

	Party	Question	Questioner
1	Conservative	Can the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing confirm the Council's commitment to the White Ribbon Campaign?	Cllr. Lancaster
	Cllr Gold CC	<p><b>Bury Council is fully committed to the White Ribbon campaign to end violence against women and girls. Public endorsement of the commitment was made ahead of Bury's Full Council meeting on 22nd November and from a partnership perspective including Bury Community Safety Partnership.</b></p> <p><b>Building on our previous activity during the White Ribbon Campaign, and broader activity through Bury Council's application to become a White Ribbon Accredited Organisation was approved on 8th January 2024 for a three year period.</b></p> <p><b>Accreditation is not the end, it is about 365 days of action to further mainstream this activity in our approach, as a visible demonstration of our commitment within the context of our LET's Do It! approach and principles. Examples of activity and approaches include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Further awareness cascaded through Council departments,</b></li> <li>• <b>Signing up Ambassadors and Champions as part of Council and partner engagement including policing opportunities.</b></li> <li>• <b>Updates to Bury Community Safety Partnership to encourage partners to become accredited following the Council's lead.</b></li> <li>• <b>Embedded White Ribbon commitments across Safer Streets interventions including public guardianship and detached youth outreach patrols.</b></li> <li>• <b>Women and Girls safety training, including activities aimed at males in relation to behaviour change, and work with Bury's Night Time Economy.</b></li> </ul>	
2	Labour	Can the council confirm its commitment to paying the real living wage for the adult social care staff working in our borough?	Cllr Haroon
	Cllr Tariq CC (HR) and	<p>Supplementary: What benefit does the RLW have in terms of recruitment and retention of social care staff?</p> <p><b>Yes, I can confirm the council remains committed to ensuring our adult social care providers are real living wage employers and pay the real living wage.</b></p>	

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	Heath and Adult Care	At our last cabinet I was pleased to receive approval to my report requesting the annual fee uplift for our adult social care provider that ensures the funds for this are allocated within next year's budget	
3	Labour	After the Tory government's budget on 6th March, there are projected spending cuts in the public sector from 2025 onwards for unprotected services including local government. This is of a scale not seen since George Osbornes austerity measures were introduced in 2010. What are the implications of this for local government?	Cllr Liz Fitzgerald
	Cllr Gold	<b>The government in the budget talked about a 1% real-term growth in public spending. Bearing in mind that the NHS will be protected and receive the bulk of this small 1% increase, future funding settlements for Councils will see significant reductions in real term funding. The fact is that nearly all councils due to inflationary pressures and rising demand for services, will need increases in central funding. Many councils in order to meet their statutory requirements are having to rely on reserves and even in some cases loans to pay for basics. A better way would be a fairer funding review which was promised in 2016, so that councils can afford to provide the services that residents deserve, instead of the government's dismal record of high taxation and high NHS waiting lists that has such a detrimental impact on our residents.</b>	
4	Conservative	How much did the Council spend with the Bury Times during the calendar year 2023?	Cllr. Dean
	Cllr Gold Finance	<b>We spent £114,000 in 2023.</b>  <b>Over £30,000 of the spend was on Traffic Orders.</b>	
5	Radcliffe first	Now that offers of school places have been sent out, I was wondering if the Council will be able to send councillors a breakdown of school place allocations for their specific areas. For example, last year the Council emailed me a breakdown for the 416 pupils living in the M26 postcode showing the school the pupils had been allocated and whether pupils got had been offered their first, second or third preference etc or if they had an unplaced offer with an alternative school allocated to them. I would have liked the data for Bury MBC pupils living in the BL2 but apparently this was not available.	Cllr Birchmore

	Party	Question	Questioner
		The figures sent to me last year showed that 316 pupils in the M26 postcode were offered their first choice of school i.e. 76% which appeared to be lower than for some areas. It will be interesting to know if the new secondary school in Radcliffe opening in September 2024 has made a difference in the numbers.	
	Cllr Thorpe CYP	<p><b>More than happy to provide Radcliffe First members with the breakdown of school place allocations for residents within certain postcodes.</b></p> <p><b>Following National offer day on the 1<sup>st</sup> March, there is inevitable movement as parents accept or reject offers of secondary school places. In addition, separate offers have been made to parents applying for a place at Star Academy Radcliffe, and those parents have until 15<sup>th</sup> March to indicate if they are going to take up that offer.</b></p> <p><b>A detailed breakdown of places offered by postcode will be available shortly after the 15<sup>th</sup> and will be provided to Members at that point.</b></p>	
6	Labour	Can the Leader clarify how much money has been won by the council from CRSTS funding, for road safety and pedestrian improvements in Ramsbottom? ?	Cllr Pilkington
	Leader Operations and BGI	<p><b>There is £2.25m of CRSTS funding available to Bury for active travel improvements in Ramsbottom. We are currently developing the ideas included in the draft Bury Local Transport Strategy into more detailed proposals and will be consulting with residents and other stakeholders on these later this year. The final proposals will need to go through the Combined Authority's approval process before we can start to implement them. The funding will need to spent by March 2027.</b></p> <p><b>We are currently looking to shape the 2024/25 BGI business plan and as part of this will be considering all options for Ramsbottom. A key priority will be to ensure the future of the Civic Hall and Market Chambers. The next stage of this project will be to develop detailed designs for the building considering both enterprise and community use, as well as detailed commercial modelling. This will provide a solid basis for any future funding applications.</b></p>	
7	Labour	Can the council confirm the positive impact the HSF has made on reducing health inequalities and	Cllr D Quinn

	Party	Question	Questioner
		the urgent need to find a more sustainable successor?	
	<b>Cllr Tariq</b> <b>Health and Adult Care</b>	<p><b>The HSF has made a huge impact for people locally and has been an integral part of the anti-poverty strategy. The HSF has allowed us to provide free school meals to over 6500 children during school holidays. In addition, we have provided support in the form of food and fuel vouchers to over 2600 families in crisis. It has also allowed us to work with our VCFA to provide mini grants to 28 local charities and groups who in turn have supported over 3500 of our most vulnerable residents who have been impacted by the CoL.</b></p> <p><b>Following the announcement of the 6 month continuation of the HSF the anti-poverty steering group is working hard to develop plans to effectively utilise the available funding to continue to support our most vulnerable residents. However, without a sustainable successor we will be unable to continue with some of the key provision such as free school meals in the longer term.</b></p>	
<b>8</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	What steps are this Council taking to support the much needed improvement for students to attend a good or better Secondary School in the Borough?	<b>Cllr McBriar</b>
	<b>Cllr Thorpe</b> <b>C&amp;YP</b>	<p><b>Through its School Assurance Board that meets monthly, the Council considers the performance of all schools, including academies and identifies where support and intervention may be needed to drive improvement.</b></p> <p><b>Regular meetings with secondary school leaders, and in respect of Academies, with Trust CEO's, hold schools to account for performance and identifies where packages of support can be targeted to improve outcomes.</b></p> <p><b>The Council has also engaged the support of a secondary specialist Ofsted inspector to work with schools as necessary.</b></p> <p><b>These measures are showing improved outcomes in terms of the number of secondary schools judged good or better by Ofsted at their most recent inspection, but the Council recognises that further improvements are needed.</b></p> <p><b>The Council has also been instrumental in developing the business case demonstrating need for high quality secondary school provision in Radcliffe, and then in bringing together Star Academy and the Department for Education to deliver a new school.</b></p> <p><b>Star Academy is amongst the best performing academy trusts nationally, and will bring that quality to the new school.</b></p> <p><b>The Council has worked tirelessly to ensure that the school will open to its first cohort of</b></p>	

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		students in September 2024, with the permanent school building being ready for occupation in September 2025.	
9	Radcliffe first	At the February meeting, I asked about the plan to remove the riverside balcony from the scheme of works on Radcliffe Market. At a regeneration meeting I also asked what the budgeted cost was against the actual cost of carrying out the scheme as planned. Can the leader provide answers?	Cllr M Smith
	Leader	<p>The Radcliffe Hub and Market Chambers project will be transformational for the town and forms part of a much wider regeneration programme including a new high school, highway infrastructure and significant new housing on brownfield land. The Council is delighted to see the progress so far. The Hub project is running ahead of schedule and we will see the foundations being created this week.</p> <p>Officers have been working closely with the project architect and contractor on the proposed balcony detail for some time. Members will be aware that significant concerns were raised on the safety of the oversailing balcony (adjacent to the river) by the Environment Agency during the Planning Application process. Due to the age and structural composition of the external (river facing) wall of the Radcliffe Market, the delivery of the 3.5m wide balcony would have required extensive propping. The EA highlighted that these props would present a risk to the building from flood damage in an extreme (1 in 100 year) flood events. As such, Planning Permission was granted for the overall scheme, however conditions were imposed that there could be no supporting balcony props. Officers have been working very hard to develop an alternative solution to preserve this detail for some time. However, they have been unable to find a workable solution. This is because proposed solutions either caused risk of water penetration to the building, or caused detrimental implications to the operation of the building.</p> <p>The design team have, however, been able to preserve an outside terrace area which will provide river views and approximately 1,000ft<sup>2</sup> of outside entertaining space. This will be located behind Market Chambers and will be accessible from the Market itself and Market Chambers units. I have also instructed further design work to improve views from the market, over the river – which officers are currently developing with the architect. Removal of the balcony detail is unfortunate and has been done for safety reasons (only).</p>	

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		<b>It will not provide a material saving to the project.</b>	
10	<b>Labour</b>	Please can the Cabinet Member for Communities outline the notion behind the Knife Angel which is currently on display in the Borough?	<b>Cllr Lynn Ryder</b>
	<b>Cllr Gold CC</b>	<p><b>The Knife Angel is a national monument against violence aggression. It stands 27 feet tall and is made from 100,000 knives seized through nationwide amnesties.</b></p> <p><b>The thought-provoking statue is designed to raise awareness and educate people on the impacts of knife crime, violence and aggressive behaviour on communities.</b></p> <p><b>In conjunction with Bury Business Improvement District, Bury Community Safety Partnership and Public Health, the Knife Angel will remain in Bury until 27th March and a programme of activities are taking place, including with the Violence Reduction Unit Community Led Pilot, youth diversionary outreach team, as part of Operation Heartbeat police patrolling and engagement with schools, including promotion of the anti-violence champions initiative.</b></p> <p><b>As a Borough Bury thankfully experiences one of the lowest rates of serious violence in the region and hosting the Knife Angel is a pillar of Bury's partnership approach to preventing violence, raising awareness of diversionary activity and support, and intervening early to mitigate the impact when it does occur. Whilst Bury has the third lowest rate of serious violence across Greater Manchester [police-recorded violence with injury offences crimes per 1,000 residents], unfortunately incidents do still occur as experienced in the Borough last week. This is why it is important to continue to educate on the danger of carrying knives to yourself and others; to promote knife amnesty opportunities and reinforce safety messages, as took place last week as part of additional partnership patrolling between local community safety colleagues in addition to force resources to proactively tackle perpetrators, and to safeguard and reassure our communities.</b></p>	
11	<b>Labour</b>	Can the Cabinet Member for the Environment give council an update on the new 3G football facility at Redbank in Radcliffe?	<b>Cllr Gareth Staples Jones</b>
	<b>Cllr A Quinn Operations</b>	<p><b>The £2.4m full size, floodlit 3G pitch at Redbank Playing Fields is now complete. The new 'state of the art' football facility will now be used by over 70 teams of different ages and ability together with providing wider wellbeing benefit.</b></p> <p><b>The construction of a brand-new changing pavilion and club room together with new car</b></p>	

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		<p>park is progressing well on site and will be finished by July 2024.</p> <p>The new facilities have been funded with £1.8 million grant from the Football Foundation, plus a further £600k from Bury Council</p> <p>This fantastic durable playing pitch will allow safe and intensive all year-round play allowing games to continue in all kinds of weather.</p> <p>Radcliffe 3G will be operated by Radcliffe Football Foundation, a partnership between Radcliffe Juniors and Radcliffe FC.</p>	
12	Conservative	<p>How does the Cabinet Member for Culture and the Economy respond to views from Market Hall Traders (a view which I empathise with) that the Council are lacking openness and transparency in their decision making in relation to the future of the Market Hall?</p>	Cllr R Brown
	Cllr Morris Operations	<p><b>The markets management team are liaising daily with traders that have been impacted by the issues with the Market Hall.</b></p> <p><b>When the initial issue with the Market Hall first occurred, daily communications were sent directly to the traders with a comprehensive package of emergency support and updates of the position.</b></p> <p><b>Following this, traders were consulted with at several trader meetings where further ongoing support was given whilst we have been awaiting the final results of the full building survey.</b></p> <p><b>Traders have also been able to contact the market management team and the senior leadership where we have replied with the information available at the time.</b></p> <p><b>The senior leadership team and the markets management team have continuously consulted with the Bury Market Traders Association and with the National Market Traders Federation of which many of the traders are members of.</b></p> <p><b>The decision around the Market Hall will be based on the results of the full building survey, which was delayed due to the capacity of specialist RAACs surveyors. As soon as the final report is received and reviewed, Members will share results with the traders first.</b></p>	
13	Labour	<p>Can the Cabinet Member for Children's Services update the Council on the outcomes of the recent SEND Circles of Influence event?</p>	Cllr Nikki Frith

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	Cllr Thorpe C&YP	<p>The event was very informative. The issue of safety, put forward by Millwood school was chosen by the group to be continued. Other areas of concern identified were bullying and support for young people with additional needs in the workplace.</p> <p>A number of pertinent comments were identified during the course of the day, which will be included in the SEND circles of influence report, to be shared at the end of March.</p> <p>The report will be sent out to all the decision makers who were invited and will be presented at the SEND partnership board.</p> <p>An action plan, based on the key findings, will be devised in conjunction with the Youth Voice Network and partners.</p> <p>The Board will provide oversight of the action plan and this will also be considered at the youth voice network and relevant SEND YP groups.</p>	
14	Labour	<p>Can the Cabinet Member for the Environment tell council how many tonnes of waste have been rejected in Bury and at what cost?</p> <p>Supp: What needs to be done to improve this?</p>	Cllr Ayesha Arif
	Cllr A Quinn Operations	<p>Between April 23 and End of Jan 24, there have been 91.7 tonnes of contamination in the blue bin being rejected due to the wrong plastics, general household rubbish and items we cannot recycle. This has cost the Bury Council circa. £15,061.</p> <p>We currently have two fixed term waste prevention officers, who are working with the crews to identify the areas of where the contamination has come from, so that they can undertake community engagement and work with the employees on what can be recycled in both the blue and green bin.</p> <p>Work is continuing with the communication team to update and refresh the bin tags and leaflets and social media posts</p>	
15	Conservative	<p>Recent cases I have been dealing with have shown that different directorates do not seem to take a joined-up approach to dealing with complicated matters. How does the Council ensure issues that involve more than one part of the organisation are identified as needing a single point of contact to manage them?</p>	Cllr Vernon



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	Cllr Rafiq CC	<p>Many thanks for your question Cllr. Vernon. It's difficult to comment on this without understanding the specific circumstances of the cases you're referring to. However, together is one of our key LET'S behaviours and I know that officers are always supported and encouraged to work collaboratively across Departments when issues cut across different areas. This approach is proactively driven through the Council's Senior Leadership Group.</p> <p>I would also want to highlight work that has been undertaken recently to strengthen the Council's infrastructure and support for managing casework and complaints that cut across different parts of the organisation through the establishment of a new Policy Compliance function reporting to the Monitoring Officer. Supporting consistency and adherence to the Council's customer service standards will be a key role if this team. If there are any specific cases of concern that you would like me to look into then please do share the details and I would be happy to do so.</p>	
16	Conservative	What action are the Council taking to ensure more Freedom of Information requests are completed on time?	Cllr Rydeheard
	Cllr Rafiq CC	<p>From October 2023 to January 2024 the Council received 452 FOIs requests.</p> <p>Officers in the Business Support Team have been working on a new system to process FOI requests using Caseviewer, which is currently used for Members' casework. This new system aims to streamlines and remove duplication, improve reporting, and strengthen quality assurance, with FOI Lead sign off built into the system.</p> <p>The current compliance rate of FOIs being responded to on time from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 to 18 March 2024 is 71%. In 2022/2023 compliance was 69%, so there has been a slight improvement in the current reporting year to date.</p>	
17	Conservative	How many Standards Complaints relating to serving Councillors have been received since May 2023?	Cllr Gartside
	Chair of Standards Cttee CC	The Monitoring Officer can confirm that from May 2023 to 15 <sup>th</sup> March, nine conduct complaints have been received.	

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18	Conservative	Bury Cemetery Services are a vital resource for faith communities in the Borough. Is the Leader of the Council aware that the new rule for a 2 hour gap between burials is causing major problems for the Muslim community particularly on Fridays?	Cllr S Arif
	Cllr A Quinn Ops	<p><b>Thank you, Cllr. This is not a new rule for burials. The Bereavement service maintains a minimum 2-hour gap so that there is no cross over from a health and safety perspective. Burials can be affected by issues such as inclement weather and the time of year such as winter when there is less daylight hours. Burials can also often run late which reduces the time between burials. The time gap is to ensure the safety of the grave diggers and those attending a burial.</b></p> <p><b>The Council is proud of the bereavement service it offers to everyone, including the Muslim community where burials are often organised in a very short timescale.</b></p>	
19	Ind	<p>I've received numerous justified complaints from angry residents plus read many social media posts on the poor condition of the roads on Booth Farm Estate .</p> <p>Should funding become available, could consideration be given to place Booth Farm Estate on the "Reserve Local Scheme" list for TOTTINGTON Ward for a full resurface ?</p> <p>Potholes are repaired but fail in a few weeks, constantly wasting Council finances</p>	
	Cllr A Quinn Ops	<p><b>Our resurfacing programme was approved by Cabinet in March 2023. This programme covers the funding period up to and including 2026/27. Unfortunately, the Booth Farm Estate did not rank highly enough to be included in this programme.</b></p> <p><b>Officers are assessing streets for our 2025/26 preventative maintenance programme now. Booth Farm Estate will be considered for this programme alongside other candidate streets.</b></p>	

SEND Circles of Influence Report will be shared at the end of March.

This is a table of the issues that YP from each circle decided were the most important at the end of the day.

Safety won with 13 votes and was a theme chosen by Millwood school council to be continued during their council meetings for the remainder of the school.

Below are the words of young people

Bullying needs more focus on throughout the school so people know what the school policy is and who they can get support from	11
Making Bury safer with improved lighting and safety	5
There needs to be a way to report crime discreetly	13
Young people may need to be identified as needing extra support in schools or workplaces.  There should ways that they can be diagnosed quicker or evaluated so that their needs can be accommodated.	11
Support for those who had experienced trauma or discrimination in the home	4

Pertinent comments/views from the YP's notes were – recorded by a facilitator

- Safety and lighting in parks
- Safety and bullying on trams and buses
- Safety when out on their own
- Overstimulation in ( eg loud noises, busy spaces, sensory overload for neuro diverse young people) public spaces, on the bus, and in school
- Anxiety
- Opportunities for anonymous reporting/feedback to various services
- Opportunities to anonymously speak to professionals about issues and concerns.
- Opportunities to quickly report issues and concerns online (both for safety and wellbeing)
- Relationships between adults and YP allowing them to talk about their issues
- Staff training across various services to better understand YP with SEND

