

Q	Party	Question
1	Conservative	<p>It has been announced that the counting of votes for Mayoral and Local Elections will take place the day after polling has closed. Please could we have assurance that the ballot boxes will be kept in a secure place until the count commences.</p> <p>Cllr J Harris</p>
	Cllr O'Brien	<p>These are matters for the Chief Executive as Returning Officer.</p> <p>He has advised that whilst considerable and positive steps are being taken in this country to reduce the impact of Covid 19, with the mass vaccination programme well underway, testing centres and social distancing, we do not want to undo the good work that is starting to show in reducing infection rates both locally and nationally.</p> <p>We need to ensure that counting staff are socially distanced and this, together with potentially increased voter turnout as a result of higher numbers of postal votes, could mean the count taking longer than normal.</p> <p>We want to avoid tired staff making mistakes in the count and also in their continued observance of Covid safety precautions. We are also considering testing all election staff and need lead in time to be able to do this safely</p> <p>It is also important that candidates and agents are able to safely observe the count process in person and via their agents. Holding the count on Friday will facilitate this further.</p> <p>Therefore, the decision to verify and count votes for local elections on Friday, the day after the count closes, was made primarily to ensure the safety of counting staff, candidates, guests and agents.</p> <p>We understand that at least half of the other GM local counts are being scheduled for Friday as well.</p> <p>I would like emphasis that the GM Mayoral count, was scheduled for Saturday 8th May by the CARO (Combined Authority Returning Officer), therefore, provision has already been made to ensure secure storage of the ballot boxes in the time between close of polls and Saturday count.</p> <p>I can assure colleagues, that all ballot boxes will be securely stored throughout this period. Security will be in place throughout the night at the storage location. All ballot boxes will also have a numbered seal. These will be checked on receipt at close of poll and checked prior to opening on the Friday morning to ensure that these have not been tampered with.</p> <p>Please note the Returning officer will provide a written response in respect of the use of private security at the count venue on the night of 6th May 2021.</p>
2	Labour	Can the leader inform council what the town recovery plan looks like

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		after covid restrictions have been lifted? Cllr Gavin McGill
	Cllr O'Brien	<p>The Council has been proactively supporting businesses in our the town centres with the Local Restrictions Support Grant, Additional Restrictions Grant and the forthcoming Town Centres Safe Reopening Fund.</p> <p>In anticipation of our town centres reopening we have been formulating place-centred strategies to invest into our town centres:</p> <p>In Bury town centre we are about to embark on a strategic master planning exercise of Bury town centre which seeks to create an inclusive, vibrant centre which is a great place to work, play and live. This will in turn provide economic resilience, unlock accessibility and reinvigorate the night time economy.</p> <p>In Radcliffe town centre work is continuing to deliver the Radcliffe Strategic Regeneration Framework. This will seek to create a strong town centre with both day and night-time functions along with strengthening the retail offer and creating high quality public spaces. We are working on plans to create new council owned co-working office space within the existing market chambers building. There are a number of residential development opportunities throughout the town centre that will be unlocked and we will be able to update you on further plans as we develop them over the next few weeks.</p> <p>In Prestwich town centre significant progress has been made to unlock development obstacles. Proposals are being developed which will involve the council acquiring the remaining Longfield Shopping centre and plans to consult with Prestwich residents on redevelopment plans which will create new homes, civic and commercial spaces, along with usable public realm and a new public square. This will seek to create a new and distinct centre for Prestwich which is fit for purpose for the modern demands for the town.</p> <p>In Ramsbottom town centre we have just commissioned a town plan which provides a strategy to provide further resilience to this successful town. Interventions centre on both public realm connectivity, supporting tourism and retail functions, along with council led projects which make Ramsbottom a great town centre to live in.</p> <p>The Council is also keen to provide further engagement to the businesses and town centre communities to understand what further interventions can be implemented to help and provide further resilience with reopening.</p>
3	Labour	Will the leader join with me in condemning the below inflation 1% pay rise for our hard working NHS workers and pay freeze for many public

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		sector workers? Cllr Mary Whitby
	Cllr Simpson	<p>We fully agree that the national pay offer is wholly insufficient to reflect the invaluable work of our borough and our country's frontline health care workers.</p> <p>At our last meeting the Council thanked all our staff for their incredible work, especially over the last year. We were clear that we believed these staff should be paid properly for the work they do and as part of that we committed to paying the Real Living Wage to all our employees and contractors. We call on the government to do the same with appropriate pay for those who look after our most vulnerable.</p>
4	Conservative	<p>The Government have provided Bury Council with an additional £619,000 Covid Winter Grant. This funding has been given to support those most in need with the cost of food, energy, water and other essentials.</p> <p>The Council have been given the discretion to apply eligibility and identify those who need it most and the Government expects it to be used to support things such as food banks, free school meals and help with bills.</p> <p>This substantial funding has to be allocated by the end of March and any underspend has to be repaid.</p> <p>In view of this, can you provide a breakdown of how the money has been spent to date and any planned usage and will it all be spent to support vulnerable families?</p> <p>Cllr D Vernon</p>
	Cllr O'Brien	<p>This grant was allocated for the following activity to ensure reach to individuals and families known to be in financial hardship:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free school meals for Christmas, February half term and Easter school holidays (£484,000 allocated; £289,500 spent to date pending Easter holidays); • Provision of the Fit and Fed programme during the same school holiday periods (£15,000 allocated; £6,000 spent to date pending Easter holidays); • Provision of food and fuel vouchers to individuals and families (£100,000 allocated; £53,000 spent to date); • Crisis Fund (£20,000 allocated; fully spent). <p>The provision of £15 food and fuel vouchers was facilitated through a network of trusted referrers, primarily members of the Bury Community Support Network. This network has expanded over time to include other organisations and services working with targeted cohorts.</p> <p>Internally services have worked through the trusted referrer route to identify families where additional support would be welcomed. This has</p>

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		<p>been achieved through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of internal communications to ensure all practitioners across services including Early Help and Social Care are aware of the funding available and the means to access them; • Targeted communications to schools, and in particular pastoral leads, to encourage take up of the support. <p>More recently activity has been undertaken to increase the use of the funding and reach out to those known to be financial hardship through targeted communication. The targeted communication activity detailed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The specific support schemes available to the identified cohort; • The wider partnership welfare offer e.g. Citizens Advice Bureau; • Promotion of food and fuel voucher support. <p>Spend of the grant is monitored weekly and activity promoted / updated where necessary. There is no anticipated underspend of the £619,000.</p>
5	Labour	<p>Can the Leader provide an update on the success of the Council's brownfield first strategy? Cllr Martin Hayes</p>
	Cllr O'Brien	<p>It is of utmost importance that housing development across our district is prioritised on brownfield sites.</p> <p>In an effort to accelerate the delivery of this, the Council is collaboratively engaging with Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Homes England to procure grant funding for site works which de-risk ground conditions, provide remediation and clearance, and unlock both project viability and marketability.</p> <p>The Council was successfully awarded Brownfield Land Fund grant monies for School Street Radcliffe, Fletcher Fold Bury, Seedfield Centre Bury and shortlisted for the next round at Wheatfields Centre Whitefield, all of which will deliver over 200 additional homes in our borough.</p> <p>Significant progress has been made at East Lancashire Paper Mill site in Radcliffe. The first 30 affordable homes have been tendered by Homes England last month and we will be in a position to confirm timings for the disposal of the site and delivery of the overall site by the summer.</p>

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		<p>The Council is also implementing a land disposal programme which includes numerous brownfield sites and will be commissioning an active marketing campaign over the next 6 months. Any council owned land which is to be disposed of and developed will include site specific development briefs which outline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Housing types and tenures which match demand in locality - At least 25% affordable homes - Policy compliant planning contributions - High energy performance including Low carbon / Ecohomes requirements - Exploration of sustainable drainage systems and electric vehicle charging infrastructure <p>We are also exploring several renewable energy systems to be included within the town centre strategies for Radcliffe, Bury and Prestwich.</p> <p>School Street Radcliffe (94 homes – works commenced last month), Fletcher Fold Bury (c.30 homes – works commenced this month), Seedfield Centre Bury (70 homes – demolition works commence by summer) and shortlisted for the next round at Wheatfields Centre Whitefield (c.30 homes).</p>
6	Labour	<p>Whilst the Government have extended the £20 uplift in Universal Credit, they have not agreed to make it permanent. To many struggling families who are claiming universal credit, this will make them worse off at exactly the time when the Government should be providing extra support to them. However, other groups are in need of extra support too, so will the leader join with me in calling on the Government to uplift the carer's allowance for unpaid carers?</p> <p>Cllr Sandra Walmsley</p>
	Cllr Simpson	<p>Yes, I support the call on Government to uplift the carers allowance for unpaid carers. Carers do an incredible and difficult role in Bury.</p> <p>Carers allowance is a lifeline for many carers who dedicate at least 35 hours a week providing regular care to someone who has a disability. However, since April 2020, over 480,000 carers with an entitlement to Carer's Allowance have each lost out on close to £1000 of support</p> <p>In February, Carers UK called on the Chancellor to put in place more support for carers, including addressing the financial hardship carers are facing and introducing a £20 a week supplement for people entitled to Carer's Allowance. This supplement would help carers manage both the higher costs of caring and the lack of services available to help them stay in work, and matches the increases awarded to those on Universal Credit.</p> <p>Supporting any campaign or activity that recognises the role of carers, the positive impact and significant contribution carers make to the health and social care system, is a good thing.</p>

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		<p>To receive the benefit the person the carer cares for must be in receipt of a relevant benefit. There are several conditions to meet to be eligible for the carers allowance.</p> <p>During the pandemic, the government confirmed that providing emotional support counts towards the Carers Allowance threshold of 35 hours of care a week, and that carers are still entitled to receive Carers Allowance if they have a temporary break from caring because the carer or those they care for, get coronavirus or have to self-isolate because of it.</p> <p>On 3 February 2021 Carers UK delivered a letter signed by 5062 people to the Chancellor, calling on him to put in place more support for carers, including addressing the financial hardship carers are facing and introducing a £20 a week supplement for people entitled to Carer's Allowance, helping carers manage both the higher costs of caring and the lack of services available to help them stay in work. Carers UK are calling for a £20 supplement rather than an uplift, so it isn't taken off other benefit payments such as Income Support with a recommendation that it should also be backdated to recognise that many carers haven't received any additional support since COVID-19 began.</p>																									
7	Lib Dem	<p>On how many occasions, in the current year and in the previous three years, has the Council, or its contractors, used bailiffs to recover debts from residents or businesses?</p> <p>Cllr Tegolo</p>																									
	Cllr O'Brien	<p>The number of cases referred to us in 2020/21 was substantially down on the previous three years. In 2020/21 1,216 cases were referred, down from 5,059 in 2019/20, 4,105 in 2018/19, and 4,771 in 2017/18.</p> <p>The actual cash collected in the most recently financial year is down more than six-fold on the year before, reflecting the significant decrease in debt collection.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="392 1442 1075 1771"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>cases referred</th> <th>Gross value</th> <th>cash collected</th> <th>Closed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2017/18</td> <td>4,771</td> <td>3,419,200</td> <td>1,371,858</td> <td>3,807</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018/19</td> <td>4,105</td> <td>3,207,839</td> <td>1,220,249</td> <td>3,037</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019/20</td> <td>5,059</td> <td>3,477,027</td> <td>1,241,473</td> <td>2,544</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020/21</td> <td>1,216</td> <td>825,029</td> <td>183,104</td> <td>97</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	cases referred	Gross value	cash collected	Closed	2017/18	4,771	3,419,200	1,371,858	3,807	2018/19	4,105	3,207,839	1,220,249	3,037	2019/20	5,059	3,477,027	1,241,473	2,544	2020/21	1,216	825,029	183,104	97
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8	Conservative	<p>Considering the number of complaints, I am receiving regarding waste collection and in particular relating to the "Farm Vehicle" can I urge that a review of this department is carried out without delay. Waste Collection is probably the most fundamental functions undertaken by</p>																									

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		any Local Authority. Cllr D Gunther
	Cllr Quinn	<p>It is recognised that the 'Farms' round has suffered long standing problems, due to problems with the reliability of the vehicle and for that the service can only apologise. It is a bespoke vehicle, being the only one of its kind on the fleet. It suffers ongoing mechanical problems due to the rough tracks it travels along.</p> <p>We have replaced it twice with hired vehicles, but still issues persist with the existing hired vehicle and because of its unusual size it is almost impossible to hire in a like for like replacement at short notice. Every other vehicle on the fleet is too big to access many of the properties on the 'Farms' round.</p> <p>These issues are then exacerbated with problems with snow and ice when the weather turns wintry.</p> <p>The service is in the process of reviewing the round and will be placing an order for the purchase of a new vehicle shortly as it endeavours to improve the service quality.</p> <p>The service can only apologise for the ongoing disruptions to collections and the resultant inconvenience caused. It is doing all it can to address the situation</p>
9	Labour	What is the council doing to promote the Skills agenda amongst key partners and stakeholders? Cllr Mary Whitby
	Cllr Tariq	<p>The skills agenda is of high importance to this council, and we strive for the residents of this borough to access the skills they need for their employment and life chances.</p> <p>In the coming months we are planning to facilitate a skills workshop, bringing together our key partners and stakeholders to discuss skills as part of the 2030 transformation strategy. These discussions will feed into a skills strategy which will be developed later this year.</p> <p>In the meanwhile, we are promoting our skills agenda in numerous other ways:</p> <p>A Youth Participation Group was established in early 2020 to bring together key partners to discuss and agree a strategic approach to increasing participation. With the Council's focus on the Skills agenda, this group widened its remit and in 2021 became the Youth Participation and Skills Forum.</p> <p>We have an Apprenticeship Working Group, and this is supported by the 14-19 Team and Connexions, and is made up of the main apprenticeship providers and careers guidance organisations delivering in the borough, and the DWP.</p>

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		<p>We are continuing Backing Young Bury. This offer to schools has been developed by Bury Council with partner organisations to provide pupils with a wide range of careers information, advice, and guidance in a planned way throughout the school year. The activities will help the schools meet the Gatsby Benchmarks. Most of the activities are free with the others at a low cost.</p> <p>The incoming Director of Education and Skills will be briefed on the work of the forum, related activities, and the role of employees within the Children and Young People’s Directorate in supporting the Skills agenda.</p> <p>The forum reports to the Bury Strategic Education Board which, in turn, reports to the Children’s Strategic Partnership Board. The forum is chaired by the Interim Assistant Director of Education and Inclusion. The work of the Forum will be aligned to the Greater Manchester Young Person’s Guarantee and the Bury Offer.</p> <p>The forum has agreed terms of reference and at the meeting held on 3 March progress was reported on the two work streams:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provision Mapping against the Labour Market Information sectors (a task and finish group is now formed to check accuracy, identify gaps and explore opportunities to address gaps/ needs for all young people and specific vulnerable groups) 2. Risk of NEET (not in education, employment, or training) Indicators (initial work being undertaken by Roger Pakeman (14-19 Adviser) and Andy Bradburn (IYSS Team Manager)) <p>Membership of the Forum:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="392 1332 1477 2022"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="392 1332 756 1370">Sector</th> <th data-bbox="756 1332 1477 1370">Organisation/Body</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="392 1370 756 1480">Employers/Agencies working with employers:</td> <td data-bbox="756 1370 1477 1480">Economic Development (Council) Bury Apprenticeship Working Group</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="392 1480 756 1590">Colleges:</td> <td data-bbox="756 1480 1477 1590">Bury College Elms Bank College Holy Cross</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="392 1590 756 1664">Schools:</td> <td data-bbox="756 1590 1477 1664">Secondary Head Spring Lane School</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="392 1664 756 1702">Parents:</td> <td data-bbox="756 1664 1477 1702">Bury2gether (Parent/Carer Forum)</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="392 1702 756 1845">Teams/Agencies working with priority groups:</td> <td data-bbox="756 1702 1477 1845">IYSS Care and Support Service Virtual School Foundation Learning Group Rep</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="392 1845 756 2022">Children’s Services:</td> <td data-bbox="756 1845 1477 2022">Quality Standards and Performance Service, including 14-19 Team SEN Team Commissioning Early Help</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Sector	Organisation/Body	Employers/Agencies working with employers:	Economic Development (Council) Bury Apprenticeship Working Group	Colleges:	Bury College Elms Bank College Holy Cross	Schools:	Secondary Head Spring Lane School	Parents:	Bury2gether (Parent/Carer Forum)	Teams/Agencies working with priority groups:	IYSS Care and Support Service Virtual School Foundation Learning Group Rep	Children’s Services:	Quality Standards and Performance Service, including 14-19 Team SEN Team Commissioning Early Help
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10	Labour	It was very welcome to see the extra investment in the budget for Burrs Country Park. Can the Leader provide explain how this will be used to help the park continue to thrive? Cllr Susan Southworth																									
	Cllr Quinn	Burrs is Bury's flagship country park and is proving to be more vital than ever for peoples wellbeing during this pandemic. The £100,000 allocation will be used in partnership with the Friends group to update the Burrs strategy and the business case for the parks long term sustainability. This will also include the development of external funding bids and some H&S repairs. This adds to the £70,000 already allocated to improve parking to the popular park.																									
11	Conservative	Bury Market is one of the finest markets in the country and this Council needs to do more to safeguard the future. Please can the Leader outline the turnover of stalls for 18/19 19/20 and 20/21 as well as the occupancy levels of the Market. Cllr. Yvonne Wright																									
	Cllr O'Brien	<p>Bury Market is indeed on the of finest markets in the country, and this is backed by the many accolades and awards the market has won over the years. Our most recent figures show 90% occupancy on our daily license stalls, which I believe in the face of the pandemic is very good and a testament to the financial support we have provided the market with.</p> <p>Supplementary</p> <p><u>Stall Occupancy/ Turn over</u></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Year</th> <th colspan="3">Number of Allocations/Assignments</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Daily Licence (170 Stalls)</th> <th>Market Parade (35 Stalls)</th> <th>Leasehold (157 Stalls)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>18/19</td> <td>20</td> <td>13</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19/20</td> <td>23</td> <td>11</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20/21</td> <td>12</td> <td>2</td> <td>15</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><u>Current Occupancy Rate March 2021</u></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Daily Licence</th> <th>Market Parade</th> <th>Leasehold</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>90%</td> <td>44%</td> <td>95%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Number of Allocations/Assignments			Daily Licence (170 Stalls)	Market Parade (35 Stalls)	Leasehold (157 Stalls)	18/19	20	13	15	19/20	23	11	18	20/21	12	2	15	Daily Licence	Market Parade	Leasehold	90%	44%	95%
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		<p>Above are the figures based on 167 Stalls on the open market And 35 stalls on Market parade.</p> <p>*Market Parade figures do not account for casual traders, which we would have if not for Lockdown, so a truer value would be around 60%</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Year</th> <th colspan="3">% Average Occupancy Rate Per Year</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Daily Licence</th> <th>Market Parade</th> <th>Leasehold</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>18/19</td> <td>96%</td> <td>80%</td> <td>99%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19/20</td> <td>93%</td> <td>86%</td> <td>98%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20/21</td> <td>90%</td> <td>74%</td> <td>95%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	% Average Occupancy Rate Per Year			Daily Licence	Market Parade	Leasehold	18/19	96%	80%	99%	19/20	93%	86%	98%	20/21	90%	74%	95%
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1 2	Labour	Can the Leader explain what the plans are for Barnfield Park following the £100,000 allocated in the recent budget? Cllr Richard Gold																			
	Cllr Quinn	<p>The recent £100,000 allocation will be the first step in what the council and City of Trees hope will turn the former horticulture centre into a new base for Greater Manchester's Community Forest Team, which includes bringing back into use the polytunnels and planter beds for growing trees and wildflowers for use in projects in Bury and elsewhere in the borough. The aim is to make it a haven of practical learning for people to gain the skills needed to access jobs in the environment sector. Communities and schools will be able to visit the site and be inspired to deliver greening projects in their own parks, gardens and school grounds.</p> <p>Consultation has been carried out on 7 sites covering 3.8ha of tree planting which includes 6 Community Orchards, 9700 trees. Plans for each site have been changed slightly with the communities comments in mind. This project has been very well received generally and there are groups who are eager to get planting and involved in maintaining the trees as they grow.</p>																			
1 3	Labour	Following the additional match funding monies in the budget, can the Leader tell this council about the plans for the new 3G pitch and facilities in Radcliffe? Cllr Beth Mortenson																			
	Cllr Quinn	The Council has approved a total of £500,000 to support the development of an external funding bid in partnership with the Football																			

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		<p>Foundation. The aim is to develop a 'state of the art' full-size 3G all-weather football pitch together with new changing rooms and additional parking at Redbank Playing Field. A feasibility study is currently being carried out as well as ground surveys.</p> <p>There are no guarantees at this stage of external funding. The scheme also complements the wider Radcliffe regeneration strategy</p>
1 4	Lib Dem	<p>Now that it has been confirmed that there are no plans to reopen the Longfield Suite in Prestwich, can the Leader confirm what the plans are for rehousing the war memorial located in the Suite? Councillor Wright</p>
	Cllr D Jones	<p>A full and final decision has not yet been made, and residents are still able to contribute to the consultation survey and put forward their views. The consultation will continue to run until 17 March 2021, via the One Community website: - https://www.onecommunitybury.co.uk/burycouncil-civicvenuesfeedback</p> <p>Following public consultation, all consultation feedback will be thoroughly analysed and considered. A report will be scheduled at Cabinet in early Summer in order for a final decision to be reached.</p> <p>If a decision is reached at Cabinet to permanently close the Longfield Suite, alternative options will be explored to relocate the war memorial.</p>
1 5	Conservative	<p>Church Ward councillors have been informed by our highways department that remedial work on Watling Street will take place this summer. Please could we receive assurance that this work will be fully resurfaced with a view to longevity. Cllr. Jackie Harris</p>
	Cllr L Smith	<p>As part of the Highway Investment Strategy Phase 2 we will be providing over 124,000 sqm of preventative maintenance surface treatments in 2021/22.</p> <p>As part of this programme it is our aim that the whole of the Seddons Farm estate will receive either a micro asphalt or surface dressing during the summer of 2021. This includes applying a Micro asphalt surface to Watling Street.</p> <p>Preventative Maintenance treatments such as micro asphalts and surface dressings are the most efficient form of highway maintenance. Micro asphalt provides a durable road surface which costs approximately ¼ of the costs of resurfacing and has an expected serviceable life of between 8 and 12 years, whereas resurfacing is expected to last around 20 years.</p>
1 6	Labour	<p>What progress has the Council made around the Early Help/ Trouble families offer over the past year? Cllr Susan Southworth</p>

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	Cllr Tariq	<p>At the end of 2019 we moved the Troubled Families Offer to the new Early Help Division and integrated it into the core Early Help Offer. We have transformed how we deliver and track the Troubled Families delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We de-commissioned the stand-alone team but retained key roles which now sit as part of our integrated delivery model in our locality Early Help teams • We have worked closely on the transition of the data analysts into the new performance team in the corporate core and have worked on changes to recording systems to enable us to identify and track outcomes for the Troubled Families criteria families across the Childrens System, more effectively. • The Troubled Families manager has the flexibility to bring together other key agendas and has also taken a lead on the Reducing Parental Conflict agenda which has also been integrated into our local delivery model • We have improved our turnaround of families against the troubled families criteria from 40% to almost 80% this year • We have developed a rigorous quality assurance framework for the new early help division to ensure we are looking at quality and effectiveness of practice and we are seeing improvements in reduction of re-referrals into early help, greater engagement from families and with our team around the school offer we are seeing more of our schools engaging and less referrals into social care from schools as we develop better early help support- even through COVID restrictions and school closures • We have developed an investment plan linked to troubled families grant to develop a Family Offer. A new multi-agency delivery group has been established to develop and deliver this offer • Having established the Early Help Division we created a priority action plan for 20/21 which has been reviewed through quarterly performance meetings and reporting mechanisms so we can monitor and track our progress and our impact • We have now refreshed the Early Help Delivery Board which sits under the Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership Board, have a clear governance and challenge forum to continually develop services
17	Labour	<p>Will the leader join me in congratulating our GP Practices and our council staff for the excellent roll out of the Covid vaccinations in our communities? Cllr Trevor Holt</p> <p>Supplementary - Can the leader tell me what work is underway to encourage those who are anxious about having the vaccination to get vaccinated?</p>
	Cllr Simpson	<p>Absolutely. The GP practices supported by our Council staff and wider partners have done a fantastic job. So far over 75,000 people have received their first dose which is 71% of the eligible cohorts 1-9 and around 40% of the whole adult population. There is high confidence of delivering the national target for all adults to have received their first</p>

Q	Party	Question								
		<p>vaccine by end of July now that vaccine supply issues seem to be resolved and the work to begin the roll out of second doses has begun.</p> <p>The good news is that the proportion of the population reporting hesitancy is falling and very high levels of uptake have been achieved so far. Nevertheless, there remain people particularly among the younger population and black and minority ethnic groups who remain cautious. This is mainly due to concerns about safety, side effects and longer-term effects. We are doing several things to encourage people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with and through community leaders and specific services to develop targeted comms including videos from relevant role models and 'Ask us Anything' webinars plus outreach work e.g., with gypsy and traveller community. • Undertaking personal phone calls to those who have yet to take up their vaccine by practices, the community hubs and community groups including in community languages where needed. • Established dedicated sessions for groups such as homeless and south Asian community. • There are also ways in which GPs can support those who are Needle phobic to have the vaccine. 								
18	Lib Dem	<p>Could the Leader inform members on the number of reports made of potholes, in each of the last five years?</p> <p>Cllr Powell</p>								
	Cllr L Smith	<p>The number of potholes reported in each of the last five financial years is as follows:</p> <p>2015/16 – 2942 2016/17 – 2798 2017/18 – 4587 2018/19 – 2170 2019/20 – 2400 2020/21 – 1397 to date (09/03/2021).</p> <p>The number of reported potholes has decreased by over 50% since 2017/18, which clearly demonstrates that our investment in highway maintenance through the Highway Investment Strategy is improving our road network.</p>								
19	Lib Dem	<p>Could the Leader inform members on the amount paid out by the authority, and the amount spent on legal costs, for compensation claims as a result of poor road and pavement surfaces, for the last five financial years?</p> <p>Cllr Tegolo</p>								
	Cllr L Smith	<p>The payments for damages and legal cost linked to highway claims is as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="392 1868 1461 2018"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="392 1868 652 1980">Financial Year</th> <th data-bbox="652 1868 892 1980">Damages paid</th> <th data-bbox="892 1868 1251 1980">Third Party Solicitors Costs</th> <th data-bbox="1251 1868 1461 1980">Our Solicitors Costs</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="392 1980 652 2018">2016</td> <td data-bbox="652 1980 892 2018">£563,318.00</td> <td data-bbox="892 1980 1251 2018">£348,445.14</td> <td data-bbox="1251 1980 1461 2018">£58,997.12</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Financial Year	Damages paid	Third Party Solicitors Costs	Our Solicitors Costs	2016	£563,318.00	£348,445.14	£58,997.12
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20	Lib Dem	<p>Could the Leader of the Council inform members on how many street trees have been removed, and how many planted, so far this municipal year and in the previous three municipal years?</p> <p>Cllr Powell</p>																				
	Cllr Quinn	<p>The council have removed a total of 7 Highway trees this financial year. All of these trees were either dead, in-decline or damaged in strong winds.</p> <p>The Council, in collaboration with City of Trees and our excellent "Friends of" groups is planting hundreds of trees across the borough.</p>																				
21	Lib Dem	<p>Could the Leader give members a breakdown, by elected member, of Councillor discretionary budgets that remained unspent by the end of this grant giving year?</p> <p>Cllr S Wright</p>																				
	Cllr Rafiq	<p>Thank you for your question. Members were instructed to spend all remaining discretionary grants monies by 28th February 2021.</p> <p>Each Councillor received a £1000 grant. Only one Councillor did not use any of their allocated monies, a further 17 Councillors spent some but not all, the total amount remaining un-spent was £6904.65 out of total budget £51,000.</p>																				