

Q	Party	Question
1	Labour	Can the Leader outline the next steps to be taken in the Ramsbottom Town Plan? Councillor Gold
	Councillor O'Brien	<p>A proposal to appoint a multi-disciplinary consultancy to prepare a public realm and place management plan for Ramsbottom has now been approved by Cabinet.</p> <p>The plan will guide a series of actions and initiatives aimed at the improvement and promotion of Ramsbottom town centre as a quality visitor destination, helping to secure its role as one of the Boroughs main visitor destinations over the next 10 to 15 years.</p> <p>The Plan will seek to identify several key interventions in the town to help improve its attractiveness. This includes public realm works to opportunities to exploit the towns assets. It will also look at parking and transportation issues.</p>
2	Lib Dem	Can the cabinet member for transport and infrastructure clarify why the decision was made to not complete the planned 'pop-up' cycle lane on the A56 and how much of the Government funding to enable active travel remains unspent? Councillor Wright
	Councillor Smith	<p>There was an accumulation of factors that lead to the decision not to install the pop-up cycle lane element of this emergency active travel scheme. The Council considered the impacts on traffic as witnessed on site after some lining went down, had received concerns from bus operators about the stop designs in the cycle lane, had heard reports of similar measures being removed and under-utilised in other districts and recognised that there were challenges with Salford's delivery/continuation of the pop-up cycle lane in the City centre - essentially leaving the pop-up as a cycle lane to nowhere. The public, however, will still benefit from a new length of unsegregated cycle lane near St Mary's Park as well as two controlled toucan crossings.</p> <p>The EATF Tranche 1 was a Greater Manchester allocation and, as such, money spent on measures is claimed back rather than given up-front. However, the Council is also seeking to introduce a Low Traffic Neighbourhood in the Brandlesholme area in line with the governments express expectations for "...local authorities to make significant changes to their road layouts to give more space to cyclists and pedestrians." to lead to a more pleasant environment that encourages people to walk and cycle.</p>
3	Labour	With the appointment of Sir Howard Bernstein as Chair of the Radcliffe Regeneration Delivery Board now confirmed, can the Leader update the Council on the progress made with the Radcliffe Strategic Regeneration Framework? Councillor Cathcart
	Councillor O'Brien	<p>The early actions set out in the Radcliffe SRF are now being progressed.</p> <p>In particular, a Radcliffe Regeneration Delivery Board and a wider SRF governance structure are currently being put in place. The governance structure includes the Radcliffe Cabinet Committee which provides executive political leadership for the delivery of the SRF and the Radcliffe Regeneration Advisory Group which includes all elected Ward Members for the town and a number of community and business stakeholders. Initial meetings for the above bodies are to be scheduled over the next couple of months.</p> <p>A Programme Management Office has been established to drive forward the delivery programme and priority projects including:</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new public services Hub building in the town centre; • A whole town approach to housing; • Development of the Market and the Market Chambers building; • The creation of a lifestyle/leisure facility; • The delivery of a new secondary school on the Coney Green site. <p>This early work will inform a more detailed funding strategy that will clearly set out the way in which each proposal can be delivered.</p>
4	Lib Dem	<p>Could the Leader inform members whether or not consideration of new Residents Parking Schemes has been suspended, and if so when will schemes that have been triggered under the policy be taken forwards? Councillor Powell</p>
	Councillor Smith	<p>Given the pressures on services within the Council it is no longer possible to accommodate the processing of residents parking schemes and as such requests for new schemes will be recorded but not actioned. At this time, there is no planned date at which schemes will be picked up and progressed.</p>
5	Labour	<p>With the recent success of the Brownfield Fund bids for two sites in Bury, can the Leader outline how this funding will help the Council deliver on its “Brownfield First” approach? Councillor Hayes</p>
	Councillor O’Brien	<p>As Members will be aware, this Council is committed to prioritising the development of brownfield land.</p> <p>Nearly 90% of our new homes over the past decade has been on brownfield land and, in addition to providing much needed new homes, this has helped with the regeneration of key sites across the Borough.</p> <p>We recently secured over £1million of the Greater Manchester Brownfield Land Fund and this will be used to address the costs associated with remediating the land at the brownfield sites of Fletcher Fold and School Street.</p> <p>We will continue to work with key stakeholders, including Homes England, the Combined Authority and landowners - to ensure that we continue to bring forward our brownfield sites. As part of this, we will be seeking to secure more of the Brownfield land funds for other key sites in the Borough.</p>
6	Lib Dem	<p>Can the leader confirm how many EU citizens in Bury have yet to apply for settled status in spite of being eligible for it? What steps are being taken to improve support and awareness among these citizens of the need to apply for settled status? Councillor Tegolo</p>
	Councillor Jones	<p>According to the latest government data (published in August 2020), 6,360 applications to the EU Settlement Scheme have been made by residents of the Borough since the 28th August 2018. This is up from 4,510 applications at the start of 2020. Of these the nationalities which have the highest frequency of applications are residents from Poland, Italy, Spain and non-EEA family member. Of those who have applied 3,210 applications have been concluded resulting in Settled Status with a further 2,440 for pre-settled status.</p> <p>Data from Europaia, presented in conjunction with Bolton and Bury CAB earlier this year,</p>

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		<p>projected the population of EU nationals living in the Borough to be 6,000 with a confidence level of 3,000, ie at a higher would be 9,000 EU Citizens.</p> <p>Additional communications has taken place in recent weeks given the increased prevalence of Brexit content in the national news agenda; including circulating of guidance and encouragement for EEA citizens and their family members to apply. Information including translated guidance is available through https://www.bury.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=14961 (EU Exit on Bury Council website)</p> <p>Work continues to take place with ADAB, including the production of a one-page summary which is being printed as a guide for their staff, volunteers and residents most affected, including translated materials. This summary includes details on the means of which people can apply, the support on offer in the Borough and clarification of the scheme to address misinformation ADAB had become aware of when engaging with EU citizens and their families in the Borough.</p> <p>Bury is actively involved in Greater Manchester Brexit Readiness meetings and the next Bury Brexit Readiness meeting takes place on the 1st December 2020 which will include updates in relation to ensuring settled status application completion for Looked After Children, and on work with social care providers to ensure that EU residents in their care have applied for settled status before 30 June 2021. Brexit is also on the forward plan for Team Bury to ensure partner 'front doors' have the latest information readily available.</p>
7	Labour	<p>Can the Leader update on the work being done to provide business grants to those businesses impacted by the lockdown and additional restrictions? Councillor Walmsley</p>
	Councillor Black	<p>Government announced a series of measures to support those businesses who had been operating under Tier 2 and Tier 3 restrictions and then further packages as the country went into a second national lockdown.</p> <p>The support is complex with 5 levels of support for periods of restriction and lockdown.</p> <p>Council Officers are working hard to ensure eligible businesses receive grant funding as soon as possible.</p> <p>The Business Rates Team are working to make payments this week to businesses hereditaments appearing on the local rating list. The Local Restrictions Support Grant is now live on Bury Council's website.</p> <p>In addition £60m Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) is available for GM Authorities to allow some discretion to support those businesses that fall out of the support available to those organisation known the Business Rates team.</p> <p>It is the intention to use an early deployment of the funding to support critical business infrastructure. However, the funding envelope is available until March 2022 and can be used up until the end of this period.</p> <p>The Government has warned that there will be no further local discretionary payments.</p> <p>For Bury this is a share of c£4m to allocate over this financial year and next.</p>

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		<p>It is imperative that support those businesses that are crucial to our economy and the future recovery. The Team within Business Growth and Infrastructure are developing a local scheme taking into consideration the guidance provided by Government.</p> <p>Bury worked at pace during the first lockdown and subsequent months to allocate grant payments. Bury was allocated £2m for the initial discretionary grants and successfully delivered the support on a phased basis ensuring that a wide spectrum of businesses with property related costs were financially supported. In addition the team have offered wider business support by signposting to funded organisations to plan for recovery or change their business model to adapt during the crises.</p> <p>I urge all member to encourage local businesses to sign up for our weekly E bulletin. This is one of the quickest ways we can share up to date key messages.</p>
8	Lib Dem	<p>How many schools and school bubbles have had to close due to Covid-19 cases since schools reopened in September and how does this compare to the other authorities in Greater Manchester? Councillor Powell</p>
	Councillor Tariq	<p>Just under 50% of all primary and secondary schools have reported one or more confirmed cases within their setting, involving either members of staff or pupils. Many of these schools have gone on to experience a number of confirmed cases, largely as a result of the prevalence of Covid-19 in the wider community.</p> <p>In the majority of instances, this has required other staff members and/or pupils to self-isolate as a consequence of being a close contact of a confirmed case.</p> <p>At its highest point in late September/early October there were approximately 2,000 pupils absent representing 7% of the school age population. Through measures to more accurately identify close contacts, this number has reduced, but remains in the order of 1,000 pupils absent from school each week.</p> <p>Since September, four schools have had to close to all pupils for a period of time, through a combination of confirmed cases and close contacts amongst staff, reducing staffing levels below sustainable levels.</p> <p>The levels of absence are broadly in line with other GM authorities although the situation remains dynamic and subject to constant change.</p>
9	Labour	<p>What support is in place to look after rough sleepers during the winter period? Councillor McGill</p>
	Councillor Cummins	<p>The Council will continue to provide the existing provision of accommodation with support during the winter months with a robust outreach rough sleeper service to identify new rough sleepers and engage with them to help ensure they are accommodated and supported during the colder winter months.</p> <p>The current provision is:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABEN – In-house accommodation working with Adullum Homes - 15 individual,

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		<p>independent and 24/7 supported accommodation with food aligned to the GM specification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MHCLG - Next Steps revenue funding – Stepping Stones Charity – 15 individual, independent and 24/7 supported accommodation with food provision. • Therefore an increase from 10 supported shared bed spaces in 2019 /20 to 30 supported individual accommodation with an enhanced specification for 2020 / 21. • MHCLG – Next Steps Capital funding – funding to purchase 4 properties for the sole use of rough sleepers with support. Anticipated these will go live during the winter period to help with the demand. • Since the start of Covid the Council has obtained £464k of external funding to help deliver support and accommodate for our rough sleepers and keep them off the streets as per the directive of MHCLG in April. • GM Housing first – wrap around support for the most entrenched and complex rough sleepers in the Borough. These cases are discussed at the weekly rough sleeper operational panel with all relevant stakeholder. • Food provision provided in conjunction with the Christian fellowship. • MHCLG - Cold weather fund has just been announced - Bury has been allocated £10k. Currently working up bid and options to access this funding to benefit the needs of our Rough sleepers over the winter period. • Links to Health – currently Bardoc delivering flu vaccination to the homeless and rough sleeper community including clinics and outreach. • Rough sleeper outreach provision working with Pennine care to link into the Access & crisis team to support our Rough sleepers with mental health and links to Bury Achieve to support and address drug, alcohol and substance addiction. • Homeless friendly – Links / access to GP's & Dentistry support. • We have a joined up and partnership approach to supporting all our rough sleepers with all relevant stakeholders and partners in the Borough via the Homeless Partnership so that we can react quickly and maximise our resources working together.
10	Lib Dem	<p>Could the Leader inform members what proportion of green belt is proposed to be lost in each Township area in the GMSF proposals and what proportion of housing provision in the GMSF in each Township area is on greenbelt land? Councillor Wright</p>
	Councillor O'Brien	<p>In overall terms, the Publication GMSF proposes a 57% reduction in Green Belt release from the first iteration of the GMSF. This has been achieved by removing some sites in full and substantially reducing the amount of Green Belt proposed to be released on the remaining sites.</p> <p>The sites that are proposed to be released across Greater Manchester have been selected in accordance with an approach to promote sustainable locations and boost northern competitiveness. For Bury, this means that a significant part of the Green Belt release in the Borough is to create important employment opportunities at the Northern Gateway.</p> <p>The proposed net change in Green Belt for each Township is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ramsbottom, Tottington and North Manor (-1%) ▪ Bury West (+6%) ▪ Bury East (+2%) ▪ Radcliffe (-11%) ▪ Whitefield and Unsworth (-29%)

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prestwich (-14%) <p>Clearly the reduction in Green Belt is greatest in Whitefield and Unsworth but it should be noted that all of the Green Belt release in this township is the result of the Northern Gateway site, which as I have already indicated, will provide a strategic employment site for the benefit of our residents – albeit that the Northern Gateway includes a small pocket of residential development within it.</p> <p>In terms of the existing supply of housing land and the additional supply proposed through the GMSF, the proportion of housing within each Township that will be on land currently designated as Green Belt would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ramsbottom, Tottington and North Manor (69%) ▪ Bury West (54%) ▪ Bury East (14%) ▪ Radcliffe (63%) ▪ Whitefield and Unsworth (64%) ▪ Prestwich (69%) <p>These figures show that the proposed sites in the GMSF are important for some of the townships, indicating that there is a lack of current supply to meet the housing needs of a growing population.</p>
11	Labour	Can the Leader outline what support is now in place to ensure that children eligible for Free School Meals will get fed during school holidays? Councillor Susan Southworth
	Councillor Tariq	<p>Prior to the autumn half-term break, the Government indicated that it would not intend to provide support to children of families eligible for free school meals during the half term holiday period. The Council stepped in and agreed to fund continued support to those families, through the provision of vouchers that can be redeemed at key supermarkets. Over 5,000 children benefitted from these arrangements.</p> <p>The Government has now indicated that it will provide financial support to Council's to enable these arrangements to continue through the Christmas period, and also future school holiday periods in 2021.</p> <p>Schools will be able to provide their eligible families with vouchers in advance of the school holiday periods.</p>
12	Lib Dem	Could the Leader inform members what proportion of non-strategic roads which require resurfacing (as defined by their condition) are being resurfaced under the current programme? Councillor Tegolo
	Councillor Smith	<p>The question has a quite technical answer which is not appropriate to go through here at Full Council, but officers are willing to discuss the details with Councillor Tegolo. However, a superficial indication can be given but should not be used to determine the size of possible future work streams.</p> <p>The unclassified network is 497 kilometres in length and, currently, 14% has had its condition determined as red (using a red/amber/green scoring system). This 14% therefore</p>

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		represents around 70 kilometres. The current 3-year Highway Investment Strategy will see just over 13 kilometres resurfaced which, in turn, represents around 19% of the unclassified network which is in red condition but 2.6% of the overall unclassified network.
13	Labour	In response to the latest period of lockdown, what support is in place for those who are clinically extremely vulnerable and are shielding? Councillor Holt
	Councillor Jones	<p>Bury Council has been preparing for the reintroduction of support for clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) people since Sept 1st when draft guidance was issued by government following the previous pausing of shielding over the Summer.</p> <p>CEV residents have since received a letter from the NHS advising them of the revised guidance for CEV people under the latest Lockdown restrictions and a letter from Bury Council setting out support available for CEV residents who have no other natural support from family, friends and neighbours. This support is in the form of a telephone hotline, 5 community hubs staffed by redeployed Council staff and a number of volunteers on the ground linked to the hubs who can respond to requests for support.</p> <p>There are also a number of voluntary and community organisations who are supporting each hub and the hubs can refer CEV people to a large number of supporting services that were established through the first Lockdown. This includes support for mental health, befriending, tackling social isolation, digital support, help and advise about debt, benefits and grants. Supporting organisations include VCFA and affiliated organisations, CAB and Age UK as well as Council services such as the Staying Well Team in Adult Social Care. The hubs are also able to refer into a multitude of community based mental health groups, Acute Mental Health Services and the Integrated Neighbourhood Teams in health and social care.</p> <p>On the ground, the volunteers and staff in the hubs are predominantly focused on the supply food to CEV residents via the provision of priority supermarket slots, volunteer shopping efforts and access to foodbanks as well as working closely with local pharmacies to ensure medication is collected and delivered to CEV households. A small number of residents have also asked for support to access online services and this is being managed by digital buddy volunteers, Adult Learning and the Library Service.</p>
14	Labour	What support is in place to look after the health and wellbeing of our Council staff during this incredibly difficult time? Councillor Haroon
	Councillor Rafiq	<p>In immediate recognition of the impact that the pandemic would have on our workforce, the Council brought forward the introduction of our new Employee Assistance Programme in April. This provides all staff with a confidential 24/7/365 helpline and the facility to self-refer for counselling or CBT, as well as online support including LifeChat.</p> <p>More recently, we have been developing a revised wellbeing programme, which builds upon our exiting wellbeing strategy. We are now ready to launch the new initiative which will be called 5 Ways to Wellbeing, designed to help staff build resilience in their working lives. The aim is to help our workforce protect their own health and wellbeing, both mentally and physically, through the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect – will include weekly updates from the Exec Team, meetings capped at 55 minutes, making way for a 30 minute chat with a colleague and we will be setting up social interest groups. • Take Notice – managers will be arranging a weekly 10 minute call with direct reports

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		<p>to talk about wellbeing issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep Learning - 1 hour per week will be put aside for mandatory and personal interest learning. • Be active – no corporate meetings will be held between 12.30 and 1.30 with staff encouraged to take some exercise. We will also be streaming free leisure classes. • Give – creates positive feeling and self-worth. We are encouraging staff to take up their existing allowance of 3 days to volunteer for a worthy cause, including working in the hubs, or to mentor a fellow colleague. <p>Lastly, we will continue to provide specific guidance around the ever changing covid legislation and its impact upon working lives and support those individuals who need our help the most on a case by case basis through the HR support team.</p>
		Joint Authority Questions
1	Lib Dem	<p>Could the Council's spokesperson on the Greater Manchester Transport Committee inform members on whether the free wi-fi on Metrolink services is still suspended and if so, are there any plans to restart this soon? Councillor Powell</p>
	Councillor Gold	<p>This was discussed on the TFGM metro and railway sub-committee and we have asked for a report to be delivered on this and I will fill in Councillor Powell when the report is delivered to the sub-committee.</p> <p>The free Metrolink Wi-Fi service was suspended in March during the first lockdown period to address anti-social behaviour caused by groups congregating at stops to use the Wi-Fi service, and also as a result of the reduction in patronage on Metrolink.</p> <p>Patronage has remained low resulting in a significant loss of revenue, requiring a funding deal with Government to keep services running. In light of this financial pressure the decision was made to maintain the suspension to save on operational and substantial renewal costs that were required.</p> <p>The cost of the Wi-Fi service was previously covered by a sponsorship deal with Vodafone. Unfortunately, current economic conditions mean that finding a similar deal at present would be unlikely. As previously stated, TFGM has secured Government funding for the majority of Metrolink operating costs as part of ongoing 12-week support packages. However, long term funding sources remain uncertain.</p> <p>For all these reasons there are no immediate plans to reinstate the free Wi-Fi service.</p>
2	Lib Dem	<p>Could the Council's spokesperson on the Greater Manchester Transport Committee inform members why the number 90 bus (Simister to Prestwich) has been suspended and why there was no engagement with ward members or bus users on these proposals before their implementation? Councillor S Wright</p>
	Councillor Gold	<p>There are 2 sub-committees for TFGM delegates, one is the Metrolink and train sub-committee which I am on, the other one is the bus committee, which I am not on, for which Councillor Walker is our representative.</p> <p>A number of contracts for subsidised bus services in the Bury area were due to be renewed in October 2020. Unfortunately, the responses received to the retendering process represented a 20% increase in the cost which was unaffordable within the current budget.</p> <p>A review of Bury services was undertaken and a proposal was developed to withdraw the 90</p>

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		<p>service which overlaps with the 66, 94 and 96 services, with those services amended to maintain links to Prestwich so that they go to Prestwich village. These changes ensured that connectivity is protected and services remain affordable, they also allowed resource to be redirected to other Bury services such as the 494 Ferngrove and 492 Pilsworth.</p> <p>The recommendation to withdraw the 90 service was then considered by the Greater Manchester Bus Sub-Committee Friday 11 September and the committee took the decision to withdraw the route and amend other services accordingly to mitigate the impact.</p>
3	Lib Dem	<p>Could the Council's spokesperson on the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Committee inform members on how the 2020 lockdown and other restrictions have affected recycling and waste disposal rates in the Borough? Councillor Tegalo</p>
	Councillor Quinn	<p>Under their Resources and Waste Strategy published in 2018 DEFRA is intent on pursuing a number of measures that are designed to make household waste collections across the country more consistent. Further consultations are due in Spring 2021 but the favoured approach appears to be the collection of food waste separately on a weekly basis, provide garden waste collections FOC, collect residual waste 2 weekly, collect plastic pots, tubs and trays and film for recycling, consider a greater separation of recyclables (meaning more containers for residents) and standardised bin colours for different waste streams. Likely separate waste streams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residual; Food; Garden; Paper/card; Glass, Plastics & cans. <p>The implications are huge and the bill for implementation on a national scale massive. DEFRA have maintained all along that any additional cost burden will not fall on LAs and that it would be covered by industry through extended producer responsibility and the new burdens fund, but there is a lack of certainty about what that will mean in reality. Funding may be based on a formula and not actual costs.</p> <p>In summary, the Council may be compelled to collect some wastes (residual and food) more frequently than we do currently and with a greater degree of separation. That will mean more vehicles, staff and containers required which obviously come at a cost. It may well also require a larger depot in which to accommodate the additional vehicles. Research is ongoing across Greater Manchester to quantify the potential costs of new burdens and this will provide robust evidence for the 2021 consultation response.</p>