

Question No.	Question	Response	Response
Q1 Radcliffe First Cllr Berry	Has Bury Council taken over the housing of tenants with challenging social or behavioural problems. If so, what help and support is being given to these tenants who are known to have problems and furthermore, what help and support is being given to ensure that the rest of the community can live in a safe and peaceful fashion.	Cllr Cummins	<p>The Council addresses housing needs through its agreed Allocations Policy and prioritises rehousing based on housing need, health, and social need. Due to the significant demand for council housing the Council is rehousing people with the greatest assessed need.</p> <p>Once households are allocated a new home the Council's Housing Options and Homelessness Service in partnership with Six Town Housing work together to ensure the appropriate support and information sharing takes place to ensure the household is supported and the tenancy is sustained.</p> <p>Six Town Housing undertook a restructure earlier this year to ensure more resources are directed towards supporting customers who are struggling with their tenancy and if there is risk of tenancy breakdown. This included doubling the size of the Tenancy Sustainment Team and setting up a dedicated Rent Collection Service to support tenants who are struggling to pay their rent. Advice, information, and mediation services are available to victims of anti-social behaviour. Enforcement action is taken against tenants where there is evidence of ongoing, serious tenancy breaches. The Council's Tenancy Agreement was recently refreshed to support this approach and the new agreement is due to go live in early December. In addition, STH support and provide funding for tenants and community groups who provide critical services in Bury's most deprived neighbourhoods and to some of its most vulnerable community members. This includes food banks, youth clubs and support for older customers.</p>
Q2 Labour Cllr Hayes	<p>Can the Cabinet Member for Culture and The Economy please update Council on the development of the Economic Development Strategy for the borough?</p> <p>Supplementary: With the dire economic outlook now being forecast, what is the Council doing to support our existing businesses get through this difficult time?</p>	Cllr Morris	<p>Work is progressing on the development of the Economic Development Strategy. Phase 1 of the project involved a baseline assessment to understand Bury's Economic profile and its spatial context in terms of its position with Greater Manchester and its key transport connections. This is now complete, and the vision & key strategic objectives have been drafted.</p> <p>Work is now underway on Phase 2. The overarching objectives have been broken down into three key 'pillars', Place, People and Business, and we are working to identify key activities and actions under each of these. This piece of work requires input from colleagues across Council Services and external partner organisations to fully reflect the scope of activity contributing to a vibrant economy – business growth, skills, housing, communities, culture, tourism and health & well being.</p> <p>Activity across these areas, both current and projected, will be used to develop an action plan. The action plan needs to be succinct with realistic milestones that refer to short, medium and long-term</p>

			<p>timescales. It needs to be flexible and adapt to national, regional, and local threats and opportunities.</p> <p>Once this second stage is drafted, consultation on the draft will be done with key stakeholders. The report will also be shared with members. Once finalised, CLES will facilitate a launch event to share the content of the strategy but also to embed ownership and shared objectives. A full timetable for this process is currently being worked up.</p> <p>Supplementary: We recognise the impact that high inflation, supply chain issues, recruitment issues and the energy crisis are having on businesses across the borough, and we understand that this will affect businesses and employees, impacting business and household budgets in the coming months. As a council, through our Business and Investment team and in conjunction with all teams across the Council that touch businesses, we will provide updates, news and resources and signposting to practical support.</p> <p>The Business and Investment team will continue their work to reach as many businesses as possible through our e bulletin and our social media platforms, sharing all funded support and resources. We have a dedication email address for all business enquiries, investin@bury.gov.uk, and I would ask colleagues to share that email amongst our networks as a single point of contact for business enquiries.</p> <p>An integral part of our Economic Development Strategy will be to put businesses at the heart of all that we do and Bury Council will continue to support businesses across the borough as we did during the Covid pandemic.</p>
<p>Q3 Labour Cllr Ayesha Arif</p>	<p>In the wake of the vote on the merger proposals for Bury FC, can the Cabinet Member tell us about the next steps for how the Council will be supporting the return of men's professional football to Gigg Lane?</p>	<p>Cllr Morris</p>	<p>The next steps for the Council are to continue to work with the two Community Benefit Societies : Bury Football Club Supporters Society and The Shakers(the Society behind Bury AFC). It is to encourage continued dialogue and to facilitate both to explore further ways in which they can come together.</p> <p>This further work is the right thing to do because the result of the votes announced on 28th October was that a majority of members of both Societies were in favour of a merger. 94% of Shakers members and 63% of BFCSS members voted in favour of a merger. As we know the BFCSS vote was just short of the two thirds majority needed (at 67%) so that leaves us a position that is neither here nor there. In the circumstances it would be wrong to not explore alternative ways of</p>

			<p>achieving what the majority want, that is for the fan base to be united and for professional football to return to Gigg Lane.</p> <p>The Council is therefore talking to both societies to explore all available options. We are we are doing so alongside officials from the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities, the Football Supporters Association and the Combined Authority.</p> <p>I can not say whether these further talks will be successful but I will let Members of the Council know as soon as there are further developments.</p>
<p>Q4 Conservative Cllr Lancaster</p>	<p>Residents are regularly raising issues about streetlamps not working. Is there a programme of maintenance for this important matter?</p>	<p>Cllr Quinn</p>	<p>Street lighting faults are typically repaired within 10 working days. Due to cuts to council budgets over the past decade we have not been able to employ a night-time street lighting inspector. The team now relies on reports of street light outages from the public. Members of the public that use our online map-based reporting system can check if faults have already been reported and keep informed of progress with the repairs.</p>
<p>Q5 Labour Cllr Moss</p>	<p>Can the Cabinet Member for Housing outline the work being done to review the future of Six Town Housing?</p> <p>Supplementary: How will tenants be consulted on these proposals?</p>	<p>Cllr Cummins</p>	<p>Following the Chief Executive of Six Town Housing announcement that they will retire in March 2023. Rather than move to appoint a new CEO, we have agreed the Council will commission a review of the options for the future of Six Town Housing.</p> <p>It is timely to review the current arrangements. The regulatory requirements are changing to require a stronger role for the Council and the resources available for the management and maintenance of Council housing in Bury are reducing at the same time as significant budget reductions for the Council as a whole. Therefore, we need to look at how we use our collective resources to continue to deliver the management and maintenance of our housing stock within a cohesive neighbourhood offer to achieve excellence in customer service, community safety, environmental management, and the regeneration of the Borough's townships. The appraisal will assess the contribution to the LETS Strategy, Housing Strategy, and Regeneration priorities, how it will seek improve the quality of housing management and maintenance, how it will deliver value, how it will ensure robust governance, contribute to Bury's neighbourhood model, and contribute to becoming a carbon neutral borough by 2038.</p> <p>Supplementary: If the outcome of the options appraisal recommends a significant change to how the Councils housing is managed and maintained there will be a formal test of opinion where tenants are consulted on the proposal.</p>

<p>Q6 Labour Cllr Debbie Quinn</p>	<p>What work is being done to deliver more housing for residents with additional needs?</p>	<p>Cllr Cummins</p>	<p>The Council is committed and is prioritising the delivery of quality and sustainable homes for residents with additional needs.</p> <p>The Community Commissioning Division is working with Registered Providers and developers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve current housing stock where residents are living, which meet the standards which are expected for good homes • Working towards acquisition of bespoke accommodation for individual tenants that have specific needs to meet their current support and future sustainability • Exploring options across the six townships to deliver schemes which provide communal facilities and living space to maintain independence and allow other services to enhance support packages • The division is working at full pace to deliver the strategy which is detailed on the Council's Adult Social Care Housing page <p>In addition, two services for the homeless community who have additional needs, have been recommissioned.</p> <p>The Council is working with several registered providers to develop new affordable housing on the following Council owned brownfield sites, including the former William Kemp Heaton site, the former Wheatfields site, and Willow Street, Bury</p>
<p>Q7 Conservative Cllr Shahbaz Arif</p>	<p>Does the portfolio holder believe the council Muslim Burial Policy is fit for purpose?</p>	<p>Cllr Quinn</p>	<p>Yes, the Muslim Burial Policy is very much fit for purpose. The Council is proud of its positive long-term relationship with the Muslim community and consult on everything including individual burials and service developments. We offer weekend burials for everyone including the Muslim community at cost. In 2021/22 the Council invested £80,000 on a new extension to the Muslim plot with the plot design agreed with the community. 40 new vaults have already been installed in the new plot and £50,000 has already been approved for the next extension to the Muslim plot. In house grave diggers are fully trained and work weekends as required.</p>
<p>Q8 Labour Cllr Whitby</p>	<p>Can the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People provide an update on the latest OFSTED Monitoring Visit?</p> <p>Supplementary: What further actions</p>	<p>Cllr Smith (Cllr Debbie Quinn)</p>	<p>The Ofsted monitoring visit outcome letter has been published and has been widely circulated. The outcome of the visit is overall positive as pockets of improvement had been seen. These improvements now need to be sustained at pace through the improvement plan.</p> <p>Supplementary: All monitoring visits focus upon areas of concern identified in the ILACS inspection. The key findings documented in the letter reflect the leaderships understanding of our progress</p>

	will now be taken, following on from this visit?		and our key areas of focus – Inspectors were satisfied that we have an appropriate improvement plan that addresses the key areas for improvement identified in the ILACS inspection. Progress of actions within the plan continue to be reported to the Getting to Good Board, and ongoing progression of improvement activity will be required to deliver wider consistent improvement of outcomes, in our lead up to re-inspection in 2 years’ time.
Q9 Labour Cllr Thorpe	Following the successful SEND Information Day, what more can the Council be doing to support children, families and their communities around SEND?	Cllr Smith (Cllr Pilkington)	Improving the experience and outcomes of our children and young people remains a key priority for us. We have established a multi-agency SEND Assurance Board which includes Bury2gether as our parent/carer forum. We have a co-produced action plan focussed on assessment, meeting needs, outcomes, and experience. Our Strategic lead for SEND has been prioritising co-production with our parents of children with SEND. We have launched our Graduated Approach including interactive tools to support consistent identification and better support our young people with SEND in our schools. In February we have planned our first SEND Practice Week for all Stakeholder and parents to come together to do shared learning around all elements SEND. Like the SEND Information Day, it is planned for this to be an annual event. We are also planning a Gala Award event for June to promote SEND across businesses within Bury again as another awareness raising event.
Q10 Conservative Cllr McBriar	When will the crossing on Market Street in Tottington be installed?	Cllr Alan Quinn	It is proposed to introduce a zebra crossing on Market Street, Tottington. It is anticipated that the informal consultation and formal advertisement period will commence in the second full week of December 2022. Councillors will be notified of the scheme proposals several days before the informal consultation leaflets will be delivered to residents and before the formal advertisement is placed in the local press. Assuming, there are no major objections regarding the scheme proposals then it would be anticipated that construction on site could possibly start in late February or early March.
Q11 Labour Cllr McGill	Following the disastrous mini-Budget, the Autumn Statement has included proposals to significantly increase taxes and cut funding to public services. Do we have an assessment yet of how these announcements will impact the Council’s financial position?	Cllr Gold	Work is ongoing to develop the Councils medium terms financial strategy and closing the financial gap that was previously reported at the October Cabinet meeting. The autumn statement gave Councils the opportunity to raise Council tax to 2.99% without the need for a referendum and raise a 2% ASC precept to support a service which is under pressure and needs support to enable reform. Announcements were also made in relation to social care grants, but work is ongoing to understand what this means both in financial terms and expectations for Bury. The autumn statement also gave a positive affirmation to a further years extension of the household support fund which will allow the Council to plan and promote an offer in advance to our most vulnerable residents in need of financial support.

	<p>Supplementary: Despite the challenges we face, what more can we do to support residents with the cost of living?</p>		<p>Supplementary: The Council continues to deliver our Cost of Living and Anti-Poverty strategy. In recent months this has seen two cost of living summits take place with community leads to further shape our local response, including the allocation of Household Support Funding to Care Leavers and Foster Carers; an extensive communications campaign composed of high visibility public billboard and neighbourhood specific targeted information; a dedicated cost of living support telephone number; continuation of Free School meal holiday provision; the collation of information on Warm Spaces that are running in the Borough on The Bury Directory; and we have funded a pilot neighbourhood based engagement officer from Citizen’s Advice Bureau who run sessions with Tenant and Residents Association, Veterans and shortly with Carers. A multi-agency Anti Poverty steering group meet routinely, led by the Council, to ensure a co-ordinated approach to adapt local plans given any new insight or response to any new (funding) opportunities to support residents.</p>
<p>Q12 Conservative Cllr Khalid Hussain</p>	<p>Following the tragic case of Awaab Ishak are we aware of any similar examples in social housing settings in Bury?</p>	<p>Cllr Cummins</p>	<p>Following the tragic death of Awaab Iskar, the Council have assessed the risks and implications to manage and mitigate risks to all our tenants and residents working with Six Town Housing and our Housing Associations Partners.</p> <p>We are not aware of any similar examples in Bury, however immediate action and assessment has commenced to ensure this is the case.</p> <p>The immediate actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property conditions due to damp mould and condensation have been added to the Council’s Corporate Risk register. • Damp mould & condensation will be integrated into health and safety compliance management and monitored and managed in the same way as gas compliance by Six Town Housing and included within the Council’s performance management system. • Six Town Housing Board have held a Board session to assess the risks and develop a formal action plan, demonstrating leadership and a positive and proactive approach. In addition, Six Town Housing are reviewing all heating repairs and issues with energy supplies. • Legal Services have reviewed all cases of disrepair where damp and mould are a factor. In cases of disrepair action Bury Council and Six Town Housing do not stop delivery of repairs and address the issues raised. • All Housing Associations operating in Bury have been contacted and asked to positively confirm their approaches and responses. • Discussions have taken place with the Greater Manchester Housing Providers (GMHP) who will also be coordinating the response of Housing Providers to all GM local authorities.

			In addition, the Council will focus on bringing services together through the Neighbourhood Public Service Leadership Teams to ensure early intervention and prevention and a joined-up approach and information sharing across the system to include the community hubs, Police, Health, STH, Children’s Early Help, Beacon, and Public Health.
Q13 Conservative Cllr Roger Brown	Greater Manchester mental health trust has recently been put into the recovery support programme by NHS England. What impact does this have on residents of bury who need this important service?	Cllr Tariq	<p>The majority of mental health services for Bury residents are provided by Pennine Care Trust. However, a relatively small number of Bury residents access services from the Greater Manchester Mental Health Trust. I am sure the whole council was seriously concerned about the revelations from the Panorama programme into Edenfield which is run by GMMH.</p> <p>As of 22 November 2022, GMMH will join the national Recovery Support Programme (RSP), which means that GMMH will receive intensive support in those areas where it is most needed. What this means is that the NHS regionally and nationally will work collaboratively with GMMH and other partners across Greater Manchester to conduct a diagnostic stocktake in order to understand the root causes of the challenges faced.</p> <p>They will agree and deliver a package of mandatory intensive support setting and monitoring progress against an improvement plan which will allow GMMH to exit out of the programme in a sustainable way. This support package will be led by an Improvement Director and will include the deployment of a multidisciplinary team drawn from within the NHS nationally and externally where required.</p> <p>The Recovery Support Programme will also give GMMH access to additional expertise and resource, to ensure sustainable improvements are made as quickly as possible. In addition, NHS England have advised GMMH they will commission an independent review into the Trust’s services. This follows concerns raised by service users, their families, and staff, some of which have been presented through the media.</p> <p>Officers locally from both Council and NHS GM (Bury) are closely connected to the work from both a safeguarding perspective and from the perspective of improving services for Bury residents.</p>
Q14 Conservative Cllr Jack Rydeheard	What is the current level of absenteeism within the council?	Cllr Rafiq	<p>As of the end of October the Council's sickness absence level saw an average of 14.41 days lost per full time equivalent employee over the preceding twelve months. This figure remains significantly impacted by Covid related absence and, in particular, the Omicron variant in early 2022. When Covid related absence is excluded the figure falls to 12.37 days, a marginal (0.13 days) increase on the same month in 2021. This remains significantly above our Council target of 9.85 days and promoting positive attendance and reducing absence levels is a key priority for the HR team. - Despite this small year-on-year increase it is worth noting some areas of improvement as a result of focused work here by Officers in the last 12 months. Absence levels in the two departments where</p>

			they are greatest (Operations and the OCO) have fallen by more than a day based on year-to-year comparison following the focused work here. Improvement management information and reporting systems and processes as well as strengthened HR support are also beginning to have an impact. This work has also improved the quality and accuracy of our sickness data which may, in some part account for an element of the increase. This area will be a continued focus in 2023 with work in train including a focus on absence management and wellbeing through a new mandatory management development programme, a review of our Occupational Health Service and overarching absence management policy. Members should also note that this matter is due for discussion at the Performance Scrutiny Sub Group on 15 December.
Q15 Conservative Cllr Iain Gartside	Several months ago the Walshaw Park Estate was resurfaced, which I and the residents were grateful for. However, residents do not believe this was done to an adequate standard, with holes already forming and gravel not being set into the ground correctly. Would the cabinet member meet with myself and residents on the estate to look at the quality of the resurfacing and hear the concerns of residents?	Cllr Alan Quinn	Walshaw Park estate has not been resurfaced, it has received a surface dressing preventative maintenance surface treatment. This type of treatment is designed to extend the serviceable life of the road and is the most cost-effective form of highway maintenance, typically lasting between 10 - 15 years. Preventative maintenance should not be compared with resurfacing which costs approximately 6 times more. Officers are liaising with our contractors to ensure any snags are remedied.
Q16 Conservative Cllr Nick Jones	The Council have a consultation open and undertaking options appraisal for the future of the art gallery. Please can the cabinet member outline the impacts of the different options and what assurances can the cabinet member give with regards to the FTE at risk in future years?	Cllr Morris	The Council is undertaking a consultation with stakeholders about the options that may be available to reduce or remove revenue cost pressures on the museum operation through, for example, grants, charging and income. The objective of this exercise is to identify a self-financing strategy as far as practicable.
Q17 Ind Cllr Yvonne Wright	I understood that residents on Market St Tottington were to be consulted regarding the location of the proposed new "Crossing". Did this take place and was a decision then made regarding the location? If	Cllr Alan Quinn	Please refer to the response to Q10

	so when will work commence on the Crossing?		
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