

Q	Party	Question
1	Conservative	<p>Could the leader advise on what basis the decision to exclude home and mobile based business from the discretionary funding? Cllr Y Wright</p>
	Cllr O'Brien	<p>The Council have not taken a decision to exclude home workers and mobile based businesses from the Government's discretionary grant funding.</p> <p>The Council have worked within the guidance provided by Government based upon the combined lobbying of LEP areas, Combined Authorities and Councils across the UK.</p> <p>The Council have followed the Governments guidance to support those businesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small and micro businesses, • Businesses with relatively high ongoing fixed property-related costs • Businesses which can demonstrate that they have suffered a significant fall in income due to the COVID-19 crisis • Businesses which occupy property, or part of a property, with a rateable value or annual rent or annual mortgage payments below £51,000. <p>The discretionary grant was developed as a direct result of lobbying to government, something that Bury Council and our neighbours have been doing since this crises began.</p> <p>Collective evidence on the ground identified a gap in support for those businesses with monthly property costs that fell outside of the support through the Small Business Grant and the Retail and Hospitality Grant because they do not have their own rateable value.</p> <p>These businesses still have property related costs to maintain whilst their business is not operating or not operating a full capacity. In addition many of these Bury businesses are employers.</p> <p>Bury's discretionary grant allocation of £1.957 million will not reach all Bury businesses.</p> <p>The decisions that have been taken as we move into phase two and potentially phase 3 have been made to support those sectors that are fundamental to the Bury economy outside of the Small Business Grant and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant.</p> <p>Home workers and mobile based businesses are valued in the Bury economy and it is acknowledge that it is a gap in support. This concern has been shared via our networks and through the GMCA.</p> <p>Note for elected member NB Phase 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisations servicing the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure sector • Retail, Leisure and Hospitality organisations who are marginally over the £51k rateable value threshold • Early Years Providers • Cultural institutions that contribute to town centre footfall and the visitor economy • Those organisations that could have applied for Phase 1 but missed the deadline. <p>Phase 3</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those micro businesses that rent a chair or a room within a health, beauty, male grooming businesses. It is proposed that a grant is allocated to cover the purchase of new stock, marketing materials and fixed rental cost. It is proposed that a one off grant of £1000 is allocated. The applicants would be required to provide evidence of occupancy and continued occupancy. • Those micro businesses that rent storage space in order to run their businesses. It is proposed that a one off grant of £1000 is allocated. The applicants would be required to provide evidence of occupancy and continued occupancy and loss of income.
2	Labour	<p>Can the Leader outline what support this Council has given to Bury businesses throughout lockdown, including how the discretionary grant fund has been used? Clr Richard Gold</p> <p>Supplementary: Will the Leader clarify the support that has been made available to Bury market traders affected by the coronavirus outbreak, both from the Government and from this Council?</p>
	Cllr Black	<p>Supporting Bury businesses prior to the COVID-19 crises has been a key priority for Bury Council. This priority has become more crucial during lockdown. We have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reached out to over 4,000 local businesses directly • established a dedicated Bury Means Business Covid 19 help team • Made and continue to make direct calls to businesses giving help, advice and signposting to specialist in-depth support. <p>Underpinning this work has been the allocation of financial support through grants. The initial grant scheme was allocated at pace by the Councils Business Rates team.</p> <p>£35,915,000 has been allocated to 5,062 businesses so far.</p> <p>Hot on the heel of the initial financial grant schemes came the announcement of the Discretionary Grants. This grant was designed as a direct result of lobbying to Government. Bury Council played its part by pushing up gaps in Government support. In record time a process was created and to date over 400 applications have been received for phase 1. Tracey Flynn to send updated detail as this number will increase by the time of the meeting.</p> <p>The speed and scale in which the Council have been able to respond to this crises is a reflection of the dedication of our officers. Teams that do not under normal circumstance work together have rallied, rolled up their sleeves and got the job done.</p> <p>Going forward we will be focussing on recovery. To this end we will be supporting town centre recovery, safe opening support, supportive compliance and further signposting engagement.</p> <p>Supplementary: Bury Market have received an excellent package of support from Bury Council. The forced closure of Bury Market brought uncertainty to our market traders.</p> <p>We reacted swiftly. From the 16th March Bury Market traders received a two-month rent</p>

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		<p>holiday.</p> <p>Our collective lobbying to Government presented a further opportunity to support market traders via the discretionary grant.</p> <p>In our local scheme we allocated grant funding to both lease holders and day traders. We are the only authority in GM to take this stand.</p> <p>The discretionary grant was launched on the 1st of June and within two weeks the majority of allocation where made to the value of nearly half a million pounds.</p> <p>In the near future there will be further support for market traders as officers continue to develop a sustainability plan for markets in Bury. Support will include an opportunity for traders to increase their digital skills, convert to cashless transaction, and develop a marketing strategy for their business</p>
3	Labour	<p>The Council has reported that it stands to lose more than £30 million this year for dealing with the frontline Covid response and a loss of income. Could the leader confirm how much of this has been covered by government funding and what, if any shortfall there is now? Cllr Sandra Walmsley</p>
	Cllr O'Brien	<p>The £30m figure quoted relates to our first assessment of the cost of COVID-19, and was net of some of the costs that were being fully funded by specific government grants. Our latest COVID-19 financial impact assessment for 2020/21, gross of any funding, is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional costs £12.4m - Loss on collection fund (Council Tax and Business Rates) £15.9m - Loss of other income £14.2m <p>This totals £42.5 (n.b. the loss of collection fund impact, whilst it relates to 2020/21, will not hit the council financially until 2021/22 because of the way the collection fund operates with a 12 month time-lag).</p> <p>The Council has been allocated £18.4m government funding towards these pressures as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COVID-19 grant £10.6m (from the £3.2b national pot) - Test and trace grant £1.1m - NHS funding (via CCG) £2.4m - Infection control grant £2.4m - Hardship grant £1.9m <p>This leaves an estimated net impact (shortfall) of £24.1m re 2020/21.</p> <p>Note: there is still a great deal of uncertainty in the figures, in line with the level of uncertainty about the ongoing trajectory and impact of the pandemic. However, these figures are a prudent best estimate using similar assumptions and methodology to the rest of the Greater Manchester councils. They only relate to 2020/21, although there is bound to be a significant ongoing impact for several years to come.</p>
4	Conservative	<p>Can the Cabinet Member for the Cultural Economy advise on the Councils plans regarding parking charges both in Bury Town Centre and across the townships? Cllr N Jones</p>
	Cllr O'Brien	<p>The Council has no plans to reintroduce car parking charges in Bury Town Centre at this</p>

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		<p>moment in time. However, this matter is under constant review. It is worth noting that there has never been any charging regime for car parking in the following townships: Ramsbottom, Tottington, Radcliffe and Whitefield and car parking charges in Prestwich were abandoned many years ago.</p>
5	Lib Dem	<p>How is the Council monitoring whether Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is available and being used in all care settings, including residential and domiciliary? Cllr Powell</p>
	Cllr Simpson	<p>At the commencement of lockdown, all social care providers were asked to complete a daily online survey which included data regarding their supply of appropriate PPE. As the situation escalated, alongside the survey, each commissioned provider was contacted weekly, by phone, to discuss PPE availability in more detail (how many days supply they had of key items, whether supply was on order, when that was expected and how long that supply would last).</p> <p>The emergency PPE process was documented and shared with all health and social care provider's in Bury and described the Public Health England guidance on appropriate use, donning, doffing and disposal of PPE. In the lead up to and during the peak, this was included on the daily Health and Social Care bulletin sent to all providers. The process assisted providers to source their own PPE through alternative suppliers, national supply routes and access to Bury's local resilience forum emergency supply of PPE to bridge the gap. The process has been updated and shared as guidance has changed and is still in place.</p> <p>All providers are invited to complete a daily sitrep report and if any issues are raised, a Provider Relationship Officer contacts them by phone to discuss, if the issue is regarding PPE they signpost them to the PPE process. All provider's regardless of reporting on the Sitrep receive a weekly welfare check from the Provider Relationship Team.</p>
6	Labour	<p>What work has the Council undertaken to support our rough sleepers during the Covid-19 crisis and what support is in place to help end homelessness once and for all? Cllr Beth Mortenson</p>
	Cllr Cummins	<p>During COVID 19, the Council has worked quickly and robustly to identify all rough sleepers in the borough and provide support and temporary accommodation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We initially used hotel accommodation and specific commissioned services to provide the required support. • have since moved all our known rough sleepers into better intermediate and supported accommodation • This has provided positive benefits and outcomes for our rough sleepers with the necessary support to address the barriers towards more settled and longer term sustainable housing <p>The Council continues to work collaboratively with our wider partners to address and end homelessness 'once and for all' in the Borough and we have developed a Rough Sleepers Operational panel which is a multi-agency forum that brings all partners together to provide interventions and solutions to help keep rough sleepers off the streets.</p> <p>The Council now has a robust Rough Sleepers Outreach Service that identifies rough sleepers, or those sleeping on the streets, to access accommodation and provide interventions towards their support and health needs. Since the start of the Covid outbreak</p>

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		<p>we have had great success in moving on 20 rough sleepers into their own move on accommodation and off the streets.</p> <p>Bury is part of the GM Housing First initiative that supports the most entrenched rough sleepers and then wrap support packages around them to sustain their tenancy.</p> <p>Bury will be continuing to deliver and provide 'A Bed Every Night' (ABEN) from the 1st July 2020 to the 31st March 2021. This will be a 24/7 supported provision for 15 rough sleepers. Pathways have been developed for move on, either into supported accommodation or their own independent housing.</p> <p>In terms of our statutory and priority needs customers that are covered and supported by Housing legislation and the new Homelessness Reduction Act, we are currently supporting and helping 481 open homelessness cases and we had 304 new homeless presentations during May 2020 alone. We have 27 families with 37 children and 10 single people in our dispersed temporary accommodation in addition to our rough sleepers. The average stay in our temporary accommodation is 60 days and aligned to good practice we do not use Bed and Breakfast for temporary accommodation.</p> <p>Burys Homeless offer continues to develop with pace working in partnership with all our stakeholders in Bury to break the cycle and end homelessness.</p>
7	Labour	<p>In light of events in the US where George Floyd was murdered by a police officer and the subsequent Black Lives Matter campaign, could the leader confirm how the Council will support our black, Asian and minority ethnic communities across Bury? Cllr Grimshaw</p> <p>Supplementary:</p> <p>What work are we doing internally as an organisation to listen to our black, Asian and minority ethnic staff and respond to their needs?</p>
	Cllr Rafiq	<p>As a Borough proud of our diversity and our vibrant mix of race, culture and communities. We have seen the very best of communities working together to tackle Coronavirus and it is crucial to be equally united in tackling racism and inequality.</p> <p>Bury Council has an active BAME staff group, which prior to Covid-19 was meeting 6 times a year to allow colleagues to raise any concerns or issues. Any issues of concern identified from the group are brought to the attention of the Human Resources Team, who take responsibility for escalation. The Council is currently funding the Chair of the BAME group to undertake the GM Race Equality Change Agents Programme – part of a GM pledge to tackle race equality issues across GM, which Bury Council has signed up to.</p> <p>Supplementary</p> <p>On 10th June Bury Council announced the launch of an equalities review, subsequently also agreed by the CCG Governing Body on 24th June. An independent partner has been commissioned to undertake an equalities audit across both the Council and OCO with the intention of producing a strategy and outcomes framework that will be an intrinsic part of the organisation's transformation programme.</p>

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		<p>The review will consider all protected characteristics, including race and crucially is to be co-designed and delivered in conjunction with employees. Engagement will take place partner organisations across the Borough and details are being developed for a specific listening event with the BAME communities of Bury. The format, approach and details of this are being designed with leading BAME community and voluntary organisations to ensure the event is as inclusive as possible.</p> <p>In response to Covid-19, and in line with the national guidance, all staff have been asked to complete a personal risk assessment which will help to identify any issues and concerns that may arise in the context. The risk assessment approach enables staff and managers to have sensitive and comprehensive conversations to identify any existing underlying health conditions that may increase the risks for staff in undertaking their frontline roles, in any capacity.</p> <p>The Council continue to support all staff to work from home where it is possible to do so as we continue to live with COVID. We have undertaken an extensive programme to ensure our work environment are COVID Secure and all staff have access to the Employee Assistance Programme which is available 24/7.</p>
8	Conservative	<p>Can the Leader of the Council tell me when he is going to take back control from greedy developers and put Bury in the driving seat of development by producing a local plan? Cllr Harris</p>
	Cllr O'Brien	<p>There is a statutory requirement for each local authority to produce an up to date development plan. The National Planning Policy Framework specifies what needs to be in that development plan and this includes a combination of strategic and non-strategic policies.</p> <p>Together with the other nine districts in Greater Manchester, Bury is in the process of preparing a two-tiered development plan with the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework covering the key strategic policies, such as the needs for future housing and employment floor space. The Local Plan will then cover the non-strategic planning policies covering locally-specific issues.</p> <p>In terms of housing, the national guidance states that, as a minimum, plans should provide for objectively assessed needs for housing and that this is determined using the Government's published methodology.</p> <p>The key point to stress is that without the GMSF process, Bury's Local Plan would need to include these strategic policies and provide for the level of housing set out in the national methodology. A plan that does not meet the Government's housing targets (whether that is a combined GM plan or a stand-alone Local Plan) is highly unlikely to get approval by the Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p>It is simply incorrect to think that the Local Plan offers some sort of escape route away from national policy.</p> <p>Moreover, without the GMSF, Bury would be faced with having to accommodate even more housing as it would be significantly more difficult to off-set some of its housing needs to neighbouring districts within Greater Manchester – as has been the case under the collaborative approach being taken in the GMSF.</p>

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9	Lib Dem	<p>Will the Leader write to the Highways Agency demanding that the public consultation period for the proposed M60 changes be further extended, because of current restrictions around social distancing and public meetings? Cllr Tegolo</p>
	Cllr Lucy Smith	<p>The Council has contacted Highways England regarding this request. Highways England were keen to point out that they had already fully considered the impact of Covid-19 and associated restrictions and had put measures in place to ensure the delivery of a successful public consultation. These included extending the statutory minimum four-week consultation period to one of eight weeks and providing telephone events to replace face-to-face engagement events. They are seeing a good level of response and do not intend to extend the consultation period further. Highways England are, however, keen to work with any political parties in promoting the consultation in order for it to reach as many people as possible.</p>
10	Labour	<p>Can the Leader provide information on the extent to which food bank use has gone up in Bury since the start of the COVID-19 crisis? Cllr Morris</p> <p>Supplementary:</p> <p>Can the Leader confirm what support is available to help those organisations doing so much to support our most vulnerable at this time? In my own ward in Elton, Brandlesholme Community Centre, with much support from my ward colleague Cllr Susan Southworth I must admit, has risen to the challenge of coronavirus admirably. As well as providing much needed support for those self-isolating and shielding, it is also now Bury North's first culturally appropriate food aid provider. As the economic impact of COVID-19 bites, these community groups need to be supported as they have done so much to support us over recent months.</p>
	Cllr David Jones	<p>Since the onset of Covid-19 and the consequent lockdown measures, the number of people requiring support from Food Banks has reportedly increased and a number of new groups have established food banks in response to locally identified need. There were no prior means of collecting and collating data on demand from foodbanks and little was known about the full range of groups operating in the Borough. However, significant amounts of work has been undertaken to build relationships with the foodbanks with the aim of developing them into a self-sustaining collaborative network. This network has now been established 'Bury Food-aid group'. In addition a named lead foodbank has been identified to link to each of the neighbourhood community hubs.</p> <p>As part of this process the council in collaboration with the food banks has developed a data collection system to help better understand local provision and trends. This data collection system is in its infancy but does now have several months' worth of data available. The data has shown a gradual increase in the number of foodbanks completing data returns but it is still likely to be an under-representation of actual provision. To date, we have information for 16 foodbanks/providers from across the borough and the data suggests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Food provision pre Covid-19 shows 233 total households across Bury were being supported through food banks * Our most recent data suggests 612 total households are now being supported as (23rd June 2020)

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		<p>* This represents a 162% increase in need over a 14 week period</p> <p>* However, the intelligence gathered from the foodbanks from the latest 'Bury Food-aid Group' meetings suggests that they have seen a slight decline in need over the last 2 weeks (weeks 12-14).</p> <p>Supplementary:</p> <p>In my own ward in Elton, Brandlesholme Community Centre, with much support from my ward colleague Cllr Susan Southworth I must admit, has risen to the challenge of coronavirus admirably. As well as providing much needed support for those self-isolating and shielding, it is also now Bury North's first culturally appropriate food aid provider. As the economic impact of COVID-19 bites, these community groups need to be supported as they have done so much to support us over recent months.</p> <p>The work the foodbanks have been doing has been fantastic, the way they have stepped up during the crisis is a credit to Bury. In addition the offers of a culturally appropriate food which have been created shows the ingenuity and responsiveness of our foodbanks. The Council recognises the importance of supporting the foodbanks and as such to date food banks have been supported directly through the Bury Council member fund (£10k) and through the Bury COVID-19 fund (£10k) - totalling £20k.</p> <p>In addition, local food banks and food providers have been supported by the Council and VCFA to obtain funding from the GMCA (£10k), Forever Manchester fund (£102k) and from the GM High Sheriff fund (£5k). Across the food network a total of £137k has been awarded to support their fantastic work.</p> <p>In addition we have supported the food banks in kind by assisting them to set up a self-supporting network 'the Bury food-aid group' where they can share support and put together collaborative bids or buy in larger quantities at discounted prices should they wish. In addition we have obtained offers of support from local businesses of centralised food storage at no cost to them should they wish to use this. The council will continue to work with the foodbanks to understand the demand and any challenges they are experiencing and create a collaborative approach to addressing these.</p>
11	Labour	<p>The Radcliffe SRF consultation is currently underway and is an incredibly important step to delivering ambitious plans for the future of the town. What is the Council doing to ensure as many Radcliffe residents engage with the consultation? Cllr Tony Cummings</p>
	Cllr O'Brien	<p>The importance of town centre strategies and masterplans, such as the Radcliffe Strategic Regeneration Framework, in assisting in the recovery and subsequent growth of our town centres has been referred to previously and we feel that it is vital that residents and key stakeholders are actively engaged in preparing plans for their towns.</p> <p>During the preparation of the draft Radcliffe SRF, comprehensive early engagement with a range of key stakeholders was undertaken and this was crucial in gaining valuable information and insight into the different concerns of groups and understanding key challenges facing Radcliffe.</p> <p>This stakeholder engagement needs to continue in order to seek the views and inputs from the wider public, key businesses and other key partners to ensure that the final framework is</p>

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		<p>fit for purpose and this is why we are currently undertaking a widespread six-week public consultation on the draft SRF.</p> <p>Clearly, with the current guidelines on social distancing we haven't been able to make documents available in key public buildings or to undertake a programme public 'drop in' sessions as would normally be the case but to compensate for this, we have taken the unprecedented step of delivering SRF leaflets to every household in Radcliffe summarising the content of the SRF and advising people how they can find out more and get involved. We have also put an increased emphasis on online and digital engagement with all information available on the Council's website and the consultation being extensively promoted via social media to raise awareness of the SRF, to issue reminders of the consultation closing date and to direct users to the formal consultation website. We are also looking to engage interested parties through a webinar.</p> <p>For those that do not have access to the internet, we have made printed copies of the SRF summary document and response form available on request.</p> <p>Promotional banners and posters have also been produced for various locations in and around Radcliffe Town Centre.</p>
12	Conservative	<p>Can the Leader explain why he approved interim resource at the cost of £700 per day to review the Council constitution over a 9 month period? Cllr Caserta</p>
	Cllr O'Brien	<p>The Council has engaged a strategic advisor to provide leadership across a range of legal and democratic functions including reviewing the council's constitution; mentoring and supporting the staff in the context of a vacant Assistant Director post; reviewing the service structure; developing a plan for Member development; supporting the Boundary Commission review and planning for the 2021 election.</p> <p>One aspect of this work is a review of the Council's constitution which has not been reviewed for many years. A number of amendments were proposed in the last Council meeting, within which a recommendation was also endorsed that the whole constitution is updated.</p> <p>The post is funded from provision within the Council's 2020/21 budget, within which allocation for short term transformation resource was planned for on the basis that there is not capacity within a number of services, including democratic services, to drive improvement as well as maintain delivery</p>
13	Labour	<p>How is the track and trace nationally linking in with our local arrangements and is it effective? Cllr Trevor Holt</p>
	Cllr Simpson	<p>Contact tracing in England is organised into three tiers. Tiers two and three are the national system. Tier one is a regional and local system that deals with complex cases and cases linked to high risk settings, like care homes and prisons. In Greater Manchester, tier one is made up of a Greater Manchester Integrated Contact Tracing Hub (GM ICTH), and local areas' own arrangements. Cases from tiers two and three that need to be referred to Tier one are sent to the GM ICTH. The GM ICTH can refer contacts identified locally for follow up by the national system.</p>

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		<p>The GM ICTH tells local authorities about any referrals it gets for cases in their areas. The GM ICTH does most of the contact tracing but can get help from local authorities where needed, such as with hard to reach groups where local authorities' contacts can be important. Local authorities and their partners support people and settings like schools, care homes, GP practices, or businesses to deal with any consequences of cases or outbreaks, like the closure of a setting. Local authorities provide proactive advice to help settings reduce the risk of outbreaks. Local authorities can send outbreaks identified locally to the GM ICTH for contact tracing and extra help managing outbreaks. In some cases this has meant contact tracing started sooner than it would have if the GM ICTH had needed to wait for a notification from the national contact tracing system. This helps to minimise the chance of infected contacts passing on the infection.</p> <p>While the system across GM is new, it is working well. Cases and outbreaks are being referred between GM ICTH and local teams. Lessons from outbreaks in one part of Greater Manchester are shared so that all areas can learn from them. There are regular meetings across GM that include local authorities to develop the system. An IT system is being built that will be used by local areas and the GM ICTH so that the whole system works as one.</p>
14	Lib Dem	<p>What have been the attendance rates in Primary schools across the borough who have begun reopening for non-key worker children and how do these compare to other Greater Manchester boroughs? Councillor Powell</p>
	Cllr Tariq	<p>Schools were required to close with effect from 23rd March 2020 to all pupils, but to continue to meet the needs of vulnerable children and the children of key workers. The majority of schools have remained open to serve these two groups, many of them doing so throughout the Easter period, and the June half term. From initially seeing daily attendance of 250 children in the last week of March, this had increased to 1,200 by the end of May.</p> <p>The ambition by Government was that, in addition to being open to serve vulnerable children, and the children of key workers, all primary schools should re-open to Reception, year 1 and year 6 pupils from 1st June, and secondary schools should re-open to year 10 pupils from 15th June.</p> <p>The Council made the decision to advise schools to delay opening, and subsequently indicated that all schools should aim to re-open to the specified year groups no later than 22nd June. Government subsequently supported a more flexible approach to re-opening.</p> <p>With the exception of two Academies, all schools met this revised date and were open to specified year group cohorts by the 22nd. The two Academies opened a few days later.</p> <p>The daily pattern of attendance fluctuates because of the arrangements that individual schools have put in place. For example, many primary schools have established rota's so that not all children are in attendance at the same time, but over the course of a week, an increased number of children have the opportunity to attend. Similarly, secondary schools have admitted no more than 25% of year 10's at any one time, but over a week, all year 10's will attend.</p> <p>The daily attendance rate therefore provides a snapshot of the typical number of children attending on a daily basis, but not the number of children that may be attending over the course of the week.</p>

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		On the 23 rd June, with all but two schools open to wider cohorts, there were 4,214 children in attendance. This represents 14.5% of the total 4-16 cohort. This is the second highest attendance rate in GM, behind Stockport. The 4,214 in attendance was made up of 27.5% children of key workers; 10.4% vulnerable children; and the nursery (3.3%), Reception (8.6%), Year 1 (11.4%), Year 6 (17.7%), and year 10 (10.9%)
15	Labour	GM have highlighted the needs to support Care Leavers to ensure that they have the very best chances in life. How are the Council supporting Bury's Care Leavers? Susan Southworth
	Cllr Tariq	<p>The Council's budget resolution included the establishment of a Care Leaver Fund. Funding of £100k over a 2 year period was made available. This money will be used to support services to care leavers over and above what would normally be provided in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the involvement of care experienced young people in decision making • Support care experienced young people into independence • To increase the opportunities, experiences and aspirations of Bury's care experienced young people (up to 25) to advance in life. • Advance the education of those persons in particular but not exclusively by enabling the provision of training and support • Promote the good, mental and physical health of care experienced young people <p>At these difficult times this additional support will be crucial to ensure that care leavers are not doubly disadvantaged by the impacts of COVID</p>
16	Conservative	Can the leader advise how many of Labour Councillors have taken the voluntary 10% Council allowance cut as outlined at the May Annual Council. Cllr Keeley
	Cllr O'Brien	All labour councillors with the special responsibility allowance have accepted and agreed to the 10% cut.
17	Labour	<p>What assessment has been made of the impact of the government's decision to exclude colleges from the £1 billion COVID catch up plan for our two fantastic further education institutions in Bury? Cllr Morris</p> <p>Supplementary:</p> <p>It strikes me as odd that a government so committed to 'levelling up' would snub our colleges. While the Tories may see further education as an afterthought, can the Leader confirm what action he can take support our colleges at this time.</p>
	Cllr Tariq	We understand that both colleges governing bodies are representing their concerns to government. We work in close and productive partnership with both colleges; celebrate their offer to the students of Bury, and are committed to support their representations.
18	Lib Dem	How many individuals have so far been supported by the different community hubs and will these continue to operate as the lockdown and other restrictions are gradually eased? Cllr Wright
	Cllr David Jones	On 30th June 2020, the Hubs had responded to requests for support from 2587 people. This included households where more than 1 person received support. Government started

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		<p>collecting statistics about number of people using the Hubs and then changed it to number of households. In response, 1526 households received direct weekly support from the hubs. 806 were extremely clinically vulnerable (shielded households) 720 were clinically vulnerable (sub shielded households e.g. over 70). The Government has announced new guidance for shielded people- with some relaxations from 6th July and then a pause in shielding at the end of July. The Hubs have developed a plan to support shielded residents come out of Lockdown including helping them secure prioritised supermarket delivery slots through a DEFRA scheme and by doing escorted first visits back to a supermarket. Discussions are underway to handback the collection and delivery of medications with local pharmacies over the next six weeks. Work has also begun to keep and embed the neighbourhood hubs into the proposed new neighbourhood working model alongside an early help offer and the Integrated Neighbourhood Health and Social Care Teams. To help get this going some of the Covid-19 Test and Trace Government funding available in Bury will fund the first twelve months for 5 Hub Managers, 5 Community Connectors and 2 Community Engagement Officers.</p>
19	Conservative	<p>The Labour group on the LGA have recently stated they wanted to review all statues/monuments in their areas. What is the position of Bury Council and are they intending to conduct such a review? Cllr Dene Vernon</p>
	Cllr Jane Black	<p>Heritage is an important aspect of Bury’s culture, and as inaugural Greater Manchester Town of Culture, the Council is exploring how best to commemorate people from Bury who have had significant positive impacts on wider society, as we saw last year with the unveiling of a statue to Victoria Wood. It is important that such monuments reflect the demographics and cultures of our Borough activity will be taking place to engage the views of local residents on ‘blue plaques’ to celebrate the people and places from across all our cultures and communities that have made a positive contribution to the richness of Bury’s heritage.</p>
20	Labour	<p>Can the Leader give an update on the installation of new street lights in Bury? Cllr Martin Hayes</p> <p>Supplementary:</p> <p>How will this investment benefit our Borough?</p>
	Cllr Lucy Smith	<p>The £5.5m street lighting column replacement programme has been delayed due to the covid-19 crisis and lock down restrictions. However, significant progress has been made designing schemes during the lockdown period and many schemes are now “shovel ready”. The first batch of replacements are now scheduled to commence in mid-July.</p> <p>Supplementary:</p> <p>This programme of work will replace street lighting columns that are beyond their serviceable life, whilst reducing our energy consumption and carbon emissions, through the use of the latest CMS controlled LED technology.</p>
21	Conservative	<p>Bury Market is a brilliant asset for Bury Council, one which benefits the wider Bury economy greatly. The hardworking traders have been hit hard due to COVID-19 and a reduction in footfall. Will the Leader agree that Market rents should be reviewed and benchmarked against other Markets across the UK? Cllr. Jackie Harris</p>

Q	Party	Question
	Cllr Jane Black	A full package and measures have been put in place to support Bury Market traders made up of £1.7m Government and Council assistance. This has been described by the National Association of British Markets Association as one of the best packages pulled together in the country. We shall continue to benchmark and review Bury Market and invest in its promotion to ensure it retains its status as being of the best markets in the North West.
22	Conservative	The regeneration of our high streets is going to be vital post COVID-19. Can the Leader assure the Council that Bury Council and its partners will submit a competitive bid to future government high street funds? Cllr. Dorothy Gunther
	Cllr Eamonn O'Brien	<p>High streets across the country have been facing increasingly significant challenges for many years – largely as a result of changing retail patterns involving a rapid increase in on-line retailing; falling consumer demand since the 2008/2009 economic crisis; intensive price competition; and consumer’s growing preference to spend on ‘experiences’ – such as travel and eating out.</p> <p>The present Covid-19 situation will serve only to accelerate a pattern of decline in town centres which has been evident for some time. Based on these challenges, towns need to diversify and re-define their role – reducing their reliance on the retail sector to create unique places that are attractive for people to live, work and play whilst transforming the town centre into a day and night time visitor destination.</p> <p>You can be assured that the Council will explore all opportunities to support the regeneration of our town centres, including bidding for any available funding streams.</p> <p>However, what is clear is that for funding bids to have the best chance of success, they must be based on tangible projects that have been comprehensively planned within the context of a cohesive strategy for the wider town centre.</p> <p>It is for this very reason that we are currently working on developing robust town centre strategies and masterplans, such as the Strategic Regeneration Framework for Radcliffe.</p> <p>It is vital that we have these plans and strategies in place as a way of setting out a clear vision with investable projects that we can use to secure funding and this will be particularly important as we emerge and attempt to recover from the economic impacts arising from the on-going Covid situation.</p>
23	Lib Dem	Can the Leader clarify why the decision has been made, during financially difficult times, to spend an additional £0.5 million per year on new director and assistant director positions? Councillor S Wright
	Cllr Eamonn O'Brien	The Cabinet has determined a requirement for significant internal transformation, to secure the systems, processes, skills and capacity to achieve its ambitions for outcome improvements. This work began two years ago and, following investment in a new leadership team, has resulted in the establishment of new delivery platforms across health and care including the LCO and OCO; the delivery of a balanced budget last year which increased reserves for the first time in many years; a financial strategy for 2020/21 and establishment of a corporate core.

Q	Party	Question
		<p>The strength of the new team is evident in the COVID emergency and recovery response which has involved system-wide leadership across health and social care; community advice, leadership and support and the proactive management of all council services to maintain the vast majority of provision on a remote basis.</p> <p>Looking forward, additional capacity and skills are required to deliver further new priorities which have been determined by the council and with reference to feedback from the LGA Peer Review in 2018. The future work plan includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fundamental review and re-set of the council's financial strategy framework including the capital programme • leadership to develop a clear strategy to achieve the borough's challenging ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030 • Development and delivery of a bold community strategy including the establishment of a neighbourhood model which will mainstream the success of the Community Hubs which were established as part of the emergency response. <p>The Cabinet planned for additional capacity requirements to deliver these objectives during this financial year and made provision in the 2021 budget from which these posts will be funded.</p>
24	Conservative	<p>Does Bury Council plan to follow the lead of other councils across the country such as Plymouth and Sheffield in introducing wildflower embankments across the borough? Such a project could bring back nature and wildlife to our road sides, reduce the need for cutting and mowing and make Burys roadsides more salubrious. I know this was something the former Head of Operations was looking into, is there a progress report please? Cllr. Paul Cropper</p>
	Cllr Alan Quinn	<p>Bury Council is mindful of the need to protect the ecosystem and to promote biodiversity and is reviewing the maintenance regime for highway verges and green spaces.</p> <p>Options being considered include allowing areas to return to nature promoting the growth of indigenous plants and sowing wild flowers.</p> <p>These options will not be appropriate for all highway verges as it is essential not to compromise the safety of road users, nor will it be appropriate for all green space settings, where for example, more formal maintenance is fitting.</p> <p>We intend to trial a small select number of sites in financial year 2021/22, with wider roll out planned if successful.</p>
25	Conservative	<p>Can the Leader update the council on delegated decisions carried out by the new Deputy Leaders since the last meeting? Cllr. Sam Hurst</p>
	Cllr O'Brien	<p>Delegated decisions are made pursuant to the powers delegated in the Council's constitution and are recorded and published in accordance with those provisions on the Council's website</p>
26	Lib Dem	<p>Could the Leader inform members what proportion of school pupils have had weekly personal contact from their teachers whilst schools have been closed and could this information be provided by Key Stage? Councillor C Tegolo</p>
	Cllr Tariq	<p>This level of detail is not available to the authority at this time. Schools are collating this information as they are required to report daily to the DfE about their contact with children.</p>