

Minutes of: **CORPORATE JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting: 5 February 2025

Present: Councillor E O'Brien (in the Chair)
Councillors R Bernstein, C Birchmore, M Hayes,
J Lancaster, A Quinn and K Simpson

**Trade Union
Representatives:** John Thomson, Ewa Entwistle, David Sharples, Shirley
Allen and Kay Mater.

Also in attendance: Lynne Ridsdale, Neil Kissock, Simon Bagley, Sam McVaigh
and Chloe Ashworth.

Apologies for Absence: Councillor T Rafiq, Councillor D Green and Councillor
B Ibrahim, Marcia Hancock, Howard Percival and Anthony
Beesley.

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

In the absence of the Chair, Councillor Rafiq and the Deputy Chair, Marcia Hancock, members of the Committee were requested to nominate a Chair for the meeting.

It was agreed:

The Leader of the Council, Councillor O'Brien was nominated by John Thomson, Unison Branch Secretary and seconded by Councillor Bernstein to Chair the Corporate Joint Consultative Committee.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Rafiq, Councillor Green, Marcia Hancock, Catherine King, Tony Beesley and Howard Percival.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was agreed:

That the minutes of the last meeting held 18th December 2025 be approved as a correct record.

4 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising that were not picked up within the agenda pack.

5 DEPARTMENTAL RESTRUCTURES

Sam McVaigh, Director of People and Inclusion and Lynne Ridsdale, Chief Executive, Bury Council attended to provide members with a verbal update on the departmental restructures. Members were informed that feedback from staff during the consultation process has resulted in amendments to some job titles and the previous update proposed a split of departments for Culture; following feedback this will now all sit with the Director of Public Health. Members

were notified that the Facilities Management Team will be moved into the Business Growth and Infrastructure team and all changes are planned to be implanted from the 06th April 2025.

Lynne Ridsdale, Chief Executive, Bury Council informed and updated members on work that is taking place with managers working within the Council. There is a strong emphasis on compliance activity and a meeting with over 120 managers took place on the 03rd of February 2025 to continue developments within workforce standards, particularly Professional Development Reviews, mandatory training and risk assessment work.

Members were pleased with the verbal update and the progress that has been made.

John Thomson, Unison Branch Secretary questioned if Officers not directly impacted had feedback their views during the consultation. Members were advised that there was no feedback from those not effected directly and that shadow arrangements are in place to assist with hand over processes in April 2025.

The Chair of the Committee thanked both Sam McVaigh, Director of People and Inclusion and Lynne Ridsdale, Chief Executive, Bury Council for their updates.

6 THE COUNCIL'S 2025/26 REVENUE BUDGET AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (MTFS) FOR 2026/27 THROUGH TO 2027/28

Councillor Thorpe, Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation gave an overview of the Council's 2025/26 Revenue Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy for 2026/27 through to 2027/28. Councillor Thorpe, gave thanks to Neil Kissock, Director of Finance and the Finance Service for producing the documents presented before the Committee.

Members were advised that the reports are based on many variables including income through Council Tax, Fees and Charges and other Grant monies available. Members were given an overview of budget saving measures, such as the dimming of street lighting and parking charges and Councillor Thorpe gave assurances to members that staff will aim to mitigate challenges as they arise.

Members were invited to ask questions and the following points were raised:

- Following the publication of the final settlement, Members were informed that there is no proposal to change the figures within the report based on the final published figures as changes were minor to those projected.
- In response to a member question regarding the Pay Award members were informed that 3% is the total allocated for the Pay Award for Staff in 2025/2026.
- Members of the Committee highlighted that they are pleased with the development of an 'inhouse' children's home within the Borough of Bury and reflected on the correlation between a reduction in the offer of Youth Services and increases in Children within the Council's Social Care System.
- Discussions took place regarding costs associated with consultants and interim staff members within the Council. Lynne Ridsdale, Chief Executive advised members that information regarding costings and statistics for interim staff and consultants will be supplied to members following the meeting.
- The Leader of the Council highlighted that he wishes to hold more events to recognise staff with long service at Bury Council.

It was agreed:

1. Lynne Ridsdale, Chief Executive and Sam McVaigh, Director of People and Inclusion to obtain costings and statistics regarding interim and consultant staff members.

2. Members noted the report and appendices.

7 ANNUAL HRA BUDGET 2025/26 & RENT SETTING

Councillor Thorpe, Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation presented the report that was circulated in advance of the meeting. The report provided the proposed rent levels and increases for various charges. The report proposes a 2.7% increase for Council Housing, Dwelling and Garage rents, Sheltered Support, Management, Service and Heating charges, and Furnished Tenancy charges.

Members made the following points:

- Members agreed that it was positive to have Council Housing being managed within the Council and feedback from staff has been optimistic.
- Members were advised that the new Director of Housing will be starting their work in the Council at the end of March 2025.
- Members discussed how there is further work to be done regarding troublesome tenants on estates within Bury and the negative impacts they can have on an area and the Community in which they reside. In response members were informed that the Housing Advisory Board includes Tenant Representatives and is actively engaging with local tenants to support issues as they arise along with organising community events to improve the local area.
- Members sought assurances regarding the 2.7% increase being similar to other Greater Manchester Authorities, in response Neil Kissock, Director of Finance did confirm that this is the maximum increase allowed and other authorities are also suggesting the same increase.

It was agreed that:

- Members noted the report.

8 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on the 05th March 2025.

COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN
Chair

(Note: The meeting started at 4.00 pm and ended at 4.45 pm)