

Minutes of: COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 16 March 2022

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

**Apologies for
Absence** N Boroda, R Caserta, I Gartside, S Hurst, J Mason and M Smith

Public Attendance: 8 members of the public were in attendance.

C. 8 PRESENTATION TO COLONEL ERIC DAVIDSON

C. 9 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were made at the meeting in relation to items on the agenda:

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 an 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 A Simpson declared a personal interest in all matters under consideration as both her and her son are employed by the NHS.
4. Councillor S. Wright declared a personal interest in all matters under consideration as his wife works for a school in the Borough.
5. Councillor Rydeheard declared a personal interest in all items on the agenda as he undertakes work representing the Taxi trade.

C. 10 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

As this was the last meeting before the all out Elections the Mayor invited Group Leaders to pay tribute and thank those Councillors stepping down.

C. 11 MINUTES

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 23rd February 2022 be approved as a correct record.

C. 12 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Notice had been received of 5 questions. 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.

Questioner	Topic	Responding
Martine Vaizman (not present)	Investment in Sedgley	Cllr O'Brien
Andrew Luxton	Clean Air	Cllr O'Brien
Judith Sheppard	Radcliffe Regeneration	Cllr O'Brien
Andy Hay	Pedestrian crossing, Bury New Road	Cllr Quinn
Carol Bernstein	Unadopted Road	Cllr Quinn
Kyle Finnegan	Elton roads	Cllr Quinn
Mr Mamhood	Air Quality	Cllr Quinn
Mr Warich	Taxi Licensing	Cllr Morris

C. 13 RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Meeting of Democratic Arrangements Forum 5th January 2022 Meetings Timetable 2022/23.

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

RESOLVED:

That the timetable of meetings for the Municipal Year 2022/23 as set out be approved.

Meeting of Cabinet 23rd February 2022 Corporate Plan.

It was moved by Councillor Rafiq and seconded by Councillor Hussain and it was:

RESOLVED:

Council approves the Corporate Plan.

Meeting of Standards Committee 1st March 2022 Member Safety and Social Media Policy.

It was moved by Councillor Whitby and seconded by Councillor Butler and it was:

RESOLVED:

That the amended Member Safety and Social Media Policy be approved.

Meeting of Employment Panel – 2nd March 2022 Pay Policy Statement

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

RESOLVED:

The Council Agrees the Pay Policy Statement and pay structure for 2022/23.

Meeting of Cabinet 9th March 2022 Community Safety Plan.

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

RESOLVED:

Council approves the Community Safety Plan for Bury 2022-2025.

Meeting of Audit Committee – 15th March 2022 Annual Governance Statement

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

RESOLVED:

1. That Council approves the proposed final Annual Governance Statement, as set out in Appendix 1.
2. That the Annual Governance Statement be signed by the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council .

C. 14 LEADER' STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(a) Written question (Notice given)

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:

	Questioner	Cabinet Member	Topic
1	Cllr Powell	Cllr Morris	Queen's Jubilee
2	Cllr Peel	Cllr O'Brien	Cost of Living
3	Cllr Staples-Jones	Cllr Gold	Armed Forces Covenant
4	Cllr Harris	Cllr Morris	Queen's Jubilee
5	Cllr Pilkington	Cllr Simpson	GP Appointments
6	Cllr McGill	Cllr O'Brien	Refugee Crisis
7	Cllr Lancaster	Cllr Tariq	Christ Church School
8	Cllr S Wright	Cllr Quinn	Street Lighting
9	Cllr D Quinn	Cllr Gold	Parklife Community Fund
10	Cllr Hayes	Cllr Gold	Library Facilities
11	Cllr Brown	Cllr Quinn	Clearing Drains and Gullys
12	Cllr Boroda	Cllr Simpson	Mental Health Services

13	Cllr Bernstein	Cllr Tariq	Response from Ofsted
14	Cllr S Wright	Cllr Quinn	St. Mary's Flower Park
15	Cllr Caserta	Cllr O'Brien	Ukraine Conflict
16	Cllr Vernon	Cllr Morris	Support for business
17	Cllr Cropper	Cllr Quinn	Electric Vehicles
18	Cllr Gartside	Cllr Quinn	Potholes
19	Cllr Tegolo	Cllr Rafiq	Discretionary Grants
20	Cllr Powell	Cllr Simpson	Prestwich walk in centre
21	Cllr Tegolo	Cllr Quinn	Potholes

Due to the lack of time to answer questions 9 to 22 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.

b) Verbal Questions

Questioner	Cabinet Member	Topic
Cllr N Jones	1. Cllr O'Brien	Assistance for Refugees
Cllr M Powell	2. Cllr O'Brien	Walk in Centre
Cllr Hayes	3. Cllr O'Brien	New Era For GM
Cllr Bernstein	4. Cllr Whitby	Annual Accounts
Cllr Peel	5. Cllr O'Brien	Food Strategy
Cllr McBriar	6. Cllr O'Brien	Levelling up
Cllr Pilkington	7. Cllr O'Brien	Ramsbottom Town Hall
Cllr S Wright	8. Cllr O'Brien	Council premises in Lytham St Annes

C. 15

COMBINED AUTHORITY REPORT AND QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL'S COMBINED AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES

- (a) The Council received a report on the work of the Combined Authorities.
- (b) The following questions had been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rules:

Questioner	Combined Authority Member	Topic
Cllr Wright	Cllr Peel	Metrolink service
Cllr D Quinn	Cllr Gold	Antisemitic hate crime
Cllr McGill	Cllr Peel	Impact of Covid

Cllr McBriar	Cllr Gold	GMP Inspection
Cllr Farooq	Cllr Peel	Investment in walking, cycling and road safety schemes
Cllr Harris	Cllr Peel	Metrolink Fares at Easter
Cllr Rydeheard	Cllr Peel	Recruitment of bus drivers
Cllr Tegolo	Cllr Grimshaw	GMPF
Cllr Powell	Cllr Gold	Hate Crime reporting

Due to the lack of time to answer question 9, 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. 16 NOTICES OF MOTION

1) Making Football a Fair Game

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

Councillors: M Powell, C Tegolo and S Wright

This Council recognises that:

- 1 Football, the national game in the UK, is currently in crisis. COVID-19 has devastated the revenue of many lower-league clubs, with the loss of some notable names, and dozens more clubs teetering on the brink of survival.
- 2 Too frequently, bad management has gone unnoticed or ignored and clubs are run unsustainably, putting at risk all the history, heritage, and economic benefit they bring to an area – often in pursuit of short-term gain.
- 3 Football clubs are not ordinary businesses; they are historic sporting institutions that are both a civic and community asset, and a source of pride and unity, in their hometown or city.
- 4 Bury has its own experience at the forefront of this crisis, losing our 134 year-old league football club, and the efforts of fans, the Council and the Government to return league football to the town.

On being put with 43 voting for 0 voting against and the Mayor abstaining, it was resolved, that

The Council;

- 1 Put on record its support for 'Fair Game', a national campaign that seeks radical reform of the way football is managed and run, specifically its call for an independent regulator for the sport, and a refocus on 'values' rather than profit.
- 2 Support Fair Game's calls for an establishment of a Sustainability Index, which will reallocate the payments made to clubs to reward those which are run well, respect equality standards and properly engage with their fans and their community.
- 3 Declare its support for the Fair Game manifesto, 'Solutions for our National Game', and call on other Councils to join us in our support.
- 4 Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Minister for Sport, our local Members of Parliament, and the Chair of the Local Government Association Culture,

Tourism and Sport Board, asking them to support and work towards implementing Fair Game's manifesto and the findings of the fan-led review led by Tracey Crouch MP

- 5 Ask the Council's representatives to encourage other Authorities to support Fair Game

2) Cost-of-Living and Food Insecurity

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, G Staples-Jones, T Tariq, K Thomas, S Walmsley, C Walsh and M Whitby.

This Council recognises with concern that households across our borough are bracing themselves for the biggest drop in living standards in thirty years.

This Council notes that the cost-of-living crisis includes steep price increases in everyday and essential food items, making the situation worse for the 10% of households already living in food insecurity across our borough and risking more people experiencing food insecurity.

This Council celebrates the incredible work done by food banks and pantries across our six towns to support those most in need and the dedication and hard work of the volunteers who run them.

This Council regrets that the Government is making the cost-of-living crisis worse through tax hikes, low growth, falling real wages, and a failure to tackle the energy crisis.

On being put with 30 voting for 13 voting against and the Mayor abstaining, it was resolved, that

The Council:

- Writes to the Government urging Ministers to set out a national strategy for food including how it intends to ensure access to high quality, sustainable, affordable food for all and meet the United Nations goal to end hunger by 2030.
- Establish a Lead Member for Food Poverty to drive forward our local efforts to end hunger in our borough.
- Further develop our Food Plan for Bury to identify local food insecurity challenges and put in place steps to tackle them.
- Strengthen our work with the voluntary and community sector and statutory agencies to tackle food poverty through our Food Partnership and Food Network.
- Continue our efforts to alleviate all forms of poverty and tackle the root causes by investing in our people and places; ensuring our residents have access to high quality education, training and lifelong learning; delivering the Real Living Wage for our staff and contractors; regenerating our town centres and attracting businesses to create more well paid jobs; improving our housing stock and building more high quality affordable homes; and working with our partners in the NHS to tackle health inequalities.

3) Greater Manchester Clean Air Zone

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.

The Greater Manchester Clean Air Zone was first proposed by the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, in 2019.

Since that date, this Council voted in favour of the Mayor's scheme, as a result, we have seen huge public criticism of the plans.

The Greater Manchester Clean Air Final Plan report, presented to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), on 25th June 2021 by Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) was misleading.

The Council notes:

- The Greater Manchester Clean Air Zone (CAZ) is 493sqm which includes every district in GM
- TfGM in July 2021 stated a database sourced from The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) estimated that approximately at present 90% of non-compliant LGV's in GM, are not retrofittable
- TfGM estimates that in 2023 there will be 75,000 non-compliant LGV's based in GM out of a total fleet of 136k LGV's
- The Greater Manchester Clean Air Final Plan report was approved by all GM Districts and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to support the Mayor of Greater Manchester's plan for Clean Air during July 2021
- The 8 Greater Manchester Conservative MPs and 1 Labour MP wrote to the Secretary of State for Environment and Rural Affairs urging a delay to the rollout of the CAZ for further consultation

The Council resolves to:

Call on the Chief Executive to write to the Mayor of Greater Manchester to state the Clean Air Zone is not fit for purpose and ask for the scheme to be abandoned and for a new plan to be drafted to deal with air pollution

Ask the Secretary of State to abandon the current scheme which was approved by Greater Manchester authorities because The Greater Manchester Clean Air Final Plan impacts tens of thousands of small businesses and charities within Greater Manchester region in addition to thousands who are based outside of the GM region but operate within the GM region contributing to the £62 billion economy

Ask the Mayor of Greater Manchester in conjunction with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to draw up a new plan which does not charge but focuses solely on cleaning up the air where there are breaches.

It was moved by Councillor A Quinn and seconded by Councillor L Smith as an amendment to:-

REMOVE ~~The Greater Manchester Clean Air Zone was first proposed by the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, in 2019.~~

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~~Since that date, this Council voted in favour of the Mayor's scheme, as a result, we have seen huge public criticism of the plans.~~

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~~The Greater Manchester Clean Air Final Plan report, presented to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), on 25th June 2021 by Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) was misleading.]~~

ADD – Between 2015 and 2018 the Government lost 3 high court cases brought by Client Earth. In each case the judge found the Government to be in breach of its own air quality standards.

Following that the 10 local authorities in Greater Manchester, as well as dozens of other local authorities in England were placed under a Ministerial Direction as part of the UK Plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations under 1995 Environment Act (GM Direction).

This required local authorities to undertake work to identify the preferred option to reduce NO2 levels to within legal limits in the shortest possible time and compliant by 2024 at the latest, including the development of a charging Clean Air Zone.

Labour Leaders and the Greater Manchester Mayor have argued that the 2024 deadline was no longer achievable without causing significant harm to jobs and businesses in Greater Manchester. As a result, Greater Manchester Councils took the decision to go back to the Government and request that the Ministerial Direction be lifted.

The Government argued for a one-year delay to the scheme. But the Labour Leaders and Mayor held out for a two-year delay. This was eventually agreed by the Government and is reflected in the new Ministerial Direction setting a deadline of 2026 for compliance.

This now allows for a very different scheme to be put in place and a new scheme has to be agreed by the Government by July.

The Council notes:

- Air pollution is linked to a wide range of serious illnesses and conditions. It contributes to approximately 1,200 deaths a year in Greater Manchester
- The Government has previously rejected Greater Manchester's call for an additional hardship fund
- The position of the 9 Labour Leaders and Greater Manchester Mayor, which support a non-charging zone
- The Greater Manchester Clean Air Zone (CAZ) is 493sqm which includes every district in GM
- TfGM in July 2021 stated a database sourced from The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) estimated that approximately at present 90% of non-compliant LGV's in GM, are not retrofittable
- TfGM estimates that in 2023 there will be 75,000 non-compliant LGV's based in GM out of a total fleet of 136k LGV's
- The Greater Manchester Clean Air Final Plan report was approved by all GM Districts and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority **REMOVE** – ~~[to support the Mayor of Greater Manchester's plan for Clean Air during July 2021]~~
- The 8 Greater Manchester Conservative MPs and 1 Labour MP wrote to the Secretary of State for Environment and Rural Affairs urging a delay to the rollout of the CAZ for further consultation

The Council resolves to:

~~REMOVE – [Call on the Chief Executive to write to the Mayor of Greater Manchester to state the Clean Air Zone is not fit for purpose and ask for the scheme to be abandoned and for a new plan to be drafted to deal with air pollution~~

~~- Ask the Secretary of State to abandon the current scheme which was approved by Greater Manchester authorities because The Greater Manchester Clean Air Final Plan impacts tens of thousands of small businesses and charities within Greater Manchester region in addition to thousands who are based outside of the GM region but operate within the GM region contributing to the £62 billion economy~~

~~- Ask the Mayor of Greater Manchester in conjunction with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to draw up a new plan which does not charge but focuses solely on cleaning up the air where there are breaches.]~~

ADD – Call on the Government to cooperate with the current review of future arrangements in Greater Manchester and seek to agree a fairer approach to cleaning up our air.

Lobby the Government to ensure it provides full financial support to enable individuals and businesses to upgrade their vehicles, especially in light of the current supply-chain issues.

To also call upon the Government to fully fund the Bus Service Improvement Plan and City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement to help us improve walking, cycling and clean public transport.

On being put, with 26 voting for, 17 voting against, and with the Mayor abstaining, the Mayor declared the amendment carried.

On being put with 30 voting for, 13 voting against and the Mayor abstaining the substantive motion was carried.

C. 17 EMERGENCY MOTION

Following a receipt of a valid Emergency Motion in relation to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. The Mayor agreed that it would not be practical to defer consideration of the motion:

The motion was received in the names of Councillors Powell, Tegolo and S Wright.

BURY STANDS WITH UKRAINE

This Council joins all residents across Bury in opposing Vladimir Putin's barbaric war on Ukraine.

This Council notes that Bury has a proud history of providing sanctuary to those forced to flee their homeland.

This Council recognises that we must play our part in supporting Ukrainian people and communities affected by this terrible conflict.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Reach out to the Ukrainian Community in Bury and the wider city region and offer the help and assistance they require during this heart-breaking period.
2. Note the commitments already made by the government to house displaced Ukraine families and making it clear that the Borough will go over and above to offer sanctuary and shelter to those that need it
3. Support, promote and work in partnership with local charitable, community and religious organisations who are working to provide resources and assistance for those affected and displaced by the conflict in Ukraine.
4. Work with our local school community to urgently find placement for any school age children seeking refuge in Bury.
5. Support the local Russian community who are opposed to the violence and terror being wrought on Ukraine by a regime they do not support.
6. Promote opportunities to support other organisations working on the ground in Ukraine to provide humanitarian aid and shelter - these include but are not limited to the British Red Cross, UNICEF and the UN Refugee Council.
7. Ask the Chief Executive to raise with the Home Office the situation children without passports are experiencing at the UK Border.
8. This Council also recognises it has a role to play to ensure Russian political and financial interests are not promoted in any of its activities and investments.

We welcome that the Council does not have any direct energy contracts with Russian firms and we will ensure this remains the case.

This Council therefore further resolves to:

Immediately request a report from the Greater Manchester Pensions Authority on the investments our Council's Pension Fund currently has in Russian companies. Where these investments still exist, Council calls on the Pension Fund to make immediate arrangements to divest any shares in Russian companies.

Write to the Home Office to give Bury's support to stricter sanctions on the Russian regime - and in particular to extend sanctions against Russian oligarchs with ties to Putin's regime to fully block their access to financial operations in the UK.

This Council also resolves to ask all Group Leaders sign a joint letter to the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary calling on the UK Government to;

1. Offer sanctuary to Ukrainian people in their hour of need and ensure there is a swift and efficient visa application process.
2. End our dependence on Russian energy and fast-track the transition to renewable energy sources.

3.Impose the severest economic, financial, technical and cultural sanctions on the Russian state.

On being put with all 44 Members voting in favour the motion was carried.

C. 18 COUNCIL MOTION TRACKER

The Council tracker was presented for information.

C. 19 SCRUTINY REVIEW REPORTS AND SPECIFIC ITEMS "CALLED IN" BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

There were no scrutiny review reports or specific items called in by scrutiny committees.

C. 20 QUESTIONS ON THE WORK OF OUTSIDE BODIES OR PARTNERSHIPS

There were no questions on the work of outside bodies or partnerships.

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR

(Notes: The meeting started at 7pm and ended at 10.43pm)

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