

Q.	Party	Question
1.	Conservative	<p>Would the Leader please comment on the consideration given to the petition, presented to Council following the consultation on the previous draft of the GMSF on the site identified at Walshaw Brook and how this influenced the revised GMSF proposals? <b>Cllr I.Gartside</b></p>
A	Cllr O'Brien	<p><b>Members will be aware that 27,000 comments were received during consultation on the first draft of the GMSF and these, including the concerns raised by the signatories of the Walshaw petition, have been carefully considered in drawing up the second draft of the plan.</b></p> <p><b>While we fully acknowledge the concerns raised to the Walshaw site, we need to balance these concerns against the need to find enough land to meet Government-imposed targets for new housing.</b></p> <p><b>May I add that the Government has chosen to ignore its own latest household projections and instead required local authorities to achieve much higher housing targets derived from previous projections, simply because these are more in line with its own national housing targets!</b></p> <p><b>The Government's methodology gives Bury a target of 11,500 houses over the plan period but I am pleased to say that, in developing the second draft of the GMSF, we have worked hard to secure a significantly reduced requirement for 9,500 houses in Bury. We have achieved this by successfully negotiating with our colleagues for some of our housing needs to be met by other GM districts.</b></p> <p><b>We remain fully committed to prioritising the redevelopment of our brownfield sites. However, the simple fact is that we do not have enough of these sites to even meet the reduced requirement for 9,500 houses. Regrettably, therefore, we have no other option but to look at land currently designated as Green Belt in order to meet our Government-imposed housing requirement.</b></p> <p><b>Nevertheless, our success in negotiating a reduced housing requirement for Bury has helped us to propose a 41 % reduction in the loss of Green Belt compared to what was intended in the first draft of the GMSF. This includes retaining a significant part of the Walshaw site as Green Belt.</b></p> <p><b>Importantly, in area terms, Bury is proposing the <u>largest reduction in Green Belt release across the conurbation</u> – with over 20% of Greater Manchester's reduction in Green Belt land release coming from this Borough. <u>So, just as an example, we are</u></b></p>

		<b><u>proposing to retain three and a half times more Green Belt land in Bury than Bolton in this revised draft.</u></b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Labour</b>	Can the Leader of the Council outline how residents will be consulted on the latest draft of the GMSF? <b>Councillor Bayley</b>
	<b>Councillor O'Brien</b>	<p><b>The second draft of the GMSF was approved by the Mayor of Greater Manchester and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority last Friday and an eight-week consultation period will now run from 21<sup>st</sup> January to 18 March.</b></p> <p><b>The GMSF identifies opportunities for job growth and new housing in Bury and will be hugely important for the future prosperity of the Borough and its residents. Because of this, it is vital that consultation on the GMSF is both comprehensive and effective.</b></p> <p><b>The GMCA will be undertaking GM-wide consultation and producing publicity material of its own but, in addition, we will be widely publicising the GMSF across Bury so that residents and stakeholders are fully informed and absolutely clear what the GMSF proposes for our Borough.</b></p> <p><b>As promised, we have sent out letters to each of our 84,000 households, informing all residents of the GMSF and setting out what it means for the Borough and for their specific area.</b></p> <p><b>During the consultation period, we will be hosting six drop-in sessions to give everyone the chance to view the proposals and discuss these in detail with Council officers.</b></p> <p><b>Copies of the GMSF will be available for inspection in the Borough's libraries and the Tottington Centre, and in the reception areas of Bury Town Hall and the planning offices at Knowsley Place.</b></p> <p><b>We have already issued a huge amount of information through the local press and media, and on the council's social media channels, and will continue to do so throughout the consultation process.</b></p> <p><b>In addition, we have detailed maps and information on our web pages, including a comprehensive list of Frequently Asked Questions setting what the GMSF means for Bury, which we will update if additional queries are raised.</b></p>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Labour</b>	Can the leader update the Council on the progress of the Prestwich Town centre challenge? <b>Councillor Bayley</b>

	<p><b>Councillor Shori</b></p>	<p><b>Members will be aware that Prestwich has been chosen as a location for the Mayor of Greater Manchester’s Town Centre Challenge. As such, we are working to deliver a major redevelopment of Prestwich Village centre, in partnership with the GMCA.</b></p> <p><b>We envisage an exciting mixed-use development which may include new shops, restaurants, a council hub, a food hall, cinema and high quality apartments. Other key components are a Wellbeing Village, which would incorporate ‘later life’ residential accommodation with leisure and spa facilities, plus a new ‘state of the art’ health centre.</b></p> <p><b>Work is currently under way to ensure that the scheme is commercially viable and a funding package, potentially including significant investment from the GM Combined Authority, is being developed.</b></p>																								
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Conservative</b></p>	<p>Would the Leader confirm how many applications for second grey bins have been refused by the Council? <b>Councillor D.Silbiger</b></p>																								
	<p><b>Cllr Quinn</b></p>	<p><b>Since 2016, we have received 604 applications for a second grey bin. 467 have been approved, 137 declined.</b></p> <p><b>Any household can apply for a second grey bin. To be successful, they must demonstrate that they are recycling everything they can in their 3 recycling bins. This will be assessed by a recycling officer who will visit their household and carry out a waste audit. We can supply residents with extra blue and green bins to help them recycle.</b></p> <p><b>Annual figures for info:</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="419 1339 1385 1603"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="4"><b>ADDITIONAL GREY BIN APPLICATIONS RECEIVED</b></th> </tr> <tr> <th><b>YEAR</b></th> <th><b>RECEIVED</b></th> <th><b>APPROVED</b></th> <th><b>DECLINED</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2016</td> <td>210</td> <td>169</td> <td>41</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017</td> <td>199</td> <td>155</td> <td>44</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018</td> <td>195</td> <td>143</td> <td>52</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>ADDITIONAL GREY BIN APPLICATIONS RECEIVED</b>				<b>YEAR</b>	<b>RECEIVED</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>	<b>DECLINED</b>	2016	210	169	41	2017	199	155	44	2018	195	143	52	2019	0	0	0
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<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Labour</b></p>	<p>In 2018 it was announced that there would be a social capital fund which communities would be able to bid into, please could an update be provided on this? <b>Councillor Cathcart</b></p>																								
	<p><b>Cllr Tariq</b></p>	<p><b>Bury Council, in conjunction with the Leader of the Council, Councillor Rishi Shori, allocated £600,000 to communities to fund social capital projects (nominally £100,000 per Township).</b></p> <p><b>We believe that local people know their own communities best, and know what will make a real difference in their neighbourhood. This will further devolve power and decision making to local people, putting them at the heart of everything</b></p>																								

		<p><b>we do.</b></p> <p><b>There was a huge amount of interest in the funding, and we received applications from a number of fantastic, local projects aimed at improving the lives of people across Bury. Following an initial scoring process, a shortlist of projects was produced which then went to a panel on 18 December for final decision. I am pleased to report that 23 innovative projects were either fully or partly funded and we look forward to seeing the tangible impact that these many and varied projects will make to the people of Bury.</b></p> <p><b>I can confirm that the Social Capital Fund will run for two more years and information will be made available for the 2019/20 round of funding in the near future.</b></p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Labour</b></p>	<p>Can the Leader please provide the Council with an update of how Bury as a system is performing with winter pressures? <b>Councillor Preston</b></p>
	<p><b>CLlr Simpson</b></p>	<p><b>Planning to meet the pressures expected over the winter months began in Bury at the beginning of August with all partner organisations represented. Analysis of what had worked well the previous year and what required improvement was undertaken and new ideas explored to assist the Acute hospitals during their busiest times. A formal plan was produced, report on to the North East Sector Urgent Care Board where it was felt Bury's arrangements were robust and an exemplar for other authorities.</b></p> <p><b>The winter Panning group continued to meet weekly at Killelea and plans were seen as dynamic, changing to reflect the changes in admission rates, acuity of patients etc. Bury Adult Care Services were represented at these meetings by either the Head of Service responsible for the hospital Integrated Discharge Team and Choices for Living Well or the Interim Assistant Director for Adult social Care Operations.</b></p> <p><b>New Discharge to Assess, known as D2A beds were commissioned at Heathlands in a newly refurbished unit where all nursing care could be provided, and final assessments undertaken by the D2A team on one site. 12 beds were originally blocked purchased, with an option to increase to 19 if demand increased.</b></p> <p><b>Fairfield General have, since the end of November experienced unprecedented levels of attendances at A&amp;E resulting in much higher rates of admissions to their beds which has increased pressures on the Integrated Discharge Team to increase the number of discharges. The team have been pivotal in ensuring that people are discharged when they are not only 'medically optimised' but their onward destination is appropriate and safe. They have focused on the needs of the person in the bed not just the need to release the bed.</b></p> <p><b>Acuity of patients has been extremely high and some very poorly</b></p>

		<p><b>people have been transferred to Bealeys community hospital to continue their treatment and recovery and Killelea have been praised for their flexible approach to receiving patients ready to be discharged. Without the support from Bury council services the hospital could not cope. There have been higher than normal ambulance attendances at Fairfield with 98 Ambulance conveyances on one day, a number higher than at North Manchester General Hospital</b></p> <p><b>We continue to work to support the system and over the last 2 weeks have supported the twice daily silver command meetings held at the hospital where plans have been made for the discharge of each patient deemed Medically Optimised or fit for discharge. The situation is not abating but plans are in train to use the extra Winter Planning monies granted by the Department of Health in November to support increases in IDT staffing, the purchase of more D2A capacity and the creation of a Trusted Assessor role to decrease the time taken for providers to come to the hospital to assess patients.</b></p>
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Conservative</b></p>	<p>How can housing need be assessed accurately for 20 years in the future and would the Leader confirm how the GMSF provides for the affordable starter homes which are needed within the Borough? <b>Cllr. J.Harris</b></p>
	<p><b>Cllr O'Brien</b></p>	<p><b>The National Planning Policy Framework requires strategic planning policies, including those that identify housing needs, to look ahead over a <u>minimum</u> 15 year period from the date the plan is adopted. The GMSF is planning to cover a period which fully reflects Government policy.</b></p> <p><b>It is essential that we have a long-term plan in order to provide certainty and to enable us to manage growth and development effectively, ensuring that it takes place in sustainable locations that can take advantage of existing, and opportunities for new, infrastructure.</b></p> <p><b>Without a long-term plan, we would not be able to manage growth and all of the Borough's Green Belt would effectively be subject to an uncontrollable 'free for all'. There are numerous examples up and down the country of developers trying to take advantage of uncertainty and targeting Green Belt land. Indeed, it is only in the last couple of weeks that a Government-appointed Planning Inspector has allowed a proposal for housing development on Green Belt land in Tunbridge and Malling simply because the district was unable to demonstrate that it had a five-year supply of land for housing.</b></p> <p><b>Increasing the delivery of affordable housing across the Borough</b></p>

		<p><b>is a high priority and is fully engrained in the GMSF. The GMSF aims to deliver at least 50,000 new affordable homes across Greater Manchester.</b></p> <p><b>We will play a role in delivering this aim and we are proposing to include a policy within our own Local Plan that requires at least 25% of new homes to be genuinely affordable for our residents.</b></p> <p><b>The GMSF is supported by a suite of other documents, including the Greater Manchester Vision for Housing, which seeks to address the housing crisis in the conurbation. The key aim is to support the delivery of safe, decent and affordable homes as a priority for Greater Manchester.</b></p>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<p>Could the Leader bring us up to date with the proposals to site 3G pitches in Bury? <b>Councillor Cummings</b></p>
	<b>Cllr Quinn</b>	<p><b>We are at the final stage of drafting a new playing pitch strategy, in partnership with sports governing bodies and local outdoor sports organisations.</b></p> <p><b>This will include plans to develop full size all-weather 3G pitches in partnership with the Lancashire Football Association and Football Foundation. Bury has been identified by the Lancs FA as a priority for funding, subject to meeting the criteria for investment and sustainability.</b></p> <p><b>Third Generation (3G) artificial football pitches are the latest development in synthetic grass surface. They are constructed on a firm base, with long pile artificial grass filled with sand and rubber crumb.</b></p> <p><b>Following a feasibility study of locations, 2 sites will now be taken forward - Goshen Playing Fields, where a planning application has now been submitted, and at Elton High School, where a planning application will be submitted in February.</b></p> <p><b>Any more 3G football pitches after the two now brought forward will depend on securing external funding and developing a robust business case.</b></p>
<b>9.</b>	<b>L.Dem</b>	<p>Could the Leader inform members what percentage of green belt land is proposed to be removed in the current GMSF proposals, in each of the six 'Township' areas? <b>Councillor S Wright</b></p>
	<b>Cllr O'brien</b>	<p><b>I can confirm that around 713 hectares of Green Belt land is proposed to be released across the Borough. This equates to 12% of the Borough's Green Belt, which is a significant reduction from the 20% proposed in the first draft. Even with the proposals, over 52 % of the Borough would remain protected as</b></p>

**Green Belt – which would still be one of the highest across Greater Manchester – with only Rochdale and Wigan having more. This is much higher than the Greater Manchester average of 45% and the Borough would be only one of four districts with over half of their area continued to be protected as Green Belt.**

**Across Greater Manchester, the revised GMSF reduces the amount of Green Belt release by 2,458 hectares. 495 hectares, or 20% of this reduction has been here in Bury. In area terms, this is the largest reduction of Green Belt land in all of the districts.**

**We are proposing to remove some sites entirely and retaining large parts of land as Green Belt on the sites that do remain. On top of this, we are also proposing to introduce new Green Belt areas on land that currently does not have this status.**

**This means that we are proposing a net reduction of Green Belt release by 41% from the first draft.**

**The selection of the sites that do remain have largely been governed by a Greater Manchester methodology that has been applied across the conurbation. This approach primarily seeks to release land in the most sustainable locations, where there are the greatest opportunities to provide new or improved infrastructure – such as roads, public transport and schools. This is in line with national planning policy**

**In addition, the approach also seeks to address the current imbalance that exists between the north and the south of the conurbation. The GMSF, along with its associated documents seeks to do this by boosting the competitiveness of the northern districts by providing opportunities for significant investment in jobs and infrastructure. This includes the proposals at the Northern Gateway, which will provide an opportunity for over 25,000 new jobs on our doorstep. This is a deliberate policy intervention aimed at tackling the inequalities that currently exist across Greater Manchester and the approach is fully supported by the ten districts and the Mayor.**

**It is for these reasons that the release of Green Belt land within the Borough is heavily focused within the townships that have the best opportunities to exploit opportunities for infrastructure improvements and boosting northern competitiveness.**

**It is proposed that the Green Belt in the Whitefield and Unsworth Township would be reduced by 35%, largely because of the proposed employment opportunity here as part of the Northern**

		<p><b>Gateway. If that was removed, the Green Belt reduction would fall to 8%. The Green Belt in the township of Prestwich would be reduced by 37%, as a result of the residential proposals around Simister. However, this needs to be put in the context that around a quarter of the Green Belt being released in this area has already been developed on - including the village of Simister itself and the M62 motorway.</b></p> <p><b>Radcliffe follows with around 11% Green Belt release and Ramsbottom, Tottington and North Manor loses less than 1% of its Green Belt.</b></p> <p><b>There are actual net gains in Green Belt coverage of 2% in Bury East and 6% in Bury West, due to the proposals to add land to the Green Belt.</b></p>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<p>Can the Leader give us details of the itree survey carried out by City of Trees on behalf of Bury Council? <b>Councillor Preston</b></p>
	<b>Cllr Quinn</b>	<p><b>Yes, I can. The survey revealed that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The most common species are English Oak, Hawthorn and Sycamore.</b></li> <li>• <b>Ash makes up 8% of the population but Ash are under threat from Chalara (Ash Die Back)</b></li> <li>• <b>The trees remove 5,120 tonnes of carbon per year</b></li> <li>• <b>They also remove 70 tonnes of pollutants and soak up 137,810 cubic metres of rainwater.</b></li> <li>• <b>The financial benefits of our trees is £2,807,270 per annum.</b></li> <li>• <b>The best species for carbon storage, pollution removal and water sequestration are English Oak, Sycamore and Beech.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>(Supplementary info)</b>  <b>The values are derived by taking exact measurements from a sample of the borough's trees and the data fed through a sophisticated model. Tree numbers also compare well with the audit that was carried out in 2010</b></p> <p><b>Financial benefit only reflects the avoided cost in terms of carbon storage, particulate capture and processing surface water runoff.</b></p>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	<p>The GMSF identifies various infrastructure projects that will be required for the proposed large scale development to be sustainable. Who will pay for these and how much will the various link roads, new schools and other schemes cost? <b>Cllr J.Daly</b></p>
	<b>Cllr O'Brien</b>	<p><b>The GMSF and supporting documents identify a range of</b></p>

		<p><b>infrastructure that will be required to support the new development proposals such as new public transport, roads, cycleways, schools, health care and recreation provision.</b></p> <p><b>These requirements will be embedded within the statutory planning policies contained in the GMSF for each of the proposed development sites.</b></p> <p><b>The role of the GMSF is to establish the principle of development on land. Planning applications will be required to determine the exact layouts on individual sites. However, these planning applications will only be approved if they comply with the policy requirements and planning conditions, and legal agreements will ensure that they will need to be implemented as part of the development.</b></p> <p><b>It is too early to provide details of the full costs of the required infrastructure as this will depend on the detail and timing of when developments come forward.</b></p> <p><b>In terms of who pays – there will continue to be national and sub-regional funding available to help provide new or improved infrastructure, that may or may not be secured on the proposed sites. Much of this is set out in the Greater Manchester Infrastructure Framework and the 2040 Transport Delivery Plan, which provide more detail on the approach to delivering various infrastructure investment over the coming years.</b></p> <p><b>However, where these are not secured, the expectation is that the developers of the sites will provide infrastructure requirements on these sites in order to ensure that their proposals are compatible with policies set out in the GMSF.</b></p>
<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>Labour</b></p>	<p>'Since the appointment of the AD Education &amp; Inclusion, can the leader please provide an update on the work within the Children and Young People's Department?' <b>Councillor J Walker</b></p>
	<p><b>Cllr Briggs</b></p>	<p><b>Cabinet considered and approved a report on the changing educational landscape during the summer. The report also outlined the changing accountability framework for school improvement, including the changing role of the local authority, moving away from the traditional role of school improvement, to a greater focus on the performance of schools, providing challenge where necessary, and quality assuring the improvement arrangements put in place by others.</b></p> <p><b>Following this, School Governance Arrangements Guidance was shared with schools in December to enable Governing Bodies to have the necessary discussions and make informed decisions about future leadership and governance arrangements was circulated to schools</b></p>

		<p><b>in December 2018.</b></p> <p><b>We have developed a new risk assessment process to assess each school and academy performance, and to enable appropriate support and intervention to be brokered for school leaders and governors, and to mitigate future risks of further decline in standards.</b></p> <p><b>A feature of this risk assessment process has been the creation of a 'School on a page' which sets out a comprehensive picture of each schools performance against a range of measures.</b></p> <p><b>Alongside this, we have provided each Councillor with a Ward Education profile, setting out clearly the performance of schools at electoral ward level.</b></p> <p><b>In supporting school governors, this month we are launching six new specialist governor training programmes themed in line with our six priority focus areas for improving educational outcomes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>• disadvantaged</b></li> <li><b>• special educational needs</b></li> <li><b>• inclusion</b></li> <li><b>• school readiness</b></li> <li><b>• achievement</b></li> <li><b>• curriculum</b></li> </ul> <p><b>In addition to this, Bury Governors Association in partnership with the local authority, has entered a new partnership with Bury2gether (Parent Forum) to create a parent forum in every school.</b></p> <p><b>We have already experienced success in reducing the number of Permanent Exclusions (there were none in the autumn term), and significantly reduced out of borough placements and so keeping children in our Bury schools and academies.</b></p> <p><b>Our secondary schools and colleges are also working more collaboratively to design better curriculum programmes and pathways for students, to enable them to benefit from a wider range of options and choices to secure their life chances.</b></p> <p><b>Alongside this, we have secured the substantive appointment of the Executive Director for Children's Services who is leading on our Public Sector Reform and Transformation programmes in Early Help, whilst also leading on service redesign and review to ensure our services are re-engineered to deliver integrated, high quality and sustainable solutions and services for children and families.</b></p>
<p><b>13.</b></p>	<p><b>Labour</b></p>	<p>As part of the Greater Manchester Learning Disability Strategy, 10 priorities were identified which should be implemented by Local Authorities, one priority is that people with an LD and/ family members are represented on a number of working groups within the LD and Autism Programme governance. Can the leader tell me what we are doing in Bury to ensure the voice of people with a learning disability and their</p>

		families is heard and helps shape our services? <b>Councillor Leach</b>
	<b>Councillor Simpson</b>	<p><b>The GMCA’s Health and Care Board approved a new Greater Manchester Learning Disability Strategy on 13 July 2018. This was written BY people with learning disabilities FOR people with learning disabilities, who also identified the 10 priorities in the strategy.</b></p> <p><b>In Bury, we have refreshed our Learning Disability Strategy to ensure it is aligned with GM and reflects current local priorities.</b></p> <p><b>A Bury Learning Disability Delivery Group has been established to implement the Bury Learning Disability Strategy.</b></p> <p><b>Involving people with learning disabilities is vital. However, engagement work will only be effective if it is adapted to people’s individual needs. Therefore we are planning a new approach and are setting up a Co-production Network.</b></p> <p><b>The Network will enable those with learning disabilities and their family/carers to work more closely with us. Workshops will be held in community venues, which will be accessible, informal and flexible, with the first event to be held in the spring.</b></p> <p><b>The Network will work with the officer group to improve service planning, commissioning, and decision-making for learning disability.</b></p>
<b>14.</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	<p>Would the Leader confirm the time limit for spending section 106 contributions, whether the Council are in breach of this in respect of any payments and whether any monies have had to be repaid to developers as a result of such delay? <b>Cllr J.Harris</b></p>
	<b>Cllr O’Brien</b>	<p><b>Each Section 106 Agreement sets out any time limit for contributions. For the most part, recreation contributions must be committed to projects within 5 years of receipt, and affordable housing and employment contributions must be committed within 10 years of receipt.</b></p> <p><b>The council is not in a position of having to repay any contributions as a result of breaching the time limit for committing contributions for expenditure, and has not had to repay any contributions to developers as a result of delay in spending or committing. We do not anticipate this changing in future.</b></p>
<b>15.</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<p>Can the Leader of the Council please update us on the Local Government Finance Settlement released last month? <b>Councillor Rafiq</b></p>

	<p><b>Cllr O'Brien</b></p>	<p><b>The Settlement was finally released on the 13<sup>th</sup> December after being delayed due to the Brexit debacle.</b></p> <p><b>The core element of the settlement remained unchanged, in line with the four year settlement the Council has been working towards.</b></p> <p><b>This means that the inequities in the needs assessment are perpetuated, and for another year Bury will get a particularly raw deal.</b></p> <p><b>Additional funds announced in the Chancellor's budget for Social Care were confirmed, but once again it is a case of too little and too late. The Council stands to receive £1.4m against current demand pressures of £8m.</b></p> <p><b>There were also minor changes to the New Homes Bonus – however these were funded from within the settlement so do not represent additional funding.</b></p> <p><b>We also received further information about the Government's Fair Funding Review which we will be analysing in detail, and responding to the consultation exercise next month.</b></p> <p><b>Setting the 2019/20 budget will be a very challenging exercise given reduced levels of funding and relentless demand pressures.</b></p> <p><b>Members can be assured that this has my full attention, and that of Cabinet colleagues as we prepare the budget for approval next month.</b></p>
<p><b>16.</b></p>	<p><b>Labour</b></p>	<p>How is the Adult Learning Service supporting people who have basic skills needs in order to help them improve their employment prospects and/or integrate into their local community? <b>Cllr D Jones</b></p>
	<p><b>Cllr Tariq</b></p>	<p><b>In 2017/18 the Adult Learning Service had 1,476 enrolments on courses leading to a qualification and 458 enrolments on non-accredited courses in English, Maths, English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL) and ICT. Some learners gained qualifications in more than one subject area. Non-accredited courses included Jobsearch and ICT skills to complete online job applications.</b></p> <p><b>A large proportion of learners came from more disadvantaged</b></p>

		<p><b>areas of the borough including Bury East and Radcliffe. Some courses were delivered in community venues and in partnership with community organisations such as ADAB who works with partners to improve the economic, educational, social and cultural conditions of people from minority ethnic groups, The Attic Project working with the local community to help people find work and engage socially with each other and Children’s Centres as part of their offer to parents with children 0-5. Evidence shows that learners are not only progressing into further learning, work and volunteering as a result of attending courses but they are also acquiring some of the ‘softer’ skills including increased confidence, the ability to learn more independently or help in their local community. 558 learners responded when contacted 6 months after completing a course of which 27% had secured work and 17% had started volunteering.</b></p> <p><b>Since September, 274 people have enrolled onto ESOL courses, 234 on ICT/Job search, 165 English and 137 maths.</b></p>
<p><b>17.</b></p>	<p><b>L.Dem</b></p>	<p>Could the Leader of the Council inform members what work the Council is undertaking to identify, and to reduce, levels of loneliness in older people? <b>Cllr D’Albert</b></p>
	<p><b>Cllr Simpson</b></p>	<p><b>We have completed our Bury Loneliness and Isolation strategy, which will complement projects under the Friendly Bury banner, dealing with Dementia, Autism, Ageing Well and Carers.</b></p> <p><b>Action plans are being developed for each of these themes and consultation on their design will begin in March with our health and social care partners, the VCFA and local community groups.</b></p> <p><b>The Loneliness and Isolation project group will take this work forward. The group is led by the Cabinet Member for Communities and Wellbeing and includes representatives from Bury Council, Bury CCG, Bury VCFA, Manchester University, Salford University, Groundwork Ambition for Ageing and Loneliness Connects Us All.</b></p> <p><b>We aim to hold a community workshop in Whitefield in early March, followed by a health and social care professionals’ workshop, and bring the results into an action plan.</b></p> <p><b>The workshop will complement a pilot project working with GPs, local organisations and services in Whitefield, Unsworth and Pilkington Park areas, and the results of this could be extended to other parts of Bury.</b></p> <p><b>There are a number of projects and activities already in existence that are aimed at people living with dementia or autism and older people such as peer support groups, Men in Sheds, dementia</b></p>

		<p><b>cafes and Buddy's that have a major impact upon reducing loneliness and social isolation even though this is not their primary focus.</b></p> <p><b>Existing services are promoted on the Bury Directory, increase signposting them there.</b></p>
<b>18</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<p>Can the Leader tell us what Bury Council is doing to promote the use of refillable plastic bottles to cut down on the levels of plastic used in Bury? <b>Councillor Skillen</b></p>
	<b>Cllr Quinn</b>	<p><b>As part of the PlasticFreeGM campaign, which has been launched by Mayor Andy Burnham, the GMCA has been in talks with United Utilities to bring a bottle refill scheme to Greater Manchester. This includes the installation of a number of water fountains across the conurbation.</b></p> <p><b>As a result of this initiative, Bury Council will trial two public water fountains in Prestwich and Whitefield to encourage residents to refill their re-usable bottles instead of buying single-use plastic bottles. These fountains will be paid for by United Utilities.</b></p>
<b>19</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<p>Please can you update on the refreshed Bury Directory and how many hits its getting etc? <b>Cllr Skillen</b></p>
	<b>Cllr Tariq</b>	<p><b>The Bury Directory is Bury's one-stop online information point for advice, activities and services.</b></p> <p><b>The Development Team have been working extremely hard over the last eight months, getting many substantial enhancements/ upgrades completed on the Directory to improve the customer journey.</b></p> <p><b>These include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Making it more user- friendly</b></li> <li>• <b>Improving its 'search' function</b></li> <li>• <b>A new strapline- 'Helping People to Help Themselves'</b></li> <li>• <b>The introduction of Social Media accounts</b></li> <li>• <b>Complete re-categorisation and quality checks of the pages</b></li> <li>• <b>One combined site now instead of separate Children and Adult sites</b></li> </ul> <p><b>The Bury Directory was rebranded and launched the new brand on 24<sup>th</sup> September following consultation with the public, staff and focus groups. Promotional events took place across Bury to promote the new brand and new enhancements, including drop-in sessions for service providers, and on Bury Market, Asda Pilsworth and The Rock. Advertising was placed with Tower FM,</b></p>

		<p>and was promoted during 'Get online week' with Bury Libraries and Bury Adult Learning, and at a Homewatch conference. A newsletter was produced following the relaunch and sent to all staff, providers and the VCFA.</p> <p>Since the launch date of 24<sup>th</sup> September up to the 7<sup>th</sup> January, the Bury Directory has had <u>52,393</u> visits. For the exact same period a year earlier The Bury Directory had 46,765 visits. That equates to an increase of 5,626 visits. This is a <u>12% increase</u> in visits.</p> <p>The Development team have recently set up social media accounts for The Bury Directory and to date, have 935 followers on twitter.</p> <p>In November, the team won an 'Outstanding Achievement' award from iNetwork, who described the Directory as 'nothing short of inspiring!'</p>
20	L.Dem	<p>Could the Leader inform members into what progress the Council has made in relation to the commitments made in the Notice of Motion on School Uniform costs? <b>CLlr S Wright</b></p>
	CLlr Briggs	<p><b>Following the Motion being passed by this Council, a draft policy was agreed by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People who, following consultation with stakeholders in the autumn, will very shortly consider a final draft.</b></p> <p><b>An item will be placed on the agenda of each school Governing Body meeting in the spring term, requesting that the policy be adopted.</b></p>
21	L.Dem	<p>Could the Leader of the Council please inform members now many school crossing patrols are currently not operational, and how many others do not have permanent allocated staff members in place? <b>CLlr Pickstone</b></p>
	CLlr Briggs	<p><b>There are 12 crossing points that do not have a permanent crossing patrol. These are covered using relief/supply staff, who also cover sickness absence, and cover is subject to their availability. To ensure high/medium risk crossing points are covered, permanent staff may be temporarily relocated from lower risk crossing points. Arrangements are reviewed on a daily basis. Where cover cannot be provided schools are notified, and the LA is grateful where, in a number of instances, schools have provided staff to cover.</b></p>
22	L.Dem	<p>Could the Leader inform members on the amount paid out by the authority, and the amount spent on legal costs, for compensation claims as a result of poor road and pavement surfaces, for the last five financial years? <b>CLlr Pickstone</b></p>
	CLlr O'brien	<p><b>The total amounts paid, including legal fees, are:</b></p>

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		<p><b>2013/14 - £1,368,685.62</b></p> <p><b>2014/15 - £1,318,342.88</b></p> <p><b>2015/16 - £1,296,510.66</b></p> <p><b>2016/17 - £1,029,452.87</b></p> <p><b>2017/18 - £1,011,172.66</b></p> <p><b>2018 to 10/01/2019 - £790,402.11</b></p>
<b>23</b>	<b>Lib Dem</b>	<p>Could the Leader of the Council please provide members with current levels of uncollected Council Tax, Business Rates, Commercial Rents and Housing Rents and how these levels compare with the previous three years? <b>Cllr D'Albert</b></p>
	<b>Cllr O'Brien</b>	<p><b>In the last three years the council has raised bills of £445 million for council tax, business rates, commercial rent and housing rents.</b></p> <p><b>The amount outstanding was £10 million, or 2.2%, giving us a collection rate of 97.8%.</b></p> <p><b>Any sums still outstanding will be chased up during the following financial year, as already happens each financial year, and robust debt recovery procedures taken.</b></p> <p><b>Additionally, the Council's newly created Aged Debt Team (which cost £120,000 to set up) has already brought in £730,000 of arrears.</b></p>