

# Article 1 - The Council and the constitution

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This article explains the Council's priorities and values, and the Constitution which is published on the Council's website. The Council has decided to operate a leader and cabinet model of governance.

## Strategic priorities and values of the council

### 1.1 Priorities

The Council and its partners have adopted a 10 year strategic plan called Bury 2030 to provide strategic direction of the Council's work. Bury 2030 sets out priorities in order to improve the quality of life of the people in Bury and the measures used to show how far those priorities have been met. A delivery plan that sets out what actions the Council will take to achieve the priorities of Bury 2030 is agreed each year by the Cabinet and progress is reported on a quarterly basis. The Let's Do It strategy has forged the following LETS principles that will guide the Council's work:

#### **Local** neighbourhoods

We know that is relationships, not services, which truly make the difference to people's lives. We want to build on this through empowered local communities where individuals, families and communities are in control and at the heart of decision making. We will bring our collective talent, energies and community power together for the greater good by:

- Engaging people where and how they live
- Hearing all voices and learning from them
- Trusting and helping each other, always working together
- Listening when others talk, helping and enabling
- Supporting development and growth and removing barriers to collaboration

#### An **Enterprising** spirit

We are known for our spirit of enterprise and innovation and we will harness that spirit to raise aspirations to grow and develop our people and businesses. We will remove the barriers that prevent people from getting on and connect local people to opportunities through their skills, confidence and relationships by:

- Demonstrating pride in our collective and individual achievements and in the place where we live
- Ensuring everyone has an equal voice and equal life chances by harnessing and nurturing all talents
- Championing innovation, always looking for ways to improve quality of life for all
- Being courageous and stepping out of our comfort zone to help ourselves and others
- Opening doors at every opportunity

Delivering **Together**

A new relationship between public services, communities and businesses which is based on co-design and accountability for shared decision making; it is about doing 'with' not 'to' by bringing a greater focus on wellbeing, prevention and early intervention. We will take responsibility for making a difference by:

- Committing to making a positive, practical difference in addressing and tackling our challenges
- Valuing and developing the role and voices of people and communities to share and deliver, wherever we can
- Empowering residents and groups to take decisions and harness resources
- Strength through cultural diversity
- Growing relationships and new connections across boundaries
- Demonstrating dignity, kindness and respect in everything we do.

### A **Strengths-based** approach

Our vision is for a place in which people are helped to make the best of themselves, by recognising and building on strengths not deficits of all our children, families and our communities, and taking an evidence-led understanding of risk and impact to ensure the right intervention at the right time. We will do this by:

- Really listening to understand each other and our shared potential
- Being flexible and putting our energies into where we can make the most positive difference asking 'what matters to you?'
- Being open to trying new things and doing things differently
- Valuing the skills, strengths and successes of individuals and communities.

## 1.2 Powers of the Council

The Council's duties and powers are set out in the law of England. A duty that requires the council to act in a particular way. A power that gives the Council discretion to act. The arrangements are complex and detailed.

The Council must meet high ethical and other standards in everything it does; it must comply with legal requirements; and it must use public money and other resources economically, efficiently and effectively, accounting fully for its actions. In order to discharge these responsibilities, members and senior officers must ensure the proper governance of the council's affairs and the stewardship of its resources.

Powers are exercised by the Council and its functions carried out in accordance with the functions scheme (part 3). The council operates the "leader and cabinet" model of Executive arrangements

## 1.3 The constitution

This Constitution and all its appendices form the Constitution of the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Bury (known as Bury Council).

## 1.4 Purpose of the Constitution

The purpose of the constitution is to set out in a single place and clear language how the council works and how it makes decisions to

- a) enable the Council to provide clear leadership to the community in partnership with citizens, businesses and other organisations
- b) support the active involvement of citizens in the process of council decision-making
- c) help Councillors represent their constituents more effectively
- d) enable decisions to be taken efficiently and effectively
- e) create a powerful and effective means of holding decision-makers to public account
- f) ensure that no one will review or scrutinise a decision in which they were directly involved
- g) ensure that those responsible for decision making are clearly identifiable to local people and that they explain the reasons for decisions
- h) provide a means of improving the delivery of services to the local community

## **1.5. Meaning of the Constitution**

If the constitution gives the council a choice about what to do, the council must choose the option that it thinks is closest to the purpose of the constitution.

## **1.6 Review and changes to the Constitution**

Reviews and changes to the Constitution will be in accordance with the functions scheme.

## **1.7 Suspension of the constitution**

The only power to suspend the Constitution is in accordance with the council procedure rules.