

Minutes of: COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 24 November 2021

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor , in the Chair)
Councillors R Bernstein, C Birchmore, C Boles, N Boroda,
R Brown, S Butler, R Caserta, P Cropper, L Dean, U Farooq,
I Gartside, R Gold, J Grimshaw, S Haroon, J Harris, M Hayes,
T Holt, K Hussain, N Jones, J Lancaster, J Lewis, J Mason,
L McBriar, G McGill, C Morris, B Mortenson, E O'Brien,
K Peel, T Pickstone, T Pilkington, M Powell, A Quinn,
D Quinn, T Rafiq, J Rydeheard, L Smith, M Smith, T Tariq,
C Tegolo, D.Vernon, S Walmsley, C Walsh, M Whitby,
S Wright and Y Wright

**Apologies for
Absence** C Cummins, S Hurst, K Leach, A Simpson, G Staples-Jones
and K Thomas

Public Attendance: 30 Members of the Public were present at the meeting.

C. 30 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. Councillor A Quinn declared a personal interest in all matters under consideration as both his son and daughter-in law, work for the NHS, he is a member of the Trade Union, Unite and the Downs Syndrome Association.
2. Councillor D Quinn declared a personal interest in all matters under consideration as an employee of the Citizens Advice Bureau and both her son and daughter-in law, work for the NHS
3. Councillor T Pilkington declared a personal interest in all matters under consideration as an employee of the Manchester Foundation Trust.
4. Councillor S. Wright declared a personal interest in all matters under consideration as his wife works for a school in the Borough.
5. Councillors Brown and Rydeheard declared personal interests in agenda Common Minimum Licensing Standards C.XXX as they both undertaken legal work representing the Taxi trade.
6. Councillor LJ Dean declared a personal interest in agenda item Notice of Motion C.XXX as a Chair of Governors
7. Councillor Farooq declared a personal interest in all matters under consideration as an NHS Employee working at Fairfield General Hospital.
8. Councillor Lucy Smith declared a personal interest in all matters under consideration as her husband is employed by the NHS.
9. Councillor Joan Grimshaw declared a personal interest in all matters under consideration as her daughter works for the Combined Authority.

C. 31 MINUTES

That the minutes be agreed subject to the following amendments:

Declarations of Interest

Councillors Brown and Rydeheard declared personal interests in agenda Common Minimum Licensing Standards C.XXX as they both undertaken legal work representing the Taxi trade.

C. 32 **MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported that Colonel Eric Davidson was unable to be presented with his Plaque in recognition of his work for over half a century in organising the remembrance Sunday parades due to ill health. The Mayor will ensure the Plaque is delivered to him with the Councillors best wishes.

The Mayor reported the sad news of the death of the former Leader and Mayor, Mike Connolly, the Mayor requested that his condolences and that of all Elected Members present be passed on to Mikes husband Ian and his friends and family.

C. 33 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Notice had been received of 6 questions, due to the number of items scheduled for consideration, questions were only answered from those members of the public present at the meeting. The Leader gave an undertaking that copies of those questions and responses not taken at the meeting will be circulated to all Councillors. The Leader also gave an undertaking to make these available on the Council Web Site.

Questioner	Topic	Responding
1. Catherine Lavan	Parking at Vaccination Centre	Leader
2. Owen Dykes	Private George Peachment	Leader
3. Anton Slawycz	Road Safety	Leader
4. Carol Bernstein	Children in Care	Leader
5. Andrew Luxton	Anti-social behaviour	Leader
6. Muhammad Warraich	Licensing Department	Leader

C. 34 **RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

Meeting of Democratic Arrangements Forum – 6th October 2021 - Appointment of Co-opted members to the Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny Committee

It was moved by Councillor O'Brien and seconded by Councillor S Wright and it was:

RESOLVED:

That one Trade Union and one Young Person (chair of the Youth Cabinet) be appointed as co-opted non-voting Members of the Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny Committee.

Employment Panel – 02 November 2021 Business Growth & Infrastructure Department Leadership Structure

It was moved by Councillor Rafiq and seconded by Councillor O'Brien and it was:

RESOLVED:

That the Executive Director (Place and Housing) role (Band H) is redesignated as Executive Director (Place) which has been evaluated at Band G (amended) of the Council's Chief Officer structure.

That the Assistant Director of Housing role (Band C) is deleted and a Director of Housing role established. This role has been evaluated at Band F of the Council's Chief Officer structure. The proposed role will report directly to the Chief Executive.

Licensing and Safety Committee 11th November 2021 - Review of Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005

It was moved by Councillor Morris and seconded by Councillor Walmsley and it was:

RESOLVED:

That the Licensing and Safety Committee notes the report and recommends that Council accept and adopt the proposed Statement of Principles as set out in Appendix 1 to the report without amendment.

Licensing and Safety Committee 11th November 2021 - Common Minimum Licensing Standards- Stage 2 (vehicles)

It was moved by Councillor Morris and seconded by Councillor O'Brien and it was:

RESOLVED:

Council approve and adopt the following;

The recommendations presented in Section 4 (Lead Officer Recommendations) for each proposed standard for implementation except for Vehicle Proposed Standard 5 in relation to Vehicle Livery.

That in relation to Vehicle Proposed Standard 5 (Vehicle Livery), Bury Council having carried out further consultation with taxi drivers and operators and following this, it's recommended that the Council implements the following GM livery standards proposed below:

That all vehicles will:

Display permanently affixed licence plates on the front and back of the vehicle

That all PHVs will:

Only display stickers provided by the licensing authority (at cost) which will bear the operator name and phone number, 'advanced bookings only', 'not insured unless pre-booked' and the licensing authority logo (the design, dimensions and placement of the stickers on the vehicle is to be determined at a future date)

Display those stickers on both rear side doors and the back window

Not use any magnetic stickers

That any decision regarding the implementation of the proposed 'GM approved' bonnet sticker will be delayed for a period of 2 years while more work is carried out with the trade and GMP to address the concerns raised by the trade relating to antisocial behaviour.

That existing vehicle livery standards in Bury will be retained until the new GM livery design, dimensions and placement are confirmed and procured. Ahead of the changes, the existing livery standards will be reviewed to accommodate the GM livery

C. 35 REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

It was moved by Councillor O'Brien and seconded by Councillor N Jones, and;

It was agreed:

That consideration of the report from the Independent Remuneration Panel will be deferred to the next meeting of Full Council.

C. 36 BOUNDARY COMMISSION REPORT

It was moved by Councillor O'Brien and seconded by Councillor N Jones and Council;

RESOLVED:

That Council notes the final recommendations of the LGBCE review and commencement of an internal polling district and polling station review.

C. 37 BURY COUNCIL CONSTITUTION UPDATE REPORT

It was moved by Councillor O'Brien and seconded by Councillor R Bernstein, and Council

RESOLVED:

1. Adopt the revised sections of the constitution as highlighted in the sections appended.
 - Reduction in the number of Articles (Appendix A)

- Updates to the Council Procedure Rules (Appendix B)
- Updates to the Committee Procedure Rules (Appendix C)
- Amendments to the Cabinet Portfolios and Committee Membership – Details at Appendix D
- Details of the updated Committee membership are attached at Appendix E

2. Readopt the remainder of the constitution

3. Note the annual review of the constitution and review schedule as set out in Appendix F

4. Note the terms of reference as set out in Appendix G

C. 38 LEADER' STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

The Leader of the Council, Councillor E O'Brien, made a statement on the work undertaken by him since the date of the last Council meeting.

The Leader and the relevant Cabinet Members answered questions raised by Councillors on the following issues:

Cabinet Member	Questioner	Topic
1. Cllr Gold	Cllr Vernon	Hardship Fund
2. Cllr Quinn	Cllr Whitby	Springwater Park
3. Cllr O'Brien	Cllr Boroda	Post offices
4. Cllr Quinn	Cllr Y Wright	Market St, Tottington
5. Cllr O'Brien	Cllr Farooq	Rough Sleepers
6. Cllr O'Brien	Cllr Peel	Universal Credit
7. Cllr Gold	Cllr LJ Dean	Civic location for George Peachment
8. Cllr O'Brien	Cllr Powell	Governance Review
9. Cllr O'Brien	Cllr Peel	New Planning Formula

Due to the lack of time to answer questions 10 to 32 inclusive, the Leader gave an undertaking that copies of those questions and responses will be circulated to all Councillors. The Leader also gave an undertaking to make these available on the Council Web Site.

Cabinet Member	Questioner	Topic
1. Cllr O'Brien	Cllr N Jones	Staffing
2. Cllr O'Brien	Cllr Powell	Prestwich Walk in Centre
3. Cllr O'Brien	Cllr McGill	Support for Military Personnel
4. Cllr O'Brien	Cllr Birchmore	Vaccination Centres
5. Cllr O'Brien	Cllr L Smith	Funding for Social Care
6. Cllr O'Brien	Cllr McBriar	Community Hubs
7. Cllr O'Brien	Cllr Butler	Brownfield First
8. Cllr O'Brien	Cllr S Wright	Longfield Centre Rental

C. 39 COMBINED AUTHORITY REPORT AND QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL'S COMBINED AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES

The Council received a report on the work of the Combined Authorities.

The following questions had been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rules:

Combined Authority Member	Questioner	Topic
1. Cllr Peel	Cllr Harris	Bus service improvement plan
2. Cllr Peel	Cllr L Smith	Cycle network
3. Cllr Peel	Cllr Butler	City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement
4. Cllr Gold	Cllr Bernstein	Police and Crime Panel
5. Cllr Peel	Cllr Boles	Public transport network
6. Cllr Peel	Cllr Farooq	Cycling and the BAME community
7. Cllr Gold	Cllr N Jones	Naloxone nasal spray trial
8. Cllr Peel	Cllr Powell	Buses and the clean air zone

Due to the lack of time to answer questions nine to 18 inclusive, the Mayor gave an undertaking that copies of the questions and responses will be circulated to all Councillors and made available on the Council Web Site.

C. 40 NOTICES OF MOTION

(i) Stop the Council Tax Squeeze

A motion had been received and set out in the Summons in the names of:

Councillors C Boles, N Boroda, S Butler, C Cummins, U Farooq, R Gold, J Grimshaw, S Haroon, M Hayes, T Holt, K Leach, G McGill, C Morris, B Mortenson, E O'Brien, K Peel, T Pilkington, A Quinn, D Quinn, T Rafiq, A Simpson, L Smith, T Tariq, K Thomas, S Walmsley, C Walsh and M Whitby.

The Chancellor and Conservative Government have openly admitted that this winter will be tough for many as we see soaring energy prices, rising costs in shops and cuts in Universal Credit. With the Bank of England warning a possible rise of inflation as high as 5%, many people across Bury are facing a real cost of living crisis – one that has been exacerbated by last month's Budget.

Despite a 10% hike in national insurance on workers and businesses, local councils across the country are facing no other but to also raise council tax next year in order to maintain frontline services - in fact, the Government's spending figures for local government rely on councils doing so, it is there in black and white in the Budget.

The council notes:

- That direct funding to local government has been cut year on year by the Conservatives with a cut to Bury Council of over £100 million so far since 2010.
- That the Conservative Government's latest Budget expects us to raise Council Tax by 3% in order to increase our spending power.
- Even with this hike in Council Tax, Bury Council will still be forced to make around £18m in cuts by the financial year 2023/24.

This council resolves to:

1. Call on the Government to stop the squeeze and fund Bury Council directly to avoid increases in council tax.
2. Call on the Government to reverse tax cuts on banks and consider a windfall levy on individuals and enterprise whose wealth grew exponentially in the pandemic.
3. Write to Bury's Conservative MPs asking them to co-sign a letter demanding true levelling up for Bury, by restoring our direct funding grant so that Council Tax payers don't have to bear an even heavier burden of funding vital local services, which should be funded by Government.

On being put with

(ii) Supporting our wonderful high streets over the festive period

A motion had been received and set out in the Summons in the names of:

Bernstein, Brown, Caserta, Cropper, Dean, Gartside, Harris, Lancaster, Hurst, Hussain, N Jones, Lewis, McBriar, Rydeheard, Vernon, Y Wright

The Council recognises:

Bury Council notes the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has had on residents and businesses across the borough over the last two years. The Borough owes a

debt of gratitude to our key workers, residents, businesses and organisations for all that they have done through the pandemic.

As the festive period approaches the Council must do all it can to support our fantastic independent businesses across the borough and our high streets

The Council notes:

The Government provided over £100 million to Bury MBC to support residents and businesses whether the COVID-19 storm across the borough

In the October Budget our borough was awarded two levelling up bids totalling £40 million to regenerate Bury Market and Radcliffe Town Centre. Now we must celebrate this success and support our high streets, encouraging residents and visitors to shop local this festive period.

There are 4 Saturdays in December, including Small Business Saturday on the 4th, and as a Council we must do all we can to support business

This motion aims to support the boroughs high streets and independent retailers across Ramsbottom, Tottington, Bury, Radcliffe, Whitefield, and Prestwich and promote shopping locally throughout the month of December

The Council resolves to:

- All Council-owned car parks to be free every Saturday in December 2021 across Ramsbottom, Tottington, Bury, Radcliffe, Whitefield and Prestwich including Christmas Day
- Actively support and promote 'Small Business Saturday' in December by spreading the word across the Borough via locally via the Council website and all digital media channels
- Promote 'Shop Local' throughout the month of December across all the Councils digital media channels and share press releases with local media to drum up support for our wonderful towns this festive period

Councillor Jones moved and Councillor Liam James Dean seconded that in order to expedite the discussion that the question now be put and the Council moves to a recorded vote.

On being put with 26 voting for and 18 voting against, and the Mayor abstaining the motion that the question now be put was lost.

It was moved by Councillor Peel and seconded by Councillor Pilkington as an amendment to:-

DELETE:

- ~~All Council-owned car parks to be free every Saturday in December 2021 across Ramsbottom, Tottington, Bury, Radcliffe, Whitefield and Prestwich including Christmas Day~~

ADD:

Call on officers and the Combined Authority to explore options to fund free or discounted bus travel for the first three weekends in December

On being put, with 44 voting for, 0 voting against, and with the Mayor abstaining, the Mayor declared the amendment carried.

On being put with 44 voting for, 0 voting against and the Mayor abstaining the substantive motion was carried.

(iii) Children's Catch-up Funding

A motion had been received and set out in the Summons in the names of:
Councillors Powell, Tegolo and S Wright.

This Council recognises that:

- There has been an enormous impact from Covid-19 on schoolchildren in Bury
- The staff, pupils and Governors in our schools in Bury have worked incredibly hard to make sure the impact of Covid is mitigated
- For months at a time, most children have not been able to attend school, been isolated from their friends, and missed out on valuable experiences such as playing sports or learning a musical instrument
- The Government's former Education Commissioner Sir Kevan Collins recommended that £15 billion is required to help schoolchildren catch up on the learning and experiences they have lost during the pandemic
- The Liberal Democrats announced a policy at their Party Conference in September 2021 calling for the full £15 billion to be made available as a 'Catch-Up Fund' for schoolchildren
- £5 billion of this fund would go directly to parents in the form of vouchers to be spent in the best way they see fit. This would mean each school child in Bury would receive £200 worth of vouchers a year for each of the next three years (these vouchers would increase to £400-£600 a year for those from the most disadvantaged backgrounds or those in need of additional support)

This Council resolves to:

- Welcome these proposals and acknowledge they would result in parents and carers being able to give their children new opportunities and experiences that they have sorely missed out on over the past 18 months
- Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Education to demand that the recommendations of the Liberal Democrat's Children's Catch-Up Policy are implemented in full. In particular, that the full £15 billion is made available as a Catch-Up Fund for schoolchildren, and that £5 billion of this goes directly to parents in the form of vouchers that can be spent on their choice of approved courses and experiences

It was moved by Councillor Whitby and seconded by Councillor Tariq as an amendment to:-

[ADD] – The Labour Party launched its £15 billion “Children’s Recovery Plan” in June, in line with Sir Kevan Collins’ recommendations. This plan includes Breakfast clubs and new activities for every child, Quality mental health support in every school, Small group tutoring for all who need it, not just 1%, Continued development for teachers, An Education Recovery Premium and Ensure no child goes hungry.

~~[REMOVE] - The Liberal Democrats announced a policy at their Party Conference in September 2021 calling for the full £15 billion to be made available as a ‘Catch-Up Fund’ for schoolchildren
–£5 billion of this fund would go directly to parents in the form of vouchers to be spent in the best way they see fit. This would mean each school child in Bury would receive £200 worth of vouchers a year for each of the next three years (these vouchers would increase to £400-£600 a year for those from the most disadvantaged backgrounds or those in need of additional support)~~

This Council resolves to:

~~[REMOVE] - Welcome these proposals and acknowledge they would result in parents and carers being able to give their children new opportunities and experiences that they have sorely missed out on over the past 18 months~~

[ADD} – Welcome the Labour Party’s proposals and support the provision of the necessary resources for a strong recovery for our children and their education.

~~[REMOVE] - Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Education to demand that the recommendations of the Liberal Democrat’s Children’s Catch-Up Policy are implemented in full. In particular, that the full £15 billion is made available as a Catch-Up Fund for schoolchildren, and that £5 billion of this goes directly to parents in the form of vouchers that can be spent on their choice of approved courses and experiences~~

[ADD] - Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Education to demand that the recommendations of the Labour Party’s “Children’s Recovery Plan” are implemented in full.

On being put, with 26 voting for, 18 voting against, and with the Mayor abstaining, the Mayor declared the amendment carried.

On being put with 29 voting for, 15 voting against and the Mayor abstaining the substantive motion was carried.

C. 41 COUNCIL MOTION TRACKER

The Motion Tracker was circulated for information.

C. 42 SCRUTINY REVIEW REPORTS AND SPECIFIC ITEMS "CALLED IN" BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

There were no Scrutiny Review Reports or specific items "called in" by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be considered at this Council meeting.

C. 43 QUESTIONS ON THE WORK OF OUTSIDE BODIES OR PARTNERSHIPS

There were no questions received in accordance with Council Procedure Rules.

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR

(Notes: Part 1 of the meeting started at 7.10 pm and ended at 10.30 pm)