

REPORT FOR DECISION

DECISION OF:	The Council
DATE:	24th November 2021
SUBJECT:	Leaders' Report
REPORT FROM:	Leader of the Council
TYPE OF DECISION:	Non key decision
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS	This paper is within the public domain.
SUMMARY:	This report provides an update on the activity of the Council against the Corporate Plan.
OPTIONS & RECOMMENDED OPTION	That Council notes the report and agrees that further updates are provided to future Council meetings.
IMPLICATIONS:	
Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:	Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes
Equality/Diversity implications:	Equality Impact considerations included on the individual Council reports.
Wards Affected:	All Wards.
Scrutiny Interest:	Overview and Scrutiny

1 Leader's note

- 1.1 I am pleased to provide Council with my report covering the period from 25th August 2021 to 16th November 2021.
- 1.2 It has been a busy few months since our last Council meeting. In that time, we have been successful in obtaining over £100 million from Government. We've won two £20 million grants from the Levelling Up

Fund, which will go towards our ambitious plans to regenerate Radcliffe town centre and the area around Bury Market, and we are expecting at least a further £60 million from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority bid to improve our public transport infrastructure. Make no mistake, this is fantastic news. But it didn't happen by accident, or through an atypical act of kindness. This was a highly competitive process, and the result of years of hard work by the Council.

- 1.3 However, these grants cannot overshadow the fact that the Government has stripped £100 million from our budgets over the last decade. This is £100m every year we no longer have to pay for essential services, from social care to the bins. One-off investment for flagship schemes is very welcome, but it is no substitute for being properly funded for the day-to-day services that local residents and taxpayers expect and rely on. It's an odd coincidence that the money taken from us is practically the same as the money we're getting now - again, only on a one-off basis. This, in my view, will not level us up.
- 1.4 Our manifesto pledge to become a Real Living Wage accredited employer became a reality this month. On the 15th of November I attended and spoke at a ceremony organised by the Living Wage Foundation at the People's History Museum in Manchester to mark 'Living Wage Week'. At this event we were awarded Living Wage accreditation by the Foundation, after demonstrating that we are paying all our directly employed staff £9.50 per hour and have a plan to pay our indirectly employed staff the Real Living Wage. I believe this will play a huge part in our anti-poverty work, by increasing the pay of thousands of the lowest paid in our Borough.
- 1.5 This month we commemorated Remembrance Day with a respectful ceremony and procession from the Town Hall to the Market Place where we observed a two-minute silence and a Wreath Laying Ceremony. It has always been of utmost importance from this Council to honour the sacrifices made by our armed forces. I recently attended the Bury Veterans Breakfast and spoke with some of our veterans about the work we are doing to support them, including the signing of our Armed Forces Covenant on 10 November, which will help give veterans and their families the support they need and deserve.
- 1.6 This month world leaders and policymakers united in Glasgow at COP26 to attempt to make a plan to tackle climate change. At Bury Council we are doing all we can to reduce our own emissions in line with line with the goal to keep global warming down to a 1.5 degree increase. We recently launched a new £100k community fund to back local climate action projects and help Bury on its journey to becoming carbon neutral by

2038. Grants of up to £15,000 are on offer for community-led projects that will engage local people, inspire behaviour change, and prompt action. We launched this fund to coincide with COP26 and hope we receive strong interest before bids close on the 30th November.

- 1.7 The past two Cabinet meetings since our last full Council meeting have been packed with positive developments in delivering our 'Brownfield First' ambitions for housebuilding in the Borough. In October our sites included the former Wheatfields day centre in Whitefield - to be developed by Onward Homes to provide 30 affordable homes, Prestwich town centre - through the formation of a Joint Venture with Muse Developments, bring about 240 homes as part of the Prestwich Urban Village regeneration programme, School Street in Radcliffe - to be developed by Hive Homes to deliver 89 new family homes, Green Street in Radcliffe - to be developed by Watson Homes to deliver 133 new apartments, and The former East Lancashire Paper Mill - working with Homes England to create an initial 25 affordable homes (delivered by Great Places) followed by 400 homes.
- 1.8 We have many more disposals and redevelopment opportunities coming up in future cabinet meetings too. The 17 November 2021 Cabinet will include the disposal of the former Seedfield Centre in Bury, in which Hive Homes will deliver 81 family orientated houses, the former Williams Kemp School site in Bury where Great Places Housing Group look at delivering a bespoke intergenerational affordable housing scheme which includes affordable family homes, accessible bungalows and specialist supported living apartments for people with learning disabilities. It has been designed to complement and utilise the existing facilities in Peachment Place. Once developed, the two sites have the potential to deliver 118 new homes, including 57 of an affordable tenure (48% - nearly twice planning policy compliance) of which 15 will be much needed bespoke supported homes for disabled tenants. At this Cabinet we will consider the acquisition of the Millgate Shopping Centre and Estate. This presents significant development opportunities to deliver once in a generation investment into housing, employment, civic infrastructure along with unlocking opportunities for new wellness, health, and education facilities. The approval of this item would mean a joint-venture with Bruntwood, who have an award-winning track record of regenerating urban centres.
- 1.9 In October we learnt of the news of the death of the former Leader of the Council and Mayor of Bury Mike Connolly. Mike was an outstanding Ward Councillor, Cabinet Member, Leader and Mayor. Mike lived in Bury all his life, always in the East Ward area. He taught in Primary Schools in Radcliffe, Whitefield and Ramsbottom and was a Headteacher in Blackburn before taking early retirement. He was elected to Bury Council as a Labour

Councillor for East Ward in 1994, until 2018. I was grateful to have been invited to pay my respects to Mike at his funeral and wake on the 11th November.

Reporting progress against stated commitments in Corporate Plan

The following table provides a brief summary of the Council's progress against the priorities set out in our Corporate Plan since the last report.

Department	Priority	Deliverables
Business, Growth and Infrastructure	Approval of Accelerated disposal programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 assets sold at auction September 21 from Phase 1 – capital receipts expected of £327k and £61k. 1 asset confirmed for November's auction with a guide price of £50k. Summerseat House site sold for £1.1 million. Phase 3 Cabinet report approved 13/10/21.
	Bury Flexihall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stage One procurement completed, construction partner selected. £20m Levelling Up Fund award confirmed to support delivery Flexihall and Bury market regeneration.
	Radcliffe Strategic Regeneration Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hub Project - Stage One procurement completed, preferred construction partner selected. £20m Levelling Up Fund award confirmed to support delivery of Hub project.
	One Public Estate Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of the Bury Campus options for Humphrey House approved at Cabinet 01/09/21 and work now underway to prepare a project plan for the next stages. Work is underway to consider the decant of St Mary's Place into 6KP.

	Places for Everyone (PfE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation on Publication PfE ended 3 October. • Currently analysing representations to identify key issues raised.
	Bury Interchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bury Interchange forms part of the £1.07 Billion award of monies through the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS). Phase 1 of the proposal has been awarded £45m with a further circa £36m to be funded in the next round of CRSTS.
	Full Fibre Rollout (5G network will follow)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VMB replan remaining sites. Handover to IT ongoing. Bury will be the first in north GM to complete.
Children and Young People	Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Improvement Tool Kit co-produced and shared with revised meeting and governance structure • Education Business Plan drafted • Pupil place planning – development of strategies in response to falling pupil numbers- paper presented to scrutiny • Education assurance protocol – a finalised autumn term assurance visit for all schools and an updated Bury school's toolkit - well received with good take up • Universal Quality Assurance Visits rolled out to schools with reports quality assured • Improvements recognised in Virtual school Personal Education Plans
	Special Educational Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with schools on mainstream top-started • Project Safety Valve report produced for School Forum • Co-production workshop with Bury2gether

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local area SEND strategic action plan being developed Agreement for new Social, Emotional and mental Health needs Resource Provision at Tottington Primary Safeguarding visits to alternative provision taken place – positive results
	Children’s Social Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Government Association Peer Review progress scrutiny paper presented Local Authority Ofsted inspection during October Children in Need (CIN) managed service commissioned, with a focus on managing child in need cases, currently in safeguarding and move to locality-based approach (significant increase in CIN numbers) Sampling of Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) cases which have closed was completed Revised MASH protocols around community domestic abuse
	Early Help	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued focus on children Electively Home Educated (EHE) or missing education Moved forward on integrated locality team (pilot) in Bury East, as well as moving some of the resource across EH (education welfare officer/Youth Service) to locality footprint Early Help response to MASH decision making reviewed and strengthened the preventative approach Early Help strategy developed
Operations	Climate Change Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Strategy and Action Plan approved by October Cabinet. The report also approved the

		establishment of Climate Action Forums, a Climate Action Board and the distribution of the £100k Climate Action Fund.
	Environmental Quality: Strategy in respect of community ownership – keeping the Borough clean and tidy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issued 9 Fixed Penalty Notices in October 7 for littering and 2 for fly tipping. • Prepared 2 prosecution files for 3 offences
	Green Spaces: Implement the playing pitch strategy, including 3G pitch plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening of Goshen 3G on 28/9/21.
	Waste and Transport: Waste collection review including optimisation and balancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining vehicles have been delivered. Waste collection has settled. Review of rounds underway. Head of Service recruited to.
	Strategic Transport Capacity and Transport plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultants appointed to write a Borough-wide Transport Strategy.
	Increased taxi testing capability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tender documents issued to interested parties in October and reminders sent out to all garages. • Tender documents to be returned early November for evaluation.
One Commissioning Organisation	COVID Response: Vaccination Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Booster Programme and 12-15 vaccine programme initiated and being monitored weekly through Vaccine Assurance Group.
	COVID response: Outbreak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outbreak Management Plan refresh completed to reflect Govt Autumn Winter Plan. Monitored through

	Management Plan	weekly Health Protection Board and fortnightly Gold.
	Urgent Care System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single system Urgent Care plan developed across Transformation/Resilience and business as usual • New Bury urgent and emergency care Integrated System Board commenced on Wednesday 8th September 2021.
	Neighbourhood Team Working in Health and Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operating model for INT working approved at Integrated Delivery Collaborative Board.
	Population Health: Starting Well	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secured £40K for 2 years funding for the '50 things to do before you're 5 app'.
Corporate Core	Domestic Abuse Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft strategy produced with Safe Accommodation Plan published for consultation on the Bury Directory.
	Community recovery "Pitch" participatory budget scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitch funding launched via Bury Directory and advertised through social media and the community hub network.
	Agile working	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interim evaluation complete. Overall positive. Areas for action identified.
	Inclusion strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Inclusion Week Celebration well received. Race Action Plan progressing and Equality Diversity and Inclusion Manager recruitment underway.
	Culture strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture Strategy workshop held with the Bury Strategic Leadership Group to further develop thinking.
	Real Living Wage in Bury Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payments to staff in place and contractor process well underway. Working towards accreditation by 15 November

List of Background Papers:-

None identified