

Leader's Report for 17th January 2024 Council Meeting

1. Leader's note

- 1.1 I am pleased to provide Council with my report covering the period from Wednesday 15th November to 8th January 2024.
- 1.2 Whilst only a short amount of time has passed since the last Full Council meeting there has been considerable activity remembering and celebrating inclusion within our communities. On 20th November – Councillors and members of Bury's LGBTQI community attended a vigil and flag raising ceremony for Transgender Day of Remembrance, whilst December saw activity to mark World Aid's Day and International Days of persons with Disabilities.
- 1.3 Sikh residents celebrated the birth of their First Guru in November and during December our Jewish communities celebrated Chanukah and I was delighted to attend community celebrations and community menorah lighting through Chabad Whitefield & Prestwich. The Annual Christmas Service with Greater Manchester Police reminded us of the importance of being a good neighbour, which is something the Council has continued to promote as part of Bury's *LET'S Do It!* approach – we are a Borough that looks out for each other and we're encouraging everyone to build on this in the new year, including opportunities to get more involved in community activities and volunteering.
- 1.4 Celebrating the strengths pillar of LETS, in December we welcomed local recipients for the King's Award for Voluntary Services to the Town Hall to congratulate the four groups from the Borough for their accolade and thank them for their work supporting local communities [recipients – Bury LGBTQI+ Forum; Bury People First; Caritas Red Door; Supporting Sisters]. The congratulations extends to the local recipients of recognition announced through the King's New Year Honours with six individuals from or who have made a significant contribution to local life in Bury, including for charitable health provision to service to local communities across Radcliffe and Whitefield.
- 1.5 In December more than 300 people came together to celebrate the success of children in care and care leavers in Bury through the Believe and Achieve Awards. It was amazing to hear the exemplary work of young people who were nominated by their foster carers, teachers, social workers and other professionals to recognise their achievements in education, sport, creativity and the support they have given their community. Alongside this Bury Council supported the Opening Doors to Fostering campaign, promoting the extensive support on offer for people interested in becoming a foster carer in Bury to give young people the best possible start in life.
- 1.6 In December Council colleagues led a Team Bury partnership session on tackling health inequalities. Held at the Mosses Centre, the session brought together practitioners and community leads to take a Marmot

approach (as per the Motion at November 2023 Council) recognising that health inequalities are inextricably linked to broader inequalities, thus requiring a partnership approach to address, including reducing the social determinants of such inequalities.

- 1.7 Central to tackling the root causes of health inequalities is sustainable and inclusive economic growth, as set out in the *Let's Do It!* approach, which is becoming increasingly tangible across the Borough. In December I saw firsthand the demolition work in Radcliffe of the old southern block as part of the £40m investment into a new civic hub whilst at Cabinet in December an update was given on the relocation of Spring Lane School to enable the next stage of the development of the new secondary school for the town. That meeting also received an update on regeneration plans for Prestwich Village and engagement has continued in partnership with Bruntwood on the future of the Millgate Site. This is an exciting time for the Borough and on Thursday 1st February in conjunction with the Greater Manchester Growth Hub, the Council will be holding a Bury Regeneration Expo, to launch the Bury Economic Strategy and showcase the latest developments across our towns.
- 1.8 Last Monday (8th January) a further exciting development saw the opening of the Bury Works Hub in the Millgate. Located at Unit 29, this is a joint initiative hosted by Ingeus, Bury's Working Well Work and Health Programme Delivery Partner, and creates a hub for co-ordinated information and support on local and regional skills and employability provision, including the National Careers Service. This will build on already positive outcomes through the Work and Health Programme in Bury which is one of the best performing in the region and a key part of improving financial resilience within our communities. In particular the Council is working with Ingeus and partners to use our combined data and intelligence to target the support to those most in need.
- 1.9 Inclusive economic development as a driver of such resilience within our communities and has been the focus of the LET's Fix It Together campaign. During December there was a specific focus on anti-poverty measures, from hosting the latest cost of living showcase of support for residents in December, to the targeted delivery of winter warm packs, and a focus on community groups that were supporting local residents through tough times. Building on cost of living community grants earlier in the year, December saw 58 groups be allocated funding through the Council's LET'S Do It Community grants to deliver on local priorities to our communities.
- 1.10 The Council continues to work to keep local people safe. In December, new guidance was developed with Greater Manchester Police and representatives from the taxi trade, both Hackney carriage and private hire to encourage respect and promote safety. Meanwhile joint work between trading standards, licensing and the police uncovered and took of the streets of Bury thousands of illegal cigarettes and vapes, with such products likely to be the result of organised criminal activity.

- 1.11 During the winter months the Council continues to deliver both planned and responsive operational activity. Work has taken place to install new energy efficient street lighting columns along Bury and Bolton Road in Radcliffe taking place, part of the Borough wide £5.5m 5 year replacement programme. With spells of cold weather the gritting teams have been out, whilst during the stormier weather emergency response colleagues including the tree teams have worked to minimise any disruption the adverse weather has brought.
- 1.12 As we head into 2024, work continues at pace ahead on the implementation of the Strategic Housing Review and return of management of housing stock into the Council; a report is being considered by Cabinet on 10th January 2024 in which it recommends that in practical terms services will become integrated from 15th January as previously agreed, with the legal transfer of housing management functions and TUPE of Six Town Housing staff will take effect from 1st February 2024 following consultation feedback.
- 1.13 Finally, for those with a new year's resolution to move more and get active, the date for the Bury Running Festival has been confirmed as the 15th September 2024. The Borough has a wealth of local community running clubs who provide fun, friendly, supporting and inclusive running opportunities so get involved and I'll see you at the start line.

2. Reporting progress against stated commitments in Corporate Plan

- 2.1 The following table provides a brief summary of the core deliverables due to take place in Quarters 3 and 4 to demonstrate the Council's progress against the priorities set out in our Corporate Plan

Priority	Key Deliverables	Look forward to Q3 and Q4
1. Supporting Residents and business with the cost-of-living crisis	Deliver 2023/24 Action Plan within the Anti-Poverty Strategy Launch Social Value Policy / Community Wealth	Delivery of the Winter support programme. The final launch of the Social Value Policy and evaluation of impacts of both of these deliverables.
2. Improving Children's lives	Childrens Social Care Ensuring services for children and young people meet the required standards for good levels of safeguarding and support Educational Improvement Radcliffe School build commences	International social workers arrive and supplemented by student social worker intake. Training implemented for Early Help practitioners. Continued preparation for Ofsted re-inspection to ensure these key changes to delivery

	<p>Improve the proportion of schools good or better Academisation Strategy Improved attendance Special Education Needs Preparing for the new review of services by Ofsted through service transformation Project Safety Valve Plan Updated and Approved by Department for Education</p>	<p>improvement are acknowledged. Radcliffe School constructions commences and relocation of Pupil Referral Unit begins. Short breaks offer recommissioned. Additional Resource Provision spaces start to open alongside Unsworth Special School.</p>
3. Achieving Inclusive Economic Growth	<p>Levelling-Up Sites commence construction Township Plans for Whitefield, Prestwich and Ramsbottom Economic Development Strategy Updated Accelerated Growth Programme Skills Strategy</p>	<p>Radcliffe Hub and Bury flexi space construction begins. The launch of our inclusive growth strategy.</p>
4. Improving the Health and Care system	<p>Intermediate Care Transformation Plan Care Quality Commission Inspection Readiness</p>	<p>Assistive Technology delivery. Review of our Intermediate Tier whilst we await fully prepared for potential assessment from new CQC inspection.</p>
5. Reducing health inequalities	<p>Reducing the life expectancy gap by focusing on preventing and reducing the impact of the 3 key contributors CVD, Cancer and Liver Disease. Narrowing the school readiness gap.</p>	<p>Self care tools for residents reviewed and refined with supporting communications rolled out with our VCSE sector. Impact reviewed of additional investment into substance misuse service.</p>
6. Tackling climate change	<p>Deliver commitments to decarbonisation and household energy efficiency across the borough Launch internal climate change action plan</p>	<p>Further streetlight columns replaced and improved with LEDs. Further energy efficiency measures deployed to households in Bury alongside increase in public EV charging infrastructure.</p>
7. Public Sector Reform	<p>Embedding Public Sectors Leadership Teams in each neighbourhood Taking a Person and Community Centred Approach to Public Sector reform</p>	<p>Radcliffe Family Hub opens following the successful deployment of the Bury East Hub. A consistent place based strength based approach is piloted across neighbourhoods.</p>
8. Delivering sustainable	<p>STH Options Appraisal</p>	<p>Places for Everyone is adopted. A start is made on</p>

Housing Growth	Housing Development to deliver 700 new homes	key housing development sites including East Lance Papermill, Green St and Seedfield School.
9. Celebrating culture and supporting our creative sector	Launch and Implementation of new Cultural Strategy Delivery of savings in BAM Development of programme of events UKSPF monitoring	BAM options approved and funding secured. Events Programme in place.