

Meeting:	The Council
Meeting date:	22nd November 2023
Title of report:	Leaders' Report
Report by:	Leader of the Council
Decision type:	Non key decision
Ward(s) to which the report relates:	All Wards.
Summary:	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 5th September 2023 to Monday 13th November.
- 1.2 Earlier this month we observed Remembrance Day as we remember the brave men and women who sacrificed their lives and livelihoods during past and current conflicts. We are proud of our armed forces and the immense contribution they have made and continue to make, to our country. In July our commitment to supporting our current and former armed forces members was recognised by the Ministry of Defence when we were awarded the Employers Recognition Scheme Gold status. This award is given to employers who pledge, demonstrate, or advocate support to defence and the armed forces community and align their values with the Armed Forces Covenant.
- 1.3 The extreme humanitarian emergency in Gaza, following the 7 October attacks on Israel, has been shocking to observe. Our borough has a long and proud history of standing together, including residents of all faiths and none. We send our solidarity to all Israelis and Palestinians who have been affected by this appalling violence and our support to those people in our communities who may be directly affected.
- 1.4 At September Council we passed a motion calling on the Government to fix the broken system of local government funding. Councils have suffered huge funding cuts over 13 years of austerity – the biggest cut of any

Government department. With less money from Government, our funding for day-to-day services that are not social care has subsequently been cut by 60%. We have launched our 'Lets Fix It!' campaign calling on Government to address these funding issues through a fair funding review. I would like to call on the members of this council and the public to sign this petition and put pressure on government.

- 1.5 In September I took part in the launch of the Bee Network. This venture was the first integrated transport system of its kind in 40 years and the biggest change to public transport since bus services were deregulated across Great Britain in 1986. Under this new network buses already running in Greater Manchester will be upgraded over the next two years. They will also begin to link up with trams, building on the success of the locally owned and managed Metrolink network. And passengers will have real time bus, tram and train travel information at their fingertips, plus the ability to buy combined bus and tram tickets that are cheaper.
- 1.6 In October we had to take the difficult decision to close part of the indoor market hall. Investigative work on the building found that RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete) was used in the construction of the building in 1971, and as such we had to ensure the immediate safety of our market traders and visitors. Officers worked at speed to relocate the traders and did an excellent job finding alternative locations within a very short distance of the original market building. Financial advice was also provided quickly to give assurance to traders. I believe the speed and diligence of our approach demonstrates how committed we are to supporting our award winning Bury Market, the jewel in Bury's crown.
- 1.7 In October we gave the green light for new housing on Pyramid Park. The project will create 148 homes to the area, with mixture of housing aimed at younger adults and young professional small families and older people. We secured £1.7 million from the Government's Brownfield Land Release Fund to remediate the site and prepare it for redevelopment. This once again ties into our priorities of using brownfield land first and securing quality and appropriate housing for our residents and generations to come.
- 1.8 Early in November we celebrated the Living Wage Foundation's Living Wage week. The Foundation announced that the rate would be rising from £10.90 per hour to £12 per hour in April 2024. I am proud to say we pay this rate to all our eligible staff and to those staff we commission, particularly the large number of staff in our adult social care sector. I am also aware of a growing number of businesses across the borough who have committed to paying the real living wage. It is great to hear about the growing number of businesses hearing about the benefits of paying the real living wage.

1.9 At Cabinet this month we approved a decision to return the management of housing stock to the Council’s direct control following a Strategic Housing Review. Following this decision, the transfer will officially take effect from 15th January 2024. We are committed to improving services for our tenants and residents and improving the quality of the housing and estates.

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 Q2.

Priority	Key Deliverables	July – Sept 23 (Q2)
1. Supporting residents and businesses with the cost-of-living crisis	Deliver 2023/24 Action Plan within the Antipoverty Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welfare team now linked with internal and external colleagues to maximise the spend and impact of Household Support Fund. • Activities in this quarter have included: • Support for people with their skills and employment including expanding the Working Wardrobe scheme, which helps people with interviews including a recently held skills drop in at Radcliffe Football Club • Help for people with their digital skills and to be able to get online including working with Six Town Housing tenants • Providing energy efficient measures for households in need, particularly for owner occupiers and privately rented properties • Promoting the Healthy Start vouchers for those pregnant or have children under the age of 4
2. Improving Children’s Lives	Childrens Social Care Ensuring services for children and young people meet the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful recruitment of adult workers to the Family Safeguarding Model. • Additional international social workers have arrived and will now contribute to the reduction in Managed Social Work Teams.

	<p>required standards for good levels of safeguarding and support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The East Bury Family Hub is now in operation with an open day at the end of October. • Completed specification for Radcliffe and North Bury Family Hubs. • Update to the Children’s Improvement Board following Department for Education Review visit.
	<p>Educational Improvement</p> <p>Radcliffe School build commences Improve the proportion of schools good or better Academisation Strategy Improved attendance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Assurance Board meeting termly to identify schools causing concern, taking a more pro-active role. • Star Academy Radcliffe - planning applications for both modular and permanent build submitted. • Admission Arrangements publicised. • 88% of Bury Schools were judged good or better by Ofsted as at the end of August, an increase of 6% across the academic year (National average 89%).
	<p>Special Education Needs</p> <p>Preparing for the new review of services by Ofsted through service transformation Project Safety Valve Plan Updated and Approved by Department for Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SEND multi-disciplinary inclusion panel has been refreshed with a focus on early support to families. • Early Year EHCPs have been reviewed. Annual Review Officer recruited to EHCP team. • New banding descriptors in place for SEND. • Revised Management plan for Project Safety Value submitted for consideration by the Department for Education.
3. Achieving Inclusive Economic Growth	<p>Levelling-Up Sites commence construction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilisation work for Radcliffe Hub is due to begin in Mid-October, with £0.5m of additional external funding having been

		<p>secured by the project team from Sport England.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet approval for Public consultation on the draft Strategic Regeneration Framework for Mill Gate will be submitted to the October committee cycle. • Consultants secured via Evergreen Funding for initial feasibility work on Bradley fold and Chamber Hall sites. Work will be completed between Oct and Dec.
	Township Plans for Whitefield, Prestwich and Ramsbottom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prestwich Village <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RIBA Stage 1 completion • Ramsbottom Public Realm (inc Square St) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Feasibility, consultation and detailed design complete ○ Planning application (subject to final agreed design) • Whitefield Town Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Draft Town Plan prepared
	Economic Development Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development Strategy approved at September Cabinet. • Barclays LifeSkills Primary School Programme roll out – Bury Town Centre (Millgate) & Radcliffe. • Designed bespoke localised employment health promotion programme.
	Skills Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-launch of BHEAST to deliver Skills Actions within the Economic Development Strategy
4. Improving the Health & Care System	Intermediate Care Transformation Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stand-alone Bed Base and stand-alone Home base service created by merging IMC@Home with Reablement.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistive Tech delivery. • Initial report on scope and size of IMC capacity and opportunity/requirement for new accommodation.
	Care Quality Commission Inspection Readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASC performance framework implementation. • 'Getting the call' readiness plan.
5. Reducing Health Inequalities	Reducing the life expectancy gap by focusing on preventing and reducing the impact of the 3 key contributors CVD, Cancer and Liver Disease.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated local smoking plan. • Developed and implemented alcohol licensing matrix to support licensing decisions prevention CVD work in General Practice. • Planning commenced for a Team Bury event on health inequalities is to be held in December.
	Narrowing the school readiness gap.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review oral health and breast-feeding provisions and plans and update to ensure an equitable offer where appropriate
6. Tackling Climate Change	<p>Deliver commitments to decarbonisation and household energy efficiency across the borough</p> <p>Launch internal climate change action plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GMCA Funding secured for solar farm feasibility at Bradley Fold to create more affordable energy costs in the future. • Completed Social Housing Decarbonisation (Wave 1) • Produced case study report on Community Climate Action Fund. • Replaced a further 252x street lighting columns and LEDs and 300x streetlights with LEDs. • Delivery of the remaining 13x electric vans to the Council fleet. • Established a working group to consider climate adaptation and resilience planning.
7. Public Sector Reform	Embedding Public Sectors Leadership Teams in each	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalised the operation of Public Service Leadership teams in each neighbourhood.

	neighbourhood and taking a Person and Community Centred Approach to Public Sector reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of proposals for outstanding key partners – including schools and Six Town Housing. • Commenced Estate Strategy for co-location of public service workers in places where possible. • Development of a framework for consistent and multiagency approach, connected to LET’S experience.
8. Delivering sustainable Housing Growth	STH Options Appraisal Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenants Test of Opinion delivered, to be reported to October Cabinet. • Implementation options in development to be presented at November Cabinet.
	Development to deliver 700 new homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work commenced on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ William Kemp Heaton (18 AH units for people with LD) ○ Willow St (13 units for young adults physical and/or sensory or LD)
9. Celebrating culture and supporting our creative sector	Launch and Implementation of new Cultural Strategy and development of programme of events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support plans for commercialisation of Bury Art Museum – options appraisal with Market Curators • Launch of new Visit Bury website. • Summer programme of events launch including Head of the Hills / Burr Live.

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