

	<b>Party</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Questioner</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Radcliffe First</b>	<p>In the latest pamphlet titled Radcliffe news it was stated that section 106 monies would be going to Cams Lane Running Track.</p> <p>Cams lane track seems to be rented and administered by The Cams Lane Community Sports Association. The only officers I could find listed for this Group are Paul Hilton and Tom West.</p> <p>Paul Hilton as we know has sadly passed away and Tom West is of advanced years and quite infirm and has such little interest in the running track. Given these parameters</p> <p>Who will be taking control of the section 106 money? The running track needs hundreds of thousands spent on it to bring it back into use. What will any section 106 money be used for in this case? and does the council think this is good value for money?</p>	<b>Cllr Duncalfe</b>
	<b>Cllr Quinn</b>	The Radcliffe Athletics Club is still active with 170 members. The Council has control of this funding and will be working in partnership with the Athletics Club and Radcliffe Sports Association to develop an improvement plan. The aim is to use the allocated Section 106 funding to develop an external funding bid to improve the track and other facilities.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Labour</b>	Can the Cabinet Member for Finance provide an update on the Local Government Finance Settlement and its impact on Bury Council's financial position?	<b>Cllr Moss</b>
	<b>Cllr Thorpe</b>	<p>The provisional 2025-26 Finance Settlement published on the 18<sup>th</sup> December contained council level allocations of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Core Spending Power for 2025-26</li> </ul>	

- Social Care funding, including Social Care Grant, Improved Better Care Fund, and Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund

- New grants: the Recovery Fund and Children's Social Care Prevention Grant

- Estimated amounts of New Homes Bonus for 2025-26

The headline announcement was that there would be over £2bn in additional grant for local government in 2025-26, representing a 6% cash terms increase including Council Tax. This is £700m more than was announced at the Budget and through the Local Government Finance Policy Statement. The 2 most significant elements relate to social care grants and the new recovery grant.

The Social Care Grant has increased by £880m from 2024-25. This is £200m more than was originally set out. The 2025-26 Settlement also includes a new Children's Social Care Prevention Grant of £250m. This is distributed through a new children's needs-based formula which estimates need for children's social care services.

The Recovery Grant is a one-year grant worth £600m, targeted towards areas with greater need and demand for services and which are less able to fund their own services locally. The aim of this grant is to address the 'inefficiency' in the current system and get councils in the most deprived areas on a more sustainable footing. SIGOMA councils (urban mets) do exceptionally well out of the grant receiving 68% of the total grant. The introduction of the Recovery Grant is a reflection of the inequities in the local government funding system and is a positive first step in Ministers' commitments to make local government funding fairer

Overall the average % increase in core spending power for all councils is 6% with Bury's increase being above the average at 7%. Our provisional allocations for 25/26 are over £4m higher than assumed within our last reported MTFs position and will directly reduce the c£19.5m forecast funding gap for 2025/26 reported at Cabinet in November.

3	<b>Labour</b>	With the enabling work now starting on the new Travel Hub in Prestwich, can the Leader provide an update on next steps for the regeneration of Prestwich Village?	<b>Cllr Rizvi</b>
	<b>Cllr O'Brien</b>	The Joint Venture will shortly finalise contract matters to deliver the travel hub, with work expected to begin in the Spring. Phase 1A will take up to 18 months to complete. Officers are currently developing the funding strategy for the next phase of the development which we hope can attract Public Sector grant support. A bid will shortly be submitted to acquire these monies which will enable development of the retail, market hall, public realm and community/health elements of the project. The housing elements of the scheme are expected to be the last part of the project to be delivered as this work will require the completion of the travel hub before work can begin.	
4	<b>Conservative</b>	In light of the proposal for the forthcoming budget of dimming lights, whilst the proposed saving is understandable, how will the Council ensure any plans are compatible with the recent Safer Roads Greater Manchester dark nights campaign, Invisible? I'm Visible?" and public safety is not put at risk?	<b>Cllr Vernon</b>
	<b>Cllr A Quinn</b>	<p>The GM 'Invisible? I'm visible...' campaign, is an educational campaign aimed at improving road safety during the darker nights. The campaign provides top tips for driving in the dark, such as watch your speed, stay alert and check your vehicle.</p> <p>Street lighting dimming trials have already been carried out, which have gone unnoticed by residents and road users alike. However, the street lighting system we use in Bury allows us to remotely adjust lighting levels if appropriate, for example at sites where safety is of a particular concern.</p>	
5	<b>Radcliffe First</b>	<p>A guardian article on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>November stated that the National Audit Office reported that NHs dental care is failing.</p> <p>Given this report, what is the situation in Bury, regarding dental care.</p>	<b>Cllr M Smith</b>

		<p>Do we know the ratio of dentists to residents in Bury. What percentage of dentists are accepting NHS patients.</p> <p>How many residents in Bury do not have dentist?</p>	
	<b>Cllr Tariq</b>	<p>Thank you Cllr Smith for the question about Dental Access.</p> <p>There are 30 NHS Dental Practices in the Bury locality. The total number of Dentists in Bury is 123. This means the population per Dentist is about 1550.</p> <p>Out of the 30 Practices, 16 Practices are signed up to the Local Dental Access Quality Scheme. This means that at least 50% of practices are accepting new patients when capacity allows. Those Practices that have signed up to the national New Patient Premium scheme will also be accepting new patients when capacity allows.</p> <p>In terms of how many residents in Bury do not have dentist. Patients are not registered with a General Dental Practice (GDP) in the same way as they are with a GP. Any patient may access dental services from any practice in any area. However we can estimate the number of patients who have accessed a dentist in the last 2 years as an adult which is 69,883 (36.7%), and in the last year as a child which is 26,243 (13.8%).</p> <p>For information Dashboards on the NHS England federated Data Platform continue to show a higher level of access in GM in 2024 compared to 2020, There were 1,277,900 patients seen by GM primary dental care services in the 12 months prior to March 2020. In the 12 months prior to September 2024, these services saw 1,399,206 patients, an increase of over 120,000 appointments.</p> <p>Primary Dental Services in Bury are commissioned by NHS Greater Manchester corporately and we continue to work with NHS GM to monitor uptake and we also work with a range of other clinical leads to promote good dental habits particularly in children.</p>	
<b>6</b>	<b>Labour</b>	What plans are in place to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day in Bury for 2025?	<b>Cllr Haroon</b>

	<b>Leader</b>	<p>Bury Council will be hosting the annual local Holocaust memorial commemoration at the end of this month. The service brings people together to remember the devastating impact of oppression and hatred, to remind ourselves of our collective responsibility to learn from history, and to never tolerate or stand by hate.</p> <p>Civic leaders will sign the Holocaust Memorial statement of commitment to honour the survivors and reaffirm our shared goals of mutual understanding, tolerance, and a free democratic society. This year's service will be particularly poignant given 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau</p> <p>The event is led by the young people of Bury to promote intergenerational learning and will introduce a survivor's story, links to the My Voices initiative to amplify such stories by The Fed, the lighting of memorial candles and the reading of a poem specially curated for the event on the national Holocaust Memorial Day theme of 'For A Better Future' - a future where people can live peacefully with tolerance, respect, mutual understanding and an absence of fear; a future where individuals, families and communities are not singled out, not othered, not systematically disadvantaged, nor targeted for harm.</p>	
<b>7</b>	<b>Labour</b>	Despite opposition from members of the Conservative Group in Bury, can the Leader provide an update on the successful investment Bury has brought in for active travel infrastructure?	<b>Cllr Farooq</b>
	<b>Cllr O'Brien</b>	<p>Bury has been successful in securing over £28m of funds into the borough as part of the drive to make Greater Manchester's the UK's most extensive walking, wheeling and cycling network. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- £15m from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement; of which <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o around £9m of which is earmarked for Radcliffe,</li> <li>o around £4m for Bury and</li> <li>o £2m for Ramsbottom</li> </ul> </li> <li>- In addition, we have secured around £13 million through a mixture of bids to the Mayors Challenge Fund and various rounds of Active Travel Funding.</li> </ul>	

		<p>These monies will be for a variety of projects including, but not exclusively:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A new access ramp to the east side of the Radcliffe Metrolink Stop</li> <li>- The new Milltown Street Bridge</li> <li>- A new walking and cycling bridge now open over the River Roch at Gigg Lane, which provides direct access from Fishpool and Gigg Lane to Pilsworth Industrial Estate.</li> <li>- Various local road safety improvements, including new pedestrian crossings and traffic calming measures.</li> </ul> <p>These are just some of the improvements being made to make it easier and safer for people to make some of their short local journeys by walking, wheeling and cycling and to provide better access to bus and Metrolink services as part of the multi-million-pound investment in the Bee Network that will transform the way we travel across Greater Manchester, with joined up services, affordable fares, and cleaner, greener transport.</p>	
8	<b>Conservative</b>	<p>As there appears to be 20 HMO's in the town of Radcliffe listed on the HMO register, does the Leader believe this is excessive for a town and as such does he feel more HMO applications being approved will be beneficial to Radcliffe?</p>	<p>Councillor Jo Lancaster</p>
	<b>Leader</b>	<p>Considering there are currently 130 licensed HMOs in the Borough and 22 of these are in Radcliffe, equating to 17% of the Borough's total, this would not seem an excessive concentration within a particular township.</p> <p>The Council is bound by statutory duty to effectively process applications for HMO licenses. The Council operates a mandatory licensing scheme in Bury, with licenses granted for a maximum period of 5 years before needing to be renewed.</p> <p>Planning permission is only required for HMOs where they will be occupied by more than 6 persons.</p>	

		<p>HMOs are a necessary part of the current housing market and can offer some residents a lower cost alternative to purchasing or renting a typical property. Inevitably, their impact – positive or otherwise – will depend on a range of factors and it would be foolish to speculate in generalities about them.</p> <p>There are sometimes issues with how HMOs are managed by landlords and the Council's Private Rented Sector Enforcement Team proactively inspect them, including those smaller HMOS that do not require either licensing or planning permission, and take necessary enforcement action where deemed appropriate.</p>	
<b>9</b>	<b>Labour</b>	Can the Cabinet Member for Operations outline how much additional money Bury will get to tackle potholes, following the announcement of extra investment under the new Labour Government?	<b>Cllr Ryder</b>
	<b>Cllr A Quinn</b>	An announcement on our allocation from this additional funding is expected later this month but it is very welcome to see £500m extra being allocated for this under the new Labour Government, bringing the total up to £1.6 billion.	
<b>10</b>	<b>Labour</b>	What steps have been taken to prepare for a future inspection of our social housing stock?	<b>Cllr A Arif</b>
	<b>Cllr FitzGerald</b>	<p>What steps have been taken to prepare for a future inspection of our social housing stock?</p> <p>Since bringing Six Town Housing back in Council Management we have been working through a detailed Service Improvement Plan based on the new Social Housing Regulatory Framework which was introduced in April 2024. This has included commissioning a full Stock Condition Survey and focusing on the seven areas compliance with regards to building safety, all of which have improved significantly. We have also established a Housing Advisory Board so that the tenants voice can be at the heart of decision making. In November we commissioned a Mock Inspection to assess our readiness for inspection and the results of this</p>	

		<p>will be shared with the Housing Advisory Board and the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee in February.</p> <p>Since the transfer of Six Town Housing three rounds of Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital funding have been approved via Cabinet to procure investment into the housing stock including upgrading internal communal areas of various general flats, new roofing schemes and a range of energy efficiency measures, including internal and external insulation. In total the capital programme for 2024/25 is £17.937m. In the next financial year we will review the 30 year business plan for the HRA to identify future investment.</p>	
11	Conservative	What action is being taken to increase the number of PDR's of staff who work for the Council?	Councillor Jackie Harris
	Cllr Rafiq	<p><b>Thank you for your question. All staff across the Council should have an annual employee review. At the end of 2024 only 54% of staff have had a recorded review in the past year. This is well below what I would expect. However, it's worth noting it's a significant improvement from the 21% completion rate when we began focusing on this in May 22.</b></p> <p><b>A range of actions are being taken to improve this position. This includes work with front line operational services, such as school catering and waste, where alternative approaches are needed given how staff work, a programme of training sessions for staff and managers across January and February focused on the importance and practicalities of the process, the roll-out of a new workforce dashboard so leaders can directly target areas of low performance, and also direct action by all Executive Directors to emphasise the critical importance of Employee Reviews and ensure they are completed by managers across their services.</b></p>	
12	Labour	Following the challenging weather conditions over the past few weeks, can the Cabinet Member for Operations outline what additional pressure this has put on our hard-working response teams?	Cllr Ibrahim



	<b>Cllr A Quinn</b>	<p>Over the past weeks, the challenging weather conditions have undoubtedly placed additional pressure on our hardworking teams across Waste Management, Highways and Streetscene. Waste and recycling bin collections have continued, maintaining a business-as-usual service for residents. However, this week due to snow and ice, we have encountered difficulties in collecting from some rural properties. Collections will be recovered as soon as temperatures rise and it is safe to do so.</p> <p>Highways and Streetscene completed 15 full gritting runs in the first week of January alone and have attended to 100s of localised flooding reports, supported by street cleansing and grounds maintenance with clean up operations after waters subsided.</p> <p>As usual our teams have risen to the challenge and I hope I speak for all elected members when I put on record our thanks to them for their hard work and dedication.</p>	
<b>13</b>	<b>Labour</b>	Can the Cabinet Member for Culture update the Council on any cultural events being organised for 2025?	<b>Cllr Pilkington</b>
	<b>Cllr Morris</b>	<p>There are a large number of events planned for 2025 and we can send the list to Members. A few of the highlights are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Going to the Match at Manchester Art Gallery. Upcoming photography event, life drawing event, visits from schools and care homes until March.</li> <li>• An exciting project is in development later in the year with English National Opera and Walk the Plank arts events company and local football clubs on the theme of football.</li> <li>• KFOR and Kosovo +25 photography exhibition at The Fusiliers Museum until June</li> <li>• My Voice Project presentation of the My Voice book collection to Bury Libraries and Archives in the presence of Holocaust survivors. Date tbc</li> <li>• Victoria Wood's statue will be reinstalled after a vehicle crash. Spring 25</li> <li>• A storytelling Festival with schools in Feb and March</li> </ul>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Events to commemorate Gallipoli in April, VE Day 80 in May, Armed Forces Day in June and VJ Day in Aug</li> <li>• Run for All, Bury BID 10k in September</li> <li>• Heritage Open days across the Borough in Sept</li> <li>• Bury Library Service runs over 38 cultural events a week such as book clubs, events to help with building your business, Lego and chess events, arts and crafts and storytelling. Details are available on <a href="#">Home   Bury Libraries Catalogue</a></li> <li>• There will be events across libraries in the summer holidays to promote the national Summer Reading Challenge and events as part of the Greater Manchester Festival of Libraries in June.</li> <li>• Bury Market will be holding a Hong Kong Festival in May/June, Vegan Festival in Sept and a Youth Market in April as well as events for Christmas</li> </ul> <p>In addition, community partners such as the East Lancs Railway, Bury Music Service, The MET, The Fusiliers Museum, Bury Pride, Bury BID, Prestwich Festival, will be running their own programme of events. These can be found on the Discover Bury Website.</p>	
14	<b>Conservative</b>	Has the number of people visiting Bury Market during 2024 increased compared to the previous year?	Councillor Jack Rydeheard
	<b>Cllr C Morris</b>	<p>Figures provided by the Bury BID (Business Improvement District) and Millgate Shopping Centre have confirmed that footfall has increased within the market from 2023-2024.</p> <p>The number of coaches attending on market days has also increased by 7.15% from 2023, with 1200 attending over the year.</p> <p>The best month was November with 187 coaches arriving. The best day was Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct when 33 coaches arrived. The coaches have arrived from as far away as Aberdeen, Cambridgeshire and Cornwall.</p>	

15	<b>Conservative</b>	How many Local Authority Governors have resigned from Schools they were governors of during 2024?	Councillor Luis McBriar
	<b>Cllr L Smith</b>	In the 2024 calendar year, there were two LA Governor resignations.	
16	<b>Conservative</b>	When will the outcome of the Ramsbottom Town Centre consultation be known?	Councillor I Gartside
	<b>Leader</b>	Consultation on the Ramsbottom Streets for All proposals was open from 12 November to 20 December 2024. The project team are now reviewing the feedback and will produce a consultation report in due course. It should be noted that there have been a considerable number of responses to the consultation and it will take time to go through these so it is too early to give a definitive timeframe for the outcomes to be published. However, the responses received will be given due weight in decision making and will help to inform and shape how the Ramsbottom proposals evolve.	
17	<b>Conservative</b>	How many Member Code of Conduct Complaints have been received during 2024?	Councillor R Brown
	<b>Monitoring Officer</b>	12 complaint matters were raised (including one matter consisting of 13 separate complainants).	
18	<b>Independent</b>	A family at 6 Sunnybower St Tottington whose home is at constant risk of flooding from neighbouring private land , have been advised recently by a Council Officer that the Council  “ Have the power to commission works to prevent surface water run-offs and groundwater flooding “  This family are desperate for the Councils help	Councillor Yvonne Wright
	<b>Cllr A Quinn</b>	The Council does have powers to act but is not obligated to do so and would normally only intervene where there is a significant benefit to the public rather than just one household.	

		<p>The problem Sunnybower Street is caused by run off from adjacent farm land which naturally accumulates at the low point, where a pond forms. There is no obligation on the land owner to address the issue as it is naturally occurring, and the house owners do have a duty to protect their own property, including taking steps such as property level protection (flood doors / barriers for example) to ensure that internal flooding does occur.</p> <p>To provide a more positive drainage solution at this location would likely require the construction of an outfall to a culverted watercourse which runs through the grounds of the care home opposite. However, this watercourse is already a source of flood risk to properties further downstream, including the care home itself, so we cannot put additional flows into it unless it was part of a larger scheme to address the flood risk as a whole.</p> <p>The Environment Agency has approved modelling work to assess, what, if any measures could be taken to alleviate the flooding in the area.</p>	
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