

	Party	Question	Questioner
1	Labour Cllr Morris	Can the Cabinet Member for Culture, Economy and Skills provide an update on the work being done to support Indoor Market Traders who have been impacted by the current closure of the site?	Cllr Boroda
		<p>A comprehensive package of support has been put into place including an immediate £300 hardship grant which 41 traders and employees have taken up to date, up to £3k for each trader to access the Indoor Market Support Fund, and 15 traders/employees have taken up the Council Tax Support offer of £100 each.</p> <p>Advice sessions with business advisors to help look at cash flow and debt have been organised as well as personal finance advice sessions, benefit assessment appointments with DWP, advice sessions from Council Revenue and Benefits staff and the offer of referrals to an Employee Assistance Programme for mental health and resilience support. There have been 3 all-Traders meetings and many one to one sessions with Traders to discuss both their trading requirements and proposals for where they can trade from in the interim period. There has been a daily written comms message which contains the key contacts and information for that day. Staff from across the Council have been supporting Traders including colleagues from Legal, Finance, Comms, BGI, Property Services and Operations including work on leases, licences and compliance checks on temporary units.</p>	
2	Labour Cllr Gold	Central to the Let's Fix It Together campaign is a call on Government to finally bring forward their long promised Fair Funding Review. Can the Cabinet Member for Finance clarify if this vitally	Cllr Moss

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		important piece of work was announced in the King's Speech?	
		<p>On 7 November 2023, the King delivered his speech as part of the State Opening of Parliament.</p> <p>In total, 20 Bills and one draft Bill were announced as part of the Speech. There were no Bills announced with a significant impact on local government finance, but there were some Bills which have an operational impact.</p> <p>There was no reference made in the Kings Speech to the Fair Funding Review.</p>	
3	Conservative	Why have the number of missed bins doubled since last September?	Cllr LJ Dean
	Cllr A Quinn	The number of reported missed bins remains at 0.1% overall. Missed collections can be a result of a number of factors including sickness, parked cars and residents not putting bins out by 7am and refilling the bin and reporting as missed. On collection day we are continuing to collect 97% bins. To improve the waste and recycling collection service, plans are being put in place with the recruitment of permanent drivers and loaders and the roll out of new incab technology across waste and street cleansing.	
4	Radcliffe First	<p>Given the investment in walking and cycling, can we investigate ways to discourage the vandalism of anti social riding barriers to park entrances.</p> <p>Outwood country park has recently had these vandalised barriers replaced and the vandalism repeated. This is an issue both for the Public and the Police.</p>	Cllr M Smith

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	Cllr Gold	<p>Council colleagues from across Operations and Community Safety teams are working in conjunction with GMP and local community groups at identifying and reducing vulnerabilities within the public realm that could give rise to vandalism or wider anti-social behaviour – and the role such barriers when provided can play in disrupting ASB such as off-road bikes.</p> <p>This is including liaison with the Crime Prevention Team through Environmental Quality Audits to ‘design out’ criminality and recommend potential adjustments to reduce risk of damage.</p> <p>Options will be considered including the use of rapid deploy CCTV cameras where there is repeat vandalism (and appropriate power source for camera); increased focus on such sites through neighbourhood policing patrol plans/ Council security services; and raising awareness (of reporting incidents and vigilance) through Bee in the Loop. If perpetrators are known to be young people, youth detached outreach colleagues will seek to intervene to disrupt such behaviours.</p> <p>Each park is individually considered to support access for all. There is a wide range of people who need to gain access to parks such as those using mobility scooters, bicycles, or baby buggies. There are no barriers on the market that will allow mobility scooters through and stop motorbikes. Where barriers are provided when funding permits, they are made from heavy duty metal to try to design out vandalism.</p>	
5	Labour Cllr Tariq	Residents in Prestwich welcome the forthcoming regeneration plans but there have been questions around whether the GP practice provision currently at the Longfield precinct will transition over to the new purpose built multi use hub. Can the cabinet member for health tell me what is being done to ensure local residents continue to benefit from GP provision in the area?	Cllr Thorpe
		NHS colleagues are working closely with the Local Authority project team	

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		<p>working on the Prestwich Community Hub and the intention is to move all services from Prestwich Health Centre into the new Community Hub, subject to affordability and contractual constraints.</p> <p>Preliminary discussions with the two GP practices currently based within Prestwich Health Centre along with Northern Care Alliance who deliver the related community services in this centre have been progressed and all parties are keen to enable a move into the new community hub building if this can be afforded.</p>	
6	<p>Labour</p> <p>Cllr Gold</p>	<p>Can an update please be provided on the local response to maintain community cohesion locally as a result of the escalated conflict in the Middle East?</p>	Cllr Whitby
		<p>The Council have built on existing good relations with our partners within community safety both locally and regionally, alongside community leads in our neighbourhoods to mitigate the impact of international affairs on local communities.</p> <p>This has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dedicated patrol plans of key locations including schools, transport hubs, places of worship and iconic sites - the use of rapid deploy CCTV coverage onto the King’s Road vicinity of Prestwich - Engagement with Bury Faith Forum to ascertain tensions and opportunities to promote cohesion across faiths, in addition to meetings with faith leads, eg Bury Mosques Forum - additional ‘check ins’ by Locality Early Years Advisors into school and 	

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		<p>childcare settings within Whitefield and Prestwich</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotion of hate crime awareness information, including the means to report and support available <p>Daily meetings are held with Community Safety partnership colleagues from the Council and Greater Manchester Police (GMP); peers in Salford and Manchester, the Community Security Trust, Shomrim, Bury Faith Forum and Bury VCFA. These meetings allow sharing on community level concerns, tensions or reports and the two-way flow of updates in relation to these between statutory agencies and partners; the cross-referencing of any reported incidents between agencies; co-ordination of work together to protect and maintain community cohesion including linkages to and learning from activity elsewhere across the region.</p> <p>This included overt and covert roving patrols ahead of Remembrance weekend and is kept under review to take account of any dates of particular faith or societal significance.</p> <p>A reminder that hate incidents can reported directly to GMP or if someone would prefer not to contact the police directly through ‘third party reporting centres’. Further details are available on the Council website.</p>	
7	Conservative	Is the Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and HR concerned by the level of staff turnover within the Council?	Cllr Vernon
	Cllr Rafiq	<p>The Council’s turnover rate as of the end of October was 12.8%. This is higher than the target set out within the Corporate Performance Report of 8.5% as presented to Cabinet earlier this month. However, it is worth noting that it is an improvement of around 1.4% on the figure from the same point last year.</p>	

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		<p>There will be a whole host of reasons behind staff turnover and public sector organisations have generally seen a level of increase here in the post Covid period. However, officers are working hard to both understand the reasons behind our turnover more broadly and support workforce retention. As part of this a programme of ‘stay interviews’ have recently been conducted across both the Adults and Children’s Social Care workforce to support our retention activity in these critical areas. In October the Council conducted its fifth staff pulse survey and I’m pleased to report that responses to the question asking staff if they would recommend the Council to friends or family seeking employment scored at their highest level in this survey continuing the positive direction of travel here since the Survey began.</p>	
8	Radcliffe First	With the Council’s increased emphasis on walking and cycling, will they commit to the installation of a crossing to join up the tow path at Water Street in Radcliffe near the Royal Oak?	Cllr Birchmore
	Cllr A Quinn	<p>I am pleased to confirm that we looking at options to install a pedestrian and cycle crossing at this location.</p> <p>Scheme options are currently at the design and consultation stage.</p> <p>We hope to be able to deliver a scheme on the ground in late 24/25 or early 25/26, funded through our CRSTS Streets for All Radcliffe allocation.</p>	
9	Labour Cllr Cummins	What are we doing to support our most vulnerable adults to ensure they have the most appropriate housing?	Cllr Pilkington

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		<p>Bury Council has a Housing Strategy for people with additional needs and its purpose is to deliver homes for people that meet Adult Social Care defined requirements for intervention, these include people that have Learning Disabilities and Autism, people with mental health needs and Older People.</p> <p>Targets were set for the period 2022 to 2025 to deliver the housing provision to assist these vulnerable adults; this totalling 239 units across the identified cohorts of Learning Disabilities and Autism, Mental Health and Older People. Cross departmental working has seen great strides in delivering these properties, below is a summary of the progress to date</p> <p>Onsite / in development</p> <p>45 units of which</p> <p>31 for people with LD and autism and</p> <p>14 for older people</p> <p>Pipeline for 2024/25</p> <p>185 units of which</p> <p>46 for people with mental health needs</p> <p>42 for people with LD and autism needs</p> <p>97 for older people</p> <p>In total 230 units are on site or in the pipeline to meet this strategic priority</p>	

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		<p>for the council and officers are confident that they will achieve the identified target of 239 by 2025 by further partnership working.</p>	
10	<p>Labour Cllr Tariq</p>	<p>As few months ago there was a welcome launch of a Healthy Start Voucher uptake scheme. Can members be provided an update on this campaign?</p>	<p>Cllr N Frith</p>
		<p><u>Bury Food Partnership</u> applied for a Sustainable Food Places Good Food Economy Grant in November 2022 to make Bury Market a Healthy Start destination for the first time. We were successful in this application and commenced work with our partners in January 2023.</p> <p>Bury Healthy Start uptake was at 62% in January 2023 when we commenced promoting Healthy Start at Bury Market at the beginning of the year. Due to the targeted promotion of the scheme and partnership working with DWP, Registrars and our voluntary sector Healthy Start uptake is now at 72%, which is higher than the national average of 70%. Bringing together this valuable nutritional scheme with our fantastic local market is, beneficial to everyone involved, as part of our work in promoting good food for all in Bury.</p> <p>Promoting Bury Market as a Healthy start destination has been a truly positive way to promote uptake of the scheme. It has been well received as it is an example of activity that is good for both local people and local traders.</p> <p>Reflecting our success Sustain published an article about our</p>	

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		<p>work on promoting Healthy Start: Bury is putting money back into people's pockets Sustain (sustainweb.org). about how we have had an amazing 10% increase in our uptake since our campaign started (Jan-October 2023), and we had multiple local authorities and market teams visit us recently, to see how they can replicate this in their own areas.</p>	
11	Conservative	<p>What is the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's view on the high level of school suspensions in the Borough?</p>	Cllr Harris
	Cllr L Smith	<p>The Children's Services Department has recently implemented its restructure designed to strengthen capacity in fulfilling its statutory education role particularly as it affects vulnerable groups including those children and young people who are out of school. It has also enabled the LA to set out far more clearly, the respective roles of the LA and its schools, and provide support and challenge to schools as necessary.</p> <p>In respect of suspensions, the rate in the borough for 2022 / 2023 was 6.81% higher than the northwest average, with the majority of suspensions being issued by secondary schools, and largely by academies rather than those maintained by the local authority.</p> <p>The LA has been working with all secondary schools and academies, and the Trusts that have responsibility for academies, to influence the behaviour of schools in respect of suspension and exclusion.</p> <p>In addition, DfE has updated its guidance to schools, effective from September 2023.</p>	

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		<p>Schools and academies are now responding positively with increased use of off-site direction which is an alternative intervention as a preventative measure to exclusions, and this is already beginning to impact, and we are seeing reduced levels of suspension across a number of schools.</p> <p>The local authority will continue to monitor activity across all school, and continue to provide support, guidance and challenge as appropriate.</p>	
12	<p>Labour</p> <p>Cllr Tariq</p>	<p>How are plans progressing for the inevitable CQC adult social care inspection?</p>	<p>Cllr Staples Jones</p>
		<p>Thank you for the question, they are progressing quite well thank you.</p> <p>Since the announcement of that the Care Quality Commission gained a new duty to independently review and assess how local authorities are delivering their Care Act functions we have been working with colleagues across the North West as part of the regional Association of Directors of Adult Social Services to learn and prepare</p> <p>We undertook a peer review to establish our current position and identify areas for improvement.</p> <p>Whilst this identified visible leadership and staff who were very proud to work in Bury it also identified deficits and a need to strengthen our performance management approach and use of intelligence.</p> <p>We are a small council and don't have access to large resources of this kind so this was to be expected, however we have not let our size or lack of</p>	

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		<p>resources hold us back.</p> <p>The department has delivered a brand new strategic plan, a new set of policies and procedures, established a brand new governance and improvement system and developed a performance framework to evidence how we are meeting the needs of our vulnerable adults and the first full in depth performance report will be presented to cabinet in December.</p> <p>As part of the process of preparation the CQC has published and self-assessment framework. The department is currently completing this and identifying the evidence that demonstrates if we are meeting the required quality standards. This is due for completion in the next few weeks and will inform further work required in the new year to improve further.</p> <p>ONLY ANSWER THIS IF ASKED WHAT RATING WE MIGHT GET</p> <p>As a Council and as an Adult Care Team we are constantly working to improve and transform the services we provide to residents. We are preparing for the CQC inspection by working to ensure our processes and services and outcomes are compliant with care act responsibilities and best practice and are in place with strong foundations. We are focusing less on passing an inspection and more on sustainable improvement , and we should recognise we have less corporate capacity than larger councils to source, compile and neatly present the very large amount of evidence potentially required to demonstrate we meet all standards.</p> <p>Whether the CQC judge that improvement sufficient to be rated Good or that</p>	

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		<p>we still have more to do will be a matter for them, but we have put in place all the foundations needed to be a learning and improving system without spending lots of additional funds, or diverting funds from the front line, on preparation.</p>	
13	<p>Labour Cllr Gold</p>	<p>The White Ribbon campaign and days of action have a focus on the eradication of violence against women. Please could the Cabinet Member for Communities outline how this will be promoted in Bury?</p>	Cllr Ryder
		<p>A series of engagement and awareness raising activities are due to take place across the Borough to highlight the national White Ribbon campaign and 16 days of action to tackle violence against women.</p> <p>This has already included a focus at Bury Community Safety Partnership last week and Creating & maintaining Safe Spaces subgroup; a LGBTQI focused session at Olive’s Kitchen is taking place tomorrow; a coffee morning at the Fishpool Redvales Goshen and Springs Community Hub on Friday; engagement through sport including walking netball and junior football tournament; an Incel workshop at the Elizabethan Suite on the 29th November; stalls over the coming weeks including at Morrisons in Ramsbottom and Whitefield, alongside the Millgate.</p> <p>Input is being provided at Bury VCFA and Bury Healthwatch AGMs, the quarterly Team Bury partnership in early December and into the Circles of Safety session arranged by young people in the Borough.</p> <p>I encourage everyone to commit to be a White Ribbon Champion or</p>	

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		Ambassador and promise to ‘never use, excuse or remain silent about men’s violence against women’.	
14	Conservative	Could the Cabinet Member provide an update on the findings on the recently undertaken site surveys at Bradley Fold Trading Estate and in a wildlife area in Bradley Fold?	Cllr Lancaster
	Cllr O’Brien	<p>The area refers to does form part of an ecosystem where crested newts have been previously identified. There is an overflow pond on site that has had little maintenance over the years. Last year the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) cleared the debris from the pond including a burnt-out motorbike.</p> <p>This work highlighted that the SUD system that was put in place was not working correctly and additional surveys were carried out by BFTE estate officers, GMEU and Conservation Contracts Northwest Limited. It was determined that further works would be required on the attenuation pond including removal of trees and reinstatement of the Sud System. Works were ordered to restore the system to its proper function, the oil separator has now been recommissioned and a service programme in place. It should be stressed that the pond is an overflow and if continuously full cannot operate for its intended purpose. The works undertaken are needed to restore the area to its original function.</p> <p>We understand that local dog walkers are not pleased with the actions (they approached officers on site). We would stress that the works has been undertaken on the advice of Ecology and Conservation professionals.</p>	

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15	Radcliffe First	<p>Given the recent closure of sections of the indoor market due to RAAC.</p> <p>Have we a timeline whereby all traders will have alternate trading locations as we approach the critical Christmas trading period?</p>	Cllr M Smith
	Cllr Morris	<p>The Market team have been working with our in-house Property Services team, our Joint venture partners, The Millgate and BGI to find alternative locations for all traders.</p> <p>This has been a complex task as there has been a need to consider individual trader requirements, the current state of the vacant units, the access for utilities, what can and cannot be operated from the units and what requirements are needed for compliance.</p> <p>The Market team, Millgate and BGI are developing arrangements to offer alternative sites for the traders to operate from.</p> <p>The market team have consulted with all 25 displaced traders (Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th November) where alternative locations have been proposed.</p> <p>49 Traders (62 Units) were affected.</p> <p>16 Units were able to reopen following consultation with Building control.</p> <p>2 Units were able to open a week after the closure, as the entrances to the market hall were reconfigured to allow for trading.</p> <p>8 Traders are operating in the open market and on pop up stalls.</p> <p>23 Traders who are yet to move have been offered alternative locations.</p> <p>These alternative locations include, Council owned property and alternative</p>	

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		<p>Environmental Quality Audits to ‘design out’ criminality and recommend potential adjustments to reduce risk of damage.</p> <p>Options will be considered including the use of rapid deploy CCTV cameras where there is repeat vandalism (and appropriate power source for camera); increased focus on such sites through neighbourhood policing patrol plans/ Council security services; and raising awareness (of reporting incidents and vigilance) through Bee in the Loop. If perpetrators are known to be young people, youth detached outreach colleagues will seek to intervene to disrupt such behaviours.</p> <p>Each park is individually considered to support access for all. There is a wide range of people who need to gain access to parks such as those using mobility scooters, bicycles, or baby buggies. There are no barriers on the market that will allow mobility scooters through and stop motorbikes. Where barriers are provided when funding permits, they are made from heavy duty metal to try to design out vandalism.</p>	
16	Conservative	<p>Could the Council please provide an update on their plans to address the issue of uneven pavements in the Holcombe area of North Manor Ward, including any proposed timelines for repair and maintenance?</p>	Cllr Hussain
	Cllr A Quinn	<p>Our Highway Investment Strategy is providing an additional £30million to help maintain our highways. Thanks to this additional funding we have plans to resurface a 50m long section of footway on Lumb Carr Road in Holcombe prior to the end of the financial year.</p> <p>If there are any specific uneven footways you would like to be inspected please report these through the usual channels.</p>	

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17	Conservative	Can the Cabinet Member give any indication when the Indoor Stalls within the Market which have recently closed will reopen?	Cllr Brown
	Cllr Morris	<p>The timing of the reopening of the indoor market hall is dependent on the further condition surveys and an options appraisal to confirm what works needs to place in order for the market to safely reopen.</p> <p>This work has been commissioned and once complete timescales for reopening will be understood and communicated.</p>	
18	Conservative	The Leader of the Council and a Labour candidate in the run up to the 2023 Local Elections publicly declared that they had been able to remove the need for Walshaw Brook (JPA9) to be in the Places for Everyone Plan. When making such bold and unequivocal statements publicly, did the Leader and the Labour candidate know the Planning Inspectors had to agree to its removal?	Cllr Gartside
	Leader	<p>In September 2022, Cabinet authorised officers to request a main modification to Places for Everyone for the proposed Walshaw allocation to be removed from the plan. This request was the result of updated evidence on housing supply in Bury and Radcliffe town centres which was not confirmed at the time that the Plan was submitted in February 2022 – including the acquisition of the Millgate shopping centre.</p> <p>The report to Cabinet acknowledged that the Planning Inspectors overseeing the Examination may not agree with the Plan’s general approach to housing or indeed Bury’s request to remove the Walshaw site. The report specifically flagged that the Plan was already facing significant challenge from a wide range of stakeholders, developers, groups and organisations that not enough land was being identified, particularly in Bury where only 76% of the Governments housing target is being proposed to be met. It was</p>	

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		<p>understood that the role of the Inspectors would be to consider all these issues during the examination of the Plan.</p> <p>Nevertheless, the request to remove the site at Walshaw was subsequently made in both a written statement to the Planning Inspectors and in the Examination Hearings.</p> <p>We now know that the Inspectors have considered the submitted evidence and discussions at the hearing sessions and have concluded that the plan is sound with the site retained.</p> <p>Unfortunately, our attempt to remove the site has not been supported by the Planning Inspector but the plan still allows us to reduce the amount of Green Belt land that we would otherwise been needed to meet our full housing target as it has allowed us to offset some of this elsewhere in the conurbation.</p>	
19	Conservative	What is the current level sickness within the Council?	Cllr S Arif
	Cllr Rafiq	<p>As of the end of October 2023 the Council lost an average of 14.69 days in sickness absence per full time equivalent employee over the preceding 12 months. The figure remains significantly greater than our corporate target of 9.85 days and addressing this is a key area of focus for managers, with support from HR colleagues. A number of strategies are being progressed here and regular detailed updates are provided to both Scrutiny and the Scrutiny Performance Sub-Group. It is worth noting that absence levels vary significantly by Department and the strategies needed and deployed to address issues are, where appropriate, tailored to respond to the specific</p>	

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		areas of work.	