

**Minutes of: COUNCIL**

**Date of Meeting:** 19 February 2025

**Present:** The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor , in the Chair)  
Councillors A Arif, S Arif, N Bayley, R Bernstein, D Berry,  
C Boles, A Booth, R Brown, C Cummins, D Duncalfe,  
E FitzGerald, I Gartside, 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, I Rizvi, 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 and M Walsh

**Apologies for  
Absence** C Birchmore, U Farooq and N Frith

**Public Attendance:** 2 Members of the public attended the meeting.

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**C. 45 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

**C. 46 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor updated Full Council on events undertaken as Bury First Citizen since the last Council meeting.

**C. 47 MINUTES**

The minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**C. 48 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No questions were received in advance of the Council deadline. Members of the public attended and the following questions were raised, no supplementary questions were allowed:  
K. Delany – Send Budget  
K. Hampson – Streaming of Council Meetings.

**C. 49 RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

**(A)Meeting of Employment Panel 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025 – Pay Policy Statement**

It was moved by Councillor Rafiq and seconded by Councillor O'Brien, with all Councillors voting in favour, and the Mayor abstaining, that:

Council approves the Pay Policy Statement for 2025-26 while noting the Employment Panel agreement with the Council's proposed pay structure for 2025-26 as set out within the

statement and inclusive of revised nonconsolidated pay supplements to retain compliance with the Real Living Wage rate of pay.

### **(B) Meeting of Cabinet 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025 – Housing Revenue Account**

It was moved by Councillor Thorpe and seconded by Councillor Cummins, with all Councillors voting in favour, and the Mayor abstaining, that:

#### **Council approves**

The 2025/26 budget for the Housing Revenue Account

Agree rents to be increased for 2025/26 by 2.7% which is the Government's maximum allowable increase being September CPI (Consumer Price Index) 1.7% plus 1% with effect from 7th April 2025.

Shared ownership rents to be increased by 2.7% in line with the provision which is set out within shared ownership agreements with effect from 7th April 2025.

Approves an increase in Garage rents by CPI as at September 2023 CPI + 1% 2.7%.

Approves an increase in Sheltered Management and Support Charges by CPI + 1% 2.7%.

Approves an increase in Service and Amenity Charges by CPI + 1% 2.7%

Approves an increase in Support and Heating charges by CPI + 1% 2.7%

Approves an increase in Furnished Tenancy charges by CPI+ 1% 2.7%

Notes that where a social rent property is re-let to a new or transferring tenant the rent level will be increased to the formula rent (target rent) for that property. In accordance with the Rent Standard, where an affordable rent property is re-let to a new or transferring tenant the rent level be set by reference to 80% of the market rent (including service charges where applicable) for a similar property at the time of letting or the formula rent for the property, whichever is the greater.

#### **On being put the result of the vote was as follows:**

A Arif S Arif; Bayley Bernstein, Berry, Boles Booth, Brown, Cummins Duncalfe, FitzGerald, Gartside, Gold, Green, Grimshaw, Haroon, Harris, Hayes, Hook, Ibrahim, Lancaster, Marsden, McBriar, McGill, Morris, Moss, O'Brien, Pilkington, A Quinn, D Quinn, Rafiq, Rahimov, Rizvi, Rubinstein, Rydeheard, Ryder, Simpson, L. Smith, M. Smith, J. Southworth, Staples-Jones, Tariq, Thorpe, Vernon, Walsh, Walmsley, Y Wright voting for; and the Mayor abstaining,

**The Mayor declared the recommendations contained in the Housing Revenue Account carried.**

### **(B) Consolidated Budget recommendations including the Council tax support scheme from the Meeting of Cabinet held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

At the invitation of the Mayor, Councillor Thorpe, Cabinet Member for Finance, made a statement on the Budget.

It was moved by Councillor Thorpe and seconded by Councillor A Arif that the recommendations contained in Minute CA.301 of the Cabinet meeting held on 12th February 2025 be approved and adopt the budget for 2025/26, and Council, Approves:

- The Medium-Term Financial Strategy to 2027/28 and the assumptions regarding resources and spending requirements.
- The Council Tax base for Bury Council for 2025/26 of 58,697.86 Band D equivalent dwellings, this is the basis on which the Council Tax funding has been calculated (Appendix 1).
- The net revenue budget of £238.256m for 2025/26.

- The Council Tax requirement of £118.296m and the increase in Council Tax in 2025/26 of 2.99% in terms of General Council Tax and a further 2% for the Adult Social Care precept for 2025/26 (Appendix 1).
- The budget assumptions of £23.210m in 2025/26.
- The new revenue budget proposal relating to residents parking permits pricing structure for consultation and referred to Council for their consideration.
- Note the remaining budget gap of £11.571m over the medium-term to 2027/28.
- The use of £5.858m of reserves from the budget stabilisation reserve for 2025/26.
- Note the forecast position on reserves over the medium-term to 2027/28.
- Approves the recommendations set out in the Treasury Management Strategy (Appendix 2)
- Approve the Treasury Management Strategy including the associated Prudential Indicators and Annual Investment Strategy.
- Approve the Treasury Management Policy Statement.
- Approve the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement.
- Approve the Capital Strategy and the Programme for 2025/26 – 2027/28 (Appendix 3).
- Approve the Dedicated Schools Grant budget for 2025/26 at £253.097m and approve the allocations between the four funding blocks as set out in Appendix 4 of this report.
- Approve the Schools and Academies 20205/26 funding unit values as recommended by Schools Forum and detailed at Annex 1 to appendix 4.
- Approves the 2025/26 hourly rates for all early year's providers as follows: i. £5.48 per hour for 3- and 4-year-olds. ii. £7.88 per hour for 2-year olds. iii. £10.50 per hour for under 2's.
- Note the Equality Impact Assessment for the budget report (Appendix 5).
- Note the Chief Finance Officer (Director of Finance) statement on the robustness of estimates and adequacy of financial reserves in setting the budget (Appendix 6)

#### Council Tax Support Scheme:

- Approve the scheme continues in its current form for the year 2025/26
- Note the current disregard of all War Widow's/Widower's Pension or War Disablement Pension is continued
- Note the performance of the scheme continues to be closely monitored and will be reviewed and amended as appropriate on an annual basis.

(ii) **An amendment was moved by Councillor R Bernstein and seconded by Councillor Vernon that:**

The suite of budget reports submitted to the Council should be approved, with the following amendments

	2025/26 £m
Remove budget proposal – car park charges review saving proposal (£0.055m saving in 2025/26 and additional £0.126m saving in 2026/27)	0.055
One-off payment of £100 to all council taxpayers aged 66 or over who are not in receipt of council tax support excluding Councillors or spouse/partner of a Councillor and those who live with Councillors	0.630

Non-recurrent small business fund with an excluding criterion that no Councillor or spouse/partner of a Councillor would be eligible to apply for a grant for a business they own or have an interest in	0.615
Increase saving proposal – contract efficiencies	-0.250
Increase staffing budget vacancy factor to 5%	-0.750
Reprofile capital programme to delay works not contractually committed in 2025/26 reducing revenue financing costs in year	-0.300
£0.050m one-off investment in bringing in external capacity to identify commercial income-generating opportunities for the council under the direction of the Commercial Board. (funded from the uncommitted £1m of capital receipt flexibilities built into the 2025/26 revenue budget)	0.050
<b>Total cost of proposed amendments</b>	<b>0.050</b>

On being put the result of the vote was as follows:

**For the Amendment:-** S Arif; Bernstein, Booth, Brown, Duncalfe, Gartside, Harris, Lancaster, Marsden, McBriar, Rydeheard, Simpson, M Smith, Vernon, Walsh, Y Wright **voting for;**

A Arif, Bayley, Berry, Boles, Cummins, FitzGerald, 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, **voting against**

**Abstaining from the Vote:- The Worshipful the Mayor.**

The Mayor declared the **amendment lost.**

(iii) **An amendment was moved by Councillor M Smith and seconded by Councillor Duncalfe that:**

The suite of budget reports submitted to the Council should be approved, with the following amendments

	<b>2025/26 £m</b>
10% reduction in pest control costs	0.027
Quarterly skip placement in Township hotspots	0.024
One-off additional investment in Operations services	1.000
Increase staffing budget vacancy factor to 5%	-0.750
<b>Total cost of proposed amendments</b>	<b>0.301</b>

**For the Amendment:-** Berry, Booth, Duncalfe, Marsden, M Smith, Simpson, M Walsh, Y Wright **voting for;**

A Arif, S Arif, Bayley, R Bernstein, Boles, Brown, Cummins, FitzGerald, Gartside, Gold, Green, Grimshaw, Haroon, Harris, Hayes, Hook, Ibrahim, Lancaster, McBair, McGill, Morris, Moss, O'Brien, Pilkington, A Quinn, D Quinn, Rafiq, Rahimov, Rizvi, Rubinstein, Rydeheard, Ryder, L Smith, Southworth, Staples-Jones, Tariq, Thorpe, Vernon, Walmsley, **voting against**

**Abstaining from the Vote:- The Worshipful the Mayor.**

The Mayor declared the amendment lost.

The substantive motion (as set out in i) was put to the vote which was as follows:-

A Arif, Bayley, Boles, Cummins, FitzGerald, 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, **voting for.**

**And** S Arif; Bernstein, Berry, Booth, Brown, Duncalfe, Gartside, Harris, Lancaster, Marsden, McBair, Rydeheard, Simpson, M Smith, Vernon, Walsh and Y Wright **voting against.**

**Abstaining from the Vote:- The Worshipful the Mayor.**

The Mayor declared the substantive Motion carried.

**(C)Meeting of Cabinet 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025 – Revenue and Benefits – approved redundancy costs**

It was moved by Councillor Rafiq and seconded by Councillor O'Brien and with all Members voting in favour and the Mayor abstaining, Members agreed to:

Approve payment of the redundancy and capital costs and notes the wider, post consultation, proposal for implementation of the restructure have been subjected to approval by the Cabinet Member for HR and Corporate Affairs under their delegation.

**C. 51 DELEGATED DECISION OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

There were no questions received on the delegated decisions of Council Committees.

**THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR**

**(Notes:** The meeting started at 7pm and ended at 9.20pm)

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