

No.	Party	Questioner	Question	Response	Response
1	Con	Cllr L McBriar	Please could the relevant Cabinet Member advise as to why Bury Council did not adopt the SEND Code of Practice when it was published in 2014 and only adopted the code in 2022?	Cllr Smith	<p>While Bury was a somewhat late adopter of the SEND Code of Practice, progress against some of the recommendations was recognised in the 2019 revisit with further action progress needed within joint commissioning and the Education, Health and Care Process.</p> <p>Since 2021 Bury Council and partners have been consistently working to ensure Bury's compliance with the SEND Code of Practice. A key pillar of the Code of Practice is that we work collaboratively with parents and carers in developing systems and service so the full implementation of all areas of the code of practice require detailed coproduction. This work has been accelerated since 2022. An example of this is the Graduated Approach and the revised Local offer. The Graduated Approach is recognised as an example of good practice with GM. Over the last 2 years we have been systematically embedding the SEND Code of practice so that we are now compliant. Examples of this work include the introduction of the Banding Criteria, full rebuilding of the EHCP Teams, development of SEND Support offer and more recently the full restructure of the education Dept.</p> <p>We are now in a position where can see the benefits of all this work in terms of our data e.g. timeliness of assessment being up to 70% for all new assessment within 20-weeks from a position in 2021 of 27%</p>
2	Labour	Cllr E Moss	The cabinet recently approved the Bury Economic Development Strategy. Can the Leader outline to council why this strategy is so important for our borough?	Cllr Morris	<p>The Economic Development Strategy forms a vital part of the Borough's response to the economic impacts of the pandemic and the current cost of living crises and has been developed in partnership with stakeholders to articulate a shared set of priorities and actions to address both the economic challenges but also the economic opportunities identified for Bury. It drives forward priorities around the three pillars of Place, People and Business and the Economy and will help to deliver the ambitions of our Let's Do It! Strategy. It is progress on these actions and priorities over the next decade that will form the basis for assessing the impact of the EDS. Some of these actions will be intensifying local focus of existing activity, e.g., delivery of externally funded projects, delivery of town centre plans and further regeneration activity across the borough. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund projects and future devolved activity through the GM Trailblazer deal will also bring forward new actions for delivery. It is important to acknowledge that other strategic plans will have invaluable contributions to achieving the cross cutting workstreams identified within the EDS such as our Housing Strategy, the Climate Action Strategy, the Transport Strategy and the Places for Everyone Plan.</p>

3	Labour	Cllr G Staples-Jones	Could the Leader update this council on the improvements made to Chapelfield Nature Reserve?	Cllr Quinn	<p>Earlier this year the Council applied for and was awarded a grant of £40K from the Greater Manchester Environment Fund.</p> <p>The grant, together with £27k of Section 106 money will be used to create new footpaths, install a boardwalk to cover boggy walkways, treat invasive Japanese Knotweed and undertake woodland management works. There are also plans to repair culverts carrying the stream, remove debris, plant more fruit trees in an orchard, and make the entrance ways more welcoming to visitors.</p> <p>The works will be tendered in the next few months and it is hoped to complete the project this winter.</p> <p>Part of the project will be delivered by volunteers and anybody who would like to help out should contact the Parks and Countryside Team.</p>
4	Con	Cllr J Rydeheard	Can the relevant Cabinet Member please provide the number of trees that are in the backlog to be pruned or removed?	Cllr Staples-Jones	<p>We currently have a backlog of 512 highway and parks tree jobs. It is worth noting that between the months of April and October, due to trees being in leaf, approximately two-thirds of our complaints are generated, so this number should be near the annual peak. In this years budget we allocated an additional £125,000 to help manage the tree backlog and a further £50,000 to deal with trees that have succumbed to Ash Die Back. Thanks to this additional funding we have managed to reduce the backlog of high priority health and safety tree work by approximately 20%.</p>
5	Radcliffe first	Cllr M Smith	How many schools in Bury will be affected by the RAAC issue?	Cllr Smith	<p>The LA has provided information, advice and guidance to all schools and academies over the last two years. Amongst other things, this advised on the need to carry out visual inspections to verify the presence of RAAC. In addition, in late 2022, the LA commission intrusive surveys of all maintained and Voluntary Schools for which it is the responsible body. These surveys, completed by May 2023 confirmed that none of those schools had RAAC present. Trusts and Diocesan Authorities are the Responsible Bodies for Academies and Voluntary Aided Schools, and are required to report directly to the Department for Education. The LA has been made aware of two schools that were suspected of having RAAC, but have now been confirmed to be free from the material.</p>

6	Labour	Cllr J Grimshaw	Following the work that the Council undertook on developing a Race Equality Strategy what is the Council planning for Black History Month and how will this assist with wider community cohesion?	Cllr Gold	<p>During Black History Month in October will be raising the awareness of, and celebrating our local communities, with the most recent census data showing a doubling of black population over the past decade.</p> <p>The theme for Black History Month this year is Saluting Our Sisters. To mark the month a number of activities are being arranged including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showcasing community organisations led by, and predominantly working with Black communities in Bury, including visits by senior officials within the Council • Bury Art Museum is hosting “AM I NOT A WOMAN AND A SISTER”, a film installation in partnership with national charity City Hearts. • Bury Libraries will have a special collection on Borrowbox • Derby High School are producing a pupil-led piece of work that will be displayed in school • The LGBTQI+ Forum has organised a special workshop focusing on hate crime against black LGBT people on 25th October 2023. • Promotion of the work of the Inclusive Public Services approach hosted by the Council which has a focus on inclusive recruitment and mutual mentoring. • The Met have a performance by Malawian performers Gasper Nali & Michael Mountain. <p>Information on events and the sharing of stories including from our Inclusion Working Group will be available on the Council’s website and promoted through community networks in the coming weeks.</p>
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7	Labour	Cllr I Rizvi	Can the Leader provide an update on the second phase of consultation Prestwich Village Regeneration Plans?	Cllr O'Brien	<p>The Council and Muse have launched a second community conversation on the future of Prestwich Village, unveiling new CGIs and an updated masterplan following record levels of engagement in the previous conversation earlier in the year.</p> <p>The CGIs and updated masterplan highlight how the joint venture has used community feedback from the first conversation to further shape the regeneration plans.</p> <p>The second phase consultation is now live and closes on Sunday 8th October 2023. There are plenty of opportunities for people to take part and have their say:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online questionnaire at www.yourprestwich.com • Freepost questionnaire in the newsletter that is being delivered to all Prestwich addresses • Email info@yourprestwich.com or call 0800 689 1095 • Write to 'Freepost HAVE YOUR SAY' • Drop-in sessions hosted by the team on Saturday 16 September 2023, 11am – 3pm and Wednesday 20 September 2023, 5pm – 8pm at Prestwich Library • A quiet hour is being held for residents that have neurodiverse conditions on Saturday 16 September 2023, 10am – 11am at Prestwich Library • Sign up for an online Q&A at www.yourprestwich.com on Monday 25 September 2023, 6:30pm – 7:30pm where you can learn more about the plans and ask the project team questions • Follow on Instagram and Facebook: @YourPrestwich <p>The Council and Muse are using the variety of consultation methods to ensure the consultation is as inclusive as possible.</p>
8	Con	Cllr D Vernon	It has been reported that Bury Council is seeking to install ANPR cameras at sites across the Borough and be given powers to enforce moving traffic offences. How would this be operated and what is the anticipated cost of setting up such a scheme and the staffing numbers and ongoing costs to run it?	Cllr O'Brien	<p>Bury Council is applying to the DfT for powers to enforce moving traffic offences. If we are granted these powers, it will allow us to enforce offences including entering a yellow box junction when the exit is not clear. Enforcement of this type of offence will improve road safety and traffic flows on the borough's highway network.</p> <p>A statutory six-week consultation is being held, which is due to end on 2nd October, details of which are available on our website.</p> <p>Subject to approval, moving traffic offence enforcement will be operated by our Parking Services Team. Staffing numbers and ongoing costs are yet to be determined. I should note that all GM districts are proposing to go ahead with this scheme.</p>

9	Labour	Cllr N Frith	I recently attended Burrs Live in Burrs Country Park. It was a brilliant event that showcased one of our boroughs best outdoor spaces and our fantastic cultural partners, with The Met organising the event and the ELR providing a stunning backdrop to the main stage. Can the Leader outline what role the council played in making this event happen?	Cllr Morris	<p>The Council funded the family and community elements of Burrs Live with £10k of UKSPF funding. This funded a family area called the campfire stage and the family tent. There was a family picnic for HAF families from the Sunnywood Project, storytelling, yoga, circus skills and live music for families. There was an opportunity to speak with individual families including feedback through the experience of autistic children on site. The family tent had storytelling, mask making and family theatre events.</p> <p>A range of Council services provided additional support including the Bury Art Museum which ran workshops on site and some of the UKSPF funding was used to create access packs to enable families with additional needs to take part. The Parks Team also supported by putting in some ground works, creating a road to enable heavy vehicles to cross the fields and worked with volunteers to cut back some of the more overgrown areas. They also organised the supply of woodchip to soak up some of the muddier areas and introduced The MET to suppliers and other stakeholders. The Event Advisory Group also provided support.</p>
10	Labour	Cllr G McGill	What has the Council delivered over the summer holidays to support families facing hardship due to the cost of living crisis and what is planned to support vulnerable residents planning for winter months?	Cllr Gold	<p>In addition to the ongoing provision of immediate hardship welfare support, over the summer months Bury Council, with our partners across the public and voluntary sector have continued to support household as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 6,900 young people received food provision weekly over the school summer holiday period alongside the opportunity to access 4 weeks of youth activity through the Holiday Activity Fund. • Opportunities have been promoted for community groups to apply for cost of living support, locally through Bury's own community grant scheme, National Lottery support and most recently through the ASDA Foundation. • Promotion of cost of living support through Six Town Housing Roadshows, at community events including the Mela, and engagement with Bury Older People's Network. <p>In the coming months support, shaped through the partnership Anti Poverty Steering Group, will include an employment & Skills bootcamp in Radcliffe; IT development sessions through Bury Adult Learning Centre; Community engagement sessions by Citizens Advice Bury through a dedicated neighbourhood based advisor; Delivery of face-to-face energy efficiency and retrofit advice, advice and a tailored Cost of Living Support showcase at Sedgley Children's Centre in partnership with the Jewel Foundation on 28th September</p>

11	Con	Cllr J Lancaster	Why are concerns of Councillors and residents in relation to planning applications not passed on to the Planning Inspectorate?	Cllr O'Brien	The Planning Inspectorate does not determine local planning applications and therefore representations on planning applications are not sent to the Planning Inspectorate. The determination of planning applications is the statutory function of the Council as the Local Planning Authority. The primary role of the Planning Inspectorate is to determine Planning Appeals when these are submitted against refusals / non-determination of planning applications and also to Examine statutory Development Plans, when these are submitted for consideration by an appellant. In both instances, all correspondence is provided to the Planning Inspectorate as part of these processes – including all representations made in respect of the applications or plans.
12	Labour	Cllr M Whitby	Can the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People provide the latest information on any school in Bury impacted by RAAC?	Cllr Smith	The LA has been pro-active in ensuring the safety of children and young people. Late last year it commissioned surveys for all Community Maintained and Voluntary Schools that has enabled the LA to confirm that RAAC is not present in any of those school. Trusts and Diocesan authorities have responsibility for Academies and Voluntary Controlled school. The LA has provided information, advice and guidance to those academies and schools. Whilst two of these schools were initially suspected of having RAAC, it has now been confirmed that there is no RAAC present.

13	Labour	Cllr D Green	Can the Leader update the council on potential changes to taxi and private hire licensing standards in Bury?	Cllr Morris	<p>Following extensive and ongoing engagement with the taxi trade, the Licensing Service have listened and sought approval to conduct a public consultation relating to considerations regarding revisions to Council Policy. On the 20 July 2023, the Licensing and Safety Committee considered a report relating to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy Revisions which requested permission to consult on specific policy revisions which would not have a detrimental impact on Public Safety. This included:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To modify the requirement for Operator stickers on private hire vehicles to replace all existing operator signage with new Passenger Side Windscreen signage (w10.5cm x h8.5cm) indicating operator, which must be updated and changed to reflect the operator. 2. To remove the future requirement for bonnet stickers on private hire vehicles. 3. To modify the requirement for the current rear passenger door sticker "Private hire vehicle (not a taxi) The driver can only take passengers who have pre-booked with this company" to be replaced with a new Council issued sticker which is to be displayed on the rear door of a private hire vehicle stating, "Private hire vehicle not insured unless pre booked with operator" (magnetic signage is not permitted). 4. To modify the current knowledge test for the hackney carriage and private hire drivers. 5. To modify the requirement from mandatory to advisory for the provision of a fire extinguisher and first aid kit and modify the Council's vehicle compliance testing manual. 6. To remove the requirement for front plates on Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles and replace with Council issued windscreen signage which must be displayed at all times. 7. To remove the pre-requisite requirement of driving standards assessment before making an application to the Licensing Authority. 8. To introduce a re-application policy in relation to breaks in licence for the pre-requisites and Knowledge tests only. <p>On 20 July 2023 the Licensing and Safety Committee noted the report and requested that Officers commence a public consultation on the considered policy revisions. A public consultation is currently taking place and commenced on 7 August 2023 and runs until 15 September 2023. Once completed and evaluated a report will be brought before members of the Licensing and Safety Committee in October 2023 for their consideration. The Licensing team continues work with the trade to promote the consultation and encourage active participation.</p>
14	Con	Cllr L Dean	All Councillors received an email recently from a resident in Sedgley regarding a council tax rebate scheme and the non-collection of brown refuse bins. Is this something that is being considered in the	Cllr Staples-Jones	<p>This is not something the council would do. Sometimes we do have missed bins but are not always the fault of the teams. These can include, residents not putting bins out before the collection time, block access, parking and roadworks etc. Where these instances occur, we do endeavour to return to these properties as quickly as possible and within 2 working days. We are currently emptying 95% of the waste and recycling bins on collection day.</p>

			Sedgley Ward as a pilot scheme?		
15	Con	Cllr K Hussain	Could the relevant Cabinet Member please provide information on the measures and plans in place to manage surface water drainage along Bolton Road in Hawkshaw Village, ensuring the prevention of flooding and the maintenance of road safety?	Cllr Staples-Jones	Highways operate a cyclic gully cleansing regime and endeavour to check each of the 42,000 gullies on the adopted highway network annually, including the gullies in Hawkshaw which are due to be checked in October. For efficiency we try not to deviate from this cyclic regime to attend to blocked gullies unless there is a risk of flooding to adjacent properties or to the highway in a manner that endangers road users. Officers have commissioned CCTV survey of drainage system near Bleaklow Close to determine the cause of the localised flooding in the area. This survey is scheduled to be carried out in November.
16	Con	Cllr I Gartside	Can the relevant Cabinet Member please give a full update on the progress being made on the restoration of Island Lodge in Tottington?	Cllr Staples-Jones	Capital Funding has been secured for 23/25 Programme to support the restoration of the Island Lodge Reservoir. £50k for this 23/24 financial year to allow us to undertake advanced design and enabling works, and then in £450k in 24/25 for a full restoration programme. A contractor has been identified via the Greater Manchester Framework to undertake the restoration programme. The Council are working closely in partnership with the Save Island Lodge Group and other interested groups.

17	Con	CllrS Arif	I would like to raise concerns about the ongoing issues of anti-social behaviour and littering around Whitehead Park. What measures are being taken to address these problems and improve the overall in experience in the park?	CllrGold	<p>Whitehead Park is one of the Borough's 14 Green Flag awarded parks and green spaces, recognising well managed and high quality green spaces – indeed Whitehead Park has been a Green Flag winner for the past 19 years. The Park benefited from a refurbished play area in 2021 and having a site has a grounds maintenance depot operating with the park which helps reduce anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Whilst there haven't been any recent reports of ASB received into the Council's ASB caseworkers, the Park and its surroundings will be added to the security briefing for additional patrols to be carried out, similarly detached youth outreach provision will include within their sites to visit. If repeat offenders are identified then engagement and enforcement measures will be taken, such as anti-social behaviour contracts or protection notices.</p> <p>If residents are experiencing Anti-Social Behaviour, either at the Park, this should be reported, as set out in the recently refreshed Anti-Social Behaviour Policy Handbook available on the Council website anti-social-behaviour-policy-handbook (bury.gov.uk) and Ward Councillors are encouraged to support such reporting.</p> <p>Similarly, littering and fly-tipping can be reported online at https://www.bury.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/street-care-and-cleaning and residents are encouraged to do so to allow targeting of activity to respond to incidents and collation of evidence to support enforcement activity.</p>
18	Ind	CllrY Wright	Walshaw has a hospital, nursing home , 2 schools , a church , cenotaph ,pubs, restaurants, several businesses, and thousands of residents but no signage . Early this year after a prompt from a constituent I requested " Welcome to Walshaw" signs but informed by Officers that no funding available , however I was advised that I should consult with residents which I promptly did and received only positive responses . I submitted a draft of the simple sign as at	Cllr Staples-Jones	<p>The "Welcome to Walshaw" sign initially proposed did not include sponsorship signage. Signs without sponsorship can be installed on normal traffic sign poles, however sponsorship signs are installed on hooped poles as standard.</p> <p>The "Welcome to Brandlesholme" sign was funded by a local group and not Bury Council. I will raise the matter with officers and ensure that a quotation for sponsorship signs for Walshaw is sent to you as a priority.</p>

		<p>Brandlesholme and Officers emailed me the costs .I then networked with Walshaw businesses and within a week I had pledges for sponsorship for 4 signs which I submitted to Officers .</p> <p>Then came a U turn and I was informed that this design of sign was not possible at Walshaw and only hooped design signage allowed .Why is this simple signage acceptable at Brandlesholme and not Walshaw ?</p> <p>I have now lost count of how many mails I have sent for a quote for the cost of a sponsored hooped sign which I realise will be considerably more .</p> <p>I would like to progress this issue with Cllr Quinn's help and also make the point that when 5 townships are planned to have vast financial investment which I support , is it then just and fair to my constituents that Walshaw in the 6 th Township can't even have signage from Council coffers?</p>	
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