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1	Conservative	<p>The Government has provided an allocation of £1,534,200.05 to the Council from the 2021/22 Household Support Fund (HSF); a grant intended to protect the most vulnerable from hardship this winter. This will be utilised for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ongoing provision of Free School Meals until Easter 2022</li> <li>• Targeted support for Council Tax Support Claimants</li> <li>• Targeted support for people at risk of in-work poverty</li> <li>• Investment and support to local community groups who provide anti-poverty support</li> <li>• Maintenance of crisis hardship provision</li> </ul> <p>How will the Council ensure as many people as possible are made aware of and contacted regarding the availability of this Government provided funding? <b>Cllr. Dene Vernon</b></p>
	Cllr Gold	<p>Extensive engagement has taken place through Public Service Leadership Team colleagues in each neighbourhood, [including Early Help Leads, Fire and Rescue Colleagues, Staying Well Team and Beacon Service Social Prescribing Link Workers] who are proactively identifying individuals and families who would benefit from winter hardship support and wraparound advice. This provides a focus on the areas of greatest deprivation and to seek to address in-work poverty. We are also working with the Bury Community Support Network, which is a collection of food banks and pantries in the Borough, who [along with other community leads such as Eagle Wings and Bury People First], are also identifying individuals and families with whom to provide immediate support and link into local advice and information, eg CAB debt advice; support through the Bury Directory.</p> <p>The Council is working closely with our boroughs schools to deliver the free school meal vouchers during the holidays. Schools are best placed to know and communicate with the parents that we are helping, and this continues to work well.</p> <p>We are also targeting those individuals and families in receipt of Council Tax Support, so that we can get this much needed support directly out to them before Christmas.</p> <p>A payment has been made to support the valuable work carried out by the members of the VCFA who work so closely with so many groups of residents across the Borough.</p> <p>In addition to these targeted approaches, we have added to our existing support services that work with many of our residents during the year to provide a safety net for those who find themselves in need of short-term support and advice.</p>

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2	<b>Labour</b>	<p>Could the Cabinet Member give an update on the landslip at Springwater Park? <b>Cllr Whitby</b></p> <p><b>Supplementary:</b> What representations have been made to the Government about this and have they agreed to provide the necessary funding?</p>
	<b>Cllr Quinn</b>	<p>At Springwater Park, all immediate health and safety concerns were made safe soon after the initial floods in February 2020. The slopes adjacent nearby properties have not deteriorated significantly since observations in spring 2020. 100 survey probes have been installed which continue to be monitored. A number of specialised geometric surveys are ongoing, and the site has been divided into a number of segments. A design programme is in place and each segment has been surveyed to determine the most appropriate 'risk based' design solution which could range from longer term monitoring to physical repairs and remedial works. Specific design solutions and detailed cost estimates should be ready early in 2022.</p> <p><b>Supplementary Response</b></p> <p>At this stage, no external funding or Government funding has been agreed. Council officers and the Cabinet Member Cllr Quinn are still endeavouring to get meetings set up through the Bury South MP with appropriate Government Minister. This is currently without success. Cllr Quinn is in the process of setting up a visit to Springwater with Andy Burnham in January 2022 in order to raise the profile of the issue as well as continue to gain support from the Government.</p>
3	<b>Labour</b>	<p>Does the Leader of the Council agree with me that post offices are crucial community assets and that Post Office should re-open their post offices in Unsworth promptly? <b>Cllr Boroda</b></p>
	<b>Cllr O'Brien</b>	<p>Thank you Cllr Boroda and yes I completely agree that Post Offices are a vital provision within our community. The Chief Executive has written to the Post Office to express the Council's disappointment that the two branches in Unsworth have not yet re-opened and he has encouraged them to restore provision as quickly as possible.</p> <p>With more and more reliance on digital means for services, this can often still exclude residents who are not able to get access online and we need to work with partners like the Post Office to support these residents. We will continue to support the Unsworth Councillors and community on this important issue.</p>

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4	Conservative	<p>Thank you to Cllr. Quinn for visiting Tottington recently and seemingly understanding the urgent need for a crossing/refuge on Market Street. Sadly after over a decade of asking, lobbying and putting forward petitions we are no nearer but we have made it on a "list". However, there is still no funding available for Tottington. As one resident said to me "why is it that areas represented by Labour Councillors are those which receive funding for crossings? <b>Cllr. Yvonne Wright</b></p>
	Cllr Quinn	<p>Around 2010, the government stopped Local Safety Scheme funding. This had provided around £600k per annum for the Council to introduce road safety measures. Without a funding source, it is necessary for proposed crossing locations to evidence an existing road safety issue by demonstrating a poor injury collision histories as well as meeting minimum criteria for vehicle and pedestrian numbers. Otherwise, controlled crossings (which cost around £65k) have only been provided when external funding has become available (usually through developers or GMCA initiatives). External funding comes with criteria and scheme selection does not wholly sit with the Council as sites need to fit with, say, cycle route locations, for example.</p> <p><b>Recent crossings installed:</b>  Walshaw Road (developer funded)  2 Toucan crossings Ainsworth RD, Radcliffe (GMCA - Growth Deal funded)  East Ward area – TfGM Walking &amp; Cycling initiative (GMCA - MCF funded)  2 Toucan crossings on A56 (DfT - Emergency Active Travel Fund 1 funded)</p> <p><b>Crossings due to be installed (GMCA Funding).</b>  Ainsworth Village (Radcliffe North Ward)  Sheepfoot Lane (Sedgley Ward)  Thatch Leach Lane (Besses Ward)  Croft Lane (Unsworth Ward)  Heys Road (Holyrood Ward)</p>
5	Labour	<p>What is the Council doing to ensure we provide accommodation for rough sleepers this winter and give them the wider support they need to stop them going back out on the streets? <b>Cllr Farooq</b></p> <p><b>Supplementary:</b> Can the Cabinet Member also update us on the support we have in place to house Afghan refugees?</p>
	Cllr Cummins	<p>Since last winter we have increased our rough sleeper accommodation provision by over 30% from 30 to 40 units through maximising funding opportunities via 'A Bed Everything Night' initiative (ABEN) and the Roughs Sleeper Initiative funding (RSi). In anticipation of the potential increase in rough sleepers during the cold weather we will facilitate a sit</p>

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		<p>up provision if our existing emergency accommodation becomes full. Based on current intelligence we will be able to accommodate all rough sleepers and keep them safe and secure and supported and off the streets all year round and during winter.</p> <p>During the last 12 months we have also been successful in supporting 55 rough sleepers with positive ‘move on’ into accommodation with support and this will continue during winter to maximise accommodation and space.</p> <p>Over the past 2 years we have managed to introduce our own rough sleeper outreach service to quickly identify new rough sleepers in the Borough but then appropriately and quickly support into accommodation and keep them off the streets which will especially important during the winter months.</p> <p>We will continue to work proactively and in collaboration with the faith and voluntary communities across Bury to provide provision such as food, clothing and toiletries for our rough sleepers.</p> <p><b>Supplementary:</b></p> <p>In terms of the Afghan refugee crisis, we are working to meet our pledge to provide 10 properties to support families affected by the crisis into Bury, this will achieve 30 to 40 spaces for refugees. We have quickly commissioned and worked in partnership with Stepping Stones charity. Stepping Stones will have two designated officers to support these families to join up the dots and link with other services across the Borough both in the private and voluntary sectors but working closely with public sector colleagues and services. The first family has arrived and has received a warm welcomed with positive feedback from the family.</p>
6	<b>Labour</b>	<p>Could the leader give an update on the impact that the cut to Universal Credit has had on residents of Bury? <b>Cllr Peel</b></p> <p><b>Supplementary:</b> What plans has the Council put in place to support those impacted by this cut and the other pressures on household budgets currently being felt by many in our borough?</p>
	<b>Cllr O’Brien</b>	<p>We have contacted DWP liaison and their response is as yet they “do not have any facts or figures relating to the Universal Credit £20 Uplift.” However, data from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation estimates that 18,140 families in our borough are impacted by the cut.</p>

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		<p>This is 18,140 families with less money in their pocket for rent, food, energy bills, fuel, school uniforms, local businesses and much more. All at a time when the cost of living is skyrocketing.</p> <p>Our Jobcentre work coaches are supporting all claimants impacted by this decision – advising regarding debt, housing rent arrears, mental health issues and overcoming barriers into work.</p> <p><b>Supplementary:</b></p> <p>The Councils own Crisis Support scheme has also seen a near doubling in requests for help since the time of the withdrawal</p> <p>The Council has provided £200k additional money to its local crisis support fund that can support those most in difficulty within the borough.</p> <p>6,470 young people in 3,346 families will continue to receive Free School Meal vouchers worth £15 per week through the Christmas, February and Easter holidays - you'll get these directly through your child's school.</p> <p>5,232 households receiving Council Tax Support will receive a £100 voucher to help with the cost of energy bills.</p> <p>£255,000 has been allocated to support those in work who don't qualify for benefits but may still be facing poverty.</p> <p>£50,000 will be distributed to foodbanks across the borough, who are seeing a rise in referrals.</p> <p>£100,000 will be added to our Crisis Hardship Fund for emergency financial provision, which can cover urgent payments to those most in need.</p> <p>Separate funding is available to help people at risk of homelessness, in particular low income private renters.</p>
7	<b>Conservative</b>	<p>What plans do Bury Council have to name a road, street or other civic location or building in honour of George Stanley Peachment VC? <b>Cllr LJ Dean</b></p>
	<b>Cllr Gold</b>	<p>Whilst there are no existing plans in place specifically in relation to George Stanley Peachment we would welcome the opportunity to discuss possible means of recognition in the Borough, including those linked into future developments in Bury close to George's home in Fishpool. George studied engineering at Bury Technical School and became an apprentice steam engine fitter engineer and such</p>

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		<p>discussions would look to include local further education provision and partners at East Lancashire Railway.</p> <p>More generally, street naming guidance can be found at: <a href="https://www.bury.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=10664">https://www.bury.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=10664</a></p>
8	Lib Dem	<p>Previously this Council agreed to a Governance Review, to consider whether Councils at the Town/Parish tier might be appropriate for the towns that make up Bury, to take place after the ward Boundary review, which concluded earlier this month. Could the Leader please inform members when this review will start and what form the process will take? <b>Councillor Powell</b></p>
	Cllr O'Brien	<p>Now that the Boundary Commission review is complete we can go on to consider this matter. We will need to bear in mind that things have moved on considerably since the matter with last discussed at full Council.</p> <p>We now have five Community Hubs - one for each of our towns, with Ramsbottom and Tottington being served by the same hub. The Hubs are an excellent legacy of our work as a Council supporting our communities through the Covid pandemic.</p> <p>The hubs will support all of us in our Ward representative role. They will also engage and involve local people and communities in the development of the places where they live and the public services they receive. The Hubs have only just begun so we need to give them time to develop into their role and then evaluate them.</p> <p>We've also put in place new governance for Radcliffe as part of the SRF - the Strategic Regeneration Framework. We now have the Radcliffe Advisory Group which works engages local community groups, local businesses and local public service managers. The Advisory Group feeds into a Delivery Board which brings together the major stakeholders with a role to play in the regeneration process and which coordinates the delivery of all the major projects we are bringing to Radcliffe.</p> <p>We've also created the Radcliffe Cabinet Committee providing cross party political leadership for the delivery of the SRF. The next stage is to connect all of this more directly to better lives for Radcliffe residents through a People and Communities Plan.</p>

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		<p>So, major innovations in the governance of place are being tested in Radcliffe and so far it seems to be working.</p> <p>We are now looking at the governance of the Bury town centre Masterplan and how we connect this to the people and communities of the surrounding neighbourhoods - some of the most deprived in the Borough. The Chief Executive is working on this and will use the lessons we have learnt from Radcliffe.</p> <p>So, yes we will return to the question of parish and town councils but only when these new developments - the Community Hubs plus what we've done in Radcliffe and are about to do in Bury - have had a chance to bed in.</p>
9	Labour	<p>Recent media reports suggest that the Secretary of State for Housing, Michael Gove, is considering a new planning formula that would see more homes built in the north of England, including in places like Bury, to save the Tory shires from development. Can the leader confirm what impact this would have on our borough? <b>Cllr Peel</b></p> <p><b>Supplementary:</b> I believe the leader wrote to Michael Gove recently to ask him to reconsider the housing targets his government is continuing to impose on places like Bury. Did he get a response to that letter? And if the Secretary of State has refused to support our case for a lower housing target, as these reports would suggest, what more can we do to get the balance right on the need for housing and the need to protect our green spaces?</p>
	Cllr O'Brien	<p>It has been reported that Michael Gove has welcomed a new formula proposed by the Building Back Britain Commission – an independent group made up of the leading housebuilders.</p> <p>The Building Back Britain commission report proposes a new “levelling up” approach, with scenarios for Bury ranging from 640 to 1,203 homes per year – significantly higher than the current local housing need of 591 homes per year using the Government’s standard method, or the proposed Places for Everyone target of an average of 452 homes per year.</p> <p>If this approach is taken forward, it is likely to result in the need to identify additional green belt land for housing.</p> <p>If a new formula is introduced by the Government, we would expect to see transitional arrangements put in place to allow plans that are already at an advanced stage to proceed. Given the advanced stage that the Places for Everyone plan is at, remaining part of the PFE should therefore offer a degree of protection from the type of uplift proposed by the Britain Back Britain commission. This only reinforces our point that withdrawing from this plan without an</p>

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		<p>alternative – as is proposed by the opposition parties – would leave us even more exposed to developers seeking green belt land and be a huge step backwards from the progress we’ve made in reducing the numbers by working together across Greater Manchester.</p> <p><b>Response to supplementary:</b></p> <p>I wrote to Michael Gove on 12 October but have not had a response.</p> <p>We are continuing to focus our efforts on delivering housing on our brownfield sites – recent examples at Cabinet, but we simply do not have enough brownfield land to meet local housing needs.</p> <p>It is a difficult balance to strike but failing to build enough of the homes our communities need will result in worsening housing affordability and increased inequality.</p> <p>By working together with the other districts to progress the Places for Everyone plan, we have been able to reduce our housing target and protect more of our valued open spaces. The plan will also ensure that the necessary infrastructure to support development is put in place, high environmental standards are met and affordable housing is delivered.</p>
10	Labour	<p>It was very welcome to see Bury once again receive the Purple Flag Award for our town centre. Can I ask for an update on what more we are doing to support Bury Town Centre stay a safe and vibrant place? <b>Cllr Walmsley</b></p>
	Cllr Morris	<p>Areas awarded the Purple Flag are recognised for providing a vibrant and diverse mix of dining, entertainment and culture while promoting the safety and wellbeing of visitors and local residents. Bury town centre has won this award for the 6th year running which reflects not only what the town has to offer but also the effective partnership working that takes place to ensure a positive and welcoming experience.</p> <p>The council is working on a masterplan which will guide the development of the town over the next 10 to 15 years and which will deliver new development opportunities, such as bringing a hotel to the former fire station site, a new transport interchange and the Bury Market Flexi Hall project, which has just been awarded Levelling Up funds.</p> <p>This strategic developments, along with the ongoing partnership working with town centre stakeholder will support the town’s ongoing success and ensure it remains a place people will want to live, work and visit.</p> <p>Discussions are continuing around the potential to create a Business Improvement District for Bury town centre, which could bring additional resources to help improve the safety and vibrancy of the centre.</p>

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		The proposals to acquire the Millgate will help maintain the centre as a mixed-use area with a stronger night time economy, with the safety improving because of higher levels of footfall. The proposals for a new Interchange will remove the remote-stands which don't contribute to a feeling of safety and should be replaced with a modern facility with a safer waiting area. The recent 'full-fibre' project roll-out across the Borough also gives the potential to upgrade the CCTV cameras to a much higher definition, improving the ability to identify trouble-makers.
11	Conservative	Can the Leader of the Council update Members on how the Council is measuring the public/business awareness of the business support measures and what are the awareness levels? <b>Cllr Rydeheard</b>
	Cllr O'Brien	<p>Bury Council has at its heart a policy to engage with businesses. This has been established since the last recession when it was clear that businesses and entrepreneurs would lead the way to post recession recovery. The same stands now, not only Covid recovery but our ambitions to grow an inclusive economy that attracts good quality employers to our borough.</p> <p>Our brand Bury Means Business has engaged across sectors from the self-employed, micros businesses, SME's, larger organisations, and start-ups. We do this in partnership with funded organisations such as the Greater Manchester Growth Company, MIDAS, Marketing Manchester, GM Chamber and Enterprising You.</p> <p>We use a E newsletter as a vehicle for disseminating all avenues of business support, access to webinars, training, skills, and grants. Since the start of the Covid pandemic the number of businesses that we have engaged with has grown significantly. Council Officers have used this wider engagement to signpost further support in addition to financial grants. For example, Bury over achieved its target of referrals of self-employed and gig economy workers to Enterprising You.</p> <p>Visits to businesses have started again in earnest as we try to understand what the barriers are to growth but also to engage with those hidden gems across our townships. Over the Covid period we have witnessed innovation and determination as businesses did all they could to survive. We must support and celebrate our business community.</p> <p>The Bury Business Leadership has supported Bury Council on a weekly basis through Covid acting as our check and measure and supporting the dissemination of business-related information amongst their networks. This group continues to expand with new members and is one of longest established groups in GM.</p>

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		<p>To measure our engagement and make recommendation we have used our membership of the Centre of Local Economic Strategies to measure our engagement during Covid and assess the economic impact of the grants. This report will be available in January 2022. This will include referral across partnerships.</p> <p>As we move from grant allocation, Council Officers will turn their endeavours to ensuring our business engagement increases and KPI's can be agreed to measure success.</p>
12	Labour	Does the Leader of the Council agree with me that Joseph Holt's Brewery should suspend parking charges at the Bay Horse Pub, at least on a temporary basis? <b>Cllr Boroda</b>
	Cllr O'Brien	<p>I fully agree with this campaign and want to congratulate Cllrs Boroda, Rafiq and Grimshaw for their efforts in sticking by this proposal, despite a lack of movement so far from Joseph Holts.</p> <p>Anyone who has spoken with residents in Unsworth and especially those around Unsworth Pole, know that parking is a major issue and one that requires a degree of cooperation and compromise from all those in the area. Clearly, the under-used car park at the Bay Horse is an ideal location to help residents and other businesses bounce back from the impact of Covid.</p> <p>If there is anything more that the Council can be doing to assist, we will do so.</p>
13	Labour	Can the Leader provide an update on the progress made with the Barnfield Park project in Prestwich? <b>Cllr Butler</b>
	Cllr Quinn	<p>The Council is currently working in partnership with City of Trees (CoT) to develop the Council depot based in Barnfield Park. CoT are already making use of the site for storage and an interim nursery. The joint venture is actively exploring the possibility of developing the site into the CoT Head Quarters as well as a hive of community activity. The Council and CoT aim to secure funding for a project manager for 3 years to develop the vision and secure external funding for a range of projects. An example is to use the site as a training facility for those struggling to get into/back into work and create career pathways into urban forestry.</p> <p>The Council continues to work in partnership with CoT regarding a wide range of tree planting project through the ongoing £250k of Council tree planting investment which is being supported through volunteers and additional external funding secured by CoT in partnership with the Council. Since May of this year 275 semi mature trees have been planted across Bury.</p>

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14	Conservative	On the 6th of October 2021 the Manchester Evening News reported that life expectancy at birth fell by 1.3 years for men and 0.9 years for women in 2020. This was from a new report published by a panel including an expert from The University of Manchester and highlighted links to the excess mortality caused by the coronavirus pandemic. What action will the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing be taking through the Councils health inequalities work to address the reduction in life expectancy due to the COVID-19 pandemic? <b>Cllr. Roger Brown</b>
	Cllr Simpson  Cllr Debbie Quinn	<p>As we all know, CoVID-19 has shone a light on pre-existing poor health and widening health inequalities and exacerbated this even further.</p> <p>The drivers of this are a complex mix of social, economic and environmental factors alongside access to quality service and social norms and behaviours.</p> <p>The Health and Wellbeing Board is ensuring that work to address all of these factors is co-ordinated and being driven forward with an explicit objective to reduce inequalities linked to measures to evidence improvements.</p> <p>These range from interventions that will begin to have an impact on life expectancy and healthy life expectancy in the shorter term such as good quality management of long-term conditions in primary care, to those that will have an impact over the medium-term such as implementation of the Physical Activity and Food and Health strategies and those that will take longer to have an impact such as making sure every child in Bury gets a good start in life.</p>
15	Lib Dem	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? <b>Councillor S Wright</b>
	Cllr O'Brien	<p>Thanks for your question, Cllr Wright.</p> <p>Firstly, I would like to point out to the member that the number of claims received within the policy years does not correlate to the amounts paid within financials years. For example, the payments made within the last financial years could and will relate to claims that may have occurred within the last ten years. Payments are still being made on claims that occurred in 2015 and before, but just being paid now. Third party costs are always the last payments which are settled, in particular the cases which have been to court.</p> <p>It is also difficult to relate damages and costs to number of claims, as it depends on the severity of injuries.</p>

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		<p>Thankfully, following our investments to improve our roads and pavement surfaces, the number of claims has decreased from 623 in 2017/18 to 234 in 2020/21, and as a result, we may see a decrease in these costs in the coming years.</p> <p>I will send over the exact figures to you following this meeting.</p>
16	<b>Labour</b>	<p>What is the latest position regarding winter pressures in our hospitals and care homes and how are we preparing to deal with them? <b>Cllr Holt</b></p>
	<p><b>Cllr Simpson</b></p> <p><b>Cllr Debbie Quinn</b></p>	<p>The Bury Integrated Urgent and Emergency Care System is currently proactively in Winter Planning mode. The following headlines point are by means of assurance:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. System wide Winter Planning Group established in August 2021, this group is meeting every 2 weeks as required. We submitted a Winter Plan to GM in a prescribed GM template format which has been approved.</li> <li>2. We have also completed a review of its system partner OPEL (Operational Pressures Escalation Level) cards and cards have been updated. If the system comes under serious pressures partners are asked to ensure all OPEL card actions have been completed and hold a system wide Winter Planning Event during in which a, 'worst case' scenario session was held to inform learning.</li> <li>3. We have refreshed our system list of Alternative To Admission Schemes and are due to share this widely across the system and is currently concluding its Winter plans for Primary Care through utilisation of the National Winter Access Fund. Schemes being proposed include, increased staffing and access to GP practices and enhanced levels of EWHs.</li> <li>4. We have a well-established integrated system wide Bronze meeting which takes place Monday-Friday at 8.30am. This whole system meeting takes a stocktake of the previous day and considers the immediate system pressures and the day ahead. Where required Bury has a well-established Silver escalation meeting process which can be mobilised quickly on a daily basis Monday-Friday.</li> <li>5. We also have a well-established Weekend Planning meeting, every Friday at 3pm. System wide weekend on call managers are available to come together if required over the weekend. As well as the GM Winter Plan, submitted, the Bury system is working on local 'Operational Arrangements' Plan over the Christmas period. This plan will document service opening, plans for pressure point days, detail on call arrangements, etc.</li> </ol>

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		<p>6. We have a well established Community Commissioning Team that maintain regular contact with our care providers and a dedicated urgent email address and phone number for care providers to access in an emergency. Provider capacity is also regularly reviewed with proactive support offered where issues are identified.</p> <p>7. We have a recently re-tendered care at home service that provides access to greater number of providers ensuring care needs can be met and care packages picked up rapidly.</p> <p>8. We have weekly System Flow meetings that support the resolution of strategic issues and make key organisational decision to support patient flow through the system.</p>
17	Labour	<p>Could the Cabinet Member update the Council on the request from GM to Defra for £360m to deal with the impact of Ash Die Back severely damaging our trees? <b>Cllr Hayes</b></p>
	Cllr Quinn	<p>A letter to DEFRA was sent at the end of June by Cllr Neil Emmott, the Green City Lead Portfolio Holder for GM, to the Environment Minister requesting funding to support an Ash Die Back Action plan for GM. The response received at the end of July from the Under Secretary, Lord Benyon, did not offer any financial support for this piece of work. The Under Secretary suggested that we write to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for assistance. CoT is currently in discussion with the GMCA about drafting a letter to HCLG requesting support.</p>
18	Conservative	<p>It was reported Bury2Gether are working with the Council to co-produce a pilot looking at the assessment process which will be used when inducting new staff that are joining the team going forward. This was expected to be in place by October half term.</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member for Education confirm these members of staff have commenced employment, remained in employment, and has the backlog of cases reduced significantly? <b>Cllr. Jo Lancaster</b></p>
	Cllr Tariq	<p>As part of the DfE's sponsored SEN Transformation Project (Project Safety Valve), the Council has been working with parents, carers and their families, through Bury2gether, to co-produce policies, procedures and arrangements in respect of SEND. This has included measures to strengthen the role of the Education, Health and Care Plan assessment Team, including support with the development of job descriptions for caseworkers to ensure that they meet the aspirations of families whilst meeting the statutory requirements of the Council.</p> <p>To date, four additional permanent EHCP Assessment Caseworkers have been recruited, three of whom are now in post, with the fourth due to join the team in the coming weeks.</p>

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		<p>All new staff are following a carefully planned induction programme that covers the statutory requirements of the role, but also on focussing on improving relationships with families through better, regular communication at all levels. New staff are taking part in Q&amp;A sessions with parents and carers to develop a better understanding of the issues families face if their child has special educational needs or disabilities.</p> <p>Additional temporary staffing capacity has been retained at senior caseworker and caseworker levels to ensure progress in addressing the backlog of cases.</p> <p>Alongside this, work is ongoing to review and improve the EHCP assessment process, and to improve timeliness in completing assessments.</p>
19	Conservative	<p>It is estimated that 22% of UK adults do not have the essential digital skills needed for day-to-day life. Can the Cabinet Member responsible for Digital update members on what the figure is for Bury and what are the Councils targets for reducing this figure?  <b>Cllr. Russell Bernstein</b></p>
	Cllr Tariq	<p>Bury' Council's Digital Inclusion Group was established, in 2018, to promote digital equality across the borough. The Economic Development Team within BGI facilitate this group and drive activity. The group's key priorities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Addressing skills and talent gaps within the digital sector.</li> <li>• Reducing digital exclusion linked to low skills, no access to equipment and poor/no online connectivity.</li> <li>• Promoting and supporting residents to benefit from opportunities linked to being digitally proficient.</li> <li>• Identifying and implementing public service reform opportunities presented via the digital agenda.</li> </ul> <p>The group has multiagency representation from Bury Council departments, Bury Adult Learning, Persona, Six Town Housing, DWP and the third sector.</p> <p>All workstreams that fall under the group are branded as 'Bury Works: Digital for All'.</p> <p>In addition, external funded (200K) was secured to create a digital inclusion eco-system.</p> <p>In 2021 this fund created a Digital Inclusion Project Manager, A Digital Inclusion Officer and 3 Digital Inclusion Ambassadors.</p> <p>Key outcomes to date are:</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engaged over 450 residents during community digital drop-in activity and 214 learners via an adult learning digital course (since February 2021). The project aims to engage 1,500 residents by June 2022.</li> <li>Established a multiagency presence on Bury Market, fortnightly on Wednesdays, to proactively engage residents including those aged 50+.</li> <li>Echo device demonstrations are being delivered within Peachment Place (Bury) and Red Bank (Radcliffe). This is a test and learn initiative, including the loan of these devices direct to residents, which has the potential to be scaled up across Bury Council care facilities.</li> <li>Bury Council was awarded over 300 refurbished Samsung tablet devices via the GM Tech Fund. Over 50% were distributed to Bury schools. The Digital Inclusion Project Team also retained 125 devices for a Digital Loan Scheme.</li> <li>The Project Team has supported the rollout of 43 Wi-Fi hotspot devices, alongside unlimited 4G sim cards, for children in care. This is the first activity of this kind in GM, recognising and supporting a cohort that needs WI-FI connectivity to stay in touch, avoiding social isolation and enhance job search and learning.</li> <li>Other activity includes building a team of digital volunteers, working with local cafés to deliver bespoke training and connecting any interactions with residents through digital activity to wider learning.</li> <li>The activity undertaken in partnership is seen as best practice with colleagues across GM districts. There is more to be done to reach all corners of the borough to ensure all ages can use digital technology confidently, enhancing their career prospects, accessing online services and keeping in touch with family and friends.</li> </ul>
20	Conservative	Can the Cabinet Member for Transformation outline what the Council is doing to empower residents of the Borough to tackle digital exclusion? <b>Cllr. Jordan Lewis</b>
	Cllr Tariq	As above.
21	Conservative	Can the Cabinet Member for the Cultural Economy outline what they have spent the culture budget on since the start of the pandemic? Please provide a breakdown of schemes, programmes and initiatives funded by the culture budget since March 2020 <b>Cllr. Luis McBriar</b>
	Cllr Morris	<b>Core budget</b>  From March 2020 up to November 2021 there has been a total expenditure of £810,687 from the core culture budget, on the delivery of cultural activity at, and co-ordinated from Bury Art Museum. A total of 22 exhibitions or programmes have taken place during this period including Spirit of a Place;

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		<p>Sketchbook STILL Social and Bury Art Mail; Black Art BAM; Drawn Into The Now; Thank Art Winters Drawing In; and ongoing work with Bury Creatives</p> <p><b><u>Town of Culture specific</u></b></p> <p>In December 2019 Bury was named the inaugural Greater Manchester Town of Culture. £245,000 of Council funding was matched by the Victoria Wood Foundation, Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Arts Council England. This funding allowed the delivery of:</p> <p><b>Happy Festival</b> – a celebration of life and influence of Victoria Wood, including online songwriting and comedy workshops in May 2020, performances by the Halle Choir at residential care homes and sheltered accommodation in the Borough in May 2021 and weekend of celebrations in September 2021</p> <p><b>Burrs Live</b> - outdoor entertainment at the end of August, early September including the Head for the Hills Festival including launch of the <b>Bury Culture Opportunity Pass</b> .</p> <p>Cultural activity to celebrate Bury’s military heritage including streamed activity to mark <b>VE75 and VJ75</b> in 2020 and the <b>Remembrance '21</b>. Community culture funding for <b>Bury Pride’s Rainbow Train</b> and the first ever <b>Bury Macfest</b> (festival of Muslim Art and Culture) took place virtually in February.</p> <p>26 organisations across the Borough were successful with <b>Town of Culture Community Grants</b> which built on an earlier set of <b>cultural micro-commissions</b></p> <p>To develop a lasting legacy from Bury’s time as Town of Culture work is underway to develop a new <b>Cultural Strategy</b> for the Borough</p>
22	Lib Dem	<p>Research from the Rivers Trust has shown that untreated sewage was emptied into our rivers and seas on 400,000 occasions in 2020, including in at least 40 locations in Bury. On how many occasions did this take place in the borough in the most recent year that there are figures for? <b>Councillor Powell</b></p>
	Cllr Quinn	<p>The Environment Agency will be responsible for recording, investigating and enforcing any pollution to our rivers. The underground sewage network falls under UU. Data regarding occasions sewage may have entered our rivers will not be kept by the Council.</p>
23	Conservative	<p>With the bosses of BT &amp; BP leading the acceleration to electric vehicles with a fleet of green vans, will the Cabinet Member for the Environment</p>

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		state on what date all Bury Council vehicle fleet will be zero emission? <b>Cllr. Paul Cropper</b>	
	<b>Cllr Quinn</b>	<p>We are not able to procure a complete fleet of fully zero emission vehicles at this point due to the limited options and price for larger sized vehicles. We will be looking to procure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 20 fully electric zero emission vehicles</li> <li>• 114 diesel hybrids</li> </ul> <p>The vehicles will be due to be replaced 5-6 years after purchase, at this time we aim to be able to procure a fully zero emission fleet.</p> <p>The Council has just released the tender for the Electrical Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) at our depots, to ensure we have the infrastructure to charge any electric vehicles that are purchased. In the meantime, we are looking at other ways to reduce the emissions from vehicles. We are looking to trial the use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO), which is Renewable, sustainable, 100% biodegradable and synthesised from waste fats and vegetable oils. HVO has a significantly smaller (90% less) carbon impact and could fuel the majority of our fleet.</p>	
24	<b>Conservative</b>	Bury MBC received over £100 million in grants throughout the COVID pandemic support packages. Has the Council returned any unspent government grant monies to Central Government? <b>Cllr Jackie Harris</b>	
	<b>Cllr O'Brien</b>	All the schemes for local restrictions grants have closed for applications, there were dates set by central government for applications to be taken and for payments to be made. Those dates have passed and we are in a period of verification and reconciliation now with BEIS before returning any unallocated money. We have no option but to give the money back when we are informed by BEIS of the exact amount following the reconciliation and verification work we are doing now.	
25	<b>Conservative</b>	Can the Cabinet Member for HR provide details on how many departing Bury Council employees have received payments/settlements in lieu of notice over the last 3 years and what is the value of said payments/settlements in lieu of notice to Bury Council employees over the last 3 years? Please provide a breakdown by directorate. <b>Cllr. Bob Caserta</b>	
	<b>Cllr O'Brien</b>	<p>Across the financial years 2018/19 to 2020/21 a total of 50 employees received a payment in lieu of notice with a total value of £585K. A breakdown by Department is provided below. There have been changes in the structures of departments over this period so similar functions have been grouped together.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>Pay in lieu of notice 2018/19 - 2020/21</b></td> </tr> </table>	<b>Pay in lieu of notice 2018/19 - 2020/21</b>
<b>Pay in lieu of notice 2018/19 - 2020/21</b>			

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			Number of Payments	Total value
		Corporate Core (formerly Resources & Regulation)	8	£71K
		One Commissioning Organisation and Operations (formerly Communities & Wellbeing)	11	£134K
		Children & Young People (excluding schools)	31	£381K
26	Conservative	Can the Leader of the Council update members on what plans the Council has to ensure Bury's Council Tax is kept as low as possible this year? <b>Cllr. Khalid Hussain</b>		
	Cllr O'Brien	Officers are working hard on identifying savings, efficiencies and transformation programmes in order to allow the S151 officer to produce a balanced budget unfortunately we are reliant upon a realistic settlement from Government in December to meet the rising needs of our vulnerable members of society who are reliant upon council services such as adult and childrens social care.		
27	Lib Dem	Following research from the National Residential Landlords Association that showed that 67% of Councils had not successfully prosecuted a landlord for offences related to standards in or the management of private rented housing between 2018 and 2021, could the Leader inform members on how many successful prosecutions in the same period there were for Bury? <b>Councillor Tegolo</b>		
	Cllr Cummins	<p>Between 2018 and 2021, we have not formally prosecuted any Landlords for housing and management offences. However, the Council has committed to increasing resources of the team, within the remit of the recent BGI restructure. The full time EHO post is currently out for to advert, and once in post the technical support officer can then be advertised. By increasing capacity, it is the aim of the Council to increase enforcement activities in the private rented sector (PRS) and issue civil penalties up to £30,000 for failing landlords. The legislation allows for the Council to retain any monies generated from issuing penalties and ring fence any income directly back to the team to continue its activities within the PRS.</p> <p>We have also worked with a number of landlords to increase standards and have exercised our formal powers to ensure works have been completed.</p>		

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28	Conservative	Does the Leader of the Council feel that the Council's current procedures are sufficiently robust enough to once again achieve pre-COVID levels of business rate collections, in percentage terms? <b>Cllr. Iain Gartside</b>
	<b>Cllr O'Brien</b>	Yes, officers of the Council are working hard to support businesses by distributing all of the COVID grants that have been made available to businesses and collecting business rates where these are due.
29	Conservative	Following COP26, how are the Council planning to engage the local community on improving the environment across the Borough? <b>Cllr. Sam Hurst</b>
	<b>Cllr Quinn</b>	<p>COP26 brought climate change to the forefront of peoples' minds and there is now a collective drive across society to reduce our emissions and our impact on the planet.</p> <p>Capitalising on this momentum is important for the Council and we launched a Climate Action Fund to coincide with COP26. We have been reaching out to local action groups within Bury encouraging them to apply for funding. This fund will be disseminated in Q1 of 2022, and we hope it will spur continuing action.</p> <p>We've been working with the newly implemented Community Hubs and attending their Let's Do It Together Meetings to promote the Fund as well as utilising the usual social media channels.</p> <p>We plan to launch our own community meetings in January 2022 to engage with our local people and groups around climate action. We look forward to using these spaces to encourage local action, while making people aware of the global and local issues and creating a common space we can all work together in.</p> <p>On the 9 November we held a Bury Means Green Business event which saw a large number of local businesses come together to find out more about how they can respond to the opportunities of a carbon neutral future and share thoughts and ideas.</p> <p>On 12 November we held a Bury Youth Climate Conversation where local school children could let us know their thoughts and concerns on the climate agenda and tell us what actions they would like to see. This prompted a good exchange of thoughts and ideas from our youth community which will help us to develop our Schools Climate Conference in 2022.</p> <p>We have recently updated the website to reflect new information and will be launching a mailing list so we can provide residents, businesses and groups with a monthly update on local events, calls to action and again</p>

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		<p>promote awareness of the issues. We are always looking at new ways we can encourage and improve our communication with the public.</p> <p>As we now look towards 2022, we begin to set out what we hope to achieve in the new year and community engagement will be a big focus. We have several events planned to include a second Bury Means Green Business event as well as a Schools Climate Conference. With so many events already planned across Bury, we also plan to work with organisers to ensure sustainability is at the heart of these.</p>
<b>30</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	<p>Can the Cabinet Member responsible outline the long-term strategy for the community hubs and how these will be used to work more closely with out third sector to support the communities of the Borough <b>Cllr. Nick Jones</b></p>
	<b>Cllr Gold</b>	<p>Building on the success of COVID-19 community response we have developed the Community Hubs in each of the five neighbourhood to be the place where we corral collective oversight of community activity as set out in the Let's Do It! strategy.</p> <p>Based on substantial engagement with the local system and communities as part of Bury 2030 design, and the Covid-19 response, the Hub model enables a small team of council officers to have a stronger, targeted presence in each neighbourhood and, through this, to develop relationships with residents and community sector partners to encourage people to collaborate and engage on collective community action.</p> <p>Fulfilling this vision within the voluntary and community sector is one of the central objectives of the council's new two-year partnership with the VCFA (Voluntary, Community and Faith Alliance). The performance framework underpinning Council funding for the VCFA was refreshed as part of a new two-year funding arrangement last year and a new set of key performance measures defined. One of the key outcomes agreed with the VCFA is to: "Drive the VCFSE contribution and community voice in shaping the design, development and implementation of Bury Neighbourhood Model, including prevention and early intervention activity with the community hubs". This emphasises our approach of working together, in a strengths-based way, rather than 'doing to' local groups or communities – this is a key focus for daily engagement and collaboration between the Community Hub Managers, VCFA colleagues and the broader ecosystem of VCFSE organisations across the Borough.</p> <p>The Hubs are currently funded until the end of 2022/23 financial year. The success of the model will be evaluated next year to determine the longer-term strategy in the context of continuing to deliver Let's Do It</p>

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31	Lib Dem	Can the leader tell us what s106 money is outstanding from developers, with dates and what amount of s106 is held by the council per township? <b>Councillor S Wright</b>
	Cllr O'Brien	<p>Details of received and outstanding s106 contributions are reported to the Planning Control Committee, together with information on expenditure. The next update, setting out the figures for 2020/21 is due to be taken to Planning Control Committee in the New Year.</p> <p>S106 contributions are held on trust by the Council and can only be spent in accordance with the terms of each individual legal agreement. All contributions are received for a specific purpose, such as improvements to recreation facilities, delivery of affordable housing or employment land development, and the majority are committed to specific projects.</p> <p>It is not possible to break down the amount held by township, as some contributions are not tied to a particular location, for example in the case of employment or affordable housing contributions. It is worth noting that £1m of affordable housing contributions has recently been committed to bringing empty properties back into use as affordable housing, with the specific properties to be targeted to be confirmed.</p>
32	Lib Dem	Could the Leader please inform members how many school crossing patrols are currently not operational, and how many others currently don't have permanent allocated members of staff in place? <b>Councillor Tegolo</b>
	Cllr Tariq	<p>The School Crossing Service has been managed by the School and College Transport Team since April 2014, prior to this the service was within the Highways Department.</p> <p>Week commencing 15th November 2021 a total of 10 crossing points were not operational for the full week and 5 crossing points were not operational for part of the week.</p> <p>Due to ongoing difficulties with recruiting to the role of school crossing patrol there are a number of vacant sites that have been left vacant.</p> <p>In September 2015 there were 78 dedicated school crossing sites. An ongoing review of all crossing points was commenced in September 2016 to determine the continued eligibility of each crossing site. All school crossing sites should be reviewed by undertaking a classified count of the site every 2 years to ensure they continue to meet the criteria for a school crossing point to be in place.</p>

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		<p>The classified count identifies the busiest thirty minute period, recording child pedestrians and vehicles (cars, light goods vehicles, motor cycles, large goods vehicles, buses, coaches and cycles). These values are then entered into a calculation determined by the national school crossing patrol service guidelines to calculate a PV2 value. In order for a site to meet criteria for a school crossing to be in place it must achieve a score of 4 million, be classified as an unassisted crossing and have at least 15 children crossing at the facility.</p> <p>As a result of the ongoing reviews dedicated crossing points that no longer meet criteria have been disestablished. It is not necessary or recommended for school crossing patrols to work on pelican, puffin or toucan crossings as they are by definition, safer crossing facilities.</p> <p>Since 2017 19 crossing points have been disestablished and a further 12 sites are due to be disestablished as they do not meet criteria (8 x assisted pelican or puffin crossings, 1 x less than 15 children crossing and 3 x do not achieve a PV2 value of 4 million).</p> <p>Where crossing points no longer meet the criteria and have been disestablished staff have been relocated to an alternative point requiring cover.</p> <p>When allocating relief cover for vacant points the team prioritises the crossing points based on the number of children crossing with the patrol, volume of traffic and the type of crossing facility that is in place. The team aim to cover all unassisted crossing points but this has not been possible at all locations due to staffing.</p> <p>In order to meet service requirements several permanent staff have been relocated to busier/high priority points wherever it is possible to do so. This arrangement is on a temporary basis and subject to weekly review.</p> <p>Since the start of the school year in September seven staff have resign/retired and several other staff remain absent due to sickness putting additional pressure on a small pool of relief staff.</p> <p>As a result of the coronavirus pandemic and the closure of schools in the past year the classified were placed on hold as they would not provide a true reflection of the number of children using the crossing or vehicles travelling past the crossing point.</p> <p>A consultation with school crossing patrols is due to commence in January/February to realign staff to the crossing points, update the job</p>

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		<p>description and disestablish the remaining points that no longer meet criteria. A recruitment exercise will also commence to appoint staff to crossing points that remain vacant following the realignment of staff.</p> <p>The team continue to prioritise recruitment to the role of relief school crossing patrol and are scheduled to interview three candidates week commencing 22 November 2021.</p>