

REPORT FOR DECISION

DECISION OF:	The Council
DATE:	19th January 2022
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 17th November 2021 to 11th January 2022.
- 1.2 I'd like to wish the residents of Bury a Happy New Year. We have a lot to look forward to in the coming year, especially with continuing progress on our exciting regeneration plans across the borough, but we can also look forward to; making progress on the New High School for Radcliffe, continuing our promise to make Bury greener and cleaner, building much needed houses for the peoples of our Borough in-keeping with our Brownfield First approach, the improvements for Bury Market and Radcliffe Flexi-Hall following our successful Levelling-up bids, the impact of our integrated public service teams, and getting the community involved through new initiatives like 'Let's Do It Together' Forums, Community Champions scheme and Race Listening events.
- 1.3 Prior to the festive season, I visited Trinity Foodbank and Caritas Red Door to see how their organisations support those in need, particularly over the winter period. The visits were very insightful, listening to people's stories and the challenges that they are going through. It is vital that groups like these are able to operate and support the Council and other services in helping those who are vulnerable.
- 1.4 I would like to make a renewed plea to everyone in the Borough who is eligible for their first, second or booster vaccine to come forward and take it, both for yourself and for those you come in contact with. The vaccine drive has already led to tens of thousands of lives being saved and is even more crucial now with the Omicron strain of the virus circulating more easily and rapidly than any of the previous variants. You can find out more about the vaccines and book your appointment though www.bury.gov.uk/coronavirus-vaccine
- 1.5 Following on from the announcement that Bury Council is now an accredited Real Living Wage employer, I am delighted to share that we have now become a member of the Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter. The charter is a voluntary membership and assessment scheme which aims to raise employment standards across Greater Manchester for all organisations of any size, sector or geography. Becoming a Member of the GM Good Employment Charter not only shows our commitment to being a good employer but allows us to lead by example and encourage others to raise employment standards across the borough. We value our workforce and absolutely recognise the critical role

they play in supporting our residents and communities and driving delivery of our Let's Do It ambition

- 1.6 At the Cabinet meetings in November and December we approved the Bury Town Centre Masterplan and Ramsbottom Town Plan. These plans once again signify this Council's ambition to make our Borough a great place for residents, visitors and businesses. The Ramsbottom Town Plan includes proposals to reduce conflict between pedestrians and vehicles, improve linkages between attractions, address parking issues for visitors and help business growth. This includes plans for a dedicated space to host events and entertainment and measures to help businesses thrive through the creation of an enterprise centre and offices. The Bury Town Centre Masterplan will ensure that the town centre will thrive for decades to come.
- 1.7 Following the signing of the Armed Forces Covenant in November, we were proud to announce that from the beginning of December all serving members of the armed forces and veterans can now use Council-run leisure centres for free. It formally recognises the contribution that serving personnel, reservists, veterans and military families make to Bury, ensuring that they are not disadvantaged and, in certain specific areas, are actually given priority.

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.

Dept	Priority	Deliverables
BGI	Approval of Accelerated disposal programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two assets sold at auction for 90k (guide price 50k) and £185k (guide price £2k). • Summerseat House to be remarketed in January 2022 • Review of Phases 1, 2 and 3 assets is ongoing, and work is underway to continue to prepare them for disposal • Community Asset Transfer (CAT)– work ongoing to undertake final checks on the documentation (toolkit and policy). Work continues to move one CAT through the process – Philips Park.
	Bury Flexihall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levelling Up Fund (LUF) inception meetings with Department for Levelling

		<p>up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) due to take place on 22nd December.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexihall – Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) stage Two consultation ongoing and close to completion. • Pre-Construction Services Agreement (PCSA) remains under review (End December 2021 targeted) • Progress on the 5 required property acquisitions. (2 under offer)
	Radcliffe Strategic Regeneration Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hub project - RIBA Stage Two consultation complete, design pack and report due in January 22 • LUF inception meetings with DLUHC due to take place in December • First commercial tenants from South/North Blocks are due to move into new premises in January 22 • Transport programme work ongoing, car park surveys now complete and report due in February 22
	One Public Estate Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is ongoing regarding planning the decant of tenants from Humphrey House to 3KP and conversations continue with the various health partners • Work is underway to consider the decant of St Mary's Place into 6KP, so St Mary's Place can then be disposed of – disposal planned via auction by end March 2022.
	Places for Everyone (Pfe)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently analysing representations to identify key issues raised from consultation. • Preparing for submission in January/February 2022.
	Bury Interchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) / Council continuing to work through the Strategic Outline Business Case stage. • Looking to move to outline business case as early as possible in the new year.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secured circa £45m in the CRST funding.
	Full Fibre Rollout (5G network will follow)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bury will be the first in north GM to complete, a press release to promote the completion of a multimillion-pound project.
	Brownfield Housing Land Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Street Radcliffe (89 homes) and Green Street Radcliffe (136 homes) have concluded pre application planning consultation. Legal resources are in place and contracts drafted. Anticipated execution of contracts and planning submission by Jan 22. Cabinet has now consented to the disposal of Seedfield Bury to Hive Homes for the delivery of 92 homes.
CYP	Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Business Plan drafted. Education assurance protocol – Autumn term universal quality assurance visits underway for all schools. Ongoing support and guidance to schools on management of COVID-19. Working with school clusters agreed criteria for support. Continued development of analysis/reporting of attendance data from schools for Autumn half term 2.
	SEND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation with schools on mainstream top-started. Reported to Schools Forum on Project Safety Valve (PSV) and implications. PSV summary update produced for briefing Bury Governors Association, Strategic Education Board. Local area Special Educational Needs (SEND) strategic action plan being developed. Agreement for new Social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) Restorative Practices (RP) at Tottington Primary – detail being developed.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding visits to alternative provision continue.
	Children's Social Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery Board met on 23 Nov to review the work completed to date. ILACS Ofsted inspection (see report to 12 January Cabinet) Children in Need (CIN) managed service has commenced, with a focus on managing child in need cases, currently in safeguarding and move to locality-based approach (significant increase in CIN numbers). Thematic sampling across a number of areas has been carried out: Child in Need, Domestic Abuse, Permanency, Step down to Early Help and Repeat child protection Plans. Recommendations have been agreed. Review of all high-cost placements has been completed; actions to look at decision making and reduction in high cost placements is underway.
	Early Help	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal developed to align Early Help cluster and inclusion partnership. Early Help Strategy presented to Children's Partnership Board for sign off. Steering Group for Bury East Pilot established . Charter for Bury East has been developed. Winter Holiday Activity Fund Programme developed and launched. Bury education, employment and training figures are in the top 1% of the Country for positive education, employment and training figures post 16.
Operations	Climate Change Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Change Officers attended Neighbourhood Hub meetings to promote the establishment of Climate Action Forums in the new year and the £100k Climate Action Fund..

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £100k Climate action fund open for applications and closed on 30 November with the fund oversubscribed.
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. 6 interviews under caution planned for November. Clearing the volume/backlog of fly tipping enquiries – progressing well. Environmental quality programme developed for Radcliffe which will commence in Spring 2022. Many of the Environmental volunteer groups have applied for grants as part of the health improvement community fund scheme. 	
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 and commences 6/12/21. 	
Strategic Transport Capacity and Transport plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The consultants WSP have been appointed to write a Borough-wide Transport Strategy. A Strategic Transport Group has been established which is attended by Leader, Portfolio, Chief Executive and senior officers. A Transport Officers Group has also been established to oversee delivery of Transport Strategy and to seek out funding opportunities. 	
Increased taxi testing capability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tender opportunity closed with no bids submitted. Documentation amended following consultation with garages and presentation 	

		<p>produced by procurement to support garages to apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tender readvertised with closing date of 22 December 2021.
OCO	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. Plans for extension in development.
	COVID response: Outbreak Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outbreak Management Plan refresh completed to reflect Govt Autumn Winter Plan. Monitored through weekly Health Protection Board and fortnightly Gold.
	Secondary Care Service Reconfiguration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update paper submitted for the December Bury Strategic Commissioning Board Meeting for agreement of the secondary care model following the acute reconfiguration and to assure the board of the system work to review the Bury primary and community pathways. Bury System Urology Task and Finish group agreed Terms of Reference and membership – all partners engaged. Review of primary and community pathways underway – working to optimal integrated pathway. Links being made to Northern Care Alliance Being Well Development Group to support elective recovery.
	Neighbourhood Team Working in Health and Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operating model for Integrated Neighbourhood Team (INT) working approved at integrated delivery collaborative board.
Corporate Core	Domestic Abuse Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft produced and shared with Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Board in December.
	Community recovery “Pitch” participatory budget scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applications received including a good spread across the borough. Planning for face-to-face events in progress. Bury East scheduled for end of November. The remaining to be held in December subject to Covid Plan B.

	Agile working	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial evaluation shared with Members. Work now focused on strengthening and embedding the model and programming wider building closures
	Inclusion strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work progressing and Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion manager to be appointed. External funding to support inclusion work across Bury and Rochdale awarded via GM Health and Social Care Partnership.
	Culture strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further promotion of the Opportunity Pass around December / Christmas events, including the Tour of the Museum. Still some underspend on the micro-grants, recommendations going to Portfolio lead on the 10th of Dec.
	RLW in Bury Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Real Living Wage Status Awarded on 15 November.

List of Background Papers:-

None identified