

	Party	Question	Questioner
1	Conservative	Despite countless requests over the last twelve months, the potholes on Watling Street have not been repaired. Please could you provide information when this work will take place	Cllr Jackie Harris
	Councillor Quinn	As has been communicated, the surface defects currently present on Watling Street are minor and do not meet the criteria for repair from a highway safety perspective.  However, to extend the lifespan of the existing carriageway, officers are arranging for specialist slurry surfacing repairs.  Subject to favourable weather conditions, this work is expected to be completed before the end of December.	
2	Independent	Could the appropriate Cabinet member meet with me at St Gabriel's High School to discuss road safety issues and explore what options are available to close off a short section of the road, which currently forms a dead end and currently requires the school staff to supervise the crossing throughout the day?	Councillor Jo Lancaster
	Councillor Quinn	I would be more than happy to meet Councillor Lancaster at St Gabriel's to discuss this further.	
3	Radcliffe First	The Local Government Association - Local government out of area placements guidance states the following:  <i>"Children being placed out of area for a short period which makes it undesirable for them to transfer to a new school should be given assistance to continue to attend their existing school, including, where necessary, support with travel and other necessary expenses."</i> Bury MBC has currently placed several families in out of borough accommodation for example in Cheetham Hill.  The tenants have been told that this is temporary accommodation while waiting for a suitable property back in borough. Since this is temporary accommodation, it is not unreasonable for the parents to want to keep	Councillor Birchmore

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		<p>children at their current schools. However, when I have asked the Council if they are prepared to offer support with school travel (as outlined above), I have been told that the parents should apply to the authority where they are currently residing for school travel expenses.</p> <p>Surely this is not correct and at the very least it demonstrates a serious lack of compassion on the part of the Council. How can I take this forward to ensure that school travel is covered by Bury MBC?</p>	
	<b>Councillor Southworth</b>	<p>With regards to travel assistance for children living outside of the borough in temporary accommodation, Department for Education guidance advises that applications for travel assistance should be made to the local authority where the family are residing.</p> <p>If the young person has an EHCP and a request for transport is made, local authorities may work together to arrange the reimbursement of costs from the placing authority.</p> <p>In terms of travel passes applications must be made to the residing authority. I can advise that Bury Council do consider travel assistance for children that have been placed within Bury from other local authorities.</p> <p>Bury Council are currently reimbursing other Greater Manchester Authorities for children in receipt of travel assistance.</p>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Labour</b>	Following on from the very welcome Cabinet decision to demolish the derelict garages at Hawk Close, can I ask the Cabinet Member for Housing to seriously consider the possibility of using the site for social and affordable homes?	<b>Councillor Boles</b>
	<b>Councillor Cummins</b>	<p>I was very pleased to welcome the demolition of the garages at Hawk close, which have been an eyesore and a magnet for antisocial and illegal activity.</p> <p>Moorside councillors have campaigned long and hard to get</p>	

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		<p>these garages removed, and this is a very positive win for residents – I would like to thank our councillors for their hard work.</p> <p>The Council is currently commissioning an options appraisal for the cleared site, which will consider the development of social and affordable housing, amongst other potential uses to benefit the community of Moorside</p> <p>There is an opportunity to look at potential use as social or affordable homes, something that later in this debate we will be discussing more of, as we discuss our ambition to use new support from our Labour government to build more social and affordable homes.</p>	
5	Labour	Can the Leader tell us how much money will go to Prestwich groups from the Parklife and Oasis community funds?	Councillor D Quinn
	Cllr Walmsley	<p>Local voluntary, community and social enterprise groups in Prestwich will once again benefit from community funds associated with concert series that took place in Heaton Park earlier in the year.</p> <p>This is a credit to our councillors, especially councillor Alan Quinn, who has been integral to the setting up of the Parklife grants, since they were implemented in 2016 - £242,320 has now been raised for local community groups.</p> <p>A total of £50k will be available through the a Bury Fund resulting from the Oasis series, and a further £24k from Parklife, totalling a full entitlement of £74k for local groups.</p> <p>Details on these schemes will be released shortly and will be shared through Council channels and on the Bury Voluntary &amp; Community Faith Alliance funding page.</p>	
6	Conservative	Can the leader / relevant cabinet member please give a brief overview of how the borough's grit bin locations are monitored and maintained in the lead up to the winter?	Councillor Iain Gartside
	Councillor Quinn	Grit bins are routinely monitored by our Highway Inspectors as part of the scheduled Highway Safety Inspection programme.	

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		<p>Where bins are identified as requiring replenishment, they are grouped for operational efficiency and refilled as resources allow.</p> <p>Supplementary asked o</p>	
7	Independent	Many residents in Pilkington Park have raised concerns regarding the synchronisation of the traffic lights at the new crossing on Park Lane/Higher Lane. How regular are assessments of the traffic flows undertaken?	Councillor Russell Bernstein
	Councillor Quinn	<p>The traffic signals at the recently upgraded Higher Lane, Pinfold Lane, and Park Lane junction have been adjusted to optimise junction capacity.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that ongoing works in the surrounding area are currently impacting traffic flow.</p> <p>Once these external works are completed, the signal timings will be reviewed and re-optimised to ensure continued efficiency, safety and optimal traffic flow.</p>	
8	Radcliffe First	Please can you explain the criteria used to select qualifiers for GM Brownfield Housing Fund Allocations. The August 2025 report shows a significant number of the applications came from projects in Salford. Are all applicants that meet the selection criteria approved or do funds limit the number of projects that qualify?	Councillor Birchmore
	Leader	<p>GMCA assess bids to the Brownfield Housing Fund against several criteria including:</p> <p><b>Deliverability:</b> including start date, the approval status of relevant planning applications, green credentials such as Passivhaus or the future homes standard, the level of affordable housing being provided, the status of contractor appointment and finally, the status of land ownership.</p> <p><b>Strategic fit:</b> does the site contribute to social housing provision or the goal of GM reaching carbon neutrality by 2038? Or is the site within a growth location or a key town centre?</p> <p><b>Finally, value for money:</b> is there provision of affordable</p>	

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		<p>housing, and what is the grant ask per unit.</p> <p>The reason a large number are coming from Salford, is because they have significantly more brownfield land that the council controls, we have comparatively less, and several Bury sites have been unsuccessful in receiving funding</p> <p>For the August 2025 awards, all Bury grant submissions were successful. We were awarded the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bury Road, Radcliffe, MSV Housing Group, 30 units, £600k grant awarded</li> <li>• Spurr House, Onward Homes, 60 units. £1.2m grant awarded</li> <li>• Dumers Lane, Westchurch Homes, 60 units, £1.2m grant awarded</li> </ul> <p>Bury has been successful in previous rounds of the Brownfield Housing Fund. We have been awarded Brownfield Housing Funding for several sites including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Street, Radcliffe, 132 apartments (97 affordable) - £1.98m grant secured</li> <li>• School Street, Radcliffe, 90 homes, including 22 affordable - £847 grant secured</li> <li>• Wheatfield – 30 affordable homes - £350k grant awarded</li> </ul> <p>Officers are in regular contact with developers and registered providers to promote schemes eligible for the Brownfield Housing Fund at the appropriate time.</p>	
9	Labour	Is the Leader shocked that some opposition parties oppose the creation of 20,000 new jobs at Northern Gateway?	Councillor Farooq
	Leader	<p>Of course, I am shocked and disappointed that certain opposition members would oppose the creation of 20,000 new jobs in the Northern Gateway and Atom Valley sites. Opposing a generation of job creation right here in our borough.</p> <p>Those who oppose this development are not just opposing the creation of a UK leading industrial centre for some of the fastest growing sectors and technologies – but are also opposing giving our young residents access to in-demand, high paying careers in rapidly evolving sectors.</p> <p>Opposition to the Northern Gateway would rob thousands of</p>	

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		<p>good jobs from our residents, remove millions if not billions from our economy and stop thousands of homes being built across, and around the site.</p> <p>I invite those that oppose this project to stand on the doorstep and tell residents it is their official position to campaign for fewer jobs, fewer homes and less opportunity here in Bury.</p>	
10	Labour	Can the Leader update on actions taken since the terrorist attack at Heaton Park Synagogue and explain what support has been given to our Jewish community in Bury?	Councillor Moss
	Cllr Walmsley	<p>Following the shocking attack on the 2nd October, the Council has been working closely with emergency services and community leads as part of immediate response, and ongoing recovery activity.</p> <p>This has involved liaising with Greater Manchester Police, and neighbouring districts to support additional community safety patrols; targeted communications messages and supporting including victim support information; health (including mental health) and humanitarian aid guidance. Education leads have worked with Headteachers and safeguarding leads to support the safe return of pupils following the High Holy Days. Books of condolence were organised across the Borough, and these have been collated with those from across the region in conjunction with the synagogue.</p> <p>The Council has been in ongoing dialogue with community leaders to share insight and seek to mitigate community impact, including tailoring of engagement approaches and working with the Bury VCFA on engagement with local community groups and networks.</p> <p>At the recent Team Bury event we shared a moment for prayers and reflection, in addition to strengthening our collective commitment to further cohesion in the Borough which is a substantive item for the Bury Community Safety Partnership this coming week.</p>	
11	Conservative	Given the ongoing drainage and flooding issues seen across Bury after recent downpours, can the Cabinet Member confirm how frequently drains and gullies are	Councillor S Arif

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		inspected and cleaned, and whether this schedule is being met?	
	<b>Councillor Quinn</b>	<p>Thanks to additional funding allocated to gully cleansing, we now operate two dedicated gully wagon crews throughout the year.</p> <p>These teams are responsible for inspecting and maintaining all 42,000 carriageway gullies annually.</p> <p>I am pleased to report that our crews remain on schedule, and the programme is progressing as planned.</p>	
<b>12</b>	<b>Independent</b>	How much has Bury Council contributed to the legal costs of successfully defending the Places for Everyone judicial review?	<b>Councillor Dene Vernon</b>
	<b>Leader</b>	<p>Bury has not contributed additionally to the legal costs of successfully defending the Places for Everyone Judicial Review.</p> <p>The costs came out of the PfE budget, which is administered by the GMCA.</p> <p>No extra was allocated for the legal challenge, GMSF/PfE was funded through allocations from retained business rates in 2021, 22, 23 and 24, which are detailed in budget papers on the GMCA website, which I encourage members to read for themselves.</p>	
<b>13</b>	<b>Radcliffe First</b>	Can the Leader provide assurance that all staff wages and overtime wages are monitored for unusual payments. This addresses potential risks that payments for additional hours may be made inappropriately, which may then lead to the inefficient use of resources and potential breaches of the Working Time Directive. This could negatively impact both staff wellbeing and service delivery.	<b>Councillor Berry</b>
	<b>Councillor Gold</b>	In line with previous audit guidance, Payroll ensure that the claim period falls within three months, has been approved by the relevant manager and that the dates, start and end times and total hours are clearly documented.	

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		Where this is not the case, claims are referred back to the accountable manager. Payroll policies and processes are currently being reviewed, and officers will consider how best to mitigate this risk.	
14	Labour	Does the Leader welcome the Labour Government investing an extra £20m into Radcliffe as part of the "Pride in Place" fund and can he outline how this fund will be managed?	Councillor Rubenstein
	Leader	<p>We very much welcome the "Pride in Place" funding for Radcliffe and whilst Government advice on the new iteration is developed, the project is expected to carry over from the Plan for Neighbourhoods, and is thus likely to exactly mirror the principles of PfN: <b>£20m worth of money to be invested into a specific bounded area across a 10-year timeframe, with the responsibility of determining the areas of spend left to a Neighbourhood Board – with representatives from a variety of background, residents, local businesses, civil society and community organisations.</b></p> <p>To aid Neighbourhood Boards the government has outlined 3 objective areas, 'build stronger communities', 'create thriving places' and 'empower people to take back control'.</p> <p>The Pride in Place funding stream comes with strict requirements surrounding the organisation of a board to direct the allocation of funds.</p> <p>The local authority has some flexibility on the design of boards, (at previous iterations this has meant selecting members of the board, and if the board should have subcommittees that meet to determine specific strategies, projects or themes).</p> <p>However, all boards must be comprised of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An independent chair - Selected by the local authority following consultation with the local Member of Parliament</li> <li>The local MP - or their representative</li> <li>At least one ward Councillor</li> </ol>	

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		The pride in place advice is currently under development, and more advice will follow soon – an updated note will be provided at this time.	
15	Labour	Can the Cabinet Member for the Economy outline how Bury is supporting businesses to become GM Good Employment Charter signatories?	Councillor Rizvi
	Councillor Morris	<p>Bury's 'Empowering Employers' event, delivered in partnership with the Good Employment Charter, is now live and will be taking place during Good Employment Week, the event will take place on the 25<sup>th</sup> November from 8:30am – 11am at the Fusilier Museum.</p> <p>We are currently inviting and promoting the event to local employers. The morning will include networking opportunities and insights into the Good Employment Charter as well as local providers to showcase support available to employers.</p> <p>Providers in attendance will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GMCA – Promoting opportunities for employer engagement</li> <li>• Bury Council – Showcasing upskilling programmes and the Apprenticeship Levy Scheme</li> <li>• The Growth Company – health and wellbeing support</li> <li>• Disability Confident Scheme – Encouraging inclusive employment practices</li> </ul> <p><b>For information:</b></p> <p>Date &amp; Time: 25th Nov, 8:30-11am  Location: Fusilier Museum  Event Link:  <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1760733564489?aff=oddtactor">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1760733564489?aff=oddtactor</a></p>	
16	Conservative	Whether the Council's Highways Department has considered introducing traffic calming measures, such as speed cameras, weight restrictions, or road narrowing?	Cllr Khalid Hasain

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	<b>Councillor Quinn</b>	<p>Speed enforcement cameras fall outside the remit of the Council and are managed by Greater Manchester Police (GMP).</p> <p>Our Highways team are delivering an extensive programme highway improvement funded through Greater Manchester's City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement.</p> <p>This programme of improvements includes the £5.7m Bee Active Travel Scheme Fishpool and Pimhole, which is scheduled for completion in Winter 2026.</p> <p>That said, there are no specific plans in place to introduce additional weight restrictions on our highway network.</p>	
<b>17</b>	<b>Radcliffe First</b>	With the recent announcement of the pride of place funding for Radcliffe, when will we get some indication of the governance arrangements and board membership, and can the leader confirm local political representation will be a feature of this board.	<b>Councillor M Smith</b>
	<b>Leader</b>	<p>Refer to response to question 14</p> <p>The Pride in Place funding stream comes with strict requirements surrounding the organisation of a board to direct the allocation of funds.</p> <p>The local authority has some flexibility on the design of boards, (at previous iterations this has meant selecting members of the board, and if the board should have subcommittees that meet to determine specific strategies, projects or themes).</p> <p>However, all boards must be comprised of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. An independent chair - Selected by the local authority following consultation with the local Member of Parliament</li> <li>b. The local MP - or their representative</li> <li>c. At least one ward Councillor</li> </ul> <p>The pride in place advice is currently under development, and more advice will follow soon – an updated note will be provided at this time.</p>	

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18	Labour	Following the Labour Government's announcement of investment for Best Start in Life Family Hubs, what plans does the Council have to support families and children's early years?	Councillor Arif
	Councillor Southworth	<p>On the 7th of November 2025, we received confirmation of an allocation of a grant of £2,161,100 across the financial years 2026-2029 for Best Start.</p> <p>We welcome the focus upon Best Start, we have received confirmation of the grant as outlined above, over the last 18 months we have developed our early years, and family hub offer.</p> <p>Our Family Hub Delivery Board (FHDB) has strategic oversight across the borough with strong attendance from board members and partners.</p> <p>We are successfully delivering the core early years offer in all 5 localities across various venues, with a focus on promoting good levels of development and school readiness.</p> <p>We have existing family hub activity from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- East Bury Family Hub – Redvales</li> <li>- Bury West &amp; North Children's Centre – Brandlesholme/Woodbank</li> <li>- Whitefield Children's Centre - with a newly refurbished outdoor play area, funded by community action groups.</li> <li>- Radcliffe Children's Centre</li> <li>- Sedgley Community Hub &amp; Children's Centre – Prestwich, the Early Years Universal Core offer in Prestwich is now being fully delivered from multiple different venues including the FED, Spark life, the park and the library.</li> </ul> <p>We have been progressing plans to open our first Best Start Family Hub in Chesham at the end of November, Services to be delivered there will include Early Years team, stay and play sessions, parenting programs, Early Help support, Educational Psychologist representation, youth Justice and the Youth Team, Speech and Language, portage and Citizens Advice, as well as adult learning. We have been consulting with the community to co-produce the offer.</p>	

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		<p>Plans are progressing to step up delivery at the ARK – Whitefield – Live Well centre and within the new Radcliff Hub. The council is working with families to deliver the care they need, such as a session for Dad’s and Male Carers</p> <p>The team offer speech, language and communication courses across the borough, a number of parenting programs, including a course for parents with low level mental Health needs, and Send stay and play sessions.</p> <p>We have seen an increased take up of support with over 6.7k attendance and 4.7 K are actively engaged with our digital support.</p>	
19	Labour	Can the Council receive an update on the £1m Milltown St bridge?	Councillor Haroon
	Councillor A Quinn	<p>Construction work is well underway on the £3.2m, British built, cycle bridge at Milltown Street in Radcliffe.</p> <p>The bridge is due to be landed onto it’s abutments on 20<sup>th</sup> November and is scheduled to be open to the public early in the new year.</p> <p>The project is both on cost and on programme, which given the recent events at Pioneer Mill is a great testament to our Engineers and the contractor Bethell Civils Ltd.</p> <p>The website is regularly updated with progress, including photographs of this impressive project that will reinstate this vital link across the river Irwell.</p>	
20	Independent	<p>Unfortunately, funding is not available to upgrade the precarious junction by Carmelo's Restaurant TOTTINGTON.</p> <p>However, at a site visit 9 months ago Cllr Quinn agreed the road lining markings required a repaint but despite my many requests over the months, I was informed in early October that first " we are waiting for patching works before a repaint".</p> <p>When will this work take place?</p>	Councillor Yvonne Wright

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	<b>Councillor Quinn</b>	<p>Officers have arranged for extensive machine patching works and the reinstatement of road markings at the junction.</p> <p>These works are scheduled to take place over the weekend of 22nd and 23rd November to minimise disruption, and will return the carriageway to a good state</p>	