

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>The Council</b>
<b>Meeting date:</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> July 2023</b>
<b>Title of report:</b>	<b>Leaders' Report</b>
<b>Report by:</b>	<b>Leader of the Council</b>
<b>Decision type:</b>	<b>Non key decision</b>
<b>Ward(s) to which the report relates:</b>	All Wards.
<b>Summary:</b>	To provide a summary of the work of the Cabinet since this last report, an update on progress against the corporate plan, and a statement from the Leader of the Council.

## **1 Leader's note**

- 1.1 I am pleased to provide Council with my report covering the period from 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023 to 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023.
- 1.2 In this period since the last regular meeting of Council there has been two cabinet meetings. In April we approved a borough-wide cultural strategy which sustains the innovation developed during our time as GM Town of Culture, supports economic development, and contributes to a 'wellness' model of community health and wellbeing.
- 1.3 At the June meeting of Cabinet, I presented the report regarding applications submitted to the Council for the formal designation of a Neighbourhood Area and Forum in Prestwich. This is an exciting time for Prestwich and I'm delighted this forum has been set up to offer new ways for residents to engage and new opportunities for the Council to develop a plan alongside residents. This takes another step towards levelling-up the whole borough.
- 1.4 Our decision in this year's budget to designate a Bury Veterans & Cadets Community Support Fund took a step further on recently when we published a press release about the fund and opened it to applications. This support fund of £20,000 is designed to fund local voluntary and community groups which support cadets and veterans. Groups can apply for up to £2,500 to support cadets and/or veterans life chances, networks, mental health, barriers and cultural initiatives.
- 1.5 In May I spoke at the UKREiif event on the Atom Valley panel. I was joined by the Mayor of Greater Manchester, the Chair of the Atom Valley

Board, and the Principal and Chief Executive of Hopwood Hall. We discussed how the Atom Valley project will play a major role in levelling-up the north east of Greater Manchester, as well as the city region as a whole. The project will power prosperity, growth, new housing, skills and sustainability across our city region.

- 1.6 I'm very pleased at the progress which is continuing to be made at a Greater Manchester level on bus franchising. At GMCA on 9<sup>th</sup> June members agreed the procurement process of Tranche 2 of the Bus Franchising scheme, which relates to Oldham and Rochdale, as well as parts of Bury, Salford and Manchester. It was also announced in June that the new Bee AnyBus + Tram tickets delivered by TfGM will make combined bus and tram travel around 20% cheaper.

## 2 Reporting progress against stated commitments in Corporate Plan

- 2.1 The following table provides a brief summary of the Council's progress against the priorities set out in our Corporate Plan covering 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023 to 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

Corporate Plan Priority	Deliverables
1. <b>Supporting residents and businesses with the cost-of-living crisis</b>	The new anti-poverty action plan for 23/24 has been developed and is being monitored through the anti-poverty steering group. Progress has been good against all key actions and the plan is on track.
2. <b>Improving Children's Lives</b>	<p>In June we launched the Family Safeguarding model of practice in Bury, which will change how we work with families and aims to keep more children safely at home with their families. Partners joined us in Knowsley Place for a lunchtime launch event, and while we wait for the rest of the adult practitioners to join the teams – expected in August – the teams are testing out the new systems, the implementing the methodology from the training delivered throughout the year so far.</p> <p>The first cohort of our international recruits have now joined the team, with 4 social workers commencing in post on 12th June. They are nearing the end of their first months' induction programme and will be starting to take on case holding responsibility. This will enable us to release more agency social workers, and we have already exited some of our project teams.</p>

	<p>In June the national DfE adviser Mark Riddell completed a review of our care leavers service and we expect to review a letter with recommendations imminently, which will feed into our existing improvement plans. For example, in April the Local Government Association facilitated a session with our Exec Team on their responsibilities as corporate parents, and they also delivered 2 sessions for our elected members in June.</p>
<p><b>3. Achieving Inclusive Economic Growth</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Radcliffe Hub &amp; Market Chambers</b> – the Council have completed the final design stage for the project (RIBA 4) prior to beginning the main construction works. Utility diversions and other enabling works are currently being delivered on the site. The Planning application will be discussed by Elected Members in the July cycle and Members will be offered the opportunity to give final approval for the main construction works on July 12<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>2. <b>Prestwich Village</b> – The Joint Venture have completed RIBA Stage 2 of design and Members are reporting back to Cabinet with the emerging masterplan and business plan for the development on July 12<sup>th</sup>. Members will be asked to release funding to deliver the RIBA Stage 3 design and planning application at Cabinet this month.</li> <li>3. <b>Bury Flexi Hall &amp; Market</b> – Officers have made good progress on both design and vacant possession workstreams. The project is working to complete the final stage of design (RIBA Stage 4) and will be submitting a planning application to the August Committee.</li> <li>4. <b>Mill Gate</b> – The Joint Venture will ask for permission to engage with the public regarding the emerging masterplan for the asset. This plan considers significant housing growth on the site and opportunities to enhance retail and leisure provision on the site. The JV plans to develop a strategic regeneration framework for the asset over the next year which will provide a wholistic development framework for regeneration on the site in the medium to long run – and will link to other projects being delivered nearby (Interchange and Flexi Hall).</li> <li>5. <b>Brownfield Housing Development</b> – Planning permission was granted for the Seedfield and Green Street housing projects in the June cycle. This will facilitate a transfer of the land to developers, will generate a capital receipt to Bury Council and will allow construction of the houses to begin. School Street will be moving to Planning in August. These</li> </ol>

	<p>site will release 309 homes – 142 are affordable. This will generate a capital receipt to Bury Council of c£5m.</p> <p>6. <b>Fern Hill Travellers Site</b> – After a difficult construction period we expect to complete the complete refurbishment of the site and welcome the travellers back to the site at the end of August.</p>
<p>4. Improving the Health &amp; Care System</p>	<p><b>Intermediate Care Transformation Plan:</b> In terms of the adult social care specific programme on intermediate care provision a number of steps have been taken including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training needs analysis completed to ensure blended roles are working.</li> <li>• Provider and service user Physical Disabilities network established.</li> <li>• Assistive Tech team established and operational.</li> <li>• Implement remodelled Housing Assistance Policy/release DFG</li> <li>• Deliver contract between Council and GP Fed for payment for Staying Well service</li> </ul> <p>In addition as a whole health and care system partners are invested in a project commenced to scope and right size intermediate care bed provision, including reviewing best practice from elsewhere.</p> <p><b>Care Quality Commission Inspection Readiness:</b> Preparations for Inspection continue including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peer Challenge improvement plan prepared.</li> <li>• Updated self-assessment completed.</li> <li>• ASC performance Framework designed</li> </ul> <p>The wider Council leadership briefed on the progress and update paper presented to policy advisory group</p>
<p>5. Reducing Health Inequalities</p>	<p><b>Reducing the life expectancy gap by focusing on preventing and reducing the impact of the 3 key contributors CVD, Cancer and Liver Disease:</b> A plan of delivery has been co-designed and agreed between the GP Fed and public health which will increase secondary prevention working with all GP Practices across Bury. The wellness structure and priorities have been developed and the role out of the new way of working particularly linking with PCNs has begun. The first version of the JSNA has been completed and it is currently being socialised with all partners to ensure ongoing developments can be made to meet partners needs.</p>
<p>6. Tackling Climate Change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 252 street lighting columns replaced with LEDs – Phase 2 programme</li> <li>• Tender exercise for Phase 3 street lighting replacement programme carried out</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate Action Plan updated in March 2023 and published at the following link: Bury's Climate Action Strategy and Action Plan - Bury Council. Annual update to be completed March 2024.</li> </ul>
<p>7. Public Sector Reform</p>	<p><b>Embedding Public Sector Leadership Teams in each neighbourhood:</b> Public Service Leadership Teams are meeting in each of the 5 neighbourhoods, building relationships, understanding common priorities, having a shared understanding of community assets, and reporting outcomes to monthly Public Service Reform Board.</p> <p><b>Taking a Person and Community Centred approach to Public Sector reform:</b> Description of a consistent framework for a person and community centred approach to public service reform agreed and review of opportunities for shared learning consistency of approach underway.</p>
<p>8. Delivering sustainable Housing Growth</p>	<p>The Six Town Housing Options appraisal has been undertaken and a report considered by Cabinet on the 7<sup>th</sup> June which determined an in-principle decision to deliver the Housing Management and Maintenance Service to 7,700 council tenants in house. A detailed project plan has been developed.</p> <p>Below is a summary of activity undertaken, to ensure we return to Cabinet November / December to achieve the final decision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Every workstream has now been held their first meeting and have included colleagues from Bury Council and Six Town Housing. The workstreams are HR &amp; TUPE, ICT, Finance, Governance &amp; Assurance, Housing &amp; Neighbourhood Services, Property Services, Marketing &amp; Comms.</li> <li>- The consolidated Project Action Plan has been shared with all leads for checking and populating further.</li> <li>- Each workstream area are drafting the purpose/objective[s] within the context of the Project.</li> <li>- Workstream meetings will be held on a weekly basis in the first instance to keep momentum.</li> </ul> <p>In addition to the plan now being in place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Tenants Test of Opinion and obtained quotes from organisations who are familiar with this work – the documents have been drafted.</li> <li>- The aim is for document sign off and launch (July/August)</li> <li>- Quotes for independent tenant support</li> <li>- Joint front of House/Reception Service at the Town Hall to commence from the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2023 as a soft landing.</li> </ul>

- STH Neighbourhood plan is in first draft for wider discussion, to ensure the team Bury and PSR fit and compliance with Tenant Satisfaction Measures standards.
- A service improvement plan for void management is drafted for wider engagement and action.
- A table of existing service standards is in draft form,
- The EDI framework is being finalised. will be completed next week, which connects the and the Regulator of Social Housing expectations to ensure compliance
- Savings assessments are being undertaken.

- **Housing Development to deliver 700 new homes.**

Significant progress has been made with the delivery of the Council's Brownfield Land Disposal Programme to increase the supply of both market and affordable housing, to help meet housing needs in the borough and reduce pressures on the housing waiting list. The programme is forecast to deliver a minimum of 1,111 homes (both market and affordable) over the next few years. These new homes are planned to be built on the sites listed in the table below and offer a wide range of house types and tenures, including specialist accommodation for older people and those with additional needs:

### Housing Development – Brownfield Land Disposal Programme

Site Name	Number of New Homes (market housing)	Number of Affordable Homes
Seedfield	84 homes	21
East Lancs Paper Mill	400 homes	100
School Street	90 homes	23
Green Street	132 apartments	92
Humphrey House	30 – 64 apartments	TBC
Former Police Station	70 bed extra care scheme	70

	Pyramid Park and Townfields	148 homes	Min 24
	Wheatfields	30 homes	30
	East Lancs Paper Mill (Island Site)	27 homes	27
	William Kemp Heaton	43 homes	43
	Willow Street	13 homes	13
	Fletcher Fold	44 homes	44
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,111 (min)</b>	<b>487 (min)</b>
	Several other Council owned brownfield sites are currently being considered for housing development.		
9. Celebrating culture and supporting our creative sector	<p>Bury's new Cultural Strategy has been published and was launched at a community event at Bury Market on 19th May. As part of rolling out some activity, an events programme is currently being planned, funded by £250k of UK Shared Prosperity Funding which will fund a number of inclusive events across the Borough between now and April 2025. There is a requirement to monitor the spend and outputs such as number of events and number of participants and there a system has been put in place to do that.</p> <p>At Bury Arts Museum, a donation station will be installed, we are just waiting for the arrival of the new chip n pin machine which will be integrated into the station. This is following feedback to the public consultation about the future of the Bury Arts Museum as part of the budget consultation process earlier this year. Plans have also started to think about commercialisation options for the Arts Museum and the team are considering some early options before a further public consultation.</p>		

### 3 Additional reports

- 3.1 Attached as an appendix to this report are a summary of Cabinet decisions and urgent decisions taken since the last ordinary council meeting.

**List of Background Papers:-**

None identified