> <td>87810</td> <td>3.6 (7)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Bury</b></td> <td>2484</td> <td>70680</td> <td>3.5 (6)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Manchester</b></td> <td>3787</td> <td>153860</td> <td>2.5 (1)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Oldham</b></td> <td>2893</td> <td>73880</td> <td>3.9 (9)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Rochdale</b></td> <td>2684</td> <td>71120</td> <td>3.8 (8)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Salford</b></td> <td>2734</td> <td>83340</td> <td>3.3 (5)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Stockport</b></td> <td>3087</td> <td>110830</td> <td>2.9 (3)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Tameside</b></td> <td>2588</td> <td>79640</td> <td>3.2 (4)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Trafford</b></td> <td>2321</td> <td>83120</td> <td>2.8 (2)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Wigan</b></td> <td>4227</td> <td>118910</td> <td>3.6 (7)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>Year</b></th> <th><b>2013</b></th> <th><b>2014</b></th> <th><b>2015</b></th> <th><b>2016</b></th> <th><b>2017</b></th> <th><b>2018</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Number of empty properties over 6 months</b></td> <td><b>1926</b></td> <td><b>1728</b></td> <td><b>1022</b></td> <td><b>1003</b></td> <td><b>978</b></td> <td><b>973</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>LA</b>	<b>Vacant Homes</b>	<b>Total Homes</b>	<b>Percentage/Rank</b>	<b>Bolton</b>	3497	87810	3.6 (7)	<b>Bury</b>	2484	70680	3.5 (6)	<b>Manchester</b>	3787	153860	2.5 (1)	<b>Oldham</b>	2893	73880	3.9 (9)	<b>Rochdale</b>	2684	71120	3.8 (8)	<b>Salford</b>	2734	83340	3.3 (5)	<b>Stockport</b>	3087	110830	2.9 (3)	<b>Tameside</b>	2588	79640	3.2 (4)	<b>Trafford</b>	2321	83120	2.8 (2)	<b>Wigan</b>	4227	118910	3.6 (7)	<b>Year</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Number of empty properties over 6 months</b>	<b>1926</b>	<b>1728</b>	<b>1022</b>	<b>1003</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>973</b>
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7	<b>Labour</b>	Can the Leader update the Council on the progress of the Government's Fair Funding Review? <b>Cllr Rafiq</b>																																																										
	<b>Cllr O'Brien</b>	<p><b>It has been recognised for many years that the current system of assessing need and funding has never worked in Bury's favour.</b></p> <p><b>The evidence speaks for itself – we are funded far less per head than similar authorities nationally and regionally.</b></p> <p><b>The Government has itself recognised that the current system of Local Government finance is "Broken".</b></p>																																																										

		<p><b>We therefore welcome the Fair Funding review, which in theory should provide a fairer and more transparent means of assessing need and allocating resources.</b></p> <p><b>Further consultation is due to take place between now and mid-2019.</b></p> <p><b>Indicative numbers for funding allocations to individual councils are to be available by spring-summer 2019, and the review is to be implemented in April 2020.</b></p> <p><b>(These dates are based on evidence given by the Minister, Rishi Sunak MP, to the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee on 24 April 2018)</b></p> <p><b>We have certainly engaged throughout the review process, submitting responses, attending stakeholder events etc.</b></p> <p><b>My fear is the review does not address the quantum of Local Government funding – it just looks at how an ever reducing “cake” is shared out</b></p> <p><b>I would also wish to keep a close eye on the proposed means of implementation – how quickly will “underfunded” Councils be restored to their correct level ?</b></p>
8	<b>Lib Dem</b>	<p>Could the Leader reaffirm previous commitments, that members of this Council will vote on final proposals of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework? <b>Cllr Pickstone</b></p>
	<b>Cllr O’Brien</b>	<p>Much of the work around the consultation, adoption and implementation of GMSF is through the Combined Authority. It is our intention that Members will ultimately have to vote on the implications of the GMSF through the adoption of our Local Plan which sits under the GMSF and will act in accordance with it.</p>
9	<b>Conservative</b>	<p>Within the Borough there have been numerous examples of travellers illegally occupying sites. How robust is the Council’s policy to rapidly evict travellers or anyone else who behaves in such a manner, bearing in mind the litter and other debris often left behind? <b>Cllr J.Harris</b></p>
	<b>Cllr Quinn</b>	<p><b>Gypsies and Irish Travellers are recognised as ethnic minority groups who lead a nomadic lifestyle and the Human rights Act requires Local Authorities or the Police involved in evictions to act in a proportionate way.</b></p> <p><b>Unauthorised encampments on Bury Council land are dealt with under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. Local Authorities are required to follow Government guidance when evicting Gypsies or Travellers and the Council’s procedure for</b></p>

		<p><b>evictions follows that advice. Bury Council has an efficient and quick response to unauthorised encampments.</b></p> <p><b>The welfare of Gypsies and Travellers must be assessed before the Council can commence any legal process and Environmental enforcement officers and security staff engage early with the group to try to ensure that waste is bagged and the site protected.</b></p> <p><b>The time taken to carry out evictions will vary according to the circumstances of those camped, enforcement and legal staff resources and Court availability.</b></p> <p><b>After eviction vulnerable sites are secured where possible to prevent further incursions.</b></p> <p><b>Gypsies and Travellers who move onto private land can be moved on by the landowner or through their agents and bailiffs.</b></p> <p><b>In the last 5 years there have been 120 unauthorised encampments reported to the Council. Of these 51 required enforcement action by the Council and the rest would either be on private land or moved on quickly of their own accord.</b></p>
10	<b>Labour</b>	<p>What is the Council doing to support debt collection efforts? <b>Cllr Preston</b></p>
	<b>Cllr O'Brien</b>	<p><b>The Council has approved the recruitment of additional staff to target recovery of older debts within the Council Tax and Business Rates teams since 2016 the total collected as a result of the teams work is £3.4m. Additional staff are to be recruited to target recovery of outstanding Housing Benefit overpayments and general sundry debts, it is hoped these staff can be in place by January 2019.</b></p> <p><b>The Council recognises the difficult position some of its residents find themselves in when being asked to pay for things such as Council Tax. Whilst this money is fundamental to the continuing delivery of vital services it is also essential that these residents are offered as much support as possible. For this reason we have specialist staff within our Customer Support and Collections division who work alongside our collections teams to assist residents with benefits and budgeting advice. We also work closely with the Citizens Advice Bureaux having a full time Case Worker located in our Whittaker Street offices to offer wider support and act as a link to CAB's accredited Money Advice staff.</b></p>
11	<b>Labour</b>	<p>There was an Ofsted inspection of Childrens social care in July – what were the findings of this inspection? <b>Cllr Cummings</b></p>
	<b>Cllr Cathcart</b>	<p><b>This was a Focused Inspection that looked at Front Door</b></p>

		<p><b>Safeguarding arrangements. Inspectors visited the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and Complex safeguarding Team at Bury Police Station, Early Help delivered through the Oasis Team and Social Work practice within the Initial Response Teams. Inspectors commented positively on the work of the MASH as an effective service providing timely responses with robust management oversight. Children requiring assessments are allocated social workers promptly in the Initial Response Teams with social workers knowing their children well which means they can identify strengths and weaknesses so that the right support can be put in place. There were areas for development identified for early help and the Oasis Team which included that they be subject to the same quality assurance and performance arrangements as social work services which were seen as embedded, rigours and detailed.</b></p>
12	<b>Conservative</b>	<p>Since the roadworks on the M60, degradation of the road surface opposite St Bernadette’s has accelerated due to increased heavy traffic. The residents adjacent to this section of road have suffered worsening vibrations in their houses, with one suffering hazardous debris falling from the roof. Will the Leader meet these residents to ensure the issue is resolved satisfactorily? <b>Cllr. O.Kersh</b></p>
	<b>Cllr Quinn</b>	<p><b>All current technical literature in the UK regarding road traffic induced vibration, points to their being no link between this kind of vibration and structural damage to properties. The vibrations cannot reach sufficient energies to initiate the onset of cosmetic damage. This is backed up by vibration monitoring undertaken by the Council in 2014 where measured vibrations inside properties did not reach a quarter of the threshold stated in British Standards in respect of that required for the onset of cosmetic damage.</b></p> <p><b>The surface of this road is inspected on a monthly basis and any actionable defects found are identified for repair. The most recent highway safety inspection for the length of road in question indicated that there were no actionable defects present and that the highway is fit for purpose.</b></p>
13	<b>Labour</b>	<p>Reports of domestic violence during this year’s World Cup were the highest in Greater Manchester all year. Figures released by Greater Manchester Police show a shocking 212 cases of domestic abuse the day after England’s quarter-final win over Sweden. What is being done in Bury to eradicate domestic abuse and help the victims of it? <b>Cllr Grimshaw</b></p>
	<b>Cllr Tariq</b>	<p><b>Members will no doubt agree that this figure paints a disturbing picture of the link between football and Domestic Abuse, confirmed by the fact that the second-highest figure was the day after Man Utd lost the FA Cup Final to Chelsea.</b></p>

		<p><b>To further compound this picture it is widely-known that Domestic Abuse is significantly under-reported nationally, so a completely clear picture is hard to find.</b></p> <p><b>Although in Bury we have the third lowest no. of incidents per head of population in Greater Manchester we have seen a 5% rise in incidents over the last three years. We have put a lot of effort into running awareness-raising campaigns to encourage victims and the families of victims to report such incidents so hopefully that is bearing fruit.</b></p> <p><b>Domestic Violence and Abuse covers a whole range of abuse-types which can only be tackled through a robust multi-agency response. For these reasons, Domestic Violence and Abuse remains a key priority for Team Bury. Members will be glad to hear that this year we will be launching a new Community Safety Plan in which tackling Domestic Abuse is a key goal and additionally we will be launching the new Domestic Abuse Strategy which will run from 2018-2021.</b></p> <p><b>The following priorities which will form the bedrock of an Action Plan to strive towards the aspiration of eliminating Domestic Abuse in Bury:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Improve Strategic Co-ordination – which is about engaging key personnel to gain commitment to the Strategy and drive forward Partnership initiatives &amp; commissioning</b></li> <li><b>2. Reduce re-offending – Developing pathways to ensure that Perpetrators understand the impact of their offences and are helped onto a different path and away from offending.</b></li> <li><b>3. Reduce re-victimisation – Supporting victims to Understand and intervene on impact of Domestic Abuse on victims to prevent re-victimisation</b></li> <li><b>4. Remove inequalities and gaps in provision</b></li> <li><b>5. Enhance workforce development - Develop a suite of Quality-assured DVA training with a range of options for all services/sectors</b></li> <li><b>6. Further develop primary prevention approaches - Develop consistent early intervention processes and healthy relationship packages for schools/young people</b></li> </ol> <p><b>The new Strategy will be launched during White Ribbon Week and I invite all members to join us at the launch event and at the same support this important cause.</b></p>
14	<b>Labour</b>	What plans does the council have to mark the First World War Centenary later this year? <b>Cllr McGill</b>
	<b>Cllr Tariq</b>	<b>In order to remember the bravery of those who fought, lived and died in the First World War we will continue to honour all those</b>

**who served, died and were affected by the war both at home and overseas.**

**On the centenary of the Armistice we will give thanks for peace and for those who returned, and remember the sacrifice of the 800,000 soldiers who died. This is the best tribute we can make, however it is also important to show our thanks and the thanks of our communities through poignant events, displays and activities, as well as supporting activities that community groups put together to commemorate the ending of World War 1.**

**The following event details, outline what is currently planned for the on-going celebrations however these will be added to in the coming weeks. All the activities, events that the Council are planning and those that are known to us provided via community groups and mechanisms will be promoted on The Bury Directory; so keep updated and view this often.**

**Commemorative events confirmed to date include:**

**100 lamp post poppies will be displayed around the Town Hall and down Silver Street towards the Fusiliers Museum and the cenotaph. The poppies will be displayed from the end of September until the middle of November.**

**Lamp post poppies will also be offered out to local businesses, community groups and individuals within each of the Townships at the cost of £3 with all monies going to the Royal British Legion. This way it is hoped that we can turn each Township red with poppies.**

**Now that the schools are back they will be invited to enter a World War 1 poster competition. The competition will be judged by local veterans and the art work displayed in the Town Hall and Fusiliers Museum.**

**Council and CCG staff will receive in the next few days an email to encourage them to show their thanks by making a poppy. The poppies can be knitted, made out of wood, metal or simply draw on to cardboard, it's the homemade feel; we are after. All poppies will then be displayed at the entrance to the Town Hall and Knowsley Place.**

**As previously mentioned many Community groups are planning events that we will support and promote on the Bury Directory. This will be updated with new events and displays on a regular basis.**

**This includes:**

- **Age UK Bury, hosting a 'naffi café' and have purchased 10 'There but Not There' silhouettes that they will hold an event to unveil**

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bury Parish Church are holding a number of events and displays</b></li> <li>• <b>Ambition for Ageing held an event at Clarence Park</b></li> </ul> <p><b>It is hoped that we can show respect and thanks to all those that the First World War affected by the planned events and of course with the annual armistice parade and service on the 11<sup>th</sup> November.</b></p>
15	<b>Conservative</b>	<p>Could the Leader explain why, despite repeated requests that members of Council have not received a reply on the progress being made towards suspending the bus lanes on Bolton Road? <b>Cllr J.Harris</b></p>
	<b>Cllr Quinn</b>	<p><b>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 buses 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 in order 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.</b></p>
16	<b>Labour</b>	<p>We all know the importance of children being ready to go to school – is Bury making sufficient progress with this? <b>Cllr D Jones</b></p>
	<b>Cllr Cathcart</b>	<p><b>Bury children make a good start in their early development with now 71% of children securing the good level of development (GLD) standard in 2018, now 2<sup>nd</sup> in GM, as a result of the very careful progress monitoring that takes place in early years settings to secure this. Our PVI and nursery settings provide a good foundation for very young children so they are able to make accelerated progress throughout the Early Years phase of their education.</b></p>

Council Questions – 12 September 2018

17	<b>Conservative</b>	In late August a branch fell at the mini-roundabout between Ringley Road and Stand Road and only through luck was nobody hurt or killed. Will the Leader ensure the extreme overhanging of trees along Ringley Road is assessed, with felling or pruning carried out as such work is clearly necessary to prevent further risk to life? <b>Cllr. O.Kersh</b>
	<b>Cllr Quinn</b>	<p><b>The majority of trees along Ringley road are in private ownership including the tree from where the branch fell and as such it is the resident’s responsibility to maintain their trees. The majority of trees in this area also carry Tree Preservation Orders. Trees along the highway will receive periodic checks by the highway inspector as part of their highway inspection programme.</b></p> <p><b>Unless the trees in private ownership pose a specific threat to the highway i.e. dead, in-decline or have severe over-hang by way of interfering with public access or traffic movement the council can only advise the private tree owners on having them surveyed/checked every 12/18 months for abnormalities by a competent arboriculturist.</b></p> <p><b>There is also a number of Council owned trees growing on the elevated grass verge on Ringley Road which have been recently inspected. 4 of these trees will receive routine pruning in autumn.</b></p>
18	<b>Lib Dem</b>	On 20 July 2017 this Council unanimously adopted a resolution which committed the Council to undertake "an all-party piece of work, involving Officers and Members, with outside support as appropriate, to ensure that the Council has an appropriate culture of working at senior levels in the Authority, which reflects the highest standards for public office and public service." Could the Leader update members on this piece of work? <b>Cllr Pickstone</b>
	<b>Cllr Kelly</b>	<b>The all-party piece of work on culture within the organisation of the Council has been scoped and a proposal obtained. The Chief Executive has reviewed the proposal and is of view that this work would be most valuable if deployed after a corporate review of the organisation planned for later this year. This will allow the work to be part of a wider improvement plan for the organisation as a whole.</b>
19	<b>Labour</b>	Can the leader tell me how many people with Learning Disabilities have been helped into employment by Bury Employment and Support Team in the last 12 months and how this compares to other boroughs? <b>Cllr</b>

		<b>Preston</b>
	<b>Cllr Shori</b>	<p><b>The service is well known for outstanding results and professionalism, offering high quality support to those with a learning disability. The relationship with the Learning Disability Social Work team is essential; they play a key role in referrals to the service and enabling their customers to access the employment support offered by BEST, in turn becoming less dependent on social care funding.</b></p> <p><b>Social Worker’s identify young people and adults with a learning disability who it is felt have the potential to be supported into employment. Alongside this, they may work on other areas of development for these customers, such as building independence and life skills, which BEST support. Funding is usually secured through a Personal Budget which is regularly reviewed – initially 6-8 weeks and then at least annually to ensure that all learning goals have been met and progression been made.</b></p> <p><b>Each customer has a profile to identify strengths and support needs and what is realistically achievable. This is followed by a bespoke individual Development Plan which details specific, measurable, achievable goals which are regularly reviewed. The service is customer led and support packages tailored to individual needs and wants.</b></p> <p><b>Services BEST can provide include:-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Life skills – baking, cooking, washing etc</b></li> <li>• <b>Horticulture</b></li> <li>• <b>Café skills/customer service</b></li> <li>• <b>Confidence building</b></li> <li>• <b>Individualised work search, CV preparation, interview skills etc.</b></li> <li>• <b>Supported work placements</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Once employed the person with learning disabilities and their employers are offered ‘In Work’ support to ensure the continued success of the placement.</b></p> <p><b>Bury is 4<sup>th</sup> in Greater Manchester in relation to this indicator</b></p>
20	<b>Labour</b>	<p>Can the leader tell me the impact of reducing the number of delayed transfers of care with people suffering from mental health conditions? <b>Cllr D Jones</b></p>
	<b>Cllr Tariq</b>	<p><b>On 13th May Bury was categorized the 2nd worse performing authority in the NW region for the number of “days per 100,000 population” for delayed transfers of care .This was puzzling as the</b></p>

**number of Delayed Transfers of Care across the acute hospitals had been significantly reduced over the previous months and it was only when Adult Social Care worked with the CCG and our performance unit that we discovered it was the mental health figures that were the problem as there were 1209 days delayed reported for this service.**

**The first reaction was that there was an error in the figures but on investigation this was found not to be the case. Staff of the Irwell Unit at Fairfield Hospital, run by Pennine Care Foundation Trust, had changed the way they reported these figures to bring them in line with the National Guidance on reporting Delayed Transfers of Care, which say that a patient becomes a delayed transfer within 48 hours of being declared 'Medically Optimised' rather than when a package of care or placement is sourced and a discharge date agreed. This of course meant a huge increase in their reported figures but the Local Authority was never informed as there was no escalation process in place.**

**Once the situation was clarified, the manager of the brokerage team was 'attached' to the Irwell Unit and began to drive down these figures working across health and social care with a particular emphasis on the Community Mental Health Team. The Community Mental Health Team worked on the premise that a patient in hospital was safe and they had concentrated their resources on people with enduring mental ill-health in the community.**

**Using her knowledge of specialist Providers and improved relationships with our own Housing Department/Six Town Housing, appropriate packages of care or placements for people on the Delayed transfer of care list we sourced and over a period of 3 months the number of days delayed had been reduced from the original 1209 to 5!**

**Examples of the benefits for those previously delayed are that one woman had been a delayed transfer for 368 days and is now back in her own Six Town Housing flat supported by a member of Community Mental Health Team; a gentleman delayed for over 200 days has secured a placement in a Supported Living Scheme where staff are supporting him towards greater independence and an elderly gentleman with end-stage dementia, also delayed for over 200 days, has been secured a placement in a specialist EMI**

		<p>nursing home which can manage his challenging behaviour.</p> <p>This is a remarkable achievement and has shown how working in genuine partnership has produced the results that have meant that people who had been delayed inappropriately in hospital for over a year are now in receipt of the right care, in the right place, supported by the right people, rather than occupying a hospital bed which meant those who did require hospitalisation could not access in-patient services.</p> <p>It has also been confirmed that other authorities are continuing to use the old, incorrect reporting mechanisms so Bury's figures looked even worse when compared with these other authorities. This is now being addressed on a GM basis.</p>
21	<b>Labour</b>	<p>I understand the Bury CSP plan is due to expire this year- are there plans to relaunch it? <b>Cllr David Jones</b></p>
	<b>Cllr Tariq</b>	<p><b>As you point out Councillor Jones, the current Community Safety Plan which sets out the approach of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) for tackling crime and making communities safe is due for a refresh.</b></p> <p><b>The CSP have been working on developing a new Plan which will be launched before the end of the year. The new Plan will closely align with the Mayor of Greater Manchester's 'Standing Together' Police &amp; Crime Plan. Each of the priorities we have identified for Bury directly links to one of the three over-arching goals identified in the Standing Together Plan:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. To keep people safe - for those who live, work, socialise and travel in Greater Manchester, as well as protecting those who are vulnerable.</b></li> <li><b>2. To reduce harm and offending – preventing anti-social and criminal behaviour by intervening earlier and rehabilitating offenders.</b></li> <li><b>3. To strengthen communities and places – by helping to build resilient communities and strengthening the delivery of public assets</b></li> </ol> <p><b>Delivery will be via an Action Plan developed through the Community Safety Partnership which will set out what each of the following Partnership Task and Finish Groups will have to achieve:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>• Reducing Re-offending Group</b></li> <li><b>• Organised Crime Group</b></li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>DVA Strategic Group</b></li> <li>• <b>Hate Crime Forum</b></li> <li>• <b>Joint Engagement Team</b></li> <li>• <b>Prevent Steering Group</b></li> </ul> <p><b>The Community Safety Partnership will ultimately co-ordinate delivery, bring partners together and identify resources and skills in order to achieve the best possible outcomes.</b></p> <p><b>As Cabinet Member for Communities &amp; Safer Neighbourhoods I have been involved in the development of this Plan and know that it will make a difference to the people of Bury.</b></p>
22	<b>Lib Dem</b>	<p>A previous resolution of this Council agreed that the Council undertake an audit on the use of single use plastics in the council. Could the Leader update members on the outcome of this audit and what changes have been made and what substitutes for single use plastics have been made? <b>Cllr S Wright</b></p>
	<b>Cllr Quinn</b>	<p><b>The original Council motion committed the Council to undertaking an audit, within existing resources, of single use plastics used by the Authority and to seek to replace with sustainable alternatives where possible.</b></p> <p><b>The Waste Management service has been tasked with undertaking the audit but due to a staffing reduction within the team the audit has not yet been fully completed.</b></p> <p><b>Work done so far includes an audit of waste and recycling bins at 3KP, the Town Hall and Bradley Fold Depot as part of introducing a comprehensive office waste recycling scheme which has revealed that most single-use plastics are either placed in the residual waste bins or mixed recycling (blue) bins.</b></p> <p><b>A range items discarded were identified, therefore a questionnaire has been drawn up and is being circulated to all services within the Council, which seeks to identify single use plastics being used across the Authority. It attempts to quantify usage and asks if this could be reduced or even eliminated and if more sustainable alternatives exist.</b></p>
23	<b>Lib Dem</b>	<p>Could the Leader inform members what the process is, if any, for evicting Asylum Seekers in accommodation contracted from private providers in the Borough? How many such expulsions have been made and what after</p>

		<p>care exists to ensure people are not homeless?</p> <p><b>Cllr D’Albert</b></p>												
	<b>Cllr O’Brien</b>	<p><b>I am pleased to advise Council that the work we have done on supporting asylum seekers and refugees has been recognised nationally. We have been recently nominated for a national award.</b></p> <p><b>There are well developed links with Serco who accommodated asylum seekers under a contract with the Home Office. The Regional Strategic Migration Partnership works across the region to manage the process.</b></p> <p><b>As this is managed by the private sector, I cannot provide figures on the numbers leaving their accommodation but I can advise that the number of asylum seekers is around 500 at any one time.</b></p> <p><b>Our relationship with Serco is very positive and we work with them very closely in terms of supporting those that have leave to remain and may require homeless assistance.</b></p> <p><b>We are working across the region on a protocol with Serco to ensure that we support people.</b></p> <p><b>I am sure you will agree that we support all residents of the borough at the point they become homeless.</b></p> <p><b>Having met asylum seekers both in the UK and abroad I am shocked at the horrific experiences they face and I am proud of the services that we provide to all those that need homeless assistance.</b></p>												
24	<b>Lib Dem</b>	<p>Could the Leader update members on the number of secondary school children in Bury who are taught in classes of more than 30 children, and how this compares to previous years?</p> <p><b>Cllr S Wright</b></p>												
	<b>Cllr Cathcart</b>	<p><b>Thank you for your question Councillor Wright. Obviously due to the statistical nature of the question, I don’t want to read out a list of comparative figures for all secondary schools over the last 3 years. I am happy to provide the detailed figures to you in table form.</b></p> <p><b>Table for info:</b></p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2016</th> <th>2017</th> <th>2018</th> <th>2018</th> <th>2018</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>School name</td> <td>No. of classes</td> <td>No. of classes</td> <td>No. of classes</td> <td>2018 - size and</td> <td>Total no. of pupils taught in</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		2016	2017	2018	2018	2018	School name	No. of classes	No. of classes	No. of classes	2018 - size and	Total no. of pupils taught in
	2016	2017	2018	2018	2018									
School name	No. of classes	No. of classes	No. of classes	2018 - size and	Total no. of pupils taught in									

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			exceeding 30	exceeding 30	exceeding 30	no. of classes exceeding 30	classes exceeding 30
		Broad Oak Sports College	0	1	0		
		Bury Church of England High School	1	2	5	4 classes of 31 (124), 1 class of 32 (32)	156
		Castlebrook High School	3	2	0		
		Parrenthorn High School	4	6	8	3 x classes of 31 (93), 2 x classes of 32 (64), 3 x classes of 33 (99)	256
		Prestwich Arts College	1	0	1	1 x class of 32 (32)	32
		Philips High School	2	0	2	2 x classes of 31(62)	62
		St Gabriel's RC High School	3	7	5	2 x classes of 31(62), 2 x classes of 32 (64), 1 x class of 33(33)	159
		St Monica's RC High School	6	11	13	10 x classes of 31 (310), 1 x class of 32(32), 2 x classes of 33 (99)	441
		The Derby High School	3	5	7	7 x classes of 32 (224)	224
		The Elton High School	0	8	10	2 x classes of 31 (62), 4 x classes of 32 (128), 2 x	324



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		<p><b>A new lease is to be completed imminently and so the rent is currently the subject of commercial confidentiality.</b></p> <p><b>The acquisition cost of this property was £1,010,000</b></p>
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