

	Party / Department Response	Question
1	Labour	<p>The Ramsbottom Town Plan discusses various options for the rationalisation of Town centre parking. At no point does it suggest paid for parking as an option. Can the leader please guarantee my wish that paid for parking is not and never will be part of the Ramsbottom Town Plan?</p> <p>Cllr Tom Pilkington</p>
	Cllr O'Brien	<p>The Ramsbottom Town Plan does not include any proposals to introduce parking charges on its car parks.</p> <p>To strike a better balance between all users, The Ramsbottom Town Plan proposes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the introduction of time restrictions on council owned car parks in the core of the town centre • Provide long stay parking at the leisure centre to increase capacity for short stay spaces in the town centre core • Increase provision of electric vehicle charging points • Introduce resident's parking schemes, if needed <p>The Council's Highway Department has also confirmed they have no plans to introduce parking charges in Ramsbottom.</p> <p>There's also nothing in the draft Transport Strategy that suggests the introduction of parking charges in Ramsbottom.</p>
2	Labour	<p>As part of the Council's commitment as a Real Living Wage employer, can the Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR update the Council on the impact of this on our directly employed and commissioned workers?</p> <p>Cllr Moss</p>
	Cllr Rafiq	<p>The Council has now been an accredited Real Living Wage Employer since November 2021. At the time of agreeing our approach Members noted the significant financial cost of this work, around £5.5 million over five years. However, they also recognized the strong business case for delivering on this commitment which was projected to improve the wages of around 4,000 people working in Bury, particularly within the adult care workforce who provided such a critical role during Covid. – The unprecedented financial climate over the last year has seen the financial cost of maintaining this commitment rise by a further circa. £3.2 million. However, the business case remains compelling and essential to both our commitment through the Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter and our work to promote good employment as a leader across the borough more widely. The health and wellbeing board considered</p>

	Party / Department Response	Question
		<p>this in detail in January and noted the clear link between paying the living wage and the wellbeing of Bury people. This analysis also showed that the impact of the Council's accreditation is, in reality, being seen by more like 5,000 people working in our borough.</p> <p>Rates of pay for council staff and commissioned providers will increase to £10.90, in-line with the latest Real Living Wage, from April.</p> <p>Supplementary: The employers side offer is broadly in line with what the Council has budgeted. If accepted, the financial gap had the Council accepted the Conservative budget amendment would have been circa £420k</p>
3	Conservative	Withdrawn
4	Labour	<p>Cost of Living Community Grants have been made available for voluntary and community groups in the Borough to apply for. Can the Cabinet Member for Communities and Finance detail how many applications have been received, what funding has been awarded and indicate the nature of projects that have been supported through this funding?</p> <p>Cllr Whitby</p>
	Cllr Gold	<p>Based on feedback at Cost of Living Summits and to support delivery of Bury Council's Cost of Living and Anti-Poverty Strategy, Bury Council established Cost of living Community Grants to provided targeted support through strengthen local voluntary and community groups in supporting and enabling local residents to best manage current hardship pressures.</p> <p>Applications from 63 organisations were received and through two funding panels, including independent community and voluntary sector representation, a total value of £80,414 has been allocated.</p> <p>Projects which have been supported span across our six towns and communities of identity and experience, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to warm spaces in providing debt advice and financial resilience guidance as part of their offer • Resilience support to Information and Advice provision to older residents through Age UK Bury • Developing a weekly youth club to teach cooking on a budget skills in additional attendees accessing a wholesome meal.

	Party / Department Response	Question
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy saving advice and support to manage wellbeing when facing financial pressures through Women of Worth • Sustaining the provision of targeted information on income maximisation through local community assets and organisations by supporting with utility and volunteering costs <p>Community led provision of employability and skills training to individuals in local income employment to increase their income through career progression</p>
5	Labour	<p>Could the Leader inform us of the date to start the new school in Radcliffe?</p> <p>Cllr Rizvi</p>
	Cllr Smith	<p>The DfE has set out a provisional programme for delivery of the new school. The key milestones will see initial expressions of interest being submitted by contractors this month, tenders will be invited to be submitted by May, and detailed design work undertaken in May & June. Construction will commence in January 2024, with the new school building completed in February 2025. From March 2024, modular accommodation will be provided on site to accommodate pupils joining the school from September 2024, until the new building is complete.</p> <p>Admission arrangements for the new school, for those families looking at secondary transfer in September 2024 have recently been approved and will be published shortly.</p> <p>Star Academy has already begun to engage with Radcliffe primary schools and will be engaging with the wider community over the coming weeks and months in support of the new school opening.</p>
6	Conservative	<p>To assist in transparency of decision making can an elected representative from each political party be involved in all meetings with the DfE regarding the new Radcliffe school?</p> <p>Cllr JO LANCASTER</p>
	Cllr Smith	<p>We will commit to look at the governance arrangements in respect of the delivery of the new school to ensure that all political parties are fully engaged in the process, in the context of where key decisions need to be taken. In the main, project group meetings with DfE focus on technical and operational delivery, and are therefore officer led.</p>
7	Labour	<p>Could the Leader inform council how many electric vans we have and how many are on order?</p>

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		Cllr Hayes
	Cllr Quinn	<p>15 electric vans have been ordered and we have received 2 of these.</p> <p>The new vans will reduce CO2 emissions by roughly 1,450kg per vehicle per year, this is a total reduction of 21,750kg per year, there are also no particulates and Nitrous Oxides produced as the vehicles produce no tail pipe emissions, this will directly improve the air quality around Bury and is a step forward towards Bury Councils transition to net zero.</p>
8	Labour	<p>Please could the Cabinet Member for Communities and Finance outline work which has taken place in the Borough to address violence against women and what more is being done to promote women and girls safety in Bury?</p> <p>Cllr Farooq</p>
		<p>Earlier this month Bury marked International Women’s Day with a series of activities including raising the awareness of activity of the Council and wider Community Safety Partnership to strengthen Women & Girls Safety in Bury.</p> <p>This work has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work co-designed with local pupils in secondary schools on healthy relationships and behaviours, for young men and women • Training to hair and beauty staff at Bury College to identify the signs of violence and support available through the Cut It Out campaign • Awareness raising across public sector partners, business leads and within communities of ways to report and receive support in relation to abuse, including programmes to tackle perpetrator behaviour • Self-defence sessions led by Greater Manchester Police to College students and the community • Partnership training to front line staff on coercive control and, just last week, awareness training to senior leaders on Honour Based Violence. • Specific partnership community safety operations targeting violence against women and girls, including Operations Lioness and Forage • Increasing awareness of Clare’s Law – the police’s ability to disclose a person’s history of abusive behaviour to those who may be at risk from such behaviour <p>The Council and Community Safety Partnership are committed to a relentless focus on women and girl’s safety and this will continue through:</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Women's Night-time Safety Charter with support and training to licenced premises to prioritise and champion women's safety • Youth engagement to inform a focus on women and girl's safety at this year's Circles of Influence session • Engagement, awareness raising, training and local enforcement in relation to the Protection from Sex Based Harassment in Public Bill • Bury Council is also seeking White Ribbon Accreditation to end gender-based violence. The White Ribbon campaign encourages everyone, especially men and boys, to make the White Ribbon Promise to never use, excuse or remain silent about men's violence against women.
9	Conservative	<p>Please can an update be given concerning the progress made on the "Island Lodge Masterplan" in Tottington. In particular, the amount of funds that have been secured from Bury Council and Section 106 monies to help with this very important project?</p> <p>Cllr IAIN GARTSIDE</p>
	Cllr Quinn	<p>The Council has engaged Proffitts to draw up a masterplan for the whole of the Kirklees Valley Local Nature Reserve and this includes Island Lodge. The plan will be consulted on later this year.</p> <p>The masterplan work follows on from the 2022 engineering feasibility study, undertaken by Stillwater Associates, that looked at the options for repairing Island Lodge.</p> <p>On the back of the engineering study, the repairs have been included in the Council's capital programme and £50,000 allocated for 2023/2024 to work the scheme up to tendering stage and a further £450,000 allocated for 2024/2025 to carry out the works.</p> <p>We are planning to use the capital funding to match fund grant applications to third party funders to implement other projects in the wider valley. These will be identified in the masterplan.</p> <p>The cost of the engineering feasibility study (£4,850) and the preparation of the masterplan (£4,116) have been funded from Section 106 money allocated to Kirklees Valley maintenance which, following the commission of the engineering feasibility work and masterplan, now has an outstanding balance of around £10,000.</p>

	Party / Department Response	Question
		Officers have met with the Save Island Lodge group in January and have agreed to work with them as the masterplan is developed and the works are planned and implemented.
10	Conservative	<p>There has been ongoing issues in relation to the bus lane on Bolton Road will the Council suspend this for a trail period?</p> <p>Cllr SHAHBAZ ARIF</p>
	Cllr O'Brien	<p>I've not been made aware of any ongoing concerns with this bus lane and we would therefore not consider suspending it at this stage. We will however, review it to ensure that it is operating safely and that the signing and lining associated with it is correct.</p> <p>I would also just add that with the first phase of bus franchising set to be starting in September, including buses along this route, now would be a quite frankly ridiculous moment to remove the one piece of public transport infrastructure that will help drive up improvements in reliability and patronage. So I find it quite remarkable that Bury West Councillors/Conservative Group want to pursue such a self-defeating and nonsensical policy, right when it will deliver enormous benefits for their local residents and the wider town.</p>
11	Conservative	<p>As part of the Council's health and wellbeing initiatives would consideration be given to promote learning lifesaving CPR skills?</p> <p>Cllr LIAM DEAN</p>
	Cllr Tariq	<p>Bury Adult Learning Centre deliver First Aid/CPR as a bespoke option for teams within the council and we have mandatory first aid online course via E-learning. The council also provide a list of local training providers should local people or groups want to access first aid courses.</p> <p>Evidence shows in Bury we have around 95 out of hospital cardiac arrests each year (British Heart Foundation. 2021), of which around 14 of these happen within the community (the other 80% happen in the home).</p> <p>At present we have defibrillators in all of our leisure centres and some of our parks, offices and health centres. Some of the challenges cited in the evidence about the effectiveness of having them placed throughout the community include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knowledge and awareness needs to be raised, it is not just about placement - Willingness to use - support and training for the public is required - Responsibilities around acquisition and maintenance

	Party / Department Response	Question
		<p>- Registration and regulation requirements</p> <p>We also work with local groups to ensure they are aware of potential funding opportunities for them to purchase additional defibs for their local communities should they want them.</p> <p>Bury Council did some work several years ago to encourage schools to make provision. Many did. More recently, DfE has promoted defibs to encourage those schools that still don't have them, to provide them.</p> <p>Finally, we work with our voluntary and community organisations to promote the uptake of first aid courses, with many groups particularly those related to sport and recreation required to do them as part of their usual practice.</p>
12	Conservative	<p>What scrutiny/checking mechanisms are undertaken by the Council in relation to the erection of new street lamp columns?</p> <p>Cllr KHALID HUSSAIN</p>
	Cllr Quinn	<p>New street lamp columns are erected following a design process that identifies the best location for each street lamp column to achieve the required lighting levels set out in the lighting design and layout. All works are carried out through the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Tender via the winning tenderer using equipment that has been specified by the Bury Council Street Lighting Section and procured through the Councils Authorised Procurement Process. Once each column replacement scheme is completed the site is checked to ensure that the new street lamp column are sited correctly according to the design layout.</p>
13	Conservative	<p>Why has it taken so long for the proposed changes to spur house to accommodate the PRU to be presented to the planning committee?</p> <p>Cllr LUIS MCBRIAR</p>
	Cllr O'Brien	<p>External planning and design consultants have been working with the leadership team of Spring Lane School for some time to ensure that the proposed adaptations fully meet the needs of the school, and also address any concerns that arise from pre-application discussions with the Council's planning team. The detailed programme that has been in place for over twelve months suggested that a planning submission was due to be made in January 2023. This was delayed by several weeks but it is not anticipated that this will impact on the overall programme.</p>
14	Conservative	<p>Residents have expressed concern about the quality of pavement remedial work after Virgin Media have installed cabling. What was the tendering process</p>

	Party / Department Response	Question
		<p>used whereby Virgin Media were awarded the contract and what input did Bury Council have in stipulating the quality of pavement reinstatement?</p> <p>Cllr DENE VERNON</p>
	Cllr Quinn	<p>The works carried out by Virgin media are monitored whilst they are on site. The reinstatements and check at six months and again just before the two year guarantee finishes. Any defects found at the time of inspections are passed to Virgin Media to rectify in accordance with The New Roads and streetworks Act legislation.</p> <p>In relation to the tendering process for Virgin media works. This would be something operations would not be involved with.</p>
15	Ind	<p>Residents of my Ward are very concerned and feeling powerless regarding the new mast on Sycamore Road plus the many wooden telegraph poles being erected in the area without any consultation all by IX Wireless.</p> <p>I understand that there's a 12 month period to object but only AFTER the pole has been erected.</p> <p>I X Wireless state they liaise closely with local Planning and Highways to obtain all necessary permits and permissions and yet are able to erect the poles under permitted development.</p> <p>Do they have/need permission as it's clear from their own website description of the technology that it is not fixed wire to properties so does not meet the description of the telegraph pole so surely this needs planning consent?</p> <p>Residents ask why does Sycamore Road need another supplier when the area has a connected system including new Virgin Media super fibre broadband going live soon.</p> <p>Without incurring legal costs how can residents have any say in the actions of IX Wireless and how can the council help my constituents?</p> <p>Cllr Y Wright</p>
	Cllr O'Brien	<p>The Council is aware that there are a number of telecommunication installations across the Borough, including on Sycamore Road, by a company called IX Wireless.</p> <p>I understand that the company are also rolling out this infrastructure in other districts across the northwest.</p> <p>IX Wireless is one of many companies that are responding to the Government's National Infrastructure Strategy to improve digital connectivity across the country. Whilst the Local Planning Authority and the local Highway Authority</p>

	Party / Department Response	Question
		<p>have liaised with IX Wireless around the infrastructure, their ability to influence the principle, siting and appearance of these are limited by national regulations and legislation.</p> <p>For example, much of the infrastructure does not require formal planning consents as the telegraph poles are deemed 'permitted development'. Masts are those columns which provide digital connections via transmissions, and these require a form of planning consent called 'prior approval'. This means that the principle of them is already consented, but the local planning authority can influence their siting and appearance to an extent.</p> <p>Likewise, our Highway Department only has a very narrow remit in how these installations get implemented. They too are limited to matters around siting and impact on highway safety – but on on issues of the actual principle or broad location of them. They cannot refuse permits on the aesthetics of the structures.</p> <p>There are no limits in terms of the number of providers in any one location. The Government encourages competition in the market and just because there is a sub-surface provider does not mean that there is no need for above surface infrastructure.</p> <p>Whilst the Council supports the continued role out of telecommunications to improve digital connectivity and the importance this has for the local economy, it shares the frustrations of the limits that we have as a local authority to control the type, scale and location of infrastructure that is being implemented.</p> <p>The Highway and Planning Authorities have recently raised these concerns directly with OFCOM, the telecommunications regulator. Unfortunately, there does not seem to be a way to challenge how these are implemented other than through changes to national policy.</p>