

Q.	Party	Question	
1.	Labour Cllr Quinn	Can the Leader provide an update on the substantial investment that is being made in resurfacing roads across our borough?	Councillor Charlotte Morris
		<p>The first £10m tranche of highway maintenance investment is projected to be fully delivered by April 2020, at which point we will have resurfaced approximately 21km of road and repaired in the region of 30,000 potholes over a 3 year period.</p> <p>The Council recently announced a second £10m tranche of highway maintenance investment which will be delivered from April 2020 to March 2023. This investment will be split £4.5m for road resurfacing, £3m for preventative maintenance, such as surface dressing and micro asphalts, and £2.5m for pothole repairs and patching works.</p> <p>Supplementary : Residents in Elton frequently raise the issues of road surfaces with myself and my colleagues Cllr Hayes and Cllr Southworth, notably residents on or around Woodhill Road and Walshaw Road.</p> <p>Am I correct in thinking that while the £10 million that is being invested by Labour in Bury, this local authority has been underfunded to the tune of £40 million thanks to this Conservative government and that if we hadn't been denied this much-needed funding, we could be going further and faster with our road repair programme?</p> <p>Our Highway is valued at roughly £900 million. Based upon recent data, we estimate that the cost to keep the roads alone to the current standard would be approximately £8-12million p.a. The funding that we receive from government falls well below this amount.</p>	
2	Labour Councillor Simpson	Can you leader give me an update on the Coronavirus and if our system is robust enough to deal with lots of health and social care staff being absent at the same time?	Councillor Claire Cummins
		Cobra met on the 12th March and announced that the UK risk level has been raised from medium to high and that the government has moved from the 'Contain' phase of the national coronavirus plan to the 'Delay' stage of the plan. One of the aims of the Delay Phase is to allow more time for the health and social care system to prepare and also to moderate the rate at which people become ill to avoid overwhelming the system. In Bury, preparations and planning for the	

		<p>epidemic are well underway and being coordinated through the Borough Coordinating Group. The health & care system has undertaken scenario testing and is beginning to activate business continuity plans which involve identifying which elements of elective care and non –urgent business can be postponed and how staff can be re-deployed to cover staff sickness in critical areas.</p> <p>In light of a greater understanding of the virus gained during the contain phase, anyone who develop symptoms (high temperature or new continuous cough) now only need to self-isolate on the onset of symptoms and for 7 days (unless they become more ill). This will serve to reduce the level of staff sickness absence overall. This is no doubt going to be a challenging time for our services but all practical steps possible are being taken to manage the situation.</p>	
3	<p>Conservative</p> <p>Cllr Tariq</p>	Does the Leader agree with Ofsted’s Director for the North West that ‘Bury has seen a marked decline in standards over time’?	<p>Councillor Hurst</p>
		<p>I think that the Council would agree that the performance of some schools in recent years, most notably a number of secondary schools, has not been as good as we would expect. The Council is working hard to provide leadership with; school leaders, Governing Bodies and Multi Academy Trusts, supported by school improvement activity drawn from a variety of sources. The Council has brokered support in a number of schools, support which is having an impact in improving outcomes for children and young people. The Council, through its overview and scrutiny committee, has also increased its level of oversight and challenge. All of this is having a positive impact, as illustrated by a number of positive Ofsted inspection outcomes achieved since the start of the current academic year</p>	
4	<p>Labour</p> <p>Cllr Tariq</p>	How is Bury Council and CCG taking forward the co-production of services with parents, carers, young people and children which has been identified as a key priority following Ofsted/CQC visit to Bury and is in our SEND action plan.	
		<p>A Co-Production event is taking place on March 31st with over 70 attendees from parents and young people as well as managers from the local authority and CCG with responsibility for SEND services. The day is run by Rotherham Parent Care Forum which is recognised nationally as a best practice model for co-production of services with parents and children.</p>	

5	Labour Councillor Simpson	Can the leader give an update on the intermediate care consultation and what this means for residents in need of additional support?	Councillor Mortenson
		<p>At present there is no consultation on Intermediate Care.</p> <p>We are currently growing our Intermediate Care Services as part of Bury's plans to transform its health and care services.</p> <p>This transformation will see more people benefit from a service that responds rapidly to urgent health and care need in the community, eventually we expect to see up to 250 people per month benefit from this expanded service. This service has already started, it is already supporting twice as many people as it was last year and continues to grow.</p> <p>We are also setting up a new therapy led intermediate care at home service that will see over 1000 people per year benefit from a short period of occupational and physiotherapy in their own home to support them recover their abilities following illness, we hope this will start in April.</p> <p>We are currently looking at our bed based intermediate care services to make sure we have the right number of beds that are both cost effective and deliver the best outcomes in the best locations.</p> <p>We are currently engaging with people who use our services to hear what they would like from these services and will use this to inform our next set of developments which we will publish for consultation later in the year. We hope to do this in June or July.</p>	
6	Conservative Cllr Quinn	The bus lanes on Bolton Road cause traffic delays, especially during peak times and are infrequently used by buses. Please provide a satisfactory answer as to why numerous requests to suspend these bus lanes for a trial period have never been granted.	Councillor Jackie Harris
		The future of the bus lane is interlinked with the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework process. This process is a large undertaking and the Council previously stated that it will not be in a position to fully determine the role of the A58 bus lane until this work has concluded. It is estimated that this will be around summer 2020.	
7	Labour Councillor Black	Have any of the 60 businesses, who have adopted the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Good Employment Charter, based in Bury?	Councillor Whitby

		<p>There are six registered Supporters of the Charter in the Borough which include Bury Council and Six Town Housing. Bury Council's Economic Development team have supported the development of the GM Good Employment Charter from its inception, consultation and pilot phase. There has been, and will continue to be, ongoing support offered to the Good Employment Unit through our relationships with the Growth Hub. In addition promotion will continue to be shared via our business networks and social media. The GM Good Employment Charter is embedded into all our conversations with our business base through our Bury Means Business brand. Bury Council's dedicated Growth Hub Business Account Manager also promotes and supports the Charter.</p> <p>To further promote the Charter it has been added as an example of good practice within the social value component of the council's procurement process. This means that when requirements are being drawn up there is a prompt to advise the purchaser to consider whether bidders should be required to provide a statement about their organisation's position in relation to the Charter principles. This would be particularly appropriate for the provision of services with a significant labour input. Employers outside of GM are not able to sign up to the Charter, but we can ask them to demonstrate how they support/comply with the main principles.</p>	
8	<p>Labour</p> <p>Cllr O'Brien</p>	<p>Can the Leader give an update on the impact of any Budget announcements for our Council's finances?</p>	<p>Councillor McGill</p>
		<p>Within the chancellor's spring budget announced on 11 March, there were a number of announcements that affect the council's budget. Many of these are at overall headline details and until further detail is received, the impact on Bury is not yet known.</p> <p>Key headlines are: A focus on coronavirus that will see local authorities receive: £500m nationally for a hardship fund. Details to be announced. Temporary funding to support coronavirus including an initial £5bn for the NHS, however no additional funding for Adult Social Care. Additional business rates relief for some businesses.</p> <p>Indication that funding for public services will increase. A comprehensive spending review which will be completed in July 2020 with the expectation of 3 year</p>	

		<p>settlements for revenue and 4 years for capital. This will significantly aid financial planning. As well as published terms of reference for a review of business rates scheme.</p> <p>And funding for potholes - £2.5bn over 5 years</p>	
9	<p>Lib dem</p> <p>Councillor Simpson</p>	<p>The CCG is undertaking the second phase of its review of Urgent Care services over the summer. The first phase of the review has resulted in plans to 'relocate' the Moorgate Walk-In Centre to Fairfield Hospital. Could the leader categorically confirm that Prestwich Walk-In Centre will not be closing or moving following this second phase of the review?</p>	<p>Councillor Pickstone</p>
		<p>There are no current plans to change anything about the Prestwich walk-in centre.</p>	
10	<p>Conservative</p> <p>Cllr Black</p>	<p>Please provide evidence of this council's compliance with our Armed Forces Covenant signed in 2018, and how this has benefited our veterans and servicemen.</p>	<p>Councillor Ian Schofield</p>
		<p>The Armed Forces Covenant brings knowledge, experience and expertise to bear on the provision of help and advice to members of the Armed Forces Community. Having being established as a Community Covenant in 2013 it was re-signed in June 2017. Covenant meetings take place quarterly and through which a number of initiatives and events have been arranged and reported on, benefiting serving military personnel and the Borough's veterans. Examples of this include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A number of Veterans have trained as trainers on the Helping Yourself to Wellbeing course and are now able to deliver courses to fellow veterans and ex-service personnel. - The Borough of Bury Veterans Association have been encouraged to apply and been successful in bids into 'The Pitch' funding for projects to reduce social isolation amongst veterans (including support to encourage public speaking) - Practical support in establishing a veterans community Breakfast Club. - Since re-signing the covenant the Borough has held its first Armed Forces and Veterans Summit including a 'market place' style event to showcase over 40 services, community groups and businesses that provide support. This provided advice and guidance to both veterans but also to public and private sector organisations as to how best to meet the needs 	

		of ex-service personnel.	
11	Labour Cllr Tariq	The Early Help restructure into Localities in October 2019 introduced the "team around the school model", can an update on progress be given?	
		All schools now have a named linked Early Help social worker with "team around the school meetings" being regularly held at schools to discuss children who are showing early signs of struggling and what additional support can be provided. Examples include providing outreach workers to work with teenagers where there are concerns around behaviour or a family support worker helping a parent establish routines and boundaries to support school attendance and punctuality.	
12	Labour Cllr O'Brien	Can the Leader provide the Council with an update on the progress of the development at the former Radcliffe Times building?	Councillor Mortenson
		We expect the 6 refurbished one bed apartments to be handed over by the end of March and the remaining new build units later in the year.	
13	Conservative Cllr Black	Will the Council now reduce Bury Market rents to safeguard the future of Bury Market and traders livelihoods? As the Leader will be aware, retail is struggling everywhere against online shopping and does he agree with me that reducing rents will help safeguard the 2.6 million income that the Council receives in rent from the market?	Councillor Yvonne Wright
		The Council gave serious consideration to the request for rent reductions following a petition received from traders. Whilst we are sympathetic to traders who are struggling, we found no grounds to reduce rents, given the high occupancy levels, record number of coach visits and comparable rents with other local markets with lower footfall than Bury. However there is a rent freeze in place for the 3rd consecutive year which equates to a 6.4% rent reduction, taking inflation into account. The cross party Task Group that was formed have released their report which outlines its finding and proposes the way forward is to invest in the market and wider market area. A research report from Leeds University supports our findings and gives greater insight in to our market which will assist us going forward. Papers will follow in the coming months to	

		secure the future of our World Famous Market and we believe the best way to support traders and safeguard the market for future generations.	
14	Labour Councillor Briggs	Please can an update be provided with regards to Bury's year as Town of Culture	Cllr Cathcart
		<p>The delivery programme for the year has three distinct strands, coming together to be Bury's approach as (six) towns of culture.</p> <p>The first strand is that of the Happy festival, a programme of visual and performing arts inspired by one of Bury's most famous daughters, Victoria Wood. A second strand seeks to celebrate all our towns, people and events. This community culture element will showcase Bury's culture from the visual art, to heritage; reflect on Bury's particular communities and to explore the role culture has on engaging people, on raising confidence and wellbeing. Work is taking place with colleagues across the health system on this.</p> <p>A final strand promotes the strength of the arts organisations across the Borough, highlighting where Bury are leading the way on traditional and contemporary art and performance.</p>	
15	Labour Councillor Briggs	Improving quality of life and wellbeing is central to what the Council does. How is the Voluntary, Community and Faith Alliance (VCFA) in Bury supporting this?	Cllr Tony Cummings
		<p>Bury VCFA and the wider community sector as a whole play a vital role in improving life chances and wellbeing for residents of the Borough. The VCFA provides infrastructure support within our Borough and would be what the newly published Greater Manchester Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise policy position paper would describe as an Local Anchor. It supports the local sector to in turn support our residents – and more than support, to enable and to empower as part of the People Powered Bury initiative which was central to Bury's refreshed Locality Plan.</p> <p>A key way it does this is through the Beacon Service which delivers social prescribing support for health and social care. Social prescribing is non-clinical support, provided by local voluntary, organisations,</p>	

		<p>community and faith groups or charities.</p> <p>The VCFA have played an active role in the development of the emerging Bury 2030 strategy. Bury 2030 will outline the crucial role of the sector for the future of the Borough – in ensuring local people are active, empowered and inspired in taking increasing charge of their wellbeing and happiness, with co-ordinated neighbourhood level support for those who need it most.</p>	
16	<p>Lib Dem</p> <p>Leader</p>	<p>Could the Leader inform members on the proposed timetable for the redevelopment of Prestwich village centre, and when engagement with the public will begin?</p>	<p>Councillor Tegolo</p>
		<p>The council is in the pre-development phase of Prestwich Urban Village (PUV). The main aspect of this work is land assembly. In order for the scheme to progress the council has to acquire the leasehold interest of the Longfield. This means entering into negotiations with the current owners, if an agreement to purchase cannot be made, the council will have to Compulsory Purchase the building. Therefore timescales can significantly vary depending on which route the council enters into.</p> <p>Community engagement is important to get right, and that the correct information is communicated at the right stages of regeneration scheme. A communications plan will be implemented to support community engagement.</p> <p>There is a project officer leading on the regeneration of PUV and is based at Prestwich Library a few times a week to provide informal community engagement until the pre development phase is worked up in more detail</p>	
17	<p>Labour</p> <p>Cllr Tariq</p>	<p>How are the Council supporting the literacy skills of Looked after children and care leavers?</p>	
		<p>As some of you may be aware in collaboration with the Corporate Parenting Champions across the council and CCG we have held campaigns to highlight their needs and raise awareness regarding the role of a Corporate Parent. We have held a Corporate Parenting week and updated training on the role of Corporate Parenting.</p> <p>In addition we have held recent campaigns to co-</p>	

		<p>ordinate donations for luxury items plus toiletries, and sanitary products for our Care Leavers. . Corporate Parenting Champions have been fully on board with the campaign and promoted the collection points across the Council and CCG for donations. These campaigns have been very successful and due to the significant response we have been able to make up additional setting up home packs of cleaning products, toiletries and luxuries for our care leavers for when they move on to their own tenancies</p> <p>In addition we have also committed that £100,000 from our current budget will be spent specifically on care leavers to improve and enhance their lives and also to broaden opportunities for them.</p>	
18	<p>Labour</p> <p>Cllr Tariq</p>	How do Corporate Parents ensure that the needs of our young people are met?	
		<p>There have been recent campaigns for toiletries, sanitary products and luxury items for our Care Leavers. Corporate Parents have collection points across the Council and CCG for donations. We have committed £100,000 from our current budget to be spent on care leavers to improve and enhance the lives of our Care Leavers</p>	
19	<p>Lib Dem</p> <p>Cllr O'Brien</p>	The study, published by the Centre for Ageing Better and Care & Repair England, found that over 4.3 million homes in England don't meet basic standards of decency and that over two million over 55's are living in such houses. What are the figures for Bury in this respect and what is the Council's strategy for improving this?	<p>Councillor S Wright</p>
		<p>The figures for Bury will be highlighted through the Housing Needs Survey and Housing Strategy which will be published in the near future. There are two tenures of properties that fall into this, owner occupied and privately rented. There is no funding to proactively improve standards within the owner occupied sector, unless the property requires a Disabled Facility Grant for example, which are funded by central government and delivered via the councils urban renewal team.</p> <p>In terms of the private rented sector, this sector is regulated at Bury by way of a reactive service via the urban renewal team. The PRS is a growing sector as it provides a housing solution for those who can't get onto the property ladder or for those who move more</p>	

		frequently due to work commitments. The prospect of those renting has also increased to those aged over 55, again due to not being able to afford to buy their own property, the PRS therefore becomes a longer term housing solution, which if well-regulated and managed is a suitable option. The council aim to make sure we regulate the PRS, take enforcement action against non-compliant landlords/letting agents and ultimately drive up standards, to make sure the PRS in Bury is an attractive offer.																													
20	Lib Dem Cllr Quinn	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, in the current and last five financial years?	Councillor M Powell																												
		<p>The £20m additional investment in our highway maintenance is already helping to significantly reduce highway related insurance claims. For example, Highway Insurance claim numbers reduced by over 26% from 2017/18 and 2018/19.</p> <p>We have also achieved significant reductions in the amount spent on highway compensation claims, the cost of claims is down from over £1m in 2016/17 to £324k last year.</p> <p>Details of which are as follows:</p> <table> <tr> <th>Year</th><th>Damages</th><th>TP Cost</th><th>Total</th></tr> <tr> <td>2014/2015</td><td>£834,483.90</td><td>£369,690.42</td><td>£1,204,174.32</td></tr> <tr> <td>2015/2016</td><td>£652,638.11</td><td>£304,614.34</td><td>£957,252.45</td></tr> <tr> <td>2016/2017</td><td>£799,494.96</td><td>£256,698.33</td><td>£1,056,193.29</td></tr> <tr> <td>2017/2018</td><td>£368,144.35</td><td>£108,045.09</td><td>£476,189.44</td></tr> <tr> <td>2018/2019</td><td>£258,005.73</td><td>£65,944.40</td><td>£323,950.13</td></tr> <tr> <td>2019 – to date</td><td>£65,305.92</td><td>£8,414.00</td><td>£73,719.92</td></tr> </table>	Year	Damages	TP Cost	Total	2014/2015	£834,483.90	£369,690.42	£1,204,174.32	2015/2016	£652,638.11	£304,614.34	£957,252.45	2016/2017	£799,494.96	£256,698.33	£1,056,193.29	2017/2018	£368,144.35	£108,045.09	£476,189.44	2018/2019	£258,005.73	£65,944.40	£323,950.13	2019 – to date	£65,305.92	£8,414.00	£73,719.92	
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21	Lib Dem Cllr O'Brien	Could the Leader inform members when the expected publication date is for the next phase of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework, and what is the expected date at which members will be given the opportunity to vote on the framework?	Councillor T Pickstone																												
		It is anticipated that the next version of the GMSF will be taken to the Full Councils of all 10 districts and the AGMA Executive for approval in June this year prior to the commencement of a 12-week period of public consultation in June or July. Any comments raised at this next stage will be submitted to the Secretary of State and considered by an independent, Government-appointed Inspector as part of the formal Examination																													

		of the plan.	
22	Lib Dem Cllr Tariq	<p>Could the Leader update members of the number and proportion of home care visits undertaken within the borough in 2019–20 that were 15 minutes or less, and 5 minutes or less, and how does this compare to previous years?</p>	Councillor M Powell
		<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 2019/20 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>	
23	Lib Dem Cllr Tariq	<p>Recently, the Home Office has confirmed that it doesn't know whose responsibility it will be to apply to EU Settlement Scheme for adults in care. Can the Leader confirm who has the duty of care and who will have to apply for (pre-) settled status for adults in care, and those sectioned under the mental health act, in Bury?</p>	Councillor Tegolo
		<p>At the national EU Settlement Scheme conference at the end of January questions were raised to this effect and the policy officers from the Home Office announced clarification on this topic was being sought and would be provided, which to date it has not. The Council continue to work with our partners at Bolton & Bury Citizens Advice Bureau, who have received national funding to support local people with applications, to keep abreast of the latest</p>	

		<p>announcements of government and ask questions such as this. The current information is that local authorities have a duty of care in terms of applications for children in care and care leavers – the information doesn't specify adults in care. Officers will write to the Home Office to reaffirm the need for this information to confirmed.</p> <p>In the meantime, as part of the council's preparing for Brexit Plans work has taken place to survey all the care providers in the Borough. 3,026 people currently receive care from these providers and of these 19 people have been identified as being EU nationals who need to register. Of these 15 live in Care Homes and we are working with the Care Homes to ensure they help their residents register, 3 others receive Day Care from our Care Company Persona who are working with them to register. One is in receipt of home care from a care agency and our Staying Well Service is assisting this person applying. This support will include linking in with the CAB for any wider support in terms of family member applications. In addition a multi-agency session is taking place at the end of this month to review approaches to targeting support to vulnerable residents across the Borough.</p>	
24	<p>Lib Dem</p> <p>Cllr O'Brien</p>	<p>At last months budget meeting it was announced that no homeless person should have to sleep rough in Bury - could the leader inform us how many homeless there are in the borough of bury and how many beds are available?</p>	<p>Councillor S Wright</p>
		<p>In terms of rough sleepers our single night estimate is 15 and we have 15 beds available locally via the Bury ABEN provision to support our rough sleepers. We also have an agreed protocol to access other ABEN facilities across GM if we are full but we have not needed to instigate this protocol so far and the rough sleeper numbers do fluctuate. In terms of priority need customers as defined by Homelessness legislation and our statutory obligations as a Local Authority we have a further 226 open homeless cases that are currently being supported which are either families or single people. We have a portfolio of 59 properties that are used for temporary accommodation which equates to 188 bed spaces. Not all homeless cases need temporary accommodation.</p>	