

	Party	Question	Questioner
1	Labour	Following the success of the borough's first Armed Forces Covenant Conference, can the Cabinet Member for Communities and Inclusion provide an update on the actions following on from it?	Councillor Arif
	Councillor Walmsley	<p>Please can I take the opportunity to thank those across the community, public sector and social enterprise who joined us at the Fusilier Museum yesterday for the inaugural Armed Forces Conference, with it inspiring to hear how collectively we can continue to support to Bury's Armed Forces and Veterans communities.</p> <p>Through our work with the Bury Armed Forces Covenant Steering Group, the Council will continue to work alongside local groups to increase the awareness and connectivity between support groups and networks; seeking to maximise funding opportunities through the Armed Forces Covenant Trust Fund; to hardwire lived experience into the local development of Live Well spaces and offers; to further embed awareness raising across housing and front line services around Veteran support offers and amplify Veteran voice through the deepening of the Covenant across all aspects of public life.</p>	
2	Labour	<p>Can the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People update the Council on the recent OFSTED Inspection outcome for Bury Children's Services?</p> <p><u>Supplementary:</u> What plans have we to thank our hard working staff and partners for this positive outcome of improvement?</p>	Councillor Ryder
	Councillor L Smith	<p>I am pleased to update Council that Ofsted recognised the significant improvement in the delivery of services to children, since the previous inspection of 2021.</p> <p>I would like to extend my personal thanks to all the staff members whom have worked tirelessly to deliver this improvement, their efforts cannot be understated, and am incredibly thankful to our staff, partners and leadership team for this achievement.</p> <p>We believe that the report reflects a very strong Requires Improvement, with many elements of strong practice within Childrens services, and evidence of collaborative partnerships supporting stronger outcomes for children.</p> <p>Inspectors found that "Services for children in Bury have improved since the last inspection, far more children are receiving services that are making a positive difference to their lives and helping to ensure that they are safe and well cared for".</p>	

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		<p>The Council has worked closely alongside partners from Team Bury as part of its improvement journey with Ofsted identifying Strategic Partnerships as a strength, and a whole council vision resulting in strong service delivery, there were a number of examples of strong partnership working:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strong multi agency safeguarding hub, • our response to child exploitation via the complex safeguarding team. • Practitioners in the Family Safeguarding Service noted as providing effective support, utilising the support of other professionals • An improved multi agency offer to our care leavers, increased access to employment opportunities and housing • Joint housing policy for 16- and 17-year-olds • Stronger Transition work as a result of the establishment of a transitions team within Adult services <p>Our ambition for children was commended in the report with inspectors acknowledging that effective Leadership have taken an incremental and persistent approach to improvement, embracing external support, and sector led improvement.</p> <p>Children have been placed at the centre of planning, using their voice and lived experience to shape and develop our services.</p> <p>Supplementary:</p> <p>The leadership team within Childrens services have run 2 briefing sessions to share inspection findings and to thank them.</p> <p>On the 9th of September myself and the CEO hosted a thank you breakfast for our staff in Childrens, and on the same day there was an evening red carpet reception for our partners, council staff and elected members, hosted by the Leader, CEO, and myself, both were well attended.</p>	
3	Conservative	<p>Ainsworth Road in Bury West is a busy thoroughfare. With the exception of one school crossing, there are no pedestrian crossings. There has recently been an accident on Ainsworth Road which required an air ambulance and hospitalisation. With that in mind please would the Cabinet Member put in a request for a pedestrian crossing to be installed on Ainsworth Road as a matter of safety, and work with me as to determine an appropriate location for it?</p>	Councillor Harris
	Councillor A Quinn	<p>Funding for all new road safety schemes in the borough is currently provided by Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) via the Integrated Transport Block (ITB) funding pot.</p>	

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		<p>This money comes with the proviso that it is spent at existing injury collision hotspot locations in the borough, where there is evidence of a number of injury collisions taking place.</p> <p>ITB funding provided to Bury Council is around £500k per annum, which limits the number of schemes we can deliver. For context a new signal crossing costs in the region of £150k.</p> <p>Our 25/26 ITB programme has been approved by Cabinet and officers are in the process of delivering the schemes.</p> <p>Officers have carried out provisional investigations and found that Ainsworth Road meets the criteria for a crossing.</p> <p>So I am pleased to announce that, subject to approval, a crossing will be installed on Ainsworth Road as part of our 26/27 ITB programme, helping to better protect the residents of Bury West</p>	
4	Independent	There have been 2 significant IT outages in recent months, what assurances if any, can be provided there won't be a third soon?	Councillor Lancaster
	Councillor Gold	<p>The 2 outages that the council have experienced were both linked to the same piece of equipment. After the first outage new equipment to fix this issue was ordered, however the equipment could not be replaced immediately.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the piece of equipment failed before its replacement could be delivered, and it was necessary to restore the system to the disaster recovery site.</p> <p>The new equipment was due to be delivered on the 29th of September at the earliest, but it has now actually been delivered, and we have expediated plans to migrate from the disaster recovery solution currently in use. Once this has been completed it will provide a permanent fix to the issue.</p> <p>While some systems were unavailable there was a large amount of work that could carry on due to the council's investment into cloud systems, also the data was completely safe despite the outage. We are continuing to review systems and where appropriate to move them into the cloud or provide resilient alternatives.</p>	
5	Radcliffe First	In February this year a cross-party parliamentary committee found that a new strategy and legal protections were required to tackle a 'pervasively ageist culture' in England. MPs found clear evidence that ageist stereotyping, including portrayals of older people as frail, helpless or incompetent, or conversely	Councillor Birchmore

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		<p>as wealth-hoarding "boomers", is highly prevalent across the UK media and is a significant contributory factor to the normalisation of ageist attitudes.</p> <p>Please can you tell me if the Council shares these concerns and if so what is the Council doing to help address ageism against older people?</p>	
	Councillor Tariq	<p>There's a common stereotype that ageing means becoming frail, helpless, or somehow less capable. But in Bury, we reject that narrative. We believe that ageing is not a decline but a continuation of life, rich with experience, wisdom, and contribution.</p> <p>Bury is proud to be part of the UK Network of Age Friendly Communities, a global movement led by the World Health Organization.</p> <p>We've taken real steps to ensure the elderly are protected and heard in Bury:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The "Take a Seat" initiative is a simple but powerful example. Across our borough, local businesses are offering seating for older people who may need to rest while out and about. • The Bury Older People's Network gives older residents a voice in shaping services and policies. • Our Staying Well Team supports residents aged 50 and over to remain healthy, independent, and connected. • We're also part of the Greater Manchester Ageing in Place Pathfinder, which puts older people's voices at the heart of neighbourhood planning. <p>Here in Bury we reject the assertion that the elderly are anything less than valuable contributive members of our lives, families and communities. We wholeheartedly reject ageism in all forms, and we're ensuring that the elderly are not just cared for, but feel they have an active voice in their borough.</p>	
6	Labour	Would the Cabinet Member for Culture join me in congratulating The Met on their 50 th anniversary and thank them for all they do for our borough?	Councillor Farooq
	Councillor Morris	<p>My congratulations to the MET on their 50th anniversary, as the cabinet member for Culture I see firsthand the fantastic space the MET has created for culture in the heart of our Borough.</p> <p>This milestone reflects their unwavering dedication to enriching Bury's cultural landscape. Over five decades, they have provided a platform for local artists and performers, fostering a sense of community and pride among residents.</p>	

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		<p>Their commitment to promoting the arts and culture has significantly impacted many lives, as the MET celebrates this remarkable achievement, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for their invaluable contributions and look forward to many more years of success and cultural enrichment.</p>	
7	Labour	<p>With the recent Cabinet decision to invest additional money into our social housing stock, can the Cabinet Member for Housing outline the improvements we have seen since bringing our stock back in house?</p>	Councillor Haroon
	Councillor Fitzgerald	<p>Since the decision to bring our housing stock back in house, there have been significant safety improvements have been carried out, there has been investment into the homes, and the Housing Services team are now integrated into the wider council services.</p> <p>There is improved resident involvement through the Tenant's Voice and the Housing Advisory Board giving tenants more say in the management of their homes.</p> <p>We have recently been commended for our energy schemes at the North West Energy Awards event. We have provided safer, healthier, warmer homes, as well as a more responsive customer focused service.</p> <p>Considerable improvements have been made regarding compliance issues and Housing Services are in the upper quartile measured against our peers which is a significant improvement since the transfer of the housing stock into the Council.</p> <p>This year we have an ambitious capital programme of £26 million consisting of new kitchens and bathrooms, new windows and doors, roofing schemes, and improvements to communal areas in blocks of flats, to name a few.</p> <p>In addition, we have an extensive energy improvement programme to bring all our homes up to EPC level C by 2030 which will make our homes warmer and reduce fuel poverty, as well as producing valued savings for the council.</p>	
8	Conservative	<p>My ward, particularly on certain back streets in the Elton area, has long endured issues with fly tipping. These are specific parts of streets within my ward which fly tippers use, which residents know about and about which I have frequently been in contact with officers. I recently encountered more fly tipping on a litter pick which I joined with council staff and other volunteers. Will the relevant Cabinet Member work with me to employ the powers recently announced by the Government including the use of drones and installation of CCTV cameras to stop this happening once and for all?</p>	Councillor Rydeheard

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	Councillor A Quinn	<p>The Council takes the issue of fly tipping seriously and has dedicated staffing resources to investigate reports and instances of fly tipping throughout the borough, including Elton.</p> <p>Where residents are aware of fly tipping incidents, the public is asked to assist the Councils enforcement team and to report incidents. Providing as much detail as possible such as times and dates, registration plates of any vehicles used, make, model and colour of vehicle, and details of people seen fly tipping.</p> <p>Without sufficient evidence, which may also include witness statements of any residents that have witnessed a fly tip, the enforcement team are unable to take any effective lawful action.</p> <p>Whilst Bury has not received any specific funding to the use of Drones or CCTV cameras, the council remains dedicated to investigating fly-tipping and holding perpetrators to account for the disruption and damage they cause to our communities.</p> <p>We will continue to utilise our extensive CCTV network, as well as investigating the feasibility of mobile CCTV and Drones, within legal and financial considerations.</p> <p><u>Supplementary:</u></p> <p>Bury has not received specific government funding towards the use of drones and CCTV cameras. Such equipment requires detailed assessments for the legal considerations including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs of procuring, installing and maintaining drones/mobile CCTV equipment • Data Protection and Privacy issues along with site-specific approval for use in urban settings • Logistics and practicalities of installation and ongoing maintenance • Training costs and requirements for the commercial use of drone equipment. 	
9	Independent	What impact did the recent Doctors strike have for patient care at Fairfield Hospital?	Councillor McBriar
	Councillor Tariq	<p>Northern Care Alliance Colleagues have advised that a comprehensive risk assessment and planning was undertaken for Fairfield General, along with the whole of the Northern Care Alliance, with actions to mitigate any risk.</p> <p>Some of these actions included enhancing nursing and consultant rotas to cover gaps because of the Resident Doctors' Industrial action.</p>	

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		<p>This actually resulted in a short-term enhanced performance in our urgent care pathways due to the presence of more senior decision makers, although this is not a sustainable model in the long-term.</p> <p>There were a small number of out-patient clinic and theatre cancellations, however these were minimal and patients with the highest need were prioritised in line with the risk assessment, and impact on patient care was mitigated as much as possible.</p> <p>This Labour government has made improving the NHS one of its top priorities, and over 5.2 million additional appointments have been delivered this year, waiting lists continue to fall, response times are falling, and more people are receiving a life-saving cancer diagnosis.</p> <p>The Industrial action had no impact on the provision of Adult care services in the council.</p>	
10	Radcliffe First	Given a recent article on Bury councils debt situation can we please have a breakdown on monies borrowed to finance capital projects and monies borrowed for non capital projects.	Councillor Berry
	Councillor Thorpe	<p>Local authorities cannot ordinarily borrow for revenue costs and are discouraged from borrowing to invest primarily for financial return.</p> <p>Through the Local Government Act 2003 and Capital Finance and Accounting Regulations 2003 (as amended), local authorities are required to have regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIPFA Codes of Practice: The Prudential Code for Capital Finance and the Treasury Management Code which form two parts of what is known as the Prudential Framework. • MHCLG Statutory Guidance: Guidance on Local Authority Investment (“Investments Guidance”) and Guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision (“the MRP Guidance”). <p>Since April 2004, local authorities have been able to borrow and invest for capital projects without prior government approval, under the “Prudential Framework for capital finance”, provided their plans are affordable, prudent, and sustainable.</p> <p>The Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) is the amount of capital spending that has not yet been financed by capital receipts, capital grants or contributions and contributions from revenue income, it measures the underlying need to borrow for a capital purposes.</p>	

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		<p>At 31-March-2025 Bury Loan CFR was £391.354m and Borrowing was £295.266m, an under borrowed position of £96.088m. This is a positive position for the council, leaving ample headroom.</p> <p>I have here a breakdown of all borrowing which will be supplied to members following this meeting, but to outline the main areas of investment, we have invested £29m into regeneration, £21m into our roads, £17m into our schools and £10m into ICT across our resident facing sites, and leisure centres across the borough.</p> <table><tr><th>CAPITAL FINANCING REQUIREMENT</th><th>31-Mar-2025 £m</th></tr><tr><td colspan="2">GENERAL FUND</td></tr><tr><td>Supported Borrowing Balance</td><td>£89.723</td></tr><tr><td>Prudential Borrowing Balance:</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Adults Care Home</td><td>£0.134</td></tr><tr><td>Car Parking</td><td>£0.275</td></tr><tr><td>Cemeteries</td><td>£0.308</td></tr><tr><td>Children's Centres</td><td>£1.316</td></tr><tr><td>Climate Change</td><td>£0.211</td></tr><tr><td>Corporate Property</td><td>£5.076</td></tr><tr><td>Fleet - Plant, Machinery & Equipment</td><td>£0.400</td></tr><tr><td>Fleet - Vehicles</td><td>£7.682</td></tr><tr><td>Highways - Bridges</td><td>£0.119</td></tr><tr><td>Highways - Footways</td><td>£1.238</td></tr><tr><td>Highways - Roads</td><td>£21.952</td></tr><tr><td>Highways - Street Lighting</td><td>£5.857</td></tr><tr><td>Highways - Traffic Management & Road Safety</td><td>£0.270</td></tr><tr><td>ICT</td><td>£10.263</td></tr><tr><td>Leisure Centres</td><td>£1.483</td></tr><tr><td>Libraries</td><td>£0.453</td></tr><tr><td>Markets</td><td>£1.201</td></tr><tr><td>Museums</td><td>£0.910</td></tr><tr><td>Parks, Sports & Open Spaces</td><td>£5.944</td></tr><tr><td>Regeneration</td><td>£29.572</td></tr><tr><td>Schools</td><td>£17.312</td></tr><tr><td>Traveller Sites</td><td>£2.196</td></tr><tr><td>Waste</td><td>£0.047</td></tr><tr><td>Prudential Borrowing Balance</td><td>£114.218</td></tr><tr><td>GF BALANCE</td><td>£203.941</td></tr></table> <table><tr><td colspan="2">HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT</td></tr><tr><td>Pre Self-Financing Balance</td><td>£40.887</td></tr><tr><td>2011-12 Self-Financing Settlement Payment</td><td>£78.253</td></tr><tr><td>HRA Stock Major Works</td><td>£2.273</td></tr><tr><td>HRA BALANCE</td><td>£121.414</td></tr></table> <table><tr><td colspan="2">NON-FINANCIAL (POLICY) INVESTMENTS</td></tr><tr><td>Manchester Airport Equity</td><td>£5.388</td></tr><tr><td>Manchester Airport Loan</td><td>£29.366</td></tr><tr><td>Bury MBC Townside Fields Loan</td><td>£7.257</td></tr><tr><td>Six Town Housing Loan</td><td>£2.752</td></tr><tr><td>Bury Bruntwood (Millgate) LLP Loan</td><td>£20.099</td></tr><tr><td>The Prestwich Regeneration (LLP) Loan</td><td>£1.126</td></tr><tr><td>Debt Managed for Probation Services</td><td>£0.011</td></tr><tr><td>NON-FINANCIAL (POLICY) INVESTMENTS BALANCE</td><td>£65.999</td></tr></table>	CAPITAL FINANCING REQUIREMENT	31-Mar-2025 £m	GENERAL FUND		Supported Borrowing Balance	£89.723	Prudential Borrowing Balance:		Adults Care Home	£0.134	Car Parking	£0.275	Cemeteries	£0.308	Children's Centres	£1.316	Climate Change	£0.211	Corporate Property	£5.076	Fleet - Plant, Machinery & Equipment	£0.400	Fleet - Vehicles	£7.682	Highways - Bridges	£0.119	Highways - Footways	£1.238	Highways - Roads	£21.952	Highways - Street Lighting	£5.857	Highways - Traffic Management & Road Safety	£0.270	ICT	£10.263	Leisure Centres	£1.483	Libraries	£0.453	Markets	£1.201	Museums	£0.910	Parks, Sports & Open Spaces	£5.944	Regeneration	£29.572	Schools	£17.312	Traveller Sites	£2.196	Waste	£0.047	Prudential Borrowing Balance	£114.218	GF BALANCE	£203.941	HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT		Pre Self-Financing Balance	£40.887	2011-12 Self-Financing Settlement Payment	£78.253	HRA Stock Major Works	£2.273	HRA BALANCE	£121.414	NON-FINANCIAL (POLICY) INVESTMENTS		Manchester Airport Equity	£5.388	Manchester Airport Loan	£29.366	Bury MBC Townside Fields Loan	£7.257	Six Town Housing Loan	£2.752	Bury Bruntwood (Millgate) LLP Loan	£20.099	The Prestwich Regeneration (LLP) Loan	£1.126	Debt Managed for Probation Services	£0.011	NON-FINANCIAL (POLICY) INVESTMENTS BALANCE	£65.999	
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11	Labour	Following significant reports of serious ASB and wider criminal behaviour in parts of Unsworth, it was very welcome to see action being taken at the recent Cabinet meeting to help tackle this. But what wider efforts have and are being made from the community safety partnership to tackle the scourge of ASB and crime in the area?	Councillor Hook																																																																																						

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	Councillor Walmsley	<p>Bury Council's ASB Team continues to take a proactive, partnership approach to tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB), including in areas such as Unsworth and Prestwich Town Centre, where recent concerns have been raised.</p> <p>During recent months community safety partners including Council colleagues ,housing services and youth services in addition to the ASB team have been working with GMP, GM Fire & Rescue Service and TravelSafe colleagues – through a combination of hot spot patrolling; detached outreach; awareness raising activity; and community engagement. This has been under the auspices of Safe4Summer and including a focus on Keeping Town Centres Safe but also our green spaces across the Borough.</p> <p>Such partnership activity includes targeted youth engagement, working directly with young people identified as being at risk of involvement in ASB. This includes offering activities such as sports, community projects, and mentoring schemes to help build positive relationships and reduce offending.</p> <p>Schools and colleges are being supported with resources and workshops to educate young people about the consequences of ASB and criminal behaviour. The BSAFE programme is set to launch in October 2025, and town centre patrols with Bury College staff are already taking place every Friday afternoon.</p> <p>We have recently upgraded our public area CCTV network and linked it directly to Bury Police Station. This now enables officers to access live footage of incidents, helping to identify offenders quickly and leading to faster arrests, which supports community intelligence reporting and joint operations utilising enforcement tools such as Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs), Community Protection Notices and Warnings, and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts are being actively used.</p>	
12	Labour	Does the Cabinet Member for Operations welcome the return of the 135 night bus?	Councillor D Quinn
	Councillor A Quinn	<p>I am very happy to welcome the return of the 135-night bus to Bury, a service I know that residents have long championed for.</p> <p>The night bus not only provides a safe and cheap route for those visiting Manchester's vibrant pubs or clubs, but also provides affordable, frequent travel for many of our workers across the borough, removing barriers to work and lowering the cost of getting to and from Manchester at unsociable hours.</p> <p>Let me remind Members opposite: these improvements are only possible thanks to the Labour Mayor, backed by the Labour Government, bringing our buses back into public ownership — a move the Conservative group opposed at the time.</p>	

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13	Conservative	In response to Operation Raise the Colours, the Council has recently confirmed to the press that it “ <i>will not be removing flags on Council property...except in cases where they present a safety risk or constitute an offence such as criminal damage,</i> ” however in an update to Members a Council Director confirmed that “ <i>where the additional items do not pose an immediate safety risk they will be removed as part of our routine maintenance of street infrastructure.</i> ” This is contradictory. Please may the relevant Cabinet Member confirm the Council’s position in full, and how many flags the Council has removed?	Councillor Hussain
	Councillor Walmsley	<p>Any flags (or related items) which pose an imminent safety risk, or include explicitly offensive messages, will be removed as a priority.</p> <p>Where there is not an urgent health & safety concern, but an item is at risk of becoming a hazard, for example if the fitting becomes loose or becomes more likely to be an obstruction, this will be addressed within routine operational activity.</p> <p>No flags have to date been removed in the Borough, but this is kept under review.</p>	
14	Independent	Springwater Park has been subjected to regular fly tipping in recent months. Could the Cabinet member please consider what resources can be provided at the park to minimise such criminal behaviour?	Councillor Bernstein
	Councillor A Quinn	<p>The Councils dedicated Fly Tipping Enforcement Officers will correspond with the Parks team to understand any incidents and to establish any information they have on perpetrators.</p> <p>They will also examine what proactive measures could be put in place., including whether any existing CCTV cameras exist, whether there are any witnesses willing to provide statements to support legal enforcement action and whether any practical implementations such as patrols may be utilised.</p> <p>The Public Protection Service work closely with the Councils Communication Team to highlight incident reporting to provide advice for members of the public which to report and assist which is critical for effective investigation and securing of evidence following fly tipping incidents.</p>	
15	Radcliffe First	Can the council confirm that all HMO’s over 5 are registered with the council and that the council will not accept 6 as not being required to register	Councillor Walsh

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	Councillor Fitzgerald	<p>Under the provisions of the Housing Act 2004, Bury Council has a statutory duty to implement the mandatory licensing scheme for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs). This applies to properties occupied by five or more individuals forming two or more households, where occupants share facilities such as kitchens or bathrooms.</p> <p>All HMOs meeting this definition are required to be licensed with the Council. So, I can confirm, because 6 is bigger than 5, that these properties fall within the scope of mandatory licensing.</p> <p>The Council does not accept any interpretation that would exempt such properties from registration.</p> <p>Failure to obtain a licence for a qualifying HMO is a criminal offence, and enforcement action will be taken, including the imposition of financial penalties.</p> <p>Bury Council remains committed to ensuring that all licensable HMOs are properly registered, managed, and maintained in accordance with legal standards, and will continue to take appropriate action where non-compliance is identified.</p>	
16	Labour	Can the Cabinet Member for Finance provide an update on the potential impact from the Government's review into Council funding?	Councillor Staples-Jones
	Councillor Thorpe	<p>The updated Fairer Funding Review (FFR 2.0) approach aims to use the best available evidence to take account of the different needs and costs faced by local authorities in urban and rural areas, and the ability of individual local authorities to raise Council Tax.</p> <p>The overarching aim is for a new, transparent methodology in which funding is fairer and better aligned with relative need, cost and resources. With the culmination of the proposed changes leading to the first multi-year Local Government Finance Settlement for 2026-27 in a decade, that will be more streamlined and simpler than the system in place today, with fewer separate grants compared to 2025-26.</p> <p>We have responded to the consultation following financial modelling having been undertaken by our professional partners (pixel and LGFutures) who have been working with MHCLG and, we are cautiously optimistic that we will see an increase in our funding share based on the proposed formula changes but not to a level that will fully address our forecast funding deficit. The proposed formula may also change post consultation, and the impact will not be known until we receive the provisional local government finance settlement, which is likely to be received in December.</p>	

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		It is also important to note that FFR will affect council's share of national funding available to local government, but it is not yet clear what the size of the national funding pot will be and we await a steer on that front as part of the Chancellor's budget announcement on the 26th November.	
17	Labour	How many trading days have been lost on Bury Market as a result of the improvement works?	Councillor Ibrahim
	Councillor Morris	<p>I'm delighted to report There has not been a single trading day lost during the transformative regeneration works to Bury Market.</p> <p>All major works have been carried out on non-market days to avoid disruption. Those traders who open on non-market days within the Fish and Meat Hall and Market Hall perimeter have been able to do so throughout.</p> <p>We're investing over £33m into Bury Market, creating a new flexi-hall space, improving the cover and look of the market, as well as adding additional public spaces across the market area. Ensuring that our world-famous market can continue to thrive as it approaches its 600th birthday.</p>	
18	Conservative	Bury Council is now in debt to the tune of £300 million, which is up around £32.8 million from 2024 and represents an increase of 13.4%. Please may the relevant Cabinet Member confirm how they plan to tackle this debt?	Councillor Gartside
	Councillor Thorpe	<p>Our borrowing and debt primarily relates to planned and approved capital programme financing (otherwise known as prudential borrowing) which is usually undertaken through the Public Works Loan Board (PWLb) as the cheapest form of borrowing available to most councils.</p> <p>Capital Programme borrowing effectively means using borrowed money to fund planned and approved capital projects such as new buildings, regeneration schemes or improving existing council infrastructure to extend the life of our assets.</p> <p>The capital programme can be funded via capital grants, capital receipts, revenue contributions or borrowing. In reality, available grant funding and capital receipts are insufficient to meet most Council's capital investment needs and financing through prudential borrowing has the lowest impact on our revenue budget as repayment of the principal sum borrowed can be spread over the life of the asset which can be as long as 40 to 50 years and are fully factored into our medium term financial strategy.</p> <p>The decisions with regard to borrowing are subject to affordability and a business case required to demonstrate that the cost of borrowing can be met by the council's revenue budget over the lifespan of the asset. The management of our borrowing and investments and cashflow requirements are central to our Treasury Management arrangements with the Treasury</p>	

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		<p>Management Strategy agreed annually by Council and Treasury management Performance being reported to both Cabinet and Council.</p> <p>Bury's Borrowing Strategy is clear in that we do not borrow and invest in assets primarily for financial return or that are not primarily related to functions of the council and has no plans to do so in future.</p> <p>The main objective when borrowing is to strike an appropriate balance of risk between securing low interest rates and cost certainty over the period for which the borrowing is required with flexibility to renegotiate loans should plans or interest rates change as a secondary objective.</p> <p>Our loans increased by £32m over the course of the 2024/25 financial year primarily through additional prudential borrowing and some short-term cash flow financing. This additional borrowing reflects the timing of capital expenditure and supports the delivery of our capital programme which includes a number of significant and transformational regeneration schemes (Bury, Radcliffe and Prestwich) which will also help in the long-term to increase our taxbase and levels of future funding available to the council.</p> <p>Despite the increase in our borrowing we remain in an under-borrowed position relative to our overall capital financing requirement, meaning that the increase in our borrowing remains prudent and in line with our needs. The borrowing remains fully compliant with the limits and prudential indicators set out and approved within our Treasury Management Strategy.</p> <p>For additional context to show our position relative to other Councils, the recent BBC article produced information regard to the cost of capital per head of population for each council with the highest relating to Woking at £20,601 per head of population, Spelthorne £10,252 and Warrington £7,419. The England council average is £1,688 per head of population and Bury is comfortably below that at £1,510 per head of population.</p>	
19	Independent	Is any consideration being given to piloting a "pay as you throw" scheme as utilised in the Netherlands to improve recycling?	Councillor Vernon
	Councillor A Quinn	<p>I can confirm that there are currently no plans to introduce a "pay as you throw" scheme locally.</p> <p>This approach is not part of the Government's Simpler Recycling Strategy, which sets out the national direction for waste and recycling services across England. The focus remains on improving consistency in collections and making recycling easier for residents.</p> <p>However, I am pleased to say that this Labour government is introducing a</p>	

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		<p>bottle return scheme, modelled on those used in many European countries, which allows customers to receive a refund when returning used bottles to collection points. This scheme is expected to come into practice in late 2027.</p> <p>In the meantime, our Recycling and Enforcement Officers continue to work in areas where recycling participation is low, providing targeted support and advice.</p> <p>As part of our ongoing community clean-up events, we have also been actively engaging with residents to raise awareness and understanding of how to recycle correctly, helping to improve local recycling rates through education and support.</p>	
20	Radcliffe First	Conscious that the council have limited resources for cutting hedges that border footpaths, what are the council doing to ensure that land owners are proactive in keeping greenery cut back and of reasonable height so as not to obstruct pavements, and street furniture.	Councillor Booth
	Councillor A Quinn	<p>Our team of Area Highway Inspectors routinely works with private property owners to ensure that roadside vegetation, such as hedges, to ensure they do not obstruct the highway. In most cases, owners respond positively to requests to cut back overgrown hedges.</p> <p>However, on the rare occasions where cooperation isn't forthcoming, we use our enforcement powers under the Highways Act to take appropriate action, which would entail the council cutting the offending vegetation, and subsequently recovering any costs from the private landowner</p>	
21	Conservative	Shoplifting across Greater Manchester has risen by 20% in the past year, outpacing the overall rise in the North West by 11%. Please may the Cabinet Member confirm the situation across Bury, Ramsbottom, Tottington, Radcliffe, Whitefield and Prestwich and clarify what we are doing to help the Borough's businesses in this regard?	Councillor Brown
	Councillor Walmsley	<p>Council colleagues have worked with Community Safety partners this summer to tackle shoplifting as part of the wider Town Centre safety initiative.</p> <p>Shoplifting offences in Bury were slightly lower in August 2025 compared to August 2024, but higher than the April–July period. GMP is analysing the breakdown by town, and a written update will be shared with Members if not available at the meeting.</p>	

	Party	Question	Questioner
		<p>A joint session with GMP and Bury BID was held earlier this summer to raise awareness and encourage reporting, which helps target resources and identify prolific offenders or hotspots. Increased patrols have been deployed in key areas, involving neighbourhood policing teams, ASB officers, youth services, and BID Street Patrols. These benefit from enhanced CCTV via Safer Streets funding.</p> <p>Repeat locations are reviewed by neighbourhood officers, who may open problem-solving records and offer crime prevention advice.</p> <p>Notably, Prestwich neighbourhood policing team secured multiple charges against a prolific offender, resulting in a 50-week custodial sentence. Charges or resolutions have also been secured for three other repeat offenders in the past month.</p> <p>May I however remind Councillor Brown that it was his party that, when in government, cut police staff to the bone, and slashed budgets, leaving this Labour government to once again pick up the tab of rebuilding the nations police forces.</p>	
22	Independent	Tottington Ward needs more allotments, with only 8 listed and long waiting lists. All other townships have good provision, for example Ramsbottom has 78 and Prestwich 238. Council owned Station Yard in Tottington is now vacant, can this land now be made available for more allotments?	Councillor Wright
	Councillor A Quinn	Officers are actively working to find a solution / additional suitable space in the area and will contact ward councillors if a solution can be found.	
23	Radcliffe First	We have had significant periods of high temperatures this year. Will the council consider writing to Suez, asking them to build sunshades at their recycling centres to protect staff from direct sun, while they support residents using the facility?	Councillor Duncalfe
	Councillor Quinn	I would be happy to write to Suez via greater Manchester waste to enquire what measures could be put in place to look after staff in extreme weather conditions.	
24	Conservative	Please can an update be provided as to the upcoming arrangements for Remembrance?	Councillor S Arif
	Councillor Walmsley	<p>Remembrance activities are an important part of Bury's civic calendar.</p> <p>Arrangements for the Civic Remembrance Sunday Procession and Service of Remembrance which takes place in Bury are well under way with initial planning meetings taking place in July with the council officers, the British Legion co-ordinator, Lancashire Fusilier representative and the Dean of Bury.</p>	

	Party	Question	Questioner
		<p>All the relevant armed forces contributors, marching bands and other attendees have been invited and confirmed attendance at the event.</p> <p>Invitations to local dignitaries, faith groups, councillors and officers of the Council, MPs, voluntary groups, marching organisations, schools, colleges and other representatives will be sent in the next few days.</p> <p>The road closures, parking bay suspensions, first aid, security and other required arrangements have been confirmed. The wreaths have been delivered and are currently in storage.</p> <p>The finer details of the day will be confirmed in the lead up to it.</p> <p>With regards to Remembrance services in the other towns of the borough, arrangements are being made with local organisers, including traffic management arrangements through the Event Safety Advisory Group and respective plans to be shared at an upcoming Armed Forces Covenant Steering Group meeting</p>	
25	Conservative	<p>With regard to the Council's Ramsbottom Streets for All plan, the website currently states that "<i>We are now reviewing the feedback and will produce a consultation report. We will use this report to determine whether the scheme should proceed and, if it should, whether there are elements that should be changed in response to the feedback we have received. It will then go through the council approval process.</i>" Please can the relevant Cabinet Member confirm the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether the consultation responses will be released to Councillors and to the public and when? • What is meant by the phrase "council approval process" and what does this entail for the Ramsbottom Streets for All plan? • Whether any amendments to the original Ramsbottom Streets for All plan are being considered as a result of feedback and what these are? • When the report is likely to be finalised and brought before Council? 	Councillor S Arif
	Councillor A Quinn	<p>We have listened to the engagement feedback on our proposals for Ramsbottom and formal responses will be released to members and to the public within the next month or so.</p> <p>We are in the process of amending our highway plans for the town and will look to deliver the interventions that were broadly supported by the public, such as</p>	

	Party	Question	Questioner
		<p>providing new pedestrian crossings and cycle improvements within Nuttall Park.</p> <p>However, we will not be progressing with the one-way traffic proposals following resident feedback.</p> <p>The package of interventions for the town will be approved by our Strategic Transport Group with contract awards likely to be presented to Cabinet in the new year.</p>	
26	Conservative	Please may the Council confirm its intended action towards Grain, after its shoddy workmanship in repairing the pavements all across Elton ward?	Councillor Rydeheard
	Councillor A Quinn	<p>All work carried out by a statutory undertaker (SU) is guaranteed, this period begins on completion of the permanent reinstatement and runs for two years in general, or three years in the case of deep openings.</p> <p>Following the completion of the works a “B” inspection is undertaken within the six months following interim or permanent reinstatement date. The second is a “C” inspection undertaken within the three months preceding the end of the guarantee period.</p> <p>Any reinstatements that do not comply with the Specification for the Reinstatement of Openings in Highway (SROH) are failed and must be remediated by the statutory undertaker that carried out the work. This must be done within 21 days of the non-compliant reinstatement being identified. If the SU cannot complete the remedial works within the said timescale, we may agree a longer period to complete the remedial works.</p> <p>The “B” inspections are due on the said works.</p>	