

	Party	Question	Questioner
1	Radcliffe First	<p>In the past our Council has claimed that they have been forced to adopt a policy to allow developers to build on green belt around Elton Reservoir, in Walshaw and in Simister due to Conservative policies. Will the Council now adopt a genuine brownfield first policy for all developers and not remove green belt protection for any land in Bury MBC until the brownfield land has been exhausted? Will they also push their own government to provide sufficient funds to make remediation of available brownfield land possible?</p>	Cllr Birchmore
	Cllr O'Brien	<p><b>It should be noted that this Council has always supported a brownfield first policy. We have clearly demonstrated that in the number of brownfield sites that have received planning consents in recent years, many of which are on or will soon be on site. This means that hundreds of new homes are programmed for delivery on our brownfield land assets, including several sites in Radcliffe that will deliver much needed affordable homes for local residents.</b></p> <p><b>However, as stated in these chambers many times, we simply do not have sufficient brownfield land to meet the needs of a growing population over the longer term or to address the housing crisis that exists right across the country.</b></p> <p><b>The Places for Everyone plan is the plan that does this. It stills provides a strong emphasis on delivering brownfield land to meet housing needs, with 80% of housing over the next 15 years being delivered on brownfield land across Greater Manchester.</b></p> <p><b>However, it also identifies non-brownfield land in order to meet the identified longer term housing needs in the Borough and across the conurbation – and, importantly, the necessary infrastructure to deliver the sites.</b></p> <p><b>These large strategic sites will take time to secure the relevant planning consents and, in the meantime, we will continue to bring forward bring our brownfield sites. However, we do not have a finite supply of such sites so there is also a need to also bring forward these</b></p>	

		<p>strategic sites as we successfully reduce the availability of brownfield land.</p> <p>And – yes – we will continue to press Government for support to help remediate contaminated land and bring forward brownfield land for development.</p>	
2	<b>Labour</b>	<p>Can the Leader give council an update on the proposed 3G playing pitch at Ramsbottom?</p> <p><b>Supplementary:</b> Can the Leader give council an update on the latest progress on the 3G playing pitch and facilities at Radcliffe?</p>	<b>Cllr T Pilkington</b>
	<b>Cllr A Quinn</b>	<p>I am pleased to announce that thanks to the premier league, the FA, the DCMS's and Football Foundation, we've been awarded just short of £1m towards our next All Weather 3G pitch and changing room extension as part of a £1.42m project at Top Park in Ramsbottom.</p> <p>This will provide safe and accessible 3G pitch and changing facilities for all local grassroots footballers playing at these facilities.</p> <p>Supplementary (which may also be in the Leaders speech) It is also great news that the fantastic new 3G pitch and new changing rooms at Redbank in Radcliffe is nearing final completion. The 3G pitch was completed in February and now used by over 70 teams and the new changing rooms will be complete by the end of July. Following final reinstatement of landscape areas, the facility will be in use from the start of the new football season.</p>	
3	<b>Labour</b>	<p>With a new Labour government removing the de facto ban on onshore wind by the previous Conservative Government, will the Leader be lobbying for more onshore wind in Bury?</p>	<b>Cllr E Moss</b>
	<b>Cllr O'Brien</b>	<p>The Council has set a target to be carbon neutral by 2038 and encouraging renewable energy generation is a vital part of that target. The Council's local area energy plan states "To reduce emissions in line with the GM carbon budget, local energy generation needs to increase significantly and be deployed rapidly" <a href="#">Bury Local Area Energy Plan - GM Green</a></p>	

		<p><u>City.</u></p> <p><b>Therefore, where appropriate and feasible we would encourage all types of renewable energy generation including onshore wind</b></p>	
4	<b>Conservative</b>	<p>At the request of residents, I have been working with a school in my ward to investigate the feasibility of implementing a school street. I have been informed that the Council are not currently looking to implement any new schemes at this time, due to staff shortages. Are there any plans to address this and work towards the aim of the safer routes to schools section of the Transport Strategy?</p>	<b>Cllr Vernon</b>
	<b>Cllr A Quinn</b>	<p><b>Engineering Services has recently been restructured and recruitment to build capacity in this vital team is ongoing.</b></p> <p><b>Whilst consideration of new School Streets has been paused we continue to roll out a programme of highway schemes aimed at improving safety around schools. This work will see 6 schools in the borough benefit from nearby highway improvements over the coming 12 months, creating safer routes to our schools</b></p>	
5	<b>Labour</b>	<p>The new Labour government has said it will prioritise building the homes we need. Will the Leader be lobbying to deliver the funding we need to build more social homes in Bury?</p>	<b>Cllr G Staples-Jones</b>
	<b>Cllr O'Brien</b>	<p><b>****political response required</b></p> <p><b>The Council is committed to delivering our housing strategy and we will continue to work closely with relevant external organisations to leverage funding to support our housing development activities and those of our partners</b></p>	
6	<b>Labour</b>	<p>With a new Labour government, will the Cabinet Member for Housing be asking our two Labour MPs to lobby now to bring in the banning of the heinous Section 21 no fault evictions?</p>	<b>Cllr L Ryder</b>
	<b>Cllr Cummins</b>	<p><b>I fully support the abolition of section 21 no fault evictions to help rebalance renters' rights and protect families from homelessness. The new Labour government has pledged to push through the long overdue Renters Reform Bill without further delay, which would ban landlords from evicting tenants without just cause.</b></p>	

		<p><b>Additional information</b></p> <p>Currently Private tenancies are governed by the Housing Act 1988.</p> <p>Landlords must serve a legal notice to end a tenancy. If the tenant does not leave, the landlord must go to court, which can instruct bailiffs to enforce eviction.</p> <p>Currently, a landlord can evict a tenant without providing any reason – a section 21 eviction. This requires the landlord to give the tenant two months’ notice. After this, it is always mandatory for the court to order eviction of the tenant if the tenant does not leave during the notice period.</p> <p>Landlords may also seek possession using section 8 grounds which comprises a list of circumstances defined in law in which a landlord can evict a tenant, for example due to rent arrears. If a tenant does not leave during the notice period, a landlord must prove to a court that the ground applies.</p> <p>The previous Government proposed The Renters Reform Bill - The bill failed to pass through all the necessary stages and be made into law before parliament closed ahead of the general election. Therefore, it remains a decision of the new government to introduce the reforms to private renting. The Labour manifesto promised to scrap section 21 'no fault' evictions immediately and to take 'fast action to make renters better off'.</p>	
7	<b>Conservative</b>	What is the Council’s position with regards the reported legal action undertaken by local groups in relation to Places for Everyone?	<b>Cllr Vernon</b>
	<b>Cllr O’Brien</b>	The GMCA has filed and served a defence in the Court proceedings in which the adoption of the Places for Everyone plan has been challenged. The defence was filed on behalf of the nine Places for Everyone local authorities and the GMCA itself. We await the Court’s decision on whether permission to proceed with the challenge is granted, which will be allocated to a judge for consideration in mid July.	

8	<b>Labour</b>	Following the successful opening of the Redvales Family Hub, what are the plans to expand this offer across the borough	<b>Cllr L FitzGerald</b>
	<b>Cllr L Smith</b>	<b>We plan to roll out the Family Hub service delivery model across all five neighbourhoods. It's the model of neighbourhood working that creates the best opportunity for sub neighbourhood/specific community multi-agency working. We will focus delivery on the areas of greatest need, and we will also be flexible in how we deliver services. We are currently reviewing options for buildings for delivery in each area, building on the learning from our first Hub in Redvales, but also on the reinvigorated Children's Centre Early Years and multi-agency service delivery for children and families that already exists</b>	
9	<b>Labour</b>  <b>Cllr Walmsley</b>	What efforts are being taken to ensure that Bury's night time economy is safe and welcoming for all residents?	<b>Cllr J Southworth</b>
		<b>Council have strengthened partnership working, including with Greater Manchester Police, StreetPastors (volunteer guardians) and local licenced premises to maintain and promote a safe evening and night time economy in Bury. This has been building on a strong base of being a Purple Flag accredited town centre, an accolade the Borough is rightly proud of but there is a strong recognition of not resting on any laurels. Recent work has included a refreshed night time 'problem profile' to review hotspots and nature of any incidents to inform partnership patrol plans and interventions; development of a Women's Nighttime Safety Charter building on GMP's Best Bar None initiative promoting community safety awareness and standards in licenced premises; expansion of CCTV coverage through a successful Safer Streets bid for national funding which has already been used to bring offenders to justice; joint work with Bury Business Improvement District and Pubwatch on digital crime reporting and intelligence system to improve connectivity and sharing of information between organisations; and ongoing learning through engagement with the Co-operative Council Innovation Network including sharing practices with Newcastle's licensing teams. This is being overseen the Creating &amp; Maintaining Safe Spaces subgroup of the Community Safety Partnership and feeds into the Bury Town Centre Regeneration</b>	

		<b>Board.</b>	
<b>10</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	As we approach the new school year in September what spare capacity is there in respect of student places?	<b>Cllr McBriar</b>
	<b>Cllr L Smith</b>	<p><b>A total of 2,359 applications were received from Bury residents (excluding SEN special school applications), all Bury residents were offered a school place, with 94.5% of applicants being offered a school of preference. The following shows an analysis of preferences satisfied:</b></p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> preference – 1965 - 83.3%</b>  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> preference – 210 - 8.9%</b>  <b>3<sup>rd</sup> preference – 54 - 2.3%</b></p> <p><b>Of the remaining 5.5% of applicants (130 students), places were offered at alternative schools with vacancies, including The Heys, St Monicas and Tottington. In addition, this year will see the first intake of Star Radcliffe Academy, opening from September 2024 with all 150 Y7 places offered. There are still a number of vacancies at Hazel Wood, Philips, St Gabriel's, St Monica's, The Heys, Tottington and Woodhey (184 vacancies in total).</b></p> <p><b><u>Admission to Reception Class 2024</u></b></p> <p><b>A total of 1,988 applications were received from Bury residents, (excluding SEN special school applications), all Bury residents were offered a school place, with 98.8% of applicants being offered a school of preference. The following shows an analysis of preferences satisfied:</b></p> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> preference – 1856 93.4%</b>  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> preference – 95 4.8%</b>  <b>3<sup>rd</sup> preference – 12 0.6%</b></p> <p><b>Of the remaining 1.2% of applicants (25 children), therefore places were offered at alternative schools with vacancies. A large number of schools have Reception vacancies for September, with approximately 374 vacancies spread across the Borough. This year's Reception intake reflects the context of the sustained decline in the birth rate, and the impact that this is likely to have on the demand for school places..</b></p>	

		<p><b><u>Additional Information In year vacancies</u></b></p> <p><b>In terms of vacancies across the school system, there is capacity within the primary sector for in year applications for all year groups across the Borough, however Year 5 and Year 6 are the largest cohorts so places are a lot more limited especially in areas of high demand, such as East Bury, where a number of applications are received from international arrivals.</b></p> <p><b>In the secondary sector, a number of schools across the borough have vacancies in every year group, however Hazel Wood, Bury Church, Unsworth, Derby, Elton and Woodhey are currently full to capacity and any in year applications to those schools will be processed as admission appeals.</b></p>	
11	<b>Labour</b>	<p>Following the announcement from the Department of Health and Social Care that “the NHS is broken”, what priorities do we have in Bury for how we want to fix it?</p>	<b>Cllr U Farooq</b>
	<b>Cllr Tariq</b>	<p><b>Thankyou for the question</b></p> <p><b>It is true that the NHS in Bury and nationally has been under significant demand pressure and many services are not as timely as NHS providers would wish.</b></p> <p><b>We have for example seen</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>a trebling of demand for childrens mental health services and similar growth in demand for other paediatric health services</b></li> <li>• <b>there are over 520,000 people in Greater Manchester waiting for elective care,</b></li> <li>• <b>we have seen an exponential growth in demand for Adult ADHD and ASC assessment,</b></li> <li>• <b>and we have had seen significant challenges in the urgent care system including pressures on delivering the 4 hour waiting time target in A&amp;E.</b></li> <li>• <b>and in addition, and despite seeing record numbers of patients in GP services, there are significant demand pressures in primary care.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>The Bury heath and care system works effectively together through the Locality Board co-chaired by the Leader. There are many examples of excellent service performance,</b></p>	

		<p>innovative practices, and improved outcomes for residents. For example, the performance report reviewed on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bury has the lowest number of non-elective admissions to hospital in GM - a measure of our prevention and early intervention programmes</li> <li>• In 23/24 Bury had the highest number ever of people with Learning Disabilities having a health check in primary care</li> <li>• Bury has the second highest dementia diagnosis rate in GM</li> <li>• Bury has the second lowest number in GM of patients waiting over 6 weeks for a diagnostic test</li> </ul> <p>The locality board recognises the key priorities for the NHS and wider Health and Care System in 2024/25 as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urgent and Emergency Care – demand management, improved service co-ordination, and strengthening of community based services</li> <li>• Continuing to work with all partners on the reducing planned care waiting times ,</li> <li>• Developing the sustainable model of primary care, embedding the neighbourhood model, and focusing on primary and secondary prevention and reducing duplication across provider partners</li> <li>• Mental health and emotional wellbeing services for both adults and childrens – demand management , early intervention and reducing Out of Area placements</li> <li>• Children and Young People – The first 1001 days</li> <li>• NHS response to the SEND inspection outcome</li> <li>• Workforce development and particularly recruitment and retention across all organisations in the place.</li> </ul> <p>This work is underpinned by the relentless commitment signaled in let's do it to tackle population health and health inequalities – recognising improving population health is a precondition to a sustainable NHS.</p>	
12	<b>Labour</b>	Can the Cabinet Member confirm that the Council has increased the amount of weed spraying in the borough?	<b>Cllr L FitzGerald</b>
	<b>Cllr A Quinn</b>	I am happy to confirm that this year we are completing 2 weed sprays of the entire 660km of adopted highway. Crews recently finished the first spray after starting work in mid-May.	



		<b>The second spray is due to start in August and will be complete before the end of September weather permitting</b>	
<b>13</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	Could the Cabinet Member please explain what the maintenance strategy is for the Borough's cemeteries?	<b>Cllr Lancaster</b>
	<b>Cllr A Quinn</b>	<p><b>Members will be aware we have 3 cemeteries within the borough; Radcliffe Cemetery, Bury Cemetery and Ramsbottom Cemetery.</b></p> <p><b>We have teams based at each of the cemeteries carrying out regular maintenance works including grass cutting, hedge trimming, litter picking, tree pruning and bedding displays.</b></p> <p><b>It is worthwhile noting that maintenance of the burial plots within our cemeteries is the responsibility of the plot owners and not the Council.</b></p> <p><b>The standard of Radcliffe Cemetery has received national recognition, achieving Green Flag status in 2023/24. I am pleased to be able to inform Council that only last Friday we were notified that our Ramsbottom Cemetery has also been awarded a Green Flag.</b></p> <p><b>This brilliant news acknowledges the hard work and dedication of all officers involved.</b></p>	
<b>14</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	What plans do the Council have to return the statue of Victoria Wood back into the Town Centre?	<b>Cllr S Arif</b>
	<b>Cllr C Morris</b>	<b>Following the unfortunate accident when a taxi collided with the Victoria Wood statue and knocked it over, the Council has been working with the driver's insurance company to make arrangements to bring the statue back to Bury. The statue has been lifted, packed and transported to the Foundry where it was made at no cost to Bury Council and a full damage assessment has been undertaken. The damage report is currently with the driver's insurers for review. There will also need to be repairs made to the pavement and the traffic island in front of the statue site and these costs will also be claimed.</b>	
<b>15</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	Why will the Council not allow a resident, who has an issue with a Council owned tree, to have it lopped at their own expense by a contractor as the Council refuse to do so?	<b>Cllr Harris</b>
	<b>Cllr Quinn</b>	<b>Our policy is not to "lop" trees as it is detrimental to the trees health. Lopping involves the removal of large portions of the crown. This puts the tree under a lot of stress and weakens</b>	

	<p><b>the tree leaving it susceptible to infection and infestation.</b></p> <p><b>It is absolutely vital that our highly trained officers manage and maintain our valued tree stock. Inappropriate work carried out to our tree stock by residents could create huge health and safety risks</b></p>	
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