

	Party	Question
1	Conservative Cllr Shahbaz Arif	I have received a lot of complaints about the recent resurfacing in Bury West. The quality of the repairs has been poor in parts. Particular areas at the head of cul de sacs where vehicles regularly turn. What is being done to check on the quality of work and remedial action, where it is clear the repairs are unsatisfactory?
	Response: Cllr Quinn	The work carried out at Church Lane is micro-asphalt surface treatment, which is intended to prolong the life of the existing carriageway. More information on this process is available on our website. The aesthetics of micro-asphalt surface treatments tend to improve over the first 6 months following application through bedding in as a result of vehicle movements. Under the terms of our contract for these works we withhold retention monies until we are satisfied that all work has been carried out to the specification, which will be confirmed by an inspection of the works carried out in the autumn.
2	Labour Cllr Elliot Moss	What progress has the council made on bringing Bury FC back to Gigg Lane? Supplementary: Would the Cabinet Member join me in encouraging all fans to support the proposed merger and bring all groups together behind the plans?
	Response: Cllr Morris	As the members of this Chamber will know, we took the momentous decision at cabinet last week to move another step closer to bringing football back to Gigg Lane. We approved the £450k we had already promised, which will also release funding from the Government to bring Gigg Lane back to use. Internally, Bury Council has created a Steering Group to bring together both the group who have taken community ownership of the Stadium and AFC Bury. We have done that because the work on the business plan shows that only a merged club will generate the levels of revenues to make Gigg Lane a sustainable facility.
3	Labour Cllr Sean Thorpe	Does the cabinet member agree with me that the impact of the cost of living crisis, particularly on the most vulnerable in our town, could be properly mitigated by government intervention and not to do so is a choice that the Conservative government is making that protects the assets of the few to the detriment of the many, and would he join me in calling on all councillors in this chamber as well as the MP for Bury North to support this councils efforts to help those who will be further impacted later on in the autumn and winter with adequate emergency funding, meaningful relief on energy bills, and economic policies at national level that sustain growth rather than plunge us into recession? Supplementary: What are the Council doing to support Bury

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		residents and to address poverty across the borough?
	Response: Cllr Gold	Supplementary: Last Wednesday (13th) July 2022, Cabinet approved the Bury Cost of Living and Anti-Poverty Strategy. This sets out the approaches and activities taking place by the Council, with our partners and local communities to mitigate immediate cost of living pressures and tackle the medium-term drivers of poverty. This includes the targeted of support through the Household Support Fund to those individuals and families in greater socio-economic hardship and requiring immediate food/fuel support, alongside wrap-around guidance to increase their financial resilience. In addition, the strategy details local data against key priorities, to inform delivery of targeted, place-based activity to address different characteristics of poverty - from support to families with the cost of school uniforms; the further development of a food pantry model; the co-production of a Money Advice Referral Tool; cooking on a budget sessions; and a work to ensure the emerging Economic Strategy for the Borough creates inclusive employment opportunities that pay a fair wage.
4	Conservative Cllr Jo Lancaster	Can an update be provided as to when the building work will commence on the new High School for Radcliffe?
	Response: Cllr Smith	The Department for Education estimate that building works will commence in July next year. The work between now and then will be detailed design work, obtaining planning permission and procurement and appointment of contractors. As Councillor Lancaster will know Cabinet last Wednesday approved the funding for the costs that fall to the Council for the access road on the site and site remediation, including demolition of the existing buildings.
5	Radcliffe first Cllr Carol Birchmore	Is the Council able to provide full disclosure of data for all measurements of traffic pollution levels over the last five years. This should include the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The calibration certificates, approvals (MCERTs) and service history for all electro chemiluminescent (ECL) analysers used to make measurements which are being used by Bury Council as evidence of pollution level measurements. This should include dates of service and the name and address of the company responsible for servicing the equipment. • Diffusion tube measurements – access to all the data recorded for each analysis giving time, date, exact location and duration of time period over which the measurements were made. This should also include details (name and address) of the laboratory where the samples were analysed. • Certification information for all laboratories used to analyse diffusion tube samples over the last 5 years.
	Response: Cllr Quinn	The real time data recorded at our 3 automatic monitoring sites is all available at: uk-air.defra.gov.uk/data .

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		<p>All our diffusion tube annual results are available at: https://cleanairgm.com/data-hub/diffusion-tubes.</p> <p>All the other data and requested information can be supplied if a contact email address can be provided.</p>
6	Labour Cllr Deborah Quinn	<p>After Parklife, there were hundreds of taxis plying for trade, many of them illegally who were not from the GM area. If this was the case after Parklife, then it was the same for four nights of Ed Sheeran at the Ethiad, The Killers and Alicia Keys also both in Manchester. Does the cabinet member agree with me that we need government legislation so that only GM taxis could trade in Greater Manchester? This would complement the high standards we expect from our taxi trade and increase the safety of the public.</p>
	Response: Cllr Morris	<p>Enforcement officers from the Public Protection Service worked with event organisers prior and during Parklife which was held in Heaton Park over the weekend of the 11 and 12 June 2022. Officers witnessed many vehicles that were licensed outside of Greater Manchester dropping and picking up patrons of the event. During the event Officers noted one vehicle plying for hire this has been reported to the respective Authority and one unlicensed vehicle which was reported to GMP. In addition, a large number of out of area licensed vehicles were observed parked in the surrounding areas which resulted in Officers having to speak to them to request that they move on as they were causing obstructions of the Highway. Thanks to the efforts of our officers, a letter was received from the Hackney Carriage Association thanking us for the taxi rank for Bury Hackney carriage taxis and the well organised and facilitated pick-up area.</p> <p>Current legislation allows out- of – area operation of private Hire Drivers / Vehicles and a change in legislation is therefore needed to prevent this. GM have just submitted a revised Clean Air Plan to Government, and this has included a new 'ask' from Government to remove out-of-area operation by private hire drivers/vehicles, to support the implementation of the Clean Air Plan. GM Authorities are keen to work with the Department for Transport to consider an appropriate regulatory device. This would require that all private hire journeys within GM must be undertaken by a driver and vehicle which are both licensed by one of the ten GM local authorities.</p> <p>As it stands, out-of-area operation enables the evasion of fair, safe and democratically determined local licensing standards. In context of the GM Clean Air Plan, this measure would provide local authorities with stronger regulatory tools to improve the emission standards of all private hire fleets operating in GM. This will be alongside our continued funding ask to allow the trade to upgrade vehicles without damaging livelihoods, which would</p>

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		have been the case under the charging zone that the Government was requesting GM to implement.
7	Labour Cllr Charlotte Morris	<p>What progress has been made on assessing the potential for the Bury Town Centre Masterplan to provide more homes on brownfield sites to alleviate pressure on our green belt.</p> <p>Supplementary: Does this mean that the council will be adopting the Elton Labour councillors' position to Take Walshaw Out of Places for Everyone ahead of the examination in public later this summer?</p>
	Response: Cllr O'Brien	<p>As set out in the March 2022 Cabinet report, the Bury Town Centre masterplan identifies residential opportunities in Bury Town Centre beyond what had previously been envisaged. This is largely a reflection of the new opportunity for residential development that has arisen from the proposed redevelopment of the Mill Gate estate. I understand that Officers are currently in the process of updating the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) to reflect these new opportunities in Bury Town Centre and elsewhere and expect to complete this work shortly. The expectation is that the identified additional capacity for housing on brownfield sites within the town centre will give some flexibility to help reduce the amount Green Belt land released in the Borough.</p> <p>Supplementary: Whilst all the proposed sites in the Places for Everyone Plan are considered to represent suitable, sustainable and deliverable opportunities for new housing, any proposal to remove or scale back the Bury Green Belt housing allocations would need to take account of the planning merits of each site and the huge volume of information that supports the Plan. Once the SHLAA is updated, Officers will be tasked with reviewing the current Places for Everyone sites and I expect that there will be a report presented to Cabinet in September for consideration.</p>
8	Conservative Cllr Khalid Hussain	At a time of ever-increasing demand for housing why is there more than 1000 properties in the Borough that have been left empty for more than 6 months?
	Response: Cllr Cummins	<p>There are approximately 1,683 properties in the Borough which have been empty for 6 months or more. Over 95% of these properties are privately owned.</p> <p>Reasons for why properties may be empty include the owner living abroad or being in residential care, inheritance issues, land-banking, or reluctance to sell.</p> <p>The Council is devoted to making the most of the current housing supply in the borough. Last year we adopted an Empty Property Strategy to help bring empty properties back into use and increase the supply of available housing to help meet housing</p>

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		<p>need. One of the key actions of this strategy was to charge a premium rate of council tax on properties left empty, meaning double the full Council Tax charge for properties empty between 2 and 5 years, 3 times the full Council Tax charge for those which have been empty between 5 and 10 years and 4 times the full Council Tax charge for those empty for more than 10 years. The strategy also allocated resources for a new Empty Homes Officer, a Private Rented Sector Development Coordinator, and £1 million from Section 106 contributions to tackle the problem of empty properties.</p> <p>Along with these actions we have taken a series of cabinet decisions to purchase properties and redevelop vacant sites, such as The Elms in Whitefield. As a result, in recent years, the Council and STH have acquired, refurbished, and brought 48 empty properties back into use.</p> <p>I am proud that the council is showing leadership on this issue and taking action to do our bit, but what we need to go even further is devolved powers and resources from Government to take this further. We also need private owners to take more responsibility as well for ensuring properties which could be occupied aren't left empty, for if they do, they will be hit with our Empty Property Premium, allowing us to invest further funding into this issue.</p>
9	Labour Cllr Nathan Boroda	Will the Leader congratulate all those involved in the very successful Whitefield Live programme last month, including members of the Whitefield Business Group and Councillor Lucy Smith?
	Response: Cllr Morris	It was great to see Whitefield buzzing with creativity and entertainment this June and I'm pleased to pass on both thanks and congratulations to all those who developed the proposal and made Whitefield Live possible. With an element of financial support as a legacy of our time as the inaugural GM Town of Culture, the event was a partnership between Whitefield Business Group and Community Organisations to bring live entertainment back to the area, which saw a series of live entertainment events across Whitefield celebrating culture, heritage and future talent. I'd like to extend my appreciation to Councillor Lucy Smith for championing the event and facilitating the engagement of the local Business Group who pulled out the stops to deliver a fun filled programme of events including comedy, brass bands, poetry and DJ sets. I look forward to seeing further cultural activity across our Borough in the coming months.
10	Labour Cllr Debra Green	The derelict buildings on Philips Park are being vandalised and are a magnet for anti-social behaviour. Park users are increasingly concerned that someone is going to get injured. What are the plans, if any for the park?

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		Supplementary: Are the council working with any stakeholders to secure the future of the park?
	Response: Cllr Quinn	In response to this issue, Parks and Countryside have undertaken some work to install some fencing and grills to prevent climbing and access. The council will review the security of the building via Property Services. Supplementary: Engagement is currently underway regarding the future development of the site including engaging key partners who include Friends of Phillips Park the National Cycling Academy, Lancashire Wildlife Trust regarding the longer term vision for the park which will include further consultation.
11	Conservative Cllr Nicholas Jones	Can the Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Operations provide an update on the frequency of tree pruning in the borough?
	Response: Cllr Quinn	Highway Tree Pruning is carried out 6 yearly cyclic rota. To maximise efficiency, we try not to deviate from this rota, unless there is a specific health and safety issue that needs to be addressed.
12	Radcliffe first Cllr Donald Berry	Can you please update us on the progress made to employ 2 addition waste and recycling officers? Do we have current figure on the number of FPN's issued, the sum amounts collected and the number of non payments and the amounts not yet collected and is there any data to show that the number of cases of fly tipping has reduced? Supplementary: Do you think that we are making residents aware that there are officers enforcing FPN's for fly tipping and littering, should more be done?
	Response: Cllr Quinn	We have been out to advert for 2 x Waste Prevention Officers and at the moment have not received an suitable candidates for the post. The Head of Waste is currently looking at other ways to advertise the posts. To date we have issued the following: 33 Fly tipping FPNs 17 have paid = £6,800 4 Have a court date for prosecution (not known what fine and cost retrieved will be) 1 prosecution complete awaiting court date 4- Prosecution files need to be prepared and submitted 5 – Void FPN's or simple cautions issued 2 – New FPN's are newly issued so have not reached 14-day payment period Littering 27 FPN's issued 15 paid = 750

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		<p>7 Have court dates for prosecution (not known what fine or costs retrieved will be) 5- Void or Simple caution issued.</p> <p>Commercial DOC 2 issued and 2 paid £480</p> <p>Total money collected thus far £8030.</p>
13	Labour Cllr Debra Green	The government has announced the Frequent Flooding Fund to deal with areas that have frequently flooded. Will the Leader, cabinet member, along with Christian Wakeford MP write to the Floods Minister to ask her to fund the work needed at Springwater Park in Whitefield?
	Response: Cllr Quinn	<p>During storm Ciara the River Irwell experienced very high and sustained water levels and rates of flow. Major movement occurred during storm Ciara in February 2020 and further movement has occurred following Storm Christoph on 26th January 2021. Site visits were then undertaken by council officers and engineers to assess the damage and mitigate any health and safety issues. Working closely with the appointed external engineer consultants the council was able to assess the underlaying cause of the landslip, risk of further movement and risk to adjoining properties. Work is ongoing with Atkins Engineers to develop a remedial plan. We are working closely with the GM Mayors office to arrange a site visit for the Mayor of Greater Manchester and raise awareness of the Springwater Project. It is our attention for the leader together with Christian Wakeford MP and Cllr Quinn and relevant officers to apply for the funding to help undertake the essential work.</p>
14	Labour Cllr Ummrana Farooq	In May, Bury Council was awarded a Silver award from the Ministry of Defence for actively supporting the armed forces community in its workplace. What has the Council done since to further strengthen this offer and how is the Council planning to celebrate the life of Private George Peachment?
	Response: Cllr Gold	<p>Health and wellbeing is of great importance to our Armed forces and Veteran community as shown by the ask for, and large take up of the free leisure pass. The focus of the coming months will therefore be further strengthening the health and wellbeing offer to our Armed Forces and Veteran community, including, further promoting the take up of the GP Veteran friendly accreditation scheme, producing a Veterans health needs assessment, then using this assessment as a training tool within GP surgeries to ensure our Armed Forces and Veteran community are being assessed and diagnosed correctly.</p> <p>A briefing session on the Anti-Poverty Strategy is being arranged with the armed forces covenant group for early next month Now that the council has been awarded the silver award, It is</p>

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		<p>intended to apply for the Gold award in January when the window opens for applications.</p> <p>In civic recognition of Private Peachment, the youngest army recipient of the VC in WW1, work has been taking place on activity in Tottington, given the Peachment family's connection to the town In conjunction with the Peachment family, Padre Hugh Bearn, the Borough of Bury Veterans Association and local Councillors. This has three main strands: firstly a mural has been commissioned and paid for by the Council on the perimeter wall of Town Meadow Park with Private Peachment VC at the centre, alongside images connected to his life and the Borough. An information board will go alongside this to inform people of Private Peachment's story. Secondly, following local consultation, the park itself is to renamed Private Peachment VC Town Meadow Park and signage will be changed accordingly. On 25th September on the anniversary of Private Peachment's death, The Borough of Bury Veterans Association in partnership with the council are arranging a service of dedication in the park, as well as various family themed competitions and stalls.</p>
15	Conservative Cllr Iain Gartsde	<p>How many residents have still to receive the £150 council tax rebate?</p>
	Response: Cllr Gold	<p>As at 13/7/22 we had issued 51,302 payments via BACS, transferred funds for a further 18,207 through to the post office of which 12,854 had been cashed by residents, residents are cashing on average 350 per day. There were circa 3,600 payments which we are still working on because payments had been rejected, either due to changes to bank accounts details or the bank account name didn't match the Council tax account etc. These are having to be worked through on a 1 by 1 basis</p>
16	Radcliffe first Cllr Mike Smith	<p>In January 2020 we produced a motion asking for travel costs to be met for Radcliffe pupils travelling out of Town for education which was amended by the Labour group and carried. In January 2022 we asked for the progress of the motion and were told the information was not to hand but would be provided.</p> <p>In May 2022 we asked again, at which time the Leader said the information was available and would be sent through.</p> <p>As of 10th July, this information is still not forthcoming, do we have it and can we share it?</p>
	Response: Cllr Smith	<p>The recommendation on the basis of the findings of the review, and given the opportunities provided to Radcliffe residents through the existing policy, is to retain the current arrangements at this time.</p> <p>This recommendation has taken into consideration that the</p>

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		<p>distance to school is already covered by legislation and current provision; changing criteria around living in Radcliffe does not have equity for all Bury residents and deprivation in the broadest sense is a better indicator when considering our commitments to narrow the gap in outcomes for our pupils and communities.</p> <p>Although the recommendation is to retain the current free transport policy, there is a commitment to review policy from an equality point of view and consider whether enough support is being given to families across the borough in the light of the cost of living crisis aligned to the anti-poverty strategy.</p>
17	Conservative Cllr Roger Brown	Can the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing outline his priorities for tackling health inequalities?
	Response: Cllr Tariq	<p>I thank the member for the question. As we know health inequalities are long running and deeply entrenched and have been both highlighted and exacerbated by the COVID-19 Pandemic. The causes of health inequalities are complex and multi-faceted and therefore require a whole system, multi-faceted approach to tackle them. Our Bury LETS Do It Strategy has tackling inequalities at its heart and delivery of all the priorities within the strategy on the economy, housing and regeneration; education and skills, the environment and neighbourhood working will have a positive impact on health inequalities. The translation of the LETS DO IT Strategy into 'People & Community' Plans for every neighbourhood in Bury is critical to success. This is starting with Radcliffe, one of our most deprived areas. In the most immediate term, my priority is to support those people in our borough hit hardest by the current cost of living crisis through delivery of our new Anti-Poverty Strategy. In addition, through the Health and Wellbeing Board we are ensuring tackling inequalities in access, treatment and outcomes is embedded in all the Integrated Care Partnership transformation programmes and within all health improvement strategies such as physical activity, food & health, substance misuse and mental well-being. A particular emphasis is being put on long-term condition management starting with inequalities in premature mortality from Coronary Heart Disease as this is the biggest cause of ill health and premature mortality in the Borough. Finally, looking to longer term outcomes and breaking of intergenerational cycles, a key priority is making sure every child has the best start in life through delivery of the Family Hub model beginning in Bury East another of our most deprived areas.</p>
18	Lib Dem Cllr Cristina Tegolo	During the pandemic the Council took back the allowances paid to carers in Bury can the leader tell us how much this was and how has this money been reused to assist the essential work provided

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		by carers in Bury?
	Response: Cllr Tariq	<p>Carers Personal Budgets are not personal income but a response to meet needs identified in a Carers Assessment which cannot be met otherwise. It provides carer choice and control over the way support is provided, to enable carers to achieve recognised quality of life outcomes, which they are unable to achieve due to their caring role. During the pandemic, the process for administering and returning unspent funds for personal budgets was not changed, however discretion was given for personal budgets to be utilised in a different way if required to support through lock down/shielding periods. The amount paid to Carers in the financial year: 20/21 - £194,901, 21/22-£193,586. Carers Personal Budget is just one form of support for carers. The Bury Carers' Hub is the primary resource for adult carers in Bury to provide information, advice, and a wide range of specialist support services. Designed to help adult carers caring for another adult to continue in their caring role for as long as they choose, helping to reduce the impact, the caring role can have on their own health and wellbeing. The model centres on the main themes identified from the 2018 Bury Carers Consultation and the engagement workshops undertaken during 2019. During Covid, the Council worked in partnership with the provider on solutions to ensure carer support remained operational, by switching to telephone, online and digital. Welfare calls were carried out by the Bury Carers' Hub, virtual coffee & chats, access to a 24/7 volunteer manned Carers Help and Talk (CHAT) line. The provider was successful in securing funding to provide counselling sessions for carers. The council worked with the provider to access funding to provide afternoon teas to carers who were struggling, from not having a break from caring, or who have not been able to access the digital offer. They also provided activity gift boxes delivered directly to carers in need. The close partnership also ensured a successful COVID vaccine roll-out to our Bury carers. We will continue to listen to and support carers in Bury in varying ways.</p>
19	Ind Cllr Yvonne Wright	<p>Over the past 2 months several residents in my Ward have had their bins stolen and burnt out.</p> <p>When evidence of vandalism is present , could consideration be given to replacement bins at no charge ? If not a 50 % reduction be considered ?</p>
	Response: Cllr Quinn	<p>I would need to look at the information further. However, vandalism of bins tends to be when residents don't return their bins back onto their property after collection. Over the next 12 months the service will be reviewing the Council's policies within the waste and recycling service where we can look at this in more detail.</p>

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