

Minutes of: COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 17 July 2024

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor , in the Chair)
Councillors A Arif, S Arif, N Bayley, R Bernstein, D Berry, C Birchmore, C Boles, A Booth, R Brown, C Cummins, D Duncalfe, U Farooq, E FitzGerald, N Frith, R Gold, D Green, J Grimshaw, S Haroon, J Harris, M Hayes, J Hook, K Hussain, B Ibrahim, J Lancaster, G Marsden, L McBriar, G McGill, C Morris, E Moss, E O'Brien, T Pilkington, A Quinn, D Quinn, T Rafiq, M Rahimov, M Rubinstein, J Rydeheard, L Ryder, K Simpson, L Smith, M Smith, J Southworth, G Staples-Jones, T Tariq, S Thorpe, D Vernon, S Walmsley, M Walsh and Y Wright

Apologies for Absence I Gartside and I Rizvi

Public Attendance: 6 members of the public attended the meeting.

C. 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Roger Brown declared a pecuniary interest with regards to the Labour Notice of Motion as a United Utilities shareholder. He left the meeting, part way through consideration of this item.

C. 3 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor reported to Council on work undertaken as Bury's first citizen since the last Council meeting.

The Mayor, together with Group Leaders placed on record their condolences and observed a minutes silence following the passing of former Councillor, Wilf Davidson and Bury resident Sir Howard Bernstein.

C. 4 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

That the minutes of the last meeting be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

C. 5 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Notice had been received of the following questions:

Questioner	Topic	Responding
Mr Birchall	Paving stone hazard	Cllr A Quinn

Questions without notice:

Questioner	Topic	Responding
Mr Dixon	Rochdale Old Road, Gulley Issue	Cllr A Quinn

C. 6 RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Cabinet – Budget Update Report

It was moved by Councillor Thorpe and seconded by Councillor O'Brien; on being put with all Members voting for and the Mayor abstaining; that, Council, approves:

- The increase to the fees and charges as set in section 21 and Appendix 1 totalling £444k.
- Note the updated Net Revenue Budget of £224.480m and £1.982m reduction in the use of reserves, from £15.131m to £13.149m.

Cabinet – Housing Revenue Account – Proposed Capital Works Programme 2024/25

It was moved by Councillor Cummins and seconded by Councillor Thorpe; on being put with all Members voting for and the Mayor abstaining; that, Council, approves:

The proposed Capital Programme to be funded within the HRA, estimated at £19,841,760.

Cabinet – Implementation of the Children's Services Leadership Structure

It was moved by Councillor Rafiq and seconded by Councillor L Smith; on being put with all Members voting for and the Mayor abstaining; that, Council, approves:

- The release of the Strategic Lead (Schools System) and disestablishment of their role following their request for Voluntary Early Retirement with Severance submitted through the consultation process. – This would attract severance costs of £37,409 (which will be met by the Department) and capital costs of £101,325 related to the early release of pension benefits (which will be met centrally by the fund held by the Greater Manchester Pension Fund on behalf of the Council for this purpose). (These costs will vary very slightly dependant on the exact leaving date).
- The redesignation and revaluation of one of the two Assistant Director (Regeneration Delivery) roles (Chief Officer Band D, £83,865-£90,992) to Director of Regeneration and Project Delivery (Chief Officer Band E, £93,102 - £101,596) to reflect the transfer of responsibility for Schools' Capital Development to this role and also an expanded remit in relation to housing growth and development following the departure of the former Director of Housing.

C. 7 LEADER' STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(a) Written question (Notice given)

The Leader of the Council, Councillor E O'Brien, made a statement on the work undertaken by him since the date of the last Council meeting.

The Leader and the relevant Cabinet Members answered questions raised by Councillors on the following issues:

	Questioner	Cabinet Member	Topic
1	Cllr Birchmore	Leader	Elton Reservoir
2	Cllr Pilkington	Cllr A Quinn	3G Playing Pitch
3	Cllr Moss	Leader	Onshore Wind
4	Cllr Vernon	Cllr A Quinn	School Street Scheme
5	Cllr Staples Jones	Leader	Home Building
6	Cllr Ryder	Cllr Cummins	Section 21 Evictions
7	Cllr Vernon	Leader	Places for Everyone
8	Cllr FitzGerald	Cllr L Smith	Redvales Family Hub
9	Cllr J Southworth	Cllr Walmsley	Night Time Economy
10	Cllr MC Briar	Cllr I Smith	School places
11	Cllr Farooq	Cllr T Tariq	Fixing the NHS

Due to the lack of time to answer questions 12 to 15 inclusive, the Leader gave an undertaking that copies of those questions and responses will be circulated to all Councillors. The Leader also gave an undertaking to make these available on the Council Web Site.

b) Verbal Questions

The Leader received verbal questions from the following Councillors present: Bernstein, M Smith, A Arif, Vernon, Berry, Lancaster, D Quinn and J Southworth.

C. 8 COMBINED AUTHORITY REPORT AND QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL'S COMBINED AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES

The Council received a report on the work of the Combined Authorities and a verbal update from Cabinet Member, Councillor A Quinn on the work of the Waste Authority.

The following questions had been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rules:

Questioner	Combined Authority Member	Topic
Cllr A Arif	Cllr A Quinn	Fare evasion
Cllr Staples-Jones	Cllr O'Brien	Investment in Bury Interchange
Cllr Brown	Cllr Walmsley	Stop and Search
Cllr Rydeheard	Cllr Walmsley	GMFRS

C. 9 NOTICES OF MOTION

1. Combined Storm Overflows

Councillor considered a Notice of Motion from Councillors; Birchmore, Berry, Booth, Duncalfe, Marsden, M Smith, Simpson and Walsh, details of which were contained in the Council summons.

The Notice of motion was moved by Councillor Birchmore and seconded by Councillor Berry and it was proposed that, this Council resolves to:

- Request a meeting with United Utilities and local councillors to discuss concerns and explore local solutions to the discharging of sewage into rivers which either flow through or feed into rivers that flow through Bury MBC.
- Write to our two local MPs outlining the concerns raised about the effective regulation of United Utilities and continued spills/discharges from CSOs.
- Write to the Regulator the Environment Agency asking that priority is given to addressing the discharge into all rivers not simply those in river bathing areas.
- Write to the Regulator the Environment Agency requesting direct engagement between concerned members to establish what they are doing to improve water quality in our Borough and prevent further unnecessary spills.

Members considered an amendment moved by Councillor A Quinn and seconded by Councillor Staples Jones that:

This Council welcomes the new Labour Government's proposals to take speedy action on this issue too. Including:

- Requesting Ofwat make sure funding for vital infrastructure is ringfenced and can only be spent on upgrades benefitting customers and the environment. In addition, that any money not spent is refunded to customers and not given as bonuses for bosses, dividends or salary increases.
- An expectation that companies to change their 'Articles of Association' – the rules governing each company – to make the interests of customers and the environment a primary objective.
- Proposing that customers gain new powers to hold water company bosses to account with new customer panels that will allow water users to summon board members and executives.
- Proposing, subject to consultation, that the amount of compensation customers are legally entitled to when key standards are not met will more than double.

This Council resolves to:

- ~~• Request a meeting with United Utilities and local councillors to discuss concerns and explore local solutions to the discharging of sewage into rivers which either flow through or feed into rivers that flow through Bury MBC.~~
- ~~• Write to our two local MPs outlining the concerns raised about the effective regulation of United Utilities and continued spills/discharges from CSOs.~~
- ~~• Write to the Regulator the Environment Agency asking that priority is given to addressing the discharge into all rivers not simply those in river bathing areas.~~

~~Write to the Regulator the Environment Agency requesting direct engagement between concerned members to establish what they are doing to improve water quality in our Borough and prevent further unnecessary spills~~

1. Invite United Utilities to address members before a full council meeting to discuss concerns and explore local solutions to the discharging of sewage into local rivers.
2. Write to our two MPs to congratulate the new Environment Secretary for taking urgent action to address these concerns and request that water companies must stop discharges from CSOs by 2035.

3. Continue the exemplar relationship with the Environment Agency that we have and work with them to address these concerns.

Members moved to vote on the amendment, with the majority of Members voting in favour, the Mayor declared the amendment carried.

Members voted on the substantive motion, with the majority of Members voting in favour, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

2. Swift Bricks

Council considered a motion received in the names of COUNCILLORS; A Arif, Bayley, Boles, Cummins, Farooq, Fitzgerald, Frith, Gold, Green, Grimshaw, Haroon, Hayes, Hook, Ibrahim, McGill, Morris, Moss, O'Brien, Pilkington, A Quinn, D Quinn, Rafiq, Rahimov, Rizvi, Rubinstein, Ryder, L Smith, Southworth, Staples-Jones, Tariq, Thorpe, Walmsley, details of which were contained in the Council summons.

The Notice of motion was moved by Councillor Hayes and seconded by Councillor FitzGerald and it was proposed that, this Council resolves to:

- 1) Request that the Council accepts that best practice, in the form of British Standard 42021:2022, should be proposed and adopted within the new Bury Local Plan.
- 2) Ensure that any plans to re-roof Bury's Council Housing stock be seen as an opportunity to install Swift nesting boxes, especially if there is evidence of existing nests.

On being put with all Members voting in favour, the motion was carried.

3. An inclusive and accessible environment to improve the lives of blind and partially sighted people who live and visit Bury.

Council considered a notice of motion received in the names of COUNCILLORS: S Arif, Bernstein, Brown, Gartside, Harris, Hussain, Lancaster, McBriar, Rydeheard, Vernon details of which were contained in the Council summons.

The Notice of motion was moved by Councillor McBriar and seconded by Councillor Grimshaw and it was proposed that;

THIS COUNCIL NOTES THAT:

Ensuring an inclusive and accessible environment is not just a matter of compliance but a fundamental right and a testament to our community's values some of which are embedded in the Let's Do It Strategy.

There are several actionable strategies which this Council can implement to improve the quality of life for blind and partially sighted people who both live and visit our Borough.

THIS COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGES THAT

The actionable strategies include;

Accessibility to and improvements on public transportation

Enhancing the role of technology and digital accessibility

Improve community awareness and education

Improve accessibility to and inclusivity of employment opportunities

Ensure social and recreational opportunities for blind and partially sighted people are accessible

THIS COUNCIL RESOLVES

To undertake a feasibility study to consider all matters that need to be considered to improve accessibility and inclusiveness for blind and partially sighted people living and visiting our Borough.

The feasibility study to include contributions from all partners and interested parties

For the Chief Executive to report back on this matter by January 2025 Council.

On being put with all Members voting in favour, the motion was carried.

C. 10 SCRUTINY REVIEW REPORTS AND SPECIFIC ITEMS "CALLED IN" BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

There were no scrutiny review reports and specific items "called in" by scrutiny committees.

C. 11 QUESTIONS ON THE WORK OF OUTSIDE BODIES OR PARTNERSHIPS

There were no questions on the work of outside bodies or partnerships.

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR

Notes: The meeting started at 7pm and ended at 10.40pm