

25 July 2022

Department for Corporate Core Services

The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP  
Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

Letter sent via email to: [correspondence@levellingup.gov.uk](mailto:correspondence@levellingup.gov.uk)

Dear Secretary of State,

**Reference: Socio-Economic Duty Policy**

Bury Council at its Full Council meeting on 20 July 2022 debated a notice of motion in relation to the adoption of a Socio-Economic Duty Policy.

**The Council recognised and noted that:**

1. Despite currently being rated as the third most affluent Borough in Greater Manchester, Bury currently has extremes of differences in index of Multiple Deprivation ratings having several areas rated as being in the 10% most deprived while several other areas are in 10% least deprived.
2. There is a difference of average life expectancy of 15 years for men and 12 years for women between the longest and shortest life expectancy MSOAs.
3. The achievement of pupils in Maths and English GCSE in the lowest achieving MSOAs was 25.3% compared to the national average of 43.2% and the rest of the Borough at 39.8% (2019 figures).
4. Some areas of Bury have seen significant under investment for many years which has led to a deterioration of the area in terms of the quality of the Council owned amenities and infrastructure.

**The Council resolved to:**

1. Call on the Government to write and adopt a Socio-Economic Duty Policy requiring all departments at the Government to consider the potential of any policy, project or material amendment on the country. In particular, they should ensure that areas of high socio-economic disadvantage are not unfairly impacted.
2. Ask the Government for the inclusion of 'disadvantaged socio-economic status' as a protected characteristic in Government procedures. This should prevent anyone being subject to less favourable treatment in the exercise of their rights because of their inherited social status or economic situation.
3. Call on the Government to commit to more open consultation with residents on all projects going forward. They should endeavour to fully engage with residents, listen to feedback and act on the outputs of these on consultations.

Accordingly, I am writing to you in relation to this matter. I look forward to your response so that an update can be provided to Members of Bury Council.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "G P Little".

**Geoff Little OBE**  
Chief Executive