

Question / Responder	Questioner / Question / Response
1	<p>Does the Cabinet Member for Communities believe enough is being done to deter people carrying knives in Bury Town Centre? Cllr Shahbaz Arif</p>
Cllr Gold	<p>Bury Community Safety partners are committed to ensure that Bury town centre, and indeed the Borough as a whole is a safe place for all. Tackling Crime, including knife enabled crime, is one of Bury Community Safety Partnership's priorities. With a specific sub-group of the CSP in place, this group is delivering on a 'EPIC' Knife Crime plan for the Borough – covering enforcement; prevention; insight; and communication.</p> <p>In relation to the Town Centre, this has included in recent weeks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proactive mix of hi-visibility and covert (under cover) patrols and operations, including Operation Spectre; a day of action with GM Violence Reduction colleagues and joint patrols with the Integrated Youth Outreach team - Specific tasking in Operations including Heartbeat and Dasher including use of stop-search powers - The use of knife arches and wands at Bury Interchange and across the transport network in conjunction with Travelsafe - Education and awareness sessions in conjunction with schools and Colleges on the danger of carrying a knife, including pilot of letter to parents where individuals have been associated with anti-social behaviour or criminality where reports of a knife have been made (ie beyond just any individual identified as carrying a knife) <p>This activity will remain a priority in the context of the Serious Violence Duty which comes into force at the end of this month. Bury CSP are already undertaking work to develop a local Strategic Needs Assessment which will further focus our work across public service partners (through neighbourhood based public service leadership teams); with business (including the Night Time Economy as part of building on the Best Bar None initiative with licenced premises); with community groups and with local residents.</p>
2	<p>During this Cost of Living Crisis, what is the Council doing to support those with the least during maternity and a child's early years to ensure they have access to healthy food? Supplementary: What plans do we have to promote the Healthy Start voucher scheme project across the whole borough? Cllr Fitzgerald</p>
Cllr Gold	<p>As part of the anti-poverty work we have created a local Money Advice Referral Tool, which has been actively promoted for frontline staff including those working within maternity and health visitors. This can help signpost young mothers and parents to available financial support and where they can access support in the form of food and fuel vouchers. Young mothers and parents to young children can also access food and fuel vouchers through frontline trusted referrers if they are experiencing financial difficulties. Finally, we are working with food banks to support their conversions to more sustainable food pantries, where parents and carers of babies and young children can go to access subsidised healthy foods should they need to.</p> <p>Supplementary: The Healthy Start Vouchers have already been promoted throughout all key partners and frontline staff via the Bury Food Partnership. We have actively worked to increase the number of retailers where these can be used including working with Bury Markets to support them to become retailers. We have also recently been successful in an application to the sustainable food places grant, this which will allow us to have increased capacity to actively promote the healthy start vouchers uptake and usage within the market.</p>

<p>3</p>	<p>What plans are in place to promote the cultural offer of our borough for 2023?</p> <p>Supplementary: How are we working with culture colleagues at Greater Manchester Combined Authority to deliver this?</p> <p>Cllr D Quinn</p>
<p>Cllr Morris</p>	<p>The significant contribution which culture makes to the economic offer of Bury's townships and the wellbeing of residents is understood, particularly after being the GM borough of culture for 2 years.</p> <p>The Council works closely with partners to offer a diverse culture offer across both arts and community celebrations through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a Culture Organisation's Group in Bury town centre, including the Art Museum; ELR and the Met - The engagement of community partners and support to events such as community-led festivals and carnivals is supported through the Community Hubs. <p>Together, partners are developing a borough culture strategy, in partnership with the Arts Council, which will be brought forward for approval in March 2023.</p> <p>Supplementary: The Council was a proactive contributor to consultation on the updated GM Culture Fund, to ensure opportunities for the borough were maximised. Rolling, increased funding has been secured for the Met and the Council has supported partners with applications to the "Spirit" strand of recent funding opportunities. Future applications to the "Collaborate" strand of major, partnership-based GM culture funding will be pursued during 2023 with the benefit of the partnership strategy as a basis for delivery.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Could the Cabinet Member advise why residents in Radcliffe North and Ainsworth must accept damage to their properties caused by council owned trees. These trees have been an ongoing issue for over 5 years and the response to each enquiry usually suggests that the trees in question are in reasonable health and require no immediate work. The responses usually go on to suggest if residents have concerns the council advise that they contact their house insurers for guidance. Is it fair as a consequence of this advice residents will have to pay extra insurance in the following year?</p> <p>Cllr Jo Lancaster</p>
<p>Cllr A Quinn</p>	<p>It is often difficult from visual inspections to determine if damage to property is due to Council owned trees. For this reason it is for the resident to prove that the damage is being caused by a Council Owned tree. We advise that residents contact their own home insurance company for guidance.</p> <p>If a claim is then submitted to the Council by the resident, through their insurers, the issue will be investigated by the Council's in house insurance section - who would deal with the claim and carry out their own investigations into the matter. This protocol agreed with our insurers, and is for all areas of the Borough, not just Radcliffe north and Ainsworth.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>I understand 3 Knowsley Place is leased. How much is the annual rent for 3 Knowsley Place and how long is the agreed lease period on Knowsley Place?</p> <p>Cllr Birchmore</p>
<p>Cllr O'Brien</p>	<p>The current annual rent is £682,656 exclusive of VAT and the lease expires on 9th February 2035.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>Can the Cabinet Member for Housing outline what support the Council has put in place regarding cold weather provision for rough sleepers in our borough?</p> <p>Cllr Moss</p>
<p>Cllr Cummins</p>	<p>We currently have 35 individual supported units for our rough sleepers, plus we have an outreach service that proactively identifies, reacts and provides support to any new genuine rough sleepers within the Borough. If this provision is full and during the cold weather (zero or</p>

	<p>below) we would then place our rough sleepers into B&B provision until space become available.</p> <p>We also have 115 dispersed properties across the Borough that we use for our statutory homeless cases, which equates to 364 bed spaces in total and which is usually at capacity. To put this into perspective, at the moment we are accommodating and supporting 91 families, 15 singles and 2 couples with the average stay of 169 days.</p> <p>Both statutory and non-statutory (rough sleepers) provision is temporary with the aim of moving these people into more permanent affordable and sustainable accommodation as quickly as possible which is one of the main challenges we face as a Local Authority due to the severe lack of appropriate accommodation.</p> <p>We aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide a rapid response to new rough sleepers • provide dedicated officers to support and assist those rough sleeping into dedicated accommodation • provide support based on each individual’s needs and coordination intervention needed in partnership will all our commissioned service providers. • help rough sleepers to access a place of safety • reconnect rough sleepers from outside the area with their community and relatives / friends etc.
7	<p>In 2019, the Conservative Government promised to end “no fault evictions” but has yet to pass any legislation to deliver this. What support does the Council provide to help tenants at risk of being made homeless by this practice?</p> <p>Supplementary: Have we seen homeless enquiries increase since the temporary ban was lifted during the pandemic?</p> <p>Cllr Green</p>
Cllr Cummins	<p>Despite the Government committing to ending Section 21 notices in the 2022 Queens Speech, and the previous Prime Minister committing to their abolition in Parliament, legislation has still not been brought forward to end this practise. The Council works closely with Private landlords and tenants to try and prevent tenancy failures and sustain tenancies. To provide support to tenants and the private landlords and help sustain tenancies we have a commissioned floating housing support service that will work with landlords and tenants to offer support and advice when needed. We have also recently been successful in receiving external match funding from DLUHC to recruit to a PRS Development coordinator, one of the main objectives of this role is to work with PRS landlords and develop frameworks / pathways to better support and advise landlords and to help avoid the practice of ‘no fault evictions’ as stated in the question and avoid were possible Landlords serving section 21 notices.</p> <p>Since the introduction of the Homeless Reduction Act in 2018 the aim is to prevent homelessness in the first instance. All Homelessness cases are assessed against the homelessness and housing legislation to ensure we are providing the required advice and support to meet our duty as a local authority.</p> <p>In terms of non-priority need cases as determined by legislation we also have additional provision available to provide temporary and emergency accommodation with support.</p> <p>Supplementary: demand has significantly increased over the past 12 months since the lifting of the ban and the Covid restrictions due to several factors which is aligned to other GM LA’s, Regional and National trends. This will be challenging to manage but the service is being</p>

	proactive to find solutions to these increasing demands with the increased supplies of affordable and social housing within the Borough.
8	What preparations are the council putting in place to allow street parties and other celebrations for His Majesty The Kings Jubilee? Cllr Khalid Hussain
Cllr Gold	<p>The Coronation of His Majesty The King, Charles III, will take place on Sunday 6th May 2023. It has been announced that the Coronation will reflect the monarch's role today and look towards the future, while being rooted in longstanding traditions and pageantry. Further details on planned national activities have yet to be announced by the Royal Household.</p> <p>Locally, preparations are being made to determine appropriate civic activity to mark the Coronation, and the opportunities for local residents to celebrate the occasion, with the Monday following the 6th May being designated as a public (bank) holiday.</p> <p>A dedicated page will be available shortly on the Council's website and information promoted through a press release and social media channels which will detail activities. In the meantime guidance on organising events including applying for road closures for street parties is available at bury.gov.uk/eventsguidance and proposals will be considered, as with any event, by the Bury Event Safety Advisory Group.</p>
9	Can the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People provide an update on the key actions being taken to improve performance in Children's Services? Cllr Bayley
Cllr Smith	<p>I want to say, personally, how important it is that you keep asking questions about this. Other Councils that have been through a similar journey say the second year, which we're about to enter, can be the most challenging because people lose momentum, so keep asking me questions.</p> <p>As you know we have taken some key actions already, mainly around securing a senior leadership team and we're slowly starting to see an improvement in our performance. With the new structure we're successfully recruiting to some of the key posts we needed. We have started ambitious recruitment for our social workers, which is a national challenge, and we're hoping to recruit and have in place several social workers by April.</p> <p>Our performance data means that for the first time in a long time we can see our data and understand what is happening and the numbers will tell us where to look and where to improve in a better and more functional way. The performance data is helping us put in learning circles and support around practitioners so we're learning as we go, alongside our quality assurance which, in the last Ofsted monitoring report, had been greatly improved.</p> <p>In terms of the next steps, the DfE came in last week and, though their written response is awaited, their anecdotal feedback was positive with challenges aligned to those we have highlighted, showing our understanding of the service. We will look at DfE recommendations and take them to our Improvement Board alongside our new data so we can ensure full understanding across all our partnerships about what the next step is and how we can double our commitment for year 2.</p>
10	What plans does the Council have to expand the provision of special education places in our borough? Cllr Peel
Cllr Smith	Through its Specialist Place sufficiency Strategy, the Council has set out its ambitions to increase the capacity of high quality specialist provision to meet the needs of children and young people across the borough. Plans are being developed to increase the capacity of

	<p>Millwood Special School; a new secondary Special School is being built in Unsworth and will be ready by the end of the year; a further secondary Special School is at an advanced stage, with a preferred sponsor to be identified mid-January; and an application is currently with the Department for Education for a primary Special School. Alongside these new schools, the Council is also developing a number of Resourced Provision units linked to mainstream schools, providing children and young people in mainstream schools with access to additional specialist provision. In addition, the Council is bringing forward plans to relocate the Pupil Referral Unit into suitably adapted accommodation. All of this represents significant investment in specialist provision to meet the needs of the boroughs most vulnerable children and young people.</p>
11	<p>The Museum Estate And Development Fund was launched by the Department for Digital Culture, Media and Sport to enable local and regional museums to undertake vital infrastructure, repair and maintenance work. Funding is for capital expenditure from £50,000 to £5 million to undertake vital infrastructure and urgent maintenance backlog work to non-national accredited museums. Bury Art Museum is in need of such maintenance. Was the art museum eligible for this funding and was an application made by the council? Cllr Jack Rydeheard</p>
Cllr Morris	<p>Bury Art Museum first applied to the Museum Estate and Development Fund (MEND) fund in 2021, the application was not successful as the project was not at the correct RIBA design stage. Since then, we have sought to undertake the work to progress us to the correct stage.</p> <p>Historic England have since recommended a conservation architect who is better placed to assess the level of work needed and advise correctly given that BAM is Grade II Listed. A complete review of the building's condition is needed, which then clearly identifies specific items in order of priority which can be used to demonstrate need to the MEND application panel. Following the initial EOI to MEND, subject to their response, this would lead on to the development of detailed proposals to RIBA stage 3 ('planning application' stage).</p> <p>The focus will be on the most urgent aspects. i.e., keep the water out, protect the building and collections. On initial assessment the conservation architect thinks that this is likely to bring down the grant ask (which was significant previously) - the key will be to balance the most urgent works with what is likely to be obtained from the MEND fund (better reflecting the grant eligibility). Original estimated project cost £968,809, £775,047 requested from MEND, £193,702 match from Bury Council.</p> <p>£10,000 to enable RIBA stage 3 has been secured, £3,000 in grant funding from Museums Development North West and £7,000 through the Town of Culture reserve. A third round of the MEND fund opens this February and BAM will submit an expression of interest, deadline for EOI's is end of March, if invited to put in full application, the deadline for that will probably be June/July 2023.</p>
12	<p>Radcliffe school pupils have been identified as having the highest number of most severe absences within Bury. Do we now have an understanding as to why this is the case, and what is being done to reduce this? Cllr Mike Smith</p>
Cllr Smith	<p>In autumn 21/ spring 22, the primary schools in the locality of Radcliffe had the highest percentage of severe absentees compared with the primary schools in the Bury and Whitefield localities. The reasons for this are complex. Radcliffe has an improving proportion of good/better schools and school leaders are working with the LA to focus on improving attendance.</p> <p>As the LA works towards full implementation of the DfE's 'Working together to improve school attendance' we have deployed School Attendance Support Officer resource against localities following analysis of absence figures and numbers of persistent and severe absentees. Each school has been given a RAG rating of red, amber or green. We are prioritising the 'red' schools</p>

	<p>from now as we start to implement the new model. Our overarching priority groups are pupils who have been/ are severely absent and those that are not in school full-time. Every school has an assigned School Attendance Support Officer and conversations about each severe absentee are underway. The conversations are to identify barrier/s to attendance, impact of any actions taken and next steps. These pupils will remain high priority and will be followed up to check progress.</p>
13	<p>Can the Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR update on the latest work around Transformation? CLlr Rizvi</p>
CLlr Rafiq	<p>the Council's Transformation Programme has delivered key delivery milestones recently, particularly in relation to digital, customer contact, ways of working and financial efficiencies. These achievements include the creation of the Council's Business Support Function, improvements in customer service targets and the forecast disposal of an initial 6 internal-facing buildings planned through the effective use of our agile working model. As has been reported in other financial monitoring reports the Transformation Programme is on track to deliver its financial savings targets with the exception of those relating to Procurement which will be addressed within the Medium Term Financial Savings Strategy in February. The Report concludes by proposing that the remaining Transformation budget is diverted to support other priorities in the Council which was approved by Cabinet. The remaining work in the Transformation Strategy will now be monitored as business as usual within the Corporate Plan.</p>
14	<p>Following the successful application of the Council to join the Cooperative Councils Innovation Network, can an update be given on plans to encourage a more cooperative approach to the work of the Council? CLlr Whitby</p>
CLlr Morris	<p>In December 2022 Bury Council successfully became a member of the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network. Such an approach sits neatly with the principles set out in Bury's Let's Do It! strategy, of focusing on local neighbourhoods, through an enterprising spirit, working together in a co-operative, collaborative and integrated way, building on local strengths to improve outcomes for local people.</p> <p>Key themes of the Co-operative Councils approach centre are around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing the co-operative economy, which locally will be encouraged through the further development of our Economic Strategy and delivery of the GM Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Accord through a refreshed service level agreement with Bury Voluntary and Community Faith Alliance • Community Wealth Building, which locally is being encouraged through building on a community of practice with the Northern Care Alliance and the Council has set an example on through being a GM Good Employment Charter Member • And Co-operative place making – which locally is being encouraged through the development of People and Communities Plans, embedding the priorities of local people into regeneration and community development plans in our towns. <p>To support this there is a key themes for Co-operative Councils training session which will be made available for officers and Elected Members</p>
15	<p>The recent road closure between Meadow Nook and the Woodstock Drive section of Turton Road has been caused by suspected land slippage. Could the Cabinet Member please provide an update on the investigations taking place and what work will be necessary to make that part of the road safe again? CLlr Iain Gartside</p>
CLlr A Quinn	<p>Turton Road was initially closed to all traffic due to the evidence of a land slippage. This was essential to ensure public safety and to allow initial investigations into the possible impact of the movement on gas services in the area.</p>

	<p>An engineer from Cadent Gas has since met with Officers on site and confirmed that there is no damage to the gas services.</p> <p>Now that we have this reassurance arrangements are being made for the road to be re-opened, with 2-way traffic signals in operation.</p> <p>The traffic signals will remain in place until detailed ground investigations are carried out to find the cause of the failure. Once the results of this investigation are known, a decision will be taken on what repairs are required.</p> <p>It is not possible at this stage to give a timeframe of when repairs will be complete and the road fully re-opened.</p> <p>Cadent will be carrying out weekly inspections of the gas mains until the road is repaired and fully re-opened.</p>
16	<p>What is the latest position in respect of Gigg Lane and council funding? Cllr Nick Jones</p>
Cllr Morris	<p>As Members know last November members of Bury Football Club Supporters Society (BFCSS) and The Shakers (the Society behind Bury AFC) voted on a merger of both societies to bring the fan base together and to enable the AFC to become Bury FC playing at Gigg Lane. A majority of both societies voted in favour of a merger but the BFCSS vote fell just short of the two thirds majority required by their constitution.</p> <p>When I reported this to Council on 7th December I said then that the Council would continue to talk to both societies to facilitate continued dialogue and to encourage both to explore further ways in which they could come together. Since then we have continued these discussions alongside officials from the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUCH), the Football Supporters Association and the Combined Authority.</p> <p>Unfortunately these talks have not yet been successful. However, Council will continue to support BFCSS, the private benefactors who part funded the acquisition of Gigg Lane and AFC to find a way of creating a new organisation that can deliver this project.</p> <p>The talks have included how to ensure compliance with the terms of the £1m grant from the Government's Community Ownership Fund and I understand that there is a possibility of a visit by a DLUCH minister if timings allow.</p> <p>The Council's position remains as it always has been: our objective is the support all parties to come together to bring senior men's football back to Gigg Lane. To this end Cabinet on 13th July last year agreed to provide up to £450k towards the refurbishment of Gigg Lane on the condition that the project resulted in football coming back to Gigg Lane in a way that is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. fan controlled; 2. with clear community benefit; and 3. commercially viable. <p>These conditions have not been met and therefore the £450k cannot be provided.</p> <p>For the Council, commercial viability has always meant merger of AFC and BFCSS. If there are alternatives to merger which still achieve financial viability and which meet the other two conditions we will, of course, considered them and if necessary I would be prepared to bring a recommendation to Cabinet to consider again providing up to £450k. However, I have to say we are a long way off that at the moment.</p> <p>I will let Members of Council know as soon as there are further developments.</p>
17	<p>Do the council have any plans to review the age of vehicles which taxi drivers can use which currently is vehicles no more than 5 years old? Cllr Roger Brown</p>

<p>Cllr Morris</p>	<p>The taxi and private hire age policy in Bury is part of the Greater Manchester wide common minimum licensing standards that were adopted by this council in November 2021.</p> <p>It is not the case that all taxis in Bury are required to be under five years old. As a result of common minimum licensing standards, in the case of private hire vehicles, they must be under 5 years from date of registration. For wheelchair accessible private hire vehicles and hackney carriages, it is 7 years.</p> <p>This came into effect for newly licensed drivers when the standards were adopted and for existing licensed drivers this will be in effect from 1 April 2024.</p> <p>It is worth noting that in the consultation on common minimum licensing standards, 77.8% of the public said they supported the age policy proposed.</p> <p>We constantly seek feedback about the licensing service the council operates, including the licensing standards that are in place in Bury, as they are across Greater Manchester, through the private hire and taxi trade liaison group.</p> <p>As a result of this engagement, we successfully made changes to licensing standards that were proposed as common minimum licensing standards, notably on colour and livery. We continue to welcome feedback from the trade on all aspects of the licensing service and licensing standards, and we enjoy a productive and collaborative relationship with driver representatives.</p>
<p>18</p>	<p>Could the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People give an update on the overseas recruitment initiative for children’s social workers? Cllr Luis McBriar</p>
<p>Cllr Smith</p>	<p>The Director of Social Care Practice has returned from South Africa this week. 34 candidates were interviewed. 23 candidates were appointable, offered social work posts and have accepted the offer to work for Bury. The Director of Practice is satisfied with both the candidate’s skill base and experience and has reported that this is an exciting time for Bury. Next steps include ensuring all the registration and visa requirements are gained as soon as possible. Planning has already started in receiving our newly appointed staff, but, as will be understood by members, relocation is not a quick process. It is hoped the first social workers will arrive in Bury by April.</p>
<p>19</p>	<p>A 70 year old local man contacted the urgent care centre for dental support recently and was informed to return in a week ! In acute pain he then extracted his own tooth . On just a basic pension he is unable to afford private dentistry .How can Bury Council help residents experiencing Dental Poverty ? Cllr Yvonne Wright</p>
<p>Cllr Tariq</p>	<p>I am sorry to hear of the situation of your constituent.</p> <p>It is hard to comment on specific cases. If Cllr Wright would provide further details of the patients with the relevant consent to investigate whether the appropriate clinical triage advise was provided to the resident, NHS colleagues will be pleased to review.</p> <p>The council is not responsible for the commissioning or provision of dental services but works with NHS partners as part of an integrated health and care system. However all Cllrs will share a concern about the access to dental services in the borough, and Cllr Wright will be aware the health scrutiny committee discussed this in some depth at its meeting on 21st July.</p> <p>For patients with a regular dentist, they should approach their dental practice in -hours for</p>

urgent care.

There are arrangements in place across Greater Manchester for accessing urgent dental care for those patients who are unable to access through a regular dentist or require urgent dental care out of hours. A poster describing this has been shared widely across all health and care system partners and will be circulated to all Cllrs.

We will re- circulate the poster to all primary care services – GPs and dental surgeries.