

GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 JULY 2022

COUNCIL INVESTMENT IN GIGG LANE STADIUM

1. Councillor Charlotte Morris, Cabinet Member for Culture and the Economy, presented the report which provided an update on negotiations with Bury Football Club Supporters Society Ltd ('BFCSS'), Shakers Community Society Ltd ('Shakers') and private benefactors, and requested approval for funding of £450k subject to the conditions set out in the recommendations.
2. Members voiced their cross-party support for the project, noting that further detail on the 'library of things' would be provided. Thanks were extended to all the fans, community groups, benefactors, Council staff, and to the government funding received, which had led to this important step.
3. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT HOUSING SERVICES - CALICO GATEWAY REVIEW

4. Councillor Tamoor Tariq, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, presented the report regarding proposals for the floating Support/tenancy support services for the next 2 years. In response to a Member's question, it was noted that the contract had been extended by two months to allow Cabinet to consider the longer extension, which had been approved through existing delegated authorities.
5. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

ATOM VALLEY MAYORAL DEVELOPMENT ZONE (NORTH-EAST GROWTH LOCATION)

6. Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth and Skills, presented the report which sought approval for the creation of a Mayoral Development Zone within the North-East Growth Location and for this to be named the Atom Valley Mayoral Development Zone.
7. Members discussed the report, noting that the zone covered the Northern Gateway and would provide confidence on delivery for this site in the short and long term. Members noted the potential for this site to attract larger companies, creating a ripple effect for the area, as well as allowing existing innovative Bury businesses space to expand.
8. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

BURY COST OF LIVING AND ANTI POVERTY STRATEGY

9. Councillor Richard Gold, Cabinet Member for Finance and Communities, responded to the Scrutiny recommendations, advising that the financial data had been updated as far as possible and that the Socio Economic Duty as detailed in Section 1 of the Equality Act 2010 was already considered as part of the strategy and the equality assessment carried out.
10. He went on to present the report which outlined the strengthened focus undertaken by the Council on anti-poverty over the last 18 months, and the refreshed anti-poverty strategy. It was noted that, given the increasing cost-of-living pressures, the proposed strategy had been updated to consider the immediate operational response and support available to residents in the short term, alongside the medium term measures to increase resilience locally.
11. Members discussed the report, and the Chairs of Overview & Scrutiny Committee and of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee thanked Councillor Gold for his attendance at their meetings and accepted his response to the recommendations. Councillor Gold

thanked the two Scrutiny Committees for their input and interest in the report, and advised that a guide was being developed for Councillors on this strategy.

12. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES RESTRUCTURE PROPOSALS

13. Councillor Lucy Smith, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, presented the report which sought approval to progress with transformation of Children's Services. Members discussed the proposals, noting that they were ambitious but necessary. Concerns were raised on the logistical challenge of improvements and the difficulty recruiting posts in a competitive market, and it was noted that the Council's journey to rebuilding the service would take time.

14. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

FAMILY SAFEGUARDING MODEL

15. Councillor Lucy Smith, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, presented the report which sought approval to engage with the Centre for Family safeguarding in Hertfordshire and to collaborate with the local partnership, by establishing a local board to explore the opportunity and consider the feasibility of implementing the Hertfordshire Family Safeguarding model of Practice within Bury's safeguarding social work teams. It was noted that this approach drew strength from partnership working, which would increase relationships between bodies across the borough and address a point made in the Ofsted inspection.

16. Cabinet approved the recommendations.

SECONDARY SCHOOL PROVISION IN RADCLIFFE - FINANCIAL APPROVAL TO COUNCIL'S FUNDING OBLIGATIONS

17. Councillor Lucy Smith, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, presented the report regarding the delivery of a new secondary school in Radcliffe. It was noted that there was typo in the report, and that the Council had been asked to provide vacant possession of the site by September 2023 (not 2022). It was further noted that the feasibility study was still awaited but a meeting with DfE was taking place this week.

18. Cabinet approved the recommendations.

PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH SPECIALIST RESOURCED PROVISION AT OUR LADY OF LOURDES ROMAN CATHOLIC (VOLUNTARY AIDED) PRIMARY SCHOOL

19. Councillor Lucy Smith, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, presented the report regarding a proposal published by the Governing Body of Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic (Voluntary Aided) Primary School regarding the establishment of specialist resourced provision at the school with effect from September 2022. It was noted that this was the first of a series of provisions coming through from the 'Safety Valve' agreement with the DfE.

20. Cabinet approved the recommendations.

PUBLIC ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE (EVCI) PROCUREMENT OF A CONCESSIONARY CONTRACT

21. Councillor Alan Quinn, Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Operations, presented the report regarding public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) to

encourage residents and visitors to make the transition from Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles to Zero Emission vehicles including Electric Vehicles (EVs). It was noted that the proposed procurement exercise would allow a supplier to own, install, operate, and maintain a network of public EVCI on Council land, increasing the Public EVCI available without having to invest its own funds, but it wouldn't preclude the Council looking at investing in EVCI in the future.

22. Cabinet approved the recommendations.

REVIEW OF BURY ACES

23. Councillor Tahir Rafiq, Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR, presented the report regarding the future operation of the Bury Aces function, subject to the consultation of affected staff. It was noted that, whilst the Bury Aces function had proved effective in supporting Council resourcing in a number of areas, it was not consistent with the Authority's commitment to stable and high-quality employment because it did not provide a guaranteed minimum number of weekly working hours to individuals. Councillor Rafiq advised that it also posed a number of risks to the Council and, as such the closure of the provision subject to consultation with affected staff was recommended.

24. Although there was a small financial saving, in response to a Member's question regarding alternative providers it was noted that this decision reflected the Council's desire to ensure services were fit for our purposes and values rather than savings. As such the Schools Supply Service was proposed to be retained.

25. Cabinet approved the recommendations.

HEALTH AND SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT

26. Councillor Tahir Rafiq, Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR, presented the annual Health and Safety Report which set out key health and safety activity over the 2021/22 financial year alongside a summary of reported health and safety incidents, and also proposed a set of Health and Safety Priorities for the 2022/23 financial year. Members voiced concern over the rise in work related violence and it was noted that more robust health and safety practices were now in place to address issues such as this, and that it would be a priority over the year ahead.

27. Cabinet approved the recommendations.

APPOINTMENTS UPDATE

28. Councillor Tahir Rafiq, Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR, presented the report which set out amendments to the appointments made at the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 25th May 2022.

29. Cabinet noted the appointments.

GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2022

PLACES FOR EVERYONE - UPDATED EVIDENCE ON HOUSING SUPPLY AND REQUEST FOR A MAIN MODIFICATION TO THE PLAN

1. Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth and Skills, presented the report which provided an update in respect of the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan (PfE). It provided details on the Borough's updated housing land supply,

which has significantly increased since PfE was submitted to Government in February 2022 owing to the acquisition of the Mill Gate and the work undertaken through master planning and the Joint Venture with Bruntwood.

2. In the light of the updated housing supply evidence, Members noted there was an opportunity to reduce the amount of Green Belt land that is needed to meet Bury's proposed PfE housing target without impacting on the overall strategy of the submitted Plan and, following an appraisal of the existing PfE sites, the report recommended that a request be made to the Planning Inspectorate to make a Main Modification to the plan involving the removal of the Walshaw site.
3. Councillor O'Brien thanked everyone for their contribution and work in bringing this forward and thanked residents for their engagement.
4. In response to Members' questions, Councillor O'Brien advised that this change was consistent with the Cabinet's brownfield first approach and was a result of months of hard work in delivering change to Bury Town Centre. It was agreed that any reduction in use of greenbelt land was positive but that the final decision was out of the Council's control. It was noted that this was the reason for such comprehensive due diligence, to provide robust evidence to support such a reduction. With regards to infrastructure, the benefit of having a wider strategic plan was that this could be planned and secured in advance.
5. With regards to why the Walshaw site was identified over others, it was noted that each site was assessed on its own merits, not just what was being lost but also what was being gained by each development and, in the view of the Council, the Walshaw site presented the least amount of strategic benefit.
6. Wider discussion from Members highlighted that a vote against PfE would not save greenbelt land; Bury Council were required to work within a government-mandated housing allocation and only had choice over where those sites could be. Brownfield land was being utilised as much as possible, but was not sufficient to cover the entire allocation, even with the reductions secured through the PfE Plan.
7. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

PLACES FOR EVERYONE - DELEGATED APPROVALS FOR EXAMINATION

8. Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth and Skills, presented the report which sought approval to delegate authority to agree to potential modifications to the Submitted Places for Everyone Plan Joint Plan 2021 (PfE) as may be considered necessary during the PfE Examination and to the content of any Statements of Common Ground that may be considered necessary to aid the Examination process.
9. In response to Members' questions it was noted that it was ultimately up to the Planning Inspector to determine whether the Plan was sound, but we believe it is and that the changes being put forward would keep it so. It was noted that public consultation would be carried out in the best way possible, with the Council remaining transparent about how, why, and when decisions were being made.
10. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICE: YOUNG PEOPLE 18-25 YEARS

11. Councillor Tamoor Tariq, Cabinet Member for Adult Health, Health and Wellbeing, presented the report which proposed an innovative support service, providing a transitional home for seven young Bury adults with Learning Disabilities and/or autism, aged 18-25 years. Members voiced their cross-party support for this scheme and noted that this could be a catalyst for further similar schemes.

12. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

INVESTMENT IN A POPULATION HEALTH MANAGEMENT APPROACH TO CORONARY HEART DISEASE AND LONG-TERM CONDITIONS

13. Councillor Tamoor Tariq, Cabinet Member for Adult Health, Health and Wellbeing, presented the report which outlined a case for investment in data quality and project coordination to support the development of a population health management in primary care, with an initial focus on coronary heart disease (CHD). Members supported the proposal, noting that simple checks had the potential to save lives, and that this demonstrated a collaborative and invest to save approach.
14. Cabinet approved the recommendations.

DEVELOPMENT OF AN ONSIDE YOUTH ZONE IN BURY

15. Councillor Lucy Smith, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, presented the report which updated Cabinet on the findings of the Viability Study for the proposed Youth Zone in partnership with the charity Onside, as well as potential funding, sites and next steps. Members voiced their cross-party support for the scheme and noted that work on engagement in townships outside of the Youth Zone itself was being undertaken from now until the next Cabinet report expected in January 2023.
16. Cabinet approved the recommendations.

RELOCATION OF PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT (SPRING LANE SCHOOL)

17. Councillor Lucy Smith, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, presented the report which set out those proposed plans for relocation of the Secondary Pupil Referral Unit (Spring Lane School) in order to provide the Department for Education (DfE) with vacant possession of the site, and sought approval for the financial arrangements to deliver those plans. Members noted the request for ease of access for the leisure centre, which was not part of this report but was linked with the wider regeneration.
18. Cabinet approved the recommendations.

SECONDARY SCHOOL PROVISION IN RADCLIFFE - FINANCIAL APPROVAL TO COUNCIL'S FUNDING OBLIGATIONS - ADDITIONAL SITE COSTS

19. Councillor Lucy Smith, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, presented the report which sought approval for additional costs in respect of the delivery of the new secondary school in Radcliffe arising from a number of site-specific costs, largely relating to the existence of former coal mine workings in the area, which impact on the construction of the building.
20. In response to Members' queries regarding potential delays, it was noted that DfE had given assurances that the project was on track and would be handed over in September 2024, but that every project had potential for delays and as such the Council and Star Academy continued to work with the DfE and hold them to account to ensure any delays were flagged early and mitigated appropriately.
21. Cabinet approved the recommendations.

RADCLIFFE 3G FOOTBALL TURF PITCH

22. Councillor Alan Quinn, Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Operations, presented the report which provided details of a proposed floodlit 3G Football Turf Pitch

(FTP) at Redbank Playing Fields in Radcliffe together with associated pavilion, car parking and grass pitch improvements, and set out the details of a funding bid submitted to the Football Foundation as well as seeking approval to the overall funding package including expenditure of approved Council capital match funding.

23.

24. In response to Members' questions it was noted that ensuring clear soil samples had dictated the placing of the pitch. The Cabinet Member advised he was happy for further consultation to take place and that pricing mechanisms for the facility would be sensitive to the locality.

25. Cabinet approved the recommendations.

ELECTRICITY AND ANCILLARY SERVICES - CONTRACT RENEWAL

26. Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth and Skills, presented the report which sought formal approval to use the YPO electricity supply framework for the purchase and supply of the Council's corporate electricity for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2027, with the option to extend for a further two-year period to 2029 and for a further two years until 2031. The Council's corporate electricity supply contract covers the supply of electricity to office buildings, schools, community centres, libraries, leisure facilities and buildings occupied by Persona and Six Town Housing. This comprises in excess of 500 supply points across the borough.

27. Cabinet approved the recommendations.

THE COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL POSITION - 2021/22 OUTTURN

28. Councillor Richard Gold, Cabinet Member for Finance and Communities, presented the report which set out the final financial position for the Council for 2021/22. The report sets out the position for both revenue and capital and provides an analysis of the variances, both under and overspending. On revenue, Members noted that the revenue budget underspent by £0.667m. This net underspend comprises individual departmental overspends and underspends. The largest individual departmental overspend was on Children and Young People, mainly on staff costs for social care and safeguarding, as well home to school transport. The most significant underspend was on non-specific services, driven by reduced capital financing costs and the return from investing in Manchester Airport. On capital, Members noted that there was a £45.736m outturn against a budget of £49.464m. This is after the 2021-22 budget was reprofiled, so that £57.734m budget was transferred into the 2022-23 financial year.

29. Members discussed the report, welcoming the underspend but querying the variance from budgeted expectations. Councillor Gold agreed and advised that this had been an unusual year and that budgets were monitored throughout the year to mitigate unforeseen surprises.

30. Cabinet approved the recommendations.

THE COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30TH JUNE 2022

31. Councillor Richard Gold, Cabinet Member for Finance and Communities, presented the report which outlined the forecast financial position of the Council at the end of the first quarter of the 2022/23 financial year based on information known on 30th June 2022. The report sets out the position for both revenue and capital and provided an analysis of the variances, both under and overspending.

32. Members discussed the report, noting the increasing costs of fuel and utility services which would affect future budgets. It was agreed that Bury were not the only one in this position and it was hoped that a Government solution would be introduced. In response to a query over the vacancy factor, it was noted this was not a target but reflected the typical turnover of the Council and was common practice in Local Authority finances. It did not include services where agency staff were needed to cover vacancies, and it was positive that monitoring matched predictions.
33. Cabinet approved the recommendations.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2021/22

34. Councillor Richard Gold, Cabinet Member for Finance and Communities, presented the report which provided an update on the Treasury Management function throughout 2021/22 including the Council's capital expenditure and financing, the treasury position as 31st March 2022, the investment and borrowing strategy, and the borrowing and investment Outturn.
35. Cabinet approved the recommendations.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES OFSTED UPDATE

36. Geoff Little, Chief Executive of Bury Council, provided an update on the progress of the Children's Services Improvement Programme, covering four areas:

Strengthening Leadership and Management

37. The new Director of Social Work Practice started this week, who would effectively be the Deputy Director for Social Work over the department, and a Principal Social Worker had been appointed, who would lead development of practice of social workers. In addition, the Lead for Strategy, Assurance and Form and the Lead for Transformation had been appointed. Elsewhere in the service, four new Team Managers had been appointed in safeguarding and a new supervision policy had been adopted to strengthen the quality of frontline management.

Development of Workforce

38. Cabinet agreed a major overhaul of the structure of the department in July, which was currently out to consultation and was receiving positive feedback so far. The challenge in recruitment continued but further measures were being developed, for example international recruitment, review of offers in some service areas, and piloting changes to improve Business Support in defined service areas.

Adoption of the Family Safeguarding Model of Practice

39. Since this was approved by Cabinet at their last meeting the DfE have agreed to give bespoke support from Herefordshire Council to implement the new model of practice, which required the highest level of partnership support.

Forthcoming Ofsted Monitoring Visit

40. At its last meeting the Children's Improvement Board focussed on detailed partnership contributions to the improvement plan and on the performance of the Children's Safeguarding team within the Council and improvements being made. This was important as the next monitoring visit from Ofsted was due to take place in October and would focus on

child protection planning and processes leading to court proceedings. In addition, Manchester City Council were carrying out a peer review of Children's protection which, along with the work of the Board, would put us in a better position for the Ofsted visit, the outcome of which would be made public and brought to a future Cabinet meeting once received.

41. Members thanked Geoff for the update, thanked everyone in Children's Services for the improvements, and thanked partners across the borough for stepping up and engaging with the improvement plan.
42. Cabinet noted the update.