

	Party	Question	Questioner
1	Labour Cllr Walmsley CC	With the very welcome announcement in the Budget that the Household Support Fund will be extended again, can the Cabinet Member for Communities and Inclusion provide an update on how we plan to co-produce our plans to spend this much-needed extra money?	Cllr Hayes
		<p><b>On 4th November 2024 representatives from Bury Council, public sector partners and community leads, including foodbanks, pantries, welfare support groups and faith leads, came together at Radcliffe Football Club for the latest Anti-Poverty and Cost of Living Summit.</b></p> <p><b>The sessions primary purpose was to bring a range of partners, community groups and resident representatives together; to better understand the challenges our residents are facing. Then on the back of this, collaboratively discuss and shape the use of the current allocation of Household Support Funding.</b></p> <p><b>The feedback from the event was invaluable and as a result of the discussions we are just finalising a clear, co-designed plan for the use of the HSF which takes into account local residents needs and community groups feedback.</b></p>	
2	Labour Cllr Thorpe CC - Finance	Following our representations to the new Government for extra and fairer funding for local government, does the Cabinet Member for Finance believe we are now heading in the right direction following the Budget announcements?	Cllr Moss
		<p><b>The Chancellor of the Exchequer presented her Autumn Statement on 30 October 2024</b></p> <p><b>Overall it was better than had been anticipated for Bury, and local government as a whole, with a 3.2% (£1.3bn) real terms increase in core spending power. In particular, the Chancellor announced additional funding of £600m nationally for the social care grant and another £700m of additional local government grant as well as the continuation of the Household Support Fund, £500m of additional funding nationally for local roads maintenance and £1bn for the special educational needs and disabilities system.</b></p> <p><b>Whilst these additions within the budget are welcome we know that they will not be sufficient in themselves to address the existing funding gap either for this council or local government as a whole. To fix this toxic legacy</b></p>	

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		<p>of 14 years under the Conservatives, we need a government committed to fairer funding and reform of public services.</p> <p>I am encouraged that the ministerial team within MHCLG have indicated an intent to change the funding system ahead of the comprehensive spending review and 3-year settlement, with a stated focus on directing funding towards authorities with higher needs, but also taking local revenues (business rates and council tax) into account. We will, of course, continue to speak up for Bury as part of this process and demand our fair share.</p> <p>For now, the actual impact of the Budget for councils will not be known until the outcome of the draft Local Government Finance Settlement which is due in mid-December.</p>	
3	Conservative Leader	Does the Leader believe that the 7 Principles of Public Life are robustly adhered to within this Council?	Cllr Lancaster
		The 7 Principles of Public Life are adhered to in this Council. However, on the rare occasion when they are not, we deal with the matter robustly and comprehensively.	
4	Radcliffe First Cllr L Smith	Given that the next intake for Star Academy in Radcliffe is to be housed in additional temporary buildings, can we have confirmation that any additional costs relating to these temporary units will not fall to the Council but be borne by the DfE?	Cllr M Smith
		The costs of the additional modular accommodation for Star Radcliffe Academy for the second year's intake are to be borne by the DfE.	
5	Labour Cllr Cummins	Can the Cabinet Member for Housing outline what steps are being taken to prepare our social housing provision for any future inspection from the regulator?	Cllr Farooq
		<p>The Housing service began conducting a consumer standard self-assessment in 2023 when the new Social Housing regulations were introduced. This was in preparation of an In-Depth Assessment which can be conducted by the regulator at any time over the next three years.</p> <p>In addition to this we have recruited a specialist housing</p>	

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		<p>consultant called Altair who is currently conducting a 14-week mock inspection of the Housing Service.</p> <p>This involves reviewing documents provided to the inspector on request, observing meetings that deliver oversight and scrutiny of the Housing service and its performance and undertaking workshops with the executive team, staff and tenants, to develop a deeper understanding of the service.</p> <p>The mock inspectors delivered a briefing session to Council members on 23<sup>rd</sup> October on the consumer standards, highlighting the level of assurance that is required by the regulator over the four standards. They provided insight to what the inspection process should deliver for us.</p> <p>We have regular update meetings with the inspectors and anticipate a full end-of-inspection report with recommendations in December.</p>	
6	Labour Cllr Cummins	Ahead of the colder weather this winter, what work is being done to support those who are rough sleeping or at risk of it?	Cllr Staples Jones
		<p>Whilst there is no statutory requirement to provide a cold weather provision this administration has made it clear that out top priority is to protect vulnerable people, especially those who are homeless. As a result, I can confirm that the Council will be providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional cold weather provision at a local church (8pm-8am) offering 15 male bedspaces, 3 female.</li> <li>• Signposting to Red Door during the day and to the warm hubs who offer hot food, a shower, washing machine facilities and winter warmer packs.</li> <li>• high risk hotel provision for people who we can't accommodate elsewhere due to their complexity/risk.</li> <li>• early morning outreach work being provided by the Rough Sleepers Service to give additional and more intense support. This is complimented by</li> </ul>	

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		<p><b>Bradley Fold out of hours security team who deliver this throughout the night.</b></p> <p><b>All people who access cold weather provision are also offered wrap around support while they are using the service, this aims to plan for their long-term accommodation and needs.</b></p> <p><b>(For info: This year's annual rough sleepers count will be conducted on the evening of 28<sup>th</sup> November and the morning of the 29<sup>th</sup> November.)</b></p>	
7	Conservative Cllr A Quinn Ops	Will the Cabinet Member for the Environment, Climate Change and Operations confirm that this Council will not be charging residents an additional fee for collecting garden refuse as is being suggested at other Labour run Councils in Greater Manchester?	Cllr Vernon
		<b>There are no plans to roll out charging for garden waste.</b>	
8	Radcliffe First Cllr A Quinn	For some time now I have questioned the validity of relying solely on diffusion tubes to make NO2 readings for some locations in Bury including Bury Bridge. In August 2022 an electro-chemiluminescence analyser was installed at the Bury Bridge location. Having tracked the readings for this analyser, it would appear that the diffusion tube readings may be questionable. I certainly believe evaluation research on NO2 measurements appears to show that the ECL readings are more likely to be accurate. Have any adjustments been made in terms of identified hotspots considering the ECL reported data, which could lead to a better understanding of the pattern and causes of NO2 peaks?	Cllr Birchmore
		<p><b>The automatic chemiluminescent analysers like the one at Bury Bridge have been installed to monitor the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan and are sited as reference level analysers. For practical reasons it is always difficult to site these monitors in all locations where there are hotspots of higher pollution and air quality risk. Government guidance is therefore to use them in combination with diffusion tubes, which are more easily installed at locations of interest.</b></p> <p><b>The siting of the automatic analyser at the A58 Bury Bridge was limited by the availability of power and access. This has meant that it had to be located upwind of the road and therefore records lower concentrations than if it was sited on the other side of the road with the</b></p>	

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		<p>prevailing wind transporting vehicle emissions towards it.</p> <p>The first year of data for the automatic site at Bury Bridge was 2023, when it recorded 22 ug/m3 as an annual average. A diffusion tube was co-located at this site so that a comparison of the diffusion tube measurements could be made. This co-located diffusion tube recorded 23.3 ug/m3 in 2023. This 6% variance is considered good agreement and supports the use of the wider diffusion tube survey in monitoring and appraisal of the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan.</p>	
9	<p><b>Labour</b> <b>Cllr L Smith</b> <b>CYP</b></p>	<p>Following on from Care Leavers Week, earlier this month can the Cabinet Member for Children's Services update the Council on what work is being done to best support our Care Leavers?</p>	<p><b>Cllr D Quinn</b></p>
		<p><b>Improving Children's Lives is one of our top priorities and that should start with making sure our children who are care experienced get the very best. I am very pleased to say that we opened our Care Leaver Hub earlier this year. The Hub is open Monday to Friday, 8:45am to 5pm and is a safe place for our young people, who know they can just come inside, meet up, access support or just talk.</b></p> <p><b>The Hub has a timetable of support available about health, education, employment and training and housing. Partners involved include the DWP – to support full access to benefit entitlement and support into work; Early Break and Achieve. We also hope to put on 'Stay and Play' sessions for young parents and emotional wellbeing sessions in yoga and mindfulness. Bury Catering will also support with cooking skills.</b></p> <p><b>Over the past year we have also overhauled and improved many of the council's wider policies that are most critical for care leavers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>• We have changed our housing allocation policy to ensure our Care Leavers have Band 1 priority for housing. There are also new protocols in place to plan for young people's housing needs, and improved escalation processes to ensure that young people get the right property, at the right time.</b></li> <li><b>• We have also changed our financial policy to make it clearer about what young people get when and what they are entitled to.</b></li> </ul>	

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		<p>All care leavers continue to have a Personal Advisor - who proactively reaches out and responds to requests for support – and a Pathway Plan that assesses their needs and draws upon the multi-agency partnership for support and creating a strong network for every one of our young people. We continue to work on the quality of plans to ensure that they are as robust as can be and that they are truly co-produced with our young people.</p> <p>Finally, our Local Offer to care experienced young people is being updated and developed to be more ambitious and draw more effectively from the support available across the full, wider partnership of local agencies. We are also developing stronger links with the GM wider network of support for care experienced young people, as well as the GM Youth Network.</p>	
10	Labour Cllr A Quinn	Does the Cabinet Member for Operations welcome the additional £500m for potholes announced in the Budget?	Cllr A Arif
		<p>The terrible record of the Conservative Governments over the past 14 years has laid bare the scale of the challenge to fix our borough and nation's roads.</p> <p>The recent ALARM survey outlines a funding shortfall in England and Wales for carriageway maintenance of £1.22billion for the past year alone. The survey also details that one off funding of £16.9billion is required to catch up on the maintenance backlog.</p> <p>Despite this difficult context, the £500m extra announced is welcome and a step in the right direction towards fixing the problems of the toxic Tory legacy.</p> <p>Bury's allocation from the £500m has not yet been confirmed, but we will update members when it has been and confirm which parts of our highways investment plan it will help deliver.</p> <p>This Labour administration is proud to have delivered additional investment worth £30m over the past 9 years into our highway network. It has fixed more potholes, resurfaced more roads and drastically reduced insurance claims. We know more needs to be done though and will keep fighting for more money to fix the 14 year, £17bn Tory blackhole in our highways.</p>	
11	Conservative	Does the Cabinet Member for Children's Services agree with	Cllr McBriar

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	<b>Cllr L Smith</b>	the Secretary of State for Education that Bury children who attend private schools do not deserve to have facilities for swimming and sports?	
		<p>This question refers to a post by the Secretary of State for Education, Bridget Phillipson, where she writes:  <i>“Our state schools need more teachers than private schools need embossed stationery. Our children need mental health support more than private schools need new pools. Our students need careers advice more than private schools need AstroTurf pitches.”</i></p> <p>The point being made is <u>not</u> that children in Private schools do not deserve or need swimming and sports facilities, but rather that the needs of children attending state schools is greater and more fundamental following 14 years of neglect of public services by the previous government.</p> <p>Raising taxes is never popular and it’s not something that any government wishes to do. However, as the party opposite often notes: ‘there is no magic money tree’ and money to fund essential public services must come from somewhere.</p>	
12	<b>Labour Cllr Morris</b>	What are the latest plans for the current Radcliffe Library provision, in light of the positive progress being made on the delivery of a new Enterprise Centre?	<b>Cllr Grimshaw</b>
		<p>Radcliffe Library will move to its new permanent home at <a href="#">Radcliffe Hub</a> during 2026, after the construction works are complete and the building is ready for occupation. In the interim period before the Hub is ready, Radcliffe Library will temporarily relocate to the first floor at Stand Lane. The relocation of the library will take 4 weeks.</p> <p>The library will be closed from 1pm on Saturday 2 November until 10 am on Tuesday 3 December. While the library is briefly closed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternative library services and activities will be available across our other libraries at <a href="#">Bury</a>, <a href="#">Prestwich</a> and <a href="#">Ramsbottom</a>.</li> <li>• The Library loan period will be extended.</li> <li>• The ground floor will be sealed off, ready to accommodate the construction programme for the enterprise centre.</li> </ul> <p>Three public engagement events have taken place to answer any questions</p>	
13	<b>Labour</b>	Will the Cabinet Member for Communities like to	<b>Cllr Ibrahim</b>

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	<b>Cllr Walmsley CC</b>	congratulate all those who have worked to secure the successful retention of the Purple Flag status for Bury Town Centre?	
		<p><b>Areas awarded the Purple Flag are recognised for providing a vibrant and diverse mix of dining, entertainment and culture while promoting the safety and wellbeing of visitors and local residents. Bury town centre has won this award for yet another year which reflects not only what the town has to offer but also the effective partnership working that takes place to ensure a positive and welcoming experience. The award is recognition of the partnership activity which we are grateful for the ongoing positive multiagency input from colleagues across Greater Manchester Police, Bury Street Pastors, Pubwatch and local licenced premises, cultural partners, colleagues at the Bury Business Improvement District and broader Town Centre Board including Bruntwood, Millgate and The Rock.</b></p> <p><b>In the most recent application, the Purple Flag assessors particularly welcomed the increased activity through the successful Safer Streets investment and UKSPF, the enhanced town centre events programme and the initiatives and proactive work to improve the safety of women and girls.</b></p> <p><b>Having a safe and vibrant town centre is vital for the successful delivery of the The Bury Town Centre masterplan over the next 10 to 15 years. These plans will continue to be supported by Bury's Community Safety Partnership and keep Bury a fantastic town to live, shop, work and socialise in.</b></p>	
<b>14</b>	<b>Conservative Cllr A Quinn</b>	Can the Cabinet Member for the Environment, Climate Change and Operations confirm what the gully maintenance programme will be for this winter?	<b>Cllr Harris</b>
		<p><b>An extra £100k funding has been allocated to gully cleansing this year to help ensure that we can continue to have 2 gully crews out checking all 42,000 road gullies annually.</b></p> <p><b>When extreme wet weather events are predicted we check our known local flooding hot spots to help ensure our drainage systems are operating correctly.</b></p>	



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15	Radcliffe First Cllr Morris	<p>BBC investigations have revealed that in some areas in the country a few businesses have been displaying inaccurate food hygiene ratings, with many lying about them when challenged.</p> <p>While in Bury there are many businesses with good ratings of five, are there any follow up checks being made to see that businesses are reporting, and displaying, the correct ratings? On checking the hygiene ratings in Bury , it appears that some inspections have not been carried out on some premises within the last four to five years. Is this considered good practice?</p>	Cllr Berry
		<p><b>The Public Protection Service Commercial team are responsible for food hygiene inspections and operate with limited resources, having 3 FTE officers to carry out all the functions of environmental health work in commercial premises. This equates to approximately 1300 food hygiene programmed inspections and additional newly registered premises throughout the year. The team also manage the investigation of food hygiene complaints, food hygiene premise complaints, investigating food borne illnesses and infectious diseases, reacting to complaints of health and safety concerns in workplaces, accident at work investigations, the investigation of statutory nuisances from a business. In addition, the service is a consultee in planning applications.</b></p> <p><b>The commercial team has been able to employ food hygiene contractors to assist with the backlog of food premises that require an inspection and has recently increased the capacity available to assist the team.</b></p> <p><b>The Food Standards Agency (FSA) in England does not mandate the displaying the food hygiene rating stickers in food businesses and the Council does not have any statutory powers to enforce this. Following all food hygiene inspections, a food hygiene rating is awarded based on the findings of an inspection and the corresponding sticker is provided for businesses to display. Food Hygiene ratings are published on the national FSA website. Where officers receive intelligence that a business is displaying an inaccurate food hygiene rating sticker a visit is made, and the sticker is removed,</b></p>	

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		<p>and the correct one is provided.</p> <p>Food premises are categorised based on risk and national intervention periods. The level of risk can vary the type of intervention from an inspection, partial inspection or audit to an alternative enforcement assessment such as a self-assessment questionnaire. Where non-compliance issues are identified, these are followed up to achieve compliance in the shortest possible time with formal enforcement powers being considered for serious regulatory breaches.</p>	
16	Conservative Cllr Rafiq CC	Members recently received notification that the ChatGPT service would be blocked. Has there been any inappropriate use reported?	Cllr Rydeheard
		<p>There has been no reported inappropriate use of ChatGPT however the Council is reviewing its policies one of which being an Artificial Intelligence Policy however through due diligence into the usage of ChatGPT it was found that there were significant number of devices accessing this website. As a proactive precaution the decision was taken to remove this due to the need to review guidance from the Cyber Security Unit within the MHCLG that at the moment ChatGPT is not GDPR Compliant and therefore they have recommended that it's use should be restricted. This guidance has also been adopted by government departments such as the Department for Work and Pensions. Further updates will be shared with members soon on the use of CHAT GPT and other AI programmes.</p>	
17	Conservative Cllr Morris	Can the Cabinet Member for Culture, Economy and Skills provide an update as to what is happening with the Indoor Market which has now been closed for a year?	Cllr Brown
		<p>We have been taking steps to address the fundamental issue – the safety of the building. Alongside this work, we have been focussed on determining the future of the Indoor Market. We commissioned an independent options appraisal to assist our decision making on next steps in July this year. We had intended that this work would be finished by September this year. We are now, regrettably, past this deadline.</p> <p>Fundamentally, the work required to either repair or</p>	

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		rebuild the Indoor Market goes far beyond what was expected it would be compared to this time 12 months ago. We previously expected that repairs could cost in the region of £6 million. Work to determine the final anticipated costs for the various options are being worked through, however they are significantly more than first anticipated and we need to consider a long-term strategy for the building in the wider context of the town centre regeneration. This will involve further work to understand the commercial viability to ensure we achieve the best outcome for the town centre and the wider borough.	
18	Conservative Leader	What additional public services and amenities does the Leader consider to be a top priority and prerequisite for any major new housebuilding in the Borough?	Cllr Gartside
		A strategic approach to housing development allows us to plan infrastructure. For example, the plans for Elton include a new Metrolink station and we will use the evolution of the Bee network to create much stronger bus connectivity between our core transport hubs and new housing. We will need to ensure that new development provides the right school choices for new residents and that our GP services are able to manage new populations. I don't think you can say any one of schools, health provision or transport is more important than another, they are all important, that is why we will take a strategic approach to housing development'	