

Minutes of: COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 12 November 2025

Present: The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor N Bayley, in the Chair)
Councillors A Arif, S Arif, R Bernstein, D Berry, C Birchmore,
C Boles, A Booth, R Brown, C Cummins, D Duncalfe, U Farooq,
E FitzGerald, N Frith, 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, A Quinn, D Quinn, T Rafiq, M Rahimov,
I Rizvi, M Rubinstein, J Rydeheard, L Ryder, K Simpson,
M Smith, J Southworth, G Staples-Jones, T Tariq, S Thorpe,
D Vernon, S Walmsley, M Walsh and Y Wright

**Apologies for
Absence** T Pilkington and L Smith

Public Attendance: 9 members of the public attended the meeting.

C. 26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
C. 27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

C. 28 MAYORAL COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor as Bury's first citizen updated Members of the Council on work undertaken since the last meeting.

C. 29 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2025 were approved as correct record and signed by the Mayor.

C. 30 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Notice had been received of the following questions:

Questioner	Topic	Responding
Carol Bernstein	Watling Street, Bury West	Councillor A Quinn
Duncan Holland	IX Wireless	Councillor O'Brien
Andrew Luxton	Investment in Tottington	Councillor O'Brien
Martyn West	Hawkeswater Underpass	Councillor O'Brien
Steve Middleton	Road safety outside schools	Councillor A Quinn
Richard Garland	Single sex space provision	Councillor Walmsley

Questions without notice:

Questioner	Topic	Responding
Emma Leigh	Silent protests regarding SEND	Councillor O'Brien

C. 31
a

RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES

SCHOOLS FINANCE TEAM PHASED REDUCTION

It was moved by Councillor Thorpe and seconded by Councillor O'Brien and on being put, with 48 Members voting for, the Mayor abstaining; that, Council, approves:

- Agree the deletions of the following posts within the schools finance team through accepting voluntary early retirement applications, support the payment of voluntary early retirement and capital costs associated
- Schools finance officer proposed end date 31 October 2025.
- Senior schools finance officer proposed end date 30 June 2026

b

FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH

It was moved by Councillor O'Brien and seconded by Councillor M Smith and on being put, with 48 Members voting for, and 1 member abstaining; that, Council, approves:

- both nominations be progressed and a ceremony to be arranged for January 2026

c

LICENSING ACT 2003 - REVIEW OF THE STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

It was moved by Councillor Morris and seconded by Councillor Rafiq and on being put, with 48 Members voting for, and the Mayor abstaining; that, Council, approves:

- It is recommended that the attached draft statement of licensing policy be accepted without amendment. Widespread consultation has not revealed any major problems with the existing policy.

C. 32

LEADER' STATEMENT AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

(a) Written question (Notice given)

The Leader of the Council, Councillor E O'Brien, made a statement on the work undertaken by him since the date of the last Council meeting.

The Leader and the relevant Cabinet Members answered questions raised by Councillors on the following issues:

	Questioner	Cabinet Member	Topic
1	Cllr Harris	Cllr A Quinn	Watling Street
2	Cllr Lancaster	Cllr A Quinn	Road safety issues at St Gabriels School
3	Cllr Birchmore	Cllr Southworth	Out of area placements and travel expenses
4	Cllr Boles	Cllr Cummins	Garages at Hawk Close
5	Cllr D Quinn	Cllr Walmsley	Community fund
6	Cllr Gartside	Cllr A Quinn	Grit bins

7	Cllr Bernstein	Cllr A Quinn	Traffic lights at Park Lane/ Higher Lane
8	Cllr Birchmore	Cllr O'Brien	Criteria for the GM Brownfield Housing fund allocation
9	Cllr Farooq	Cllr O'Brien	Opposition of the Northern Gateway
10	Cllr Moss	Cllr Walmsley	Actions taken since the terrorist attack at Heaton Park synagogue
11	Cllr S Arif	Cllr A Quinn	Drainage and flooding issues
12	Cllr Vernon	Cllr O'Brien	Defending the Places for Everyone judicial review
13	Cllr Berry	Cllr Gold	Staff wages and overtime
14	Cllr Rubenstein	Cllr O'Brien	Pride in Place funding
15	Cllr Rizvi	Cllr Morris	Supporting business to sign up to the GM Good Employment Charter
16	Cllr Hussain	Cllr A Quinn	Highways department
17	Cllr M Smith	Cllr O'Brien	Pride of Place funding
18	Cllr A Arif	Cllr Southworth	Best Start in Life Family Hubs
19	Cllr Haroon	Cllr A Quinn	Milltown St Bridge
20	Cllr Wright	Cllr A Quinn	Junction by Carmelo's restaurant in Tottington

b) Verbal Questions

The Leader received verbal questions from the following:

	Questioner	Cabinet Member	Topic
1	Cllr M Smith	Cllr O'Brien	Housing targets
2	Cllr S Arif	Cllr O'Brien	Support and help for market traders
3	Cllr Bernstein	Cllr O'Brien	Places for Everyone
4	Cllr Southworth	Cllr Morris	Town of culture
5	Cllr Staples-Jones	Cllr O'Brien	Reform UK
6	Cllr Green	Cllr O'Brien	Councillor casework

C. 33

COMBINED AUTHORITY REPORT AND QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL'S COMBINED AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES

The Council received a report on the work of the Combined Authorities. The following questions had been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rules:

	Questioner	Cabinet Member	Topic
1	Cllr Hayes	Cllr A Quinn	Returns from GM waste
2	Cllr Ibrahim	Cllr Walmsley	Suspensions of police officers
3	Cllr Gartside	Cllr O'Brien	Capital and revenue funding allocated to Bury
4	Cllr Vernon	Cllr Walmsley	Fraud protection programme (operation wage)

5	Cllr Hook	Cllr Thorpe	Current position of GMPF
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Due to the lack of time to answer questions 6 to 9 inclusive, the Mayor gave an undertaking that copies of those questions and responses will be circulated to all Councillors. The Mayor also gave an undertaking to make these available on the Council Web Site.

C. 34 NOTICES OF MOTION

(i) Pride in Place Programme

Council considered a motion in the names of Bernstein, Lancaster, McBriar and Vernon

The motion was moved by Councillor Vernon and seconded by Councillor McBriar and on being put; with 39 members voting for; 1 member voting against and the Mayor and 8 members abstaining, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

(ii) Affordable Housing

Council considered a motion in the names of Birchmore, Berry, Booth, Duncalfe, Marsden, Simpson, M Smith, and Walsh

The motion was moved by Councillor Birchmore and seconded by Councillor M Smith and on being put; with 48 members voting for; and the Mayor abstaining, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

(iii) Community Cohesion

Council considered a motion in the names of A Arif, Bayley, Boles, Cummins, Farooq, Fitzgerald, Frith, 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

The motion was moved by Councillor Walmsley and seconded by Councillor Rubenstein and on being put; with 49 members voting for, the Mayor declared the motion carried.

(iv) Armed Forces

Council considered a motion in the names of S Arif, Brown, Gartside, Harris, Hussain

The motion was moved by Councillor Harris and seconded by Councillor S Arif and on being put; with 49 members voting for; the Mayor declared the motion carried.

C. 35 COUNCIL MOTION TRACKER

Attached for information only.

C. 36 SCRUTINY REVIEW REPORTS AND SPECIFIC ITEMS "CALLED IN" BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

There were no scrutiny review reports and specific items "called in" by scrutiny committees.

C. 37 QUESTIONS ON THE WORK OF OUTSIDE BODIES OR PARTNERSHIPS

There were no questions on the work of outside bodies or partnerships.

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR

(Notes: The meeting ended at 10.43pm)