

Meeting:	The Council
Meeting date:	21st September 2022
Title of report:	Leaders' Report
Report by:	Leader of the Council
Decision type:	Non key decision
Ward(s) to which the report relates:	All Wards.
Summary:	To provide a summary of the work of the Cabinet since this last report, an update on progress against the corporate plan, and a statement from the Leader of the Council.

1 Leader's note

- 1.1 I am pleased to provide Council with my report covering the period from 14th July 2022 to 12th September 2022.
- 1.2 I would like to start off by offering my sincerest condolences on the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. She served our nation over the past 70 years with dignity and devotion to duty, and her loss will be felt by so many across this borough. We will always treasure Queen Elizabeth II's life of service and devotion to our nation and the Commonwealth; our longest-serving and greatest monarch.
- 1.3 I would like to issue a message of praise and thanks to our Chief Executive Geoff Little OBE, who this month announced he would be retiring in March 2023. Not only has he served Bury Council as Chief Exec since 2018, he first joined Bury Council in 1986 and spent 10 years in committee services and policy and research. In total Geoff has cumulated 45 years of public service. At Bury Council he has done a tremendous job, bringing together both the council and local NHS commissioning, a pioneering move to provide joined-up services which will benefit all Bury residents. His leadership has helped positively transform the council, even during the toughest years we have ever faced.
- 1.4 I hope the members of this chamber were able to find some time to relax and recover over the August recess. Most, if not all of the members here have other responsibilities in their lives while also taking on their

councillor duties to their constituents. Over the coming months we will continue at speed to progress with our exciting regeneration plans, while also doing what we can to prepare for a very difficult winter.

- 1.5 As members will be aware, we now have a new Prime Minister, and a largely modified government. The Rt Hon Simon Clarke has been appointed to the post of Secretary of State for Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities. I'm sure the Secretary of State will have a packed in-tray as he begins his period in office, but I would urge him to prioritise local government finance; with the surging levels of inflations driving costs to local government far beyond what we can raise in fees and charges. A funding settlement is required quickly, before the impacts trickle down to our communities who we are placed to support, particularly though the current cost-of-living crisis.
- 1.6 On Friday 9th September we hosted a Cost-of-Living Summit to understand and respond to the crisis at hand. Over 50 voluntary, community, and faith organisations from across the borough were represented in what was a constructive dialogue on how we can all pitch together this winter to support one another and our communities. The new Prime Minister may have taken some action on the spiralling cost of energy bills, but unfortunately, they still remain 79% higher than last winter when hundreds of thousands across the country were forced to make a decision between 'heating and eating'. Our residents also face the prospect of prices rising faster than their wages, with inflation already standing at 8.8%. This is why it is a priority for us to help our residents to the best of our abilities, where government support doesn't extend far enough.
- 1.7 Our September Cabinet meeting continued to show our commitment to the three R's; Response, Recovery, and Renewal. I was delighted that we were able to remove a Green Belt site in Walshaw from the Places for Everyone masterplan. Thanks to our regeneration plans in Bury and Radcliffe Town Centres, plus the Mill Gate Centre we purchased, we have the opportunity to build more houses on these urban brownfield sites. This demonstrates our sincere commitment to our 'Brownfield First' policy.
- 1.8 I would like to make the members of this chamber aware of the Growth Company's Business Growth Hub's in-person networking initiative, BGH Match, which has been developed to connect businesses from across Greater Manchester. BGH Match is coming to Bury on Thursday 22nd September at The Village Hotel Bury for a morning of reconnecting businesses and expanding your network. Attendees will have the chance

to learn about the latest activity in the borough and hear about the latest business support available.

- 1.9 Our plans for the regeneration of Radcliffe were further boosted following our September Cabinet meeting. We took a decision to approve the funding of indicative costs for the Radcliffe Secondary School which will allow us to proceed with the development along with STAR Academy. We also took decisive action to provide an additional £150,000 funding for the new all-weather 3G football pitch in Radcliffe following information that the costs would rise due to inflationary increases in construction and building materials.
- 1.10 I would finally like to offer our solidarity with the people of Pakistan. The worst floods in Pakistan’s history have left at least 1100 people dead, with millions more injured, displaced, or otherwise impacted. Over a million homes have been destroyed and over a third of the country is underwater. I hope our government will offer what support they can to the country to help with the disaster relief and rebuilding efforts.

2 Reporting progress against stated commitments in Corporate Plan

- 2.1 The following table provides a brief summary of the Council’s progress against the priorities set out in our Corporate Plan covering June 2022 to July 2022.

Dept	Priority	Deliverables
BGI	Developing Bury Market & Flexi Hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final transactions for land acquisitions underway • Negotiations with Casino operator the key timing risk • Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Stage 3 design works underway • Initial soft-market testing for an operator for the Flexi Hall
	Radcliffe Hub Levelling Up programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RIBA Stage Three is underway, with detailed design information being developed with services leads and commercial partners. • Engagement with community groups is ongoing and the first edition of the Radcliffe Regen project newsletter has been distributed to residents and circulated to community groups, sports clubs and promoted by a press release and comms campaign on social media. • The planning application for the temporary modular unit to house Freak Dance, has been submitted.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utility diversion works were agreed at July Programme Board and have now been instructed. • Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DHLUC) report on project progress is due for submission in August and it has been confirmed that the Hub project is to feature as a case study project on the .GOV Levelling Up webpages –
Radcliffe SRF including: - Housing - North Block - Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External consultant appointment underway - to lead on bringing procurement of the North Block forward, as either a standalone development or as part of a wider strategic portfolio. Work ongoing to scope out locations for town centre parking provision, which will include North Block and existing council owned car parks. • Draft brief for North block has been generated.
Delivering the Prestwich Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Venture Agreement, Option Agreement and development Management Agreement all in final stages for sign off • Prestwich internal Board established • Members reference group established
Delivering the Bury Town Centre Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bury Town Centre Board has been established and had its inaugural meeting. • East Bury community plan in development • Millgate Joint Venture (JV) have appointed an architectural team to develop a centre masterplan • Initial proposals submitted to the UK SPF fund
Assets disposed of in line with the Land Disposal Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation to take Summerseat House back out to the market • Preparation for further housing sites to go to the market
Delivery of the Economic Development Strategy including embedded all age skills strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development strategy is being generated – following on from the data collection stage
Delivery of activity associated with the progression of the Bury Local Plan:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All responses to Inspectors' Preliminary Questions submitted. • Inspectors have published Matters, Issues and Questions and work ongoing on developing responses to these. Full responses due 8 Sept (legal, procedural

	Places for Everyone (Pfe)	etc. matters) and 6 October (thematic, site allocations and Green Belt additions).
	Delivery of Brownfield Housing Site Sales Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing to progress delivery of Tranche 1 and 2 sites: Pre-app determined for the William Kemp Heaton site in Bury, layout revised accordingly. Full planning app to be submitted. Full planning app submitted for Wheatfields 20.07.22, contracts to be exchanged Aug 2022. New Registered Provider Framework established for affordable housing development including specialist and supported accommodation on Council owned brownfield sites and through Section 106 and other planning agreements. Pre-app to be submitted for the Willow Street site (former CPU Kitchens in Bury), site investigations underway. Cabinet approval for the disposal of Fletcher Fold site.
CYP	Delivery of activity within the OFSTED Improvement Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permanent appointment made to the role of Director, Social Care Practice. Interim arrangements will remain in place pending the permanent post holder starting on the 06/09/22. Permanent appointment made to the role of Principal Social Worker who will commence in post on 01/08/22 First Ofsted Monitoring Visit has taken place and feedback has been provided and shared with the Improvement Board on 26/07/22. In August 2022 there will be an Improvement Board development session to look at the plan. We are preparing for the next Ofsted monitoring visit which we expect to take place in the Autumn.
	Support to deliver the Schools Capital Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing discussions with Department for Education (DfE) / Star Academy on intended DfE delivery / procurement model and timescale for delivery of new school. Self-delivery option was not an option, awaiting feasibility studies from the DfE. Good progress made in respect of ASC Special Free School, with planning application secured May 2022. Current project plan shows practical completion late September 2023. Contingency plan for September 2023 opening being developed. Identification of first cohort, to inform engagement between parents and school commencing

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New secondary Social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) Special School competition closed, with applications received. Draft Heads of Terms for site under discussion with Property Services and Leisure approved by Council Legal services. On target for practical completion and opening September 2025. • Detailed project plan produced for adaptations to Spurr House, and relocation of Spring Lane School. Decant schedules for Summer 2023. Report to Cabinet June 2022 seeking financial approval to capital costs – deferred pending discussion with Governing Body on proposed solution. Agreed to continue to pursue as interim solution
	<p>Delivery activity within the Project Safety Valve (PSV) programme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSV delivery plan, and targets within that plan have been reviewed. The next formal progress to be presented to DfE September • Monthly dashboard has now developed to ensure that weekly performance on timescales is available to support tracking of work • Council for Disabled Children are delivering a 4-day joint training with parents and DfE (training on affective communication/ chairing skills / person centred approaches); dates are on the 22nd/27th September and a further session in October. • Council for Disabled Children agreed to joint work with us around the developing collaborative policy and practice around children who are deemed EOTAs (Education Otherwise Than At School) • Work has commenced on the planning for the whole day SEND event on the 5th October
	<p>Improve education outcomes at all Key Stages,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First KS2 Attainment results since 2019 ; Bury's result for pupils achieving the expected standard at Reading, Writing and Maths combined was 59 %, which is the same as national (compared to 65% RWM in 2019 - both Bury+ national). Bury's results for all individual results were in line with national with Reading, Maths and Grammar, punctuation results being slightly above and writing slightly below. 76 % of Bury's children achieved expected standard in Reading compared to 74% nationally (compared to 73% in 2019); 68% of Bury's KS2 children achieved expected standard in Writing compared to 69% nationally. This was also the most significant drop since 2019, when both Bury and national results were 78%; 73 % of Bury's children achieved expected

		<p>standard in Mathematics compared to 71% nationally (compared to 79% in 2019); 73% of Bury's KS2 children achieved expected standard in Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar compared to 71% nationally. (compared to 78% nationally)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School assurance board continues to meet regularly to bring together information, data and soft intelligence on all schools, and to agree appropriate response of challenge – at risk schools identified and appropriate actions agreed • Increase in proportion of good or better schools with 91% of primary schools good or better. • National Exclusion data published for 2020/21. Bury has reduced its permanence exclusion rate from 0.05 – 0.03 (National 0.05); Suspension rates have increased in Bury to 4.45 and are now at national.
	Review of Early Years Services against the 1001 days pathway and GMCA 8 stage delivery model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Family Hub implementation plan has been signed off and the pillar for delivery of early years will be progressed within the Bury Pilot • Work continues on developing the parenting strategy and universal offer 0-5 as part of Family Hub work
	Develop locality teams to a Family Hub model through Bury East pilot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entered delivery stage of the model • Recruitment to fixed term transformation lead is now progressing
	Increasing attendance levels through a strengthened strategic approach to attendance and by the expansion of the role of the Virtual school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue reviewing attendance policy & offer in light of changes to the white paper.
	Develop SEND integrated transparent pathways through the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduated Approach collaborative workstreams proceeding according to plan with drafting dates scheduled for August and its formal launch in October at the SEND stakeholder event – Work will be inked into work around the Ordinary Available

	revised Graduated Approach	<p>Provision. Moving this forward we are now developing a child development and pedagogy programme to support the implementation of the graduated response -- note this is tracked by the PSV weekly tracker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the review of the EHCP referral paperwork will support the use of the Graduated response as part of the evidence to support an application
	Increase the proportion of 16–25-year-olds with SEND in employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop approach to supported internships Continue the development of skills strategy Training around the annual review process to ensure that the Transition paperwork is embedded to support this agenda
	Improve the outcomes of SEND children and young people so they attain educationally to the best of their ability and potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staffing situation continues to improve in terms of permanent staffing which support the stabilisation of skill base with 2 more permanent staff starting in August Education, health and care (EHC) process under review with internal sessions undertaken to remove duplication of activity and strengthen the potential AR to ensure accountability to the EHC plan by school and setting
Ops	Develop the Wellness model and prepare to move existing provision to the new Radcliffe Hub (Ops improvement plan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaged with SLC to scope out the investment business plan for Wellness Engaged SLC to write bid to Sport England for Radcliffe Hub Leisure £1.5m Full Wellness investment business plan in development Procured library design company via Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation Community engagement re design and layout
	Achieve carbon neutrality by 2038 and be single use plastic free across the Council by end 2022/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop business case together to use Go Neutral. Carbon Literacy – E-Learning rolled out. 5x highways vehicles and 3x road sweepers have been delivered and are awaiting livery. A refresh of the single use plastic action plan has been produced and work underway to develop baseline. 7 charge points installed at Bradley Fold. Charge point installed at Bury Cemetery but awaiting ENWL connections

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bury Means Green Business Breakfast Event held on 16 June 2022. • Community Environmental Forums established and running in each Neighbourhood • Published Greenhouse Gas Report for 21/22 • 'Let's Go Green' Branding produced and communications plan under development. • Delivery of 2x gully wagons with diesel 6 engines. • 1x gully wagon delivered and awaiting livery – 2nd gully wagon due for delivery by 16/08.
Highway resurfacing and preventative maintenance (delivery of Highway Investment Strategy (HIS) - Tranche 2) and Improvement programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision made on HIS3* strategy (3-year highway programme) • Continue planning and programme development of HIS3
Ops Improvement Plan - Corporate Landlord implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree disposal programme with advice from Robertsons • Develop Corporate Landlord structure • Development of Neighbourhood Asset Review (Lead BGI)
Introduction of Clean Air Zone for Greater Manchester	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater Manchester has now published a case for a new investment-led Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan, with no charging Clean Air Zone. This was submitted to government on 1 July 2022. • Participatory engagement approach under development.
Introduction of a women's safety charter (voluntary pledge for all licensed premises)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation completed. • Consultation responses evaluated. • Community Safety coordinating production of training video needed before launch. • Web forms and website being finalised.
Develop a Driver Safety initiative for the Taxi Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular coordination meetings with Greater Manchester Police (GMP) and Council. • Public Consultation open for licensed drivers 26/6/2022-9/8/2022 (6 Weeks).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 925 drivers, 32 Private hire operators, 8 Trade representatives contacted by email 29/6/2022 to raise awareness of public consultation. As of 22/7/2022 there had been 34 Responses. Reminder emails to go out on 2/8/22 for last week.
OCO	Maintaining and ongoing delivery of the COVID-19 Outbreak Management Plan including testing, vaccination and Public Health support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrangements for next year vaccination in development through Vaccination Assurance Group and Health protection board.
	Managing and overseeing transition to Integrated Care System (ICS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition to ICS complete Confirmation of Deputy Place Based Lead announced
	Health and Care System Transformation	<p>Urgent Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established System Wide Urgent Care 12 week turnaround programme reported to urgent and emergency care (UEC) Board. Prestwich walk-in centre proposed supported at Locality Board to next stage of development Completed and returned GM 100-day Challenge initial assessment <p>Elective Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bury Diabetes Plan submitted to GM to secure funding – senior responsible officer identified for the locality. New Long COVID pathway gone live, and submission made to GM for 22/23 funding allocation. <p>Mental Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Circles of influence event – Mental Health was the main priority for the second year running – Plans in place to engage with Youth Council in September 32 education sites signed up to MHST including primaries, secondaries, colleges, PRU and special school
	Deliver the government's adult social care reforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult Social Care Reform Program board established and programme manager recruited Fair Cost of care submissions at 35% return rate (35% is rate required by government)

	Population Health system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Learning Centre established as a Royal Society of Public Health accredited training centre and recruitment to L1 & L2 Health Improvement Courses underway. • Bury represented at 'Sustainable Food Places' day of celebration & action at Westminster and highlighted as area of best practice. • Established sexual health service as provider of Monkey Pox vaccination
Corp Core	Embedding the Neighbourhood Model	<p>Anti-poverty - Plan signed off by Cabinet and delivery group established to be led by Public Health.</p> <p>Culture Strategy - Update provided to Policy Advisory Group and report presented to Overview and Scrutiny in July, Draft spec developed for a UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) application to fund delivery of the strategy.</p> <p>Team Bury - State of the Borough report launched.</p> <p>Radcliffe People & Communities Plan - comms and engagement strategy shared with the Sub-Group and mapping of practitioner networks underway to align resources to the plan.</p> <p>Community Safety Plan - Delivery Milestones developed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awarded contract for Data Warehouse • Launch of Bury ACEs consultation • Cabinet approval of 21/22 Annual Health and Safety Report
	Getting the basics right	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LETS Values & behaviours framework designed and in implementation • Problem Solving approach developed and agreed to be rolled out Q3 • Core management development programme agreed and provider in place to deliver • Media and social media policy revised and agreed
	Delivery of the Internal Transformation Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer Engagement Strategy developed, starting with digital offer • Channel shift - Service redesign of four service areas scoped – school admissions, Building Control, Housing options and Council Tax recovery – as part of Agilisys review. Licensing and Registrars considered internally. Anticipated savings and FTE change set out. • Corporate business support service established • M365 training rolled out • New health & safety structure implemented • Health and Safety 21/21 Annual Report and 22/23 Priorities agreed • Revised member induction completed

	People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st staff survey delivered and analysed • Armed Forces Covenant – Silver Award • Children’s Workforce Strategy finalised • Leadership Development Approach Approved • Wellbeing strategy re-launched
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3 Additional reports

3.1 Attached as an appendix to this report are a summary of Cabinet decisions taken since the last ordinary council meeting.

List of Background Papers:-

None identified