

GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6 SEPTEMBER 2023

QUARTER 1 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

1. Councillor Richard Gold, Cabinet Member for Finance and Communities, presented the report which outlined the forecast financial position of the Council at Quarter One 2023/24 and provided an update on savings targets and the work to mitigate and reduce overspends throughout the remainder of the financial year.
2. Members discussed the report, noting a more positive position in month 4, and Councillor Gold advised that the support of a Financial Improvement Panel was a sensible and mature way to move forwards, ensuring financial prudence and getting as much support as possible for Bury. The challenge on Councils was unprecedented, with more demands, less funding, and increased costs, and Councils nationally were looking to the Government for a systemic solution.
3. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

SUPPORT AT HOME SERVICE PROPOSAL

4. Councillor Tamoor Tariq, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, presented the report which proposed to end the Support at Home Service in order to reduce spending in the coming years (£500,000 as stated in the Budget Cabinet papers). Members noted that Support at Home was a non-statutory service for people over the age of 60 that provides wellbeing checks and advice and support with day-to-day tasks (known as the warden service), and should not be confused with Care at Home that supports people with personal care.
5. Members discussed the needs and confusion of residents using the service, and Councillor Tariq offered assurances that everything possible would be done to ensure the changes were as smooth as possible, with individual concerns picked up and residents signposted to solutions.
6. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

PROPOSALS TO CHANGE THE WAY IN WHICH LOCAL AUTHORITY SCHOOL GOVERNORS ARE NOMINATED AND APPOINTED

7. Councillor Lucy Smith, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, presented the report which proposed moving from the political model of nomination for LA Governors to the panel model of nomination for LA Governors. In response to Member's questions, it was noted that the new system would be implemented as soon as possible, with vacancies being filled and integrating with existing Governors.
8. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

BURY ECONOMIC STRATEGY

9. Councillor Charlotte Morris, Cabinet Member for Culture, Economy and Skills, presented the report which provided an update on progress and sought approval to move to the final stages of a published Economic Development Strategy including the delivery actions plans. It was noted that this was a comprehensive strategy and,

in response to Members' questions, it was noted that a delivery plan would underpin this and would be available for Scrutiny in due course.

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

RADCLIFFE REGENERATION GOVERNANCE

12. Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth, presented the report which sought to stand down the Radcliffe Cabinet Committee and proposed a suitable way forward for Ward Councillor involvement in Radcliffe regeneration activity while allowing officers to move forward operational business in a timely manner. Members discussed the new arrangements, agreeing that they were a positive step forward to establish closer working between Councillors and officers, and offered a good model for other projects.

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

RADCLIFFE ENTERPRISE CENTRE - UKSPF PROJECT DELIVERY (E22)

14. Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth, presented the report regarding the bid to GM's UKSPF SME (Small and Medium Size Enterprises) Workspace Fund (E22) to turn Radcliffe Library into an enterprise centre. Members discussed the report, agreeing that this was good way to further develop Radcliffe and ensure the library building did not fall into disuse while meeting the wording and the spirit of the covenant securing public access to the site. Members noted that library provision would be temporarily relocated until the Hub was complete, and options for this were being explored.

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

SALE OF NEW SUMMERSEAT HOUSE, RAMSBOTTOM, BL0 9UD, BURY

16. Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth, presented the report which presented the results of the updated tender exercise for the sale of New Summerseat House. The sale would bring forward the restoration of this listed building, end problems caused to local residents by the empty building attracting anti-social behaviour, and remove ongoing liabilities to the Council, all while securing a capital investment.

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

MILLWOOD PRIMARY SPECIAL SCHOOL

18. Councillor Lucy Smith, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, presented the confidential report which sought for additional services costs to enable the project to expand Millwood Primary Special School to proceed to RIBA stage 3.

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

GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 OCTOBER 2023

PLACES FOR EVERYONE: A JOINT DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT FOR 9 GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL AUTHORITIES (BOLTON, BURY, MANCHESTER, OLDHAM, ROCHDALE, SALFORD, TAMESIDE, TRAFFORD AND WIGAN) - PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS CONSULTATION

11. Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth, presented the report which updated Members on the progress of Places for Everyone Plan: A Joint Development Plan Document for nine Greater Manchester Local Authorities (PfE) and sought approval to consult on proposed modifications to the Plan. It was noted that the alternative option was to not approve the proposed modifications for consultation, and that the final decision on the Plan would come to Full Council in due course.
12. Councillor Dene Vernon, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, confirmed that Scrutiny had met to review the report and had an informative and wide ranging discussion. This had included opportunity for public to ask questions and express their viewpoints. Assurances were given that Greater Manchester Ecology Unit had provided expert witnesses and that consultation feedback would go back to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration. The Scrutiny Committee noted the Council agreement for Cross Party Group to look at a Local Plan and agreed for this to be expedited.
13. Members discussed the report, including the following points:
 - Members noted the advantage it would give in securing highly skilled jobs and apprenticeships and transport links to those sites, and the serious need for new and affordable housing stock to enable more people to own their own home.
 - It was noted that recreation sites like playing pitches were protected, so if any were identified for development sites they would be replaced on a like-for-like basis.
 - The cost of the process was born collaboratively by the 9 Local Authorities, and this work and those costs would still be required if Bury were developing its own Local Plan.
 - It was understood that Stockport had received applications for developments on Green Field land, one of which had gone to appeal. The Leader noted the need to be proportionate about risk, but confirmed that not having a Plan put sites at risk, including those in Green Belt, and adopting this Plan would enable the Council to redirect developers to more appropriate sites.
 - It was noted that, while Government targets were not mandatory, written guidance stated they were a 'minimum' and previous submissions had been rejected for not being ambitious enough. The report on the agenda today was regarding modifications to the Plan, but in theory a Full Council decision could be taken at any time to pull out of PfE. That, however, would put Bury in a worse position in protecting sites as PfE had enabled Bury to shift a significant proportion of the housing allocation to other boroughs.

- Councillor Morris expressed her disappointment that Walshaw was not removed from the Plan but advised that she still supported the Plan overall and would continue to lobby for Walshaw to be removed. It was noted that the additional housing site identified was still included in Bury's allocation but that the overall allocation was still lower than it would be outside of PfE.
 - Finally, assurances were given that the consultation would be in accordance with the Gunning Principles, with evidence that the Planning Inspectorate listened to the public's feedback.
14. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

BURY LOCAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY

15. Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth, presented the report which detailed the results of the draft Bury Local Transport Strategy consultation and sought approval for the final Strategy to be adopted and published to guide investment in transport improvements and future funding bids.
16. It was noted that the key issues were those of: poor quality of the existing network, which the GM Bee Network would address through better integration of bus systems with accountability to Local Authorities; safety and security for transport users, which would be taken into account when services and improvements were designed; and the tensions between car use and other modes of transport, with the Strategy supporting all modes of transport and ensuring residents had better choice for their journeys.
17. Members discussed the report, noting the discrepancies in London transport systems and their funding and that for Northern cities. It was noted that some journeys were necessary by car and that this Strategy was not oppositional to motorists. By giving better public transport alternatives residents would have greater choice and, by users using public transport when possible, congestion would reduce.
18. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

INSURANCE TENDER PROCESS AND AWARD OF CONTRACT

19. Councillor Richard Gold, Cabinet Member for Finance and Communities, presented the report which sought endorsement and approval for the procurement of the relevant Insurance Programme contracts due to commence on 1 April 2024 via an insurance Broker.
20. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

BURY AND ROCHDALE YOUTH JUSTICE ANNUAL PLAN 2023-2024

21. Councillor Lucy Smith, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, presented the report which provided a summary of the Bury and Rochdale Youth Justice Service (YJS) Annual Plan 2023-2024 which will be presented to Council for approval in November. In future years this would be considered by Scrutiny before being commended directly to Council.
22. Cabinet commended the Plan to Council.

AWARDING OF FROZEN FOOD CONTRACT TO A SUPPLIER ON BEHALF OF CATERING SERVICES

20. Councillor Tahir Rafiq, Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR, presented the report which regarding the award of the frozen food supply contract providing school meals across the borough.
21. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

URGENT BUSINESS - STRATEGIC HOUSING REVIEW - FUTURE MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL HOUSING

22. Councillor Clare Cummins, Cabinet Member for Housing Services, presented the report which updated Members on the results of the Tenant's test of opinion and progress following an earlier Cabinet report received in June 2023. It was noted that a statistically significant number of residents responded, 90% of whom were in favour of the proposals, and Members were pleased to also note that approximately 300 residents had also indicated they would want to be involved in improving neighbourhoods.
23. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

UPDATE ON FINANCIAL IMPROVEMENT PANEL

24. Councillor Richard Gold, Cabinet Member for Finance and Communities, presented the confidential report which provided an update on the progress in establishing the Finance Improvement Panel and the progress against the Finance Improvement Plan.
25. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 NOVEMBER 2023

QUARTER ONE AND QUARTER TWO CORPORATE PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT 2023/24

26. Councillor Tahir Rafiq, Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR, presented the report which contained full updates in terms of both the delivery against the priorities set out in the Corporate Plan and associated key performance indicators for Quarters 1 and 2. In response to Members' questions, Councillor Rafiq undertook to get detail regarding Care Leavers sent outside of the meeting, and advised that absenteeism rates had been affected by the increase in Covid cases. With regards to the further work on targets, it was noted that this related to local targets where there was no comparison data or where more context was needed to establish the correct target.
27. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

QUARTER 2 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

20. Councillor Richard Gold, Cabinet Member for Finance and Communities, presented the report which outlined the forecast financial position of the Council at Quarter two 2023/24 and provided an update on the work to mitigate and reduce the

overspends and how this will be managed throughout the remainder of this financial year. It was noted that the Council was forecasting an overspend of £9.749m, which was an improvement from Quarter 1.

21. In response to Member questions, it was noted that some longer term bad debts might have had payment plans and been escalated further down the line, or were being pursued prior to Covid. It was noted that the Medium Term Financial Strategy was expected to come to Cabinet in December, and savings were still being driven forward but resources to do so were getting tighter. Councillor Gold confirmed that Levelling Up deadlines were being met, and advised that SEND demand had been an unexpected issue nationally but was being planned for in the MTFs for next year.
22. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

RADCLIFFE REGENERATION, INTERIM SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS

23. Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth, presented the report which provided an update on the interim service arrangements required to enable the implementation of the schemes to regenerate Radcliffe, including the construction of a new school, the opening of a new Leisure Centre and Library as part of the new Radcliffe Hub and the redevelopment of the current Radcliffe Library into an Enterprise Centre.
24. Members discussed the importance of leisure facilities on physical health and mental wellbeing, and thanks were given to officers who had worked very hard to find alternative leisure provision in Radcliffe, which had unfortunately been unsuccessful. Decommissioning of services and equipment had begun, and users had been kept informed and signposted to alternative arrangements. In response to Members' questions, it was noted that options for relocating the PRU were still being explored and it wasn't clear whether temporary facilities would be needed or if a permanent move could be made.
25. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

MILL GATE STRATEGIC REGENERATION FRAMEWORK

26. Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth, presented the report which presented a draft Strategic Regeneration Framework document and sought approval to go out for formal public and stakeholder consultation. Members supported the aspirations for the Town Centre and for the Mill Gate, noting its current success should be built upon, diversifying the offer and ensuring public engagement and buy in.
27. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICE CONTRACT

28. Councillor Tamoor Tariq, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, presented the report which sought approval to recommission Greater Manchester Mental Health (GMMH), an NHS provider, to deliver its substance misuse treatment service.
29. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICE: YOUNG PEOPLE 18-25 YEARS - CARE PROVIDER CONTRACT AWARD

20. Councillor Tamoor Tariq, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, presented the report which outlined an innovative support service to provide a transitional home for 8 young Bury adults with Learning Disabilities and/or autism, aged 18-25 years. It was noted that this was pending a procurement outcome and if the result was over the £500,000 threshold it would come back to Cabinet for final approval.
21. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

TOPPING MILL MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTED LIVING SCHEME

22. Councillor Tamoor Tariq, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, presented the report which sought approval to commission care and support services for a new mental health supported housing scheme. Members supported the proposal, which made use of old buildings and created decent supported accommodation for those with a mental health diagnosis.
23. Cabinet agreed to recommend approval to Council.

STRATEGIC HOUSING REVIEW - FUTURE MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL HOUSING

24. Councillor Clare Cummins, Cabinet Member for Housing Services, presented the report which updated Members on the in-principle decision to return the management of housing stock to the Council's direct control following a Strategy Housing Review and Tenants Test of Opinion. Members discussed the report, welcoming the proposal to transfer functions from 15 January 2024. The significance of the governance review was noted, as was the importance of including tenant voice through a forum or within the Board itself. It was noted that governance work was on track, and the ambition was for Six Town Housing to align with the neighbourhood approach elsewhere in the Council.
25. Members had a discussion in Part B regarding staffing during the Strategic Housing Review, and it was noted that proposals would be brought to Cabinet in due course regarding staffing structures to ensure sufficient leadership capacity from both the transfer of Six Town and the new regulatory responsibilities for Social Housing.
26. Cabinet agreed to recommend approval to Council.