

GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 MARCH 2023

FOSTER CARER PROFESSIONAL FEES, MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCES AND INCENTIVES

1. Councillor Lucy Smith, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, presented the report which provided information about the professional fees and maintenance allowances paid to Bury approved Foster Carers and how this compared to other Greater Manchester authorities, proposed a range of incentives to strengthen our current offer to Foster Carers, and considered the amendment of Council Tax Section 13A Discount Policy, in relation to applying discretionary council tax relief to approved Foster Carers and Supported Lodgings Hosts for Bury commencing in the year 2024/25. An additional allowance would be provided until that time to cover Council Tax costs.
2. It also provided information around an evidence-based Fostering model called 'The Mockingbird model' originally developed by the Fostering Network, and outlined Bury's involvement in the development of a 'Regional Foster Carer Recruitment Campaign and Hub' via a Greater Manchester Combined Authority alongside seven other Greater Manchester authorities, which will complement Foster Carer recruitment strategies and assist in an increase in approvals of fostering families.
3. With regards to the Scrutiny recommendation, the Chair advised that financial incentives couldn't be backdated as there was no available budget but advised that some additional financial support had already been provided through the second round of housing support funding where provision had been made for foster carers.
4. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

STAR LEADERSHIP ACADEMY RADCLIFFE - FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS/ SITE REQUIREMENTS

5. Councillor Lucy Smith, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, presented the report which set out additional costs to enable the Council to contribute to the provision of temporary modular accommodation to enable the new school in Radcliffe school to open to its first cohort of pupils in September 2024, prior to the new school building being completed in early 2025. Members voiced their cross-party support for securing the new school despite the setbacks outside of the Council's control.
6. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

LOCAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY - CONSULTATION DRAFT

7. Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth and Skills, presented the report which set out how the Council will meet its ambitions to develop an integrated transport network that will support a healthy, green, connected and thriving Borough through a Local Transport Strategy that aligned with the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040. Councillor O'Brien extended his thanks to officers and Members for their work on developing this long term, ambitious strategy.

8. Members discussed the report, noting the objective to change behaviours around travel and underpinning this through the transport system. It was noted this would take significant time to come to implement but demonstrated the value of the GMCA and of devolution.
9. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

WHITEFIELD - APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANTS AND CONSULTATION PROCESS TO CREATE A VISION FOR INVESTMENT INTO THE TOWN CENTRE

10. Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth & Skills, presented the report which provided an update on progress regarding the High Streets Task Force project and recommended the appointment of Planit-IE to deliver a phased programme of consultation. Members discussed the report, noting that Planit-IE's involvement allowed the project to be broadened, in scope and in area, and Councillors for the local Wards voiced their support.
11. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

RAMSBOTTOM TOWN CENTRE PLAN - UPDATE, ISSUES AND RESOURCES

12. Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth & Skills, presented the report which provided an update on progress made with several of the proposals regarding the Ramsbottom Town Centre Plan where early external funding opportunities have been identified and secured, and sought approval for the appointment of consultants to undertake feasibility work for the proposed enterprise centre and understand the potential of the area.
13. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF PYRAMID PARK

14. Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth and Skills, presented the report which sought approval to dispose of the Pyramid Park site as part of the Accelerated Land Disposals Programme in order for the BLRF bid to be progressed for housing, complementing adjacent sites and meeting intergenerational housing needs as identified in the Housing Strategy. Members voiced their ambition for zero carbon developments and the inclusion of nesting bricks.
15. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE PROVIDER FEE UPLIFTS 2023/24

16. Councillor Tamoor Tariq, Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Health, and Wellbeing, presented the report which detailed the fee engagement process including timelines and proposed recommendations for the fee proposal to contracted providers of adult social care services for the period 2023/24. Members noted this had been developed in partnership with providers and that it marked the end of the phased approach to implementing the Real Living Wage.
17. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

MARKET SUSTAINABILITY PLAN 2023/24

18. Councillor Tamoor Tariq, Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Health, and Wellbeing, presented the report which set out the Market Sustainability Plan that had been developed alongside Care at Home Providers and Older People Care Homes and looked for approval to submit to the Department of Health and Social Care.
19. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

HOUSING ASSISTANCE POLICY

20. Councillor Tamoor Tariq, Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Health, and Wellbeing, presented the report which reviewed the objectives of Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) usage, adaptations, and refreshed the Housing Assistance policy.
21. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE - GREAT PLACES ACCOMMODATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES REVIEW

22. Councillor Tamoor Tariq, Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Health, and Wellbeing, presented the report which sought to extend the contract with Great Places to 31 March 2024 with the potential for a second year subject to continued satisfactory performance. It was noted this could save the Council over £35,000 over two years.
23. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

HIGHWAYS CAPITAL PROGRAMME - HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE FUNDING 2023/24 TO 2026/27 AND INTEGRATED TRANSPORT BLOCK 22/23

24. Councillor Alan Quinn, Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Operations, presented the report which set out proposed priorities for Highway Investment Strategy tranche 3 (HIS3) and the Highway Maintenance element of the City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlements (CRSTS) funds, and set out the priorities of the Integrated Transport Block funding.
25. Members discussed the report, noting the £6.1m allotted to GM for highway repairs in the recent Budget announcements was welcomed but wasn't enough to meet demand. Prevention of potholes was preferable and more cost effective but unachievable with chronic underfunding as existing problems took priority. Members also discussed improving communications of when resurfacing works would be taking place and also manage expectations for how long the process would take.
26. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

BURY COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN 2023/24 - STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

27. Councillor Tahir Rafiq, Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR, presented the report which set out the progress made in 2022/23 to deliver against the priorities set out in the Council and NHS GM (Bury) Corporate Plan and set out a proposed approach for developing the 2023/24 Corporate Plan. The proposed approach would ensure there is clarity in terms of corporate and service-led priorities, the milestones

that need to be achieved by quarter and the indicators by which progress will be measured.

28. It was noted that there will be transparent links between activity analysis and financial outturn reporting to ensure continued visibility of the savings programme and associated risks and, in response to Members' questions, it was noted that consideration and monitoring of the reserves strategy could also be included, reflecting the work completed as part of budget considerations.
29. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

SUPPORTING BURY'S VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE

20. Councillor Richard Gold, Cabinet Member for Finance and Communities, presented the report which set out the revised Service Level Agreement with Bury Voluntary and Community Faith Alliance (Bury VCFA). Members discussed the importance of the VCFA and the breadth of work and support they provide and noted that it was important to retain the Council's contribution.
21. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

RESTRUCTURE OF THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT

20. Councillor Tahir Rafiq, Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR, presented the report which sought approval for redundancy costs associated with the restructure of the Council's Finance Department.
21. Cabinet agreed to recommend approval to Council.

GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 APRIL 2023

BURY CULTURAL STRATEGY

20. Councillor Charlotte Morris, Cabinet Member for Culture and the Economy, presented the report regarding the development a borough-wide culture strategy which sustained innovation, supported economic development and contributed to a "wellness" model of community health and wellbeing. She thanked officers and Curated Place, as well as community groups and cultural partners who had co-produced the strategy. Councillor Morris confirmed the Overview and Scrutiny recommendation had been met, and confirmed that this was realistic but ambitious, and saw the borough working as a cultural ecosystem to bid for funding opportunities.
21. Members discussed the report, noting their approval and the importance of culture being acknowledged in the strategy as large, formal, more traditional activities as well as smaller, local events. Members also noted that the structure underpinning this would be important.
22. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

PROPOSALS TO ESTABLISH SPECIALIST RESOURCED PROVISION AT CHANTLERS PRIMARY SCHOOL AND WOODBANK PRIMARY SCHOOL

23. Councillor Lucy Smith, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, presented the report regarding two separate statutory proposals published by the local authority in respect of Chantlers Primary School and Woodbank Primary School regarding the establishment of specialist resourced provision units at both schools with effect from September 2023. Resourced Provision units enable children and young people with an Education Health and Care Plan to remain in a mainstream school setting, with that setting being able to offer enhanced support to meet specific additional needs.
24. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

PROPOSALS TO LOWER THE AGE RANGE AT FAIRFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

25. Councillor Lucy Smith, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, presented the report regarding a prescribed alteration to change the age range of Fairfield Primary School. It is proposed to lower the age range of Fairfield Primary School from 3-11 year olds to 2-11 year olds, thus creating a 2 year old nursery provision with effect from September 2023. It was noted that, at the request of the Governing Body of Fairfield Primary school, the Local Authority has published the proposal and has consulted on that proposal.
26. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/24

27. Councillor Tamoor Tariq, Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Health, and Wellbeing, presented the report regarding proposed raises in several Adult Social Care (ASC) fees and charges to take effect in April 2023. This would see adult care service setting fees (e.g. Residential Care Homes, Nursing Care Homes, Domiciliary Care Providers) uplifted to match the 2023/24 fees paid to commissioned providers which were agreed at March Cabinet, and other fees uplifted by 10.1% in line with the November 2022 Autumn Statement.
28. Members noted that these prices were cheaper than private care, and it was noted that any additional income generated due to these proposed increases would be immaterial because the charging of ASC fees and charges was based on a resident's ability to pay and was therefore means tested.
29. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

FUTURE OF BURY TOWN HALL AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDINGS OCCUPIED BY THE COUNCIL

30. Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth and Skills, presented the report which presented the findings of the consultation exercise regarding the preferred option of a phased refurbishment of the Town Hall and outlined progress on the transfer of the Council's lease obligation for 3 Knowsley Place to Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust.
31. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

RADCLIFFE HUB PROJECT – ENABLING WORKS

32. Councillor Eamonn O’Brien, Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth and Skills, presented the report which outlined the works packages that, in accordance with the Radcliffe Hub project programme, now need to be instructed via an enabling works contract. He confirmed that monies needed to be defrayed by March 2025 and advised that there would be disruption during the works and therefore further communications and engagement would go out to residents. It was noted that the detailed drawings and programme that inform these works were appended to Part B of this paper.
33. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

BURY MARKET AND FLEXIHALL - PROPERTY ACQUISITION

34. Councillor Eamonn O’Brien, Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth and Skills, presented the report which request approval for acquiring a site which sits within the proposed footprint of the new Flexihall building. Following announcement of the LUF funding, negotiations had taken place via specialist advisors and terms to facilitate vacant possession of the property were now recommended for approval. Members discussed the potential for solar panels on this and other developments, and it was noted full details were contained in the Part B paper later in the agenda.
35. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

BURY TOWN CENTRE PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER

36. Councillor Richard Gold, Cabinet Member for Finance and Communities, presented the report which outlined an application for a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) produced in conjunction with the Bury Business Improvement District (BID). Due to complaints made, investigations had been carried out and work with partners done to come to the best resolution to enable members of the public to enjoy Bury Town Centre, resulting proposals to ban amplification of music and the consumption of alcohol in public places.
37. Members discussed the need for appropriate signage, an example of which was included in the papers, and it was noted that there would be a period of education people on the new rules, and exceptions could be made when appropriate.
38. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL’S SENIOR MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

39. Councillor Eamonn O’Brien, Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth and Skills, presented the report which set out proposals for consultation regarding a review of the wider Chief Officer structure, particularly in relation to the Corporate Core Services. This also delivered on the outstanding balance of the £200k savings from Chief Officer costs within the 22/23 budget and confirmed leadership arrangements for the Corporate Core Department from within existing capacity.
40. Members discussed the report, noting that the Employment Panel would be involved with the appointment of the Executive Director (Strategy & Transformation), and

that there would be a separate set of proposals to achieve the outstanding savings target.

41. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

URGENT BUSINESS

42. Members noted the sad passing of Carl Jakeway, paying tribute to him and offering condolences to his family and his colleagues.

GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 JUNE 2023

STRATEGIC HOUSING REVIEW

43. Councillor Clare Cummins, Cabinet Member for Housing Services, presented the report regarding an independent strategic review of housing management arrangements commissioned from Campbell Tickell and future options for management of housing stock and related activities. It was noted that tonight's report only asked for an in-principle decision, with the subsequent transformation programme and engagement with stakeholders, tenants, and leaseholders critical in developing the proposals further.

44. Members discussed the report, noting that in 2019 the Council and Six Town Housing started a closer working relationship. Through that, it became clearer that closer working served to bridge communication gaps and had benefits for tenants, residents and the Council, and therefore the proposals outlined in this report were welcomed. It was noted that there were significant concerns and risks, which would be managed in due course, but ultimately this focussed on securing better value and better community for all.

45. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

PROPOSED NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA AND FORUM FOR PRESTWICH

46. Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth, presented the report regarding applications submitted to the Council for the formal designation of a Neighbourhood Area and Forum in Prestwich. Members discussed the report, noting this was an exciting time for Prestwich and this would offer new ways for residents to engage and new opportunities for the Council to develop plan alongside residents and in dialogue with them.

47. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

ADULT DISCHARGE SCHEMES

48. Councillor Tamoor Tariq, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, presented the report which sought permission to commission eight General Nursing Discharge to Assess beds to form part of the wider Adult Discharge Schemes that will be available to support hospitals, residents and the health and social care system over the coming year. The beds would be funded via the Adult Social Care Discharge Grant and therefore not impact the Council's Budget.

49. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

SALE OF FORMER POLICE STATION, IRWELL STREET, BURY

50. Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth, presented the report regarding the proposed sale of Former Police Station, Irwell Street, Bury. The site is part of the Accelerated Land Disposal Programme and has been vacant for many years; this proposal would address the vacant site and also the Council's Housing Strategy through developing it into a residential care home.

51. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

BURY CORPORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE AND DELIVERY REPORT QUARTER FOUR & END OF YEAR 2022-23

52. Councillor Tahir Rafiq, Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR, presented the report which provided a summary of key delivery and performance that occurred during Quarter Four (January – March) 2022-23, aligned to the 3R priorities, and provided an End of Year summary. Members discussed the forthcoming review of the strategy and the potential role of scrutiny.

53. Cabinet noted the information set out in the report.