

GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 NOVEMBER 2025

NORTHERN GATEWAY (TRANSPORT FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT; SOCIAL VALUE STRATEGY; MDC BUSINESS PLAN AND ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN)

1. The Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth presented a report regarding the development of a Northern Gateway Transport Framework Document, Social Value Strategy and accompanying Delivery Plan, and an updated 5-year Business Plan and accompanying Delivery Plan. This was the next step to move forward with delivery of a site that can deliver a generation of job creation, and as such there was a need to ensure it is well connected by public transport and is delivered in a way that benefits local people and maximises social value as much as possible.
2. In response to Members' questions it was noted that the investment needed was being quantified, but major work was underway to develop a funding mechanism that works for public and private sectors. This report ensured that expectations were more than a wish list; that they were formally set out and the means of who would provide funding, for what, and when, could be established. Members discussed the commitment to Real Living Wage and GM Good Employment Charter employers, and noted this set out the intention of good quality jobs and good quality employers for the project, and would hopefully attract similar employers for the site.
3. With regards to transport, it was noted that the 60% estimated car use to the site was an achievable target, and still marked an improvement on current commuting. Members recognised the importance of securing public transport to the site, and it was noted as additional investment and transport comes forward and the public transport system improves, we can improve this ratio and secure opportunities for all residents across the borough. In response to a Members question regarding the benefits to small, local businesses, it was noted that existing GM experience and the Social Value Strategy allowed for this; to influence those responsible for the procurement to look for local opportunities through supply chains, starting with Bury before moving further out, and showcasing the benefits of using local businesses and labour.
4. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2026

5. The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation presented a report regarding the Council's Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme, which had been reviewed to ensure it remains fair, efficient, and sustainable. Three alternative models had been modelled to explore simplification and fairness, with option 3 recommended for approval to go out for public consultation:
 - 20% minimum payment
 - Only earned income included in assessment
 - £8k capital limit
 - £40.00 flat non dependant deduction
 - Higher income 'bands' used for assessment

6. This increases average awards, benefits 88% of claimants, reduces administrative burden and only cost £65k more than the current scheme. It was noted the scheme only applied to working age residents.
7. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

APPROVAL OF DOMESTIC ABUSE RELATED CONTRACTS FOLLOWING PROCUREMENT EXERCISE

8. The Cabinet Member for Communities and Inclusion presented a report regarding a commissioning exercise to secure refreshed Safe Accommodation provision up to March 2028, as part of Bury's Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy approved by Cabinet in April. The Strategy had informed the Council's commissioning intentions to secure future provision based on local insight. The Social Value Strategy allowed for this, to influence those responsible for the procurement.
9. In response to Members' questions, it was noted that, in awarding contracts like this, it was crucial that the organisation was in-line with the Council's principles. A number of deliverables were set out in the management agreement with Safenet, and quality would be assessed through regular monitoring.
10. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

BELL GROUP DAMP AND MOULD SERVICES CONTRACT AWARD DECISION

11. The Cabinet Member for Housing Services presented a report regarding a contract for the delivery of Reactive Damp, Mould Treatment and Ancillary Works within Housing Services. In response to Members' questions it was noted that the contract would be implemented as soon as the report was agreed. There was ambition to eventually have this service in-house, but this contract allowed residents to have their requirements met within required timescales while in-house resources were developed. It was noted that Bell Group had a strong reputation in this area, but that the contract would be managed and monitored regularly through the use of KPIs. Members discussed the importance of Awaab's Law, responding to residents and ensuring the balance of power between residents and landlords was more even, and noted that GM was the first City Region to adopt the Good Landlord Model and, as such, housing standards across private rented, social, or Council housing should improve.
12. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

APPOINTMENTS UPDATE

12. The Cabinet Member for Customer Service, Communications and Corporate Affairs presented a report regarding amendments to the appointments made at the Annual Council meeting in response to changes in the Conservative Group.
13. Cabinet noted the changes.

FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH

14. The Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth presented a report regarding nominations for Freedoms of the Borough, as agreed by Group Leaders at

Democratic Arrangements Forum. The Leader briefly paid tribute to Councillor Joan Grimshaw, for her decades of service and breadth of the work and support she had provided, and to Keith and Helen Atkinson, who have done amazing things for Looked After Children in the borough for decades along with wider fostering support. It was noted that the ceremony would be held in January, subject to Council approval.

15. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 DECEMBER 2025

NORTHERN GATEWAY, WESTERN ACCESS SCHEME: APPROVAL OF MAIN CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT TO UNDERTAKE PRE-CONSTRUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION STAGE ACTIVITIES

16. The Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth presented a report regarding the acceptance of a final contract sum for the next phase of the Northern Gateway, Western Access scheme's Pre-construction stage (Stage 2b), and the associated NEC4 ECC Option C X22 Main Contract. These activities include the finalisation of the scheme Outline Business Case, preparing a likely Planning Application, Planning Designs, and undertaking a comprehensive programme of on-site surveys and ground investigations.

17. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT - CONSULTATION DRAFT

18. The Cabinet Member for Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth presented a report seeking approval to carry out consultation on the Draft Houses in Multiple Occupation Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). This would provide guidelines and key considerations for the determination of planning applications for Houses in Multiple Occupation. The aim of the SPD is to avoid an over-concentration of HMOs and ensure that they provide suitable living standards for future occupants and reduce potential for detrimental impacts on local communities. It was noted that the consultation period had been increased from 4 to 6 weeks, owing to the time of year.
19. In response to Members' questions it was noted that there were deep concerns about the growing concentration of HMOs, which could change local housing markets and potentially limit opportunities for larger families. The Leader advised he was confident that there were sufficient grounds to propose the Article 4 Directive but it was ultimately up to the Planning Committee to make a decision on this, with advice from planning officers and specialists. If agreed, and the consultation approved, there would be some flexibility in the implementation period, but this would likely be a matter of weeks rather than months considering the long, public debate and consultation as well as the pressing need. It was noted that a decision on implementation would likely come early in the new year, with the views from other Party Leaders being sought. In response to other Member comments, it was agreed

that a Member Development session would be arranged for all councillors, in order to refresh their knowledge and support their role in representing local residents at Planning meetings.

20. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

PRESTWICH VILLAGE REGENERATION PROJECT: PHASE 1B AND 2 DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

21. The Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategic Growth presented a report regarding the next stage of the Prestwich Village Regeneration Project, which included new housing, new retail units, a market hall, new leisure facilities and a new home for the library and attractive public realm. The Leader advised that the scheme was progressing steadily and this approval would keep the momentum up after the conclusion of the first phase.
22. In response to Members' questions it was noted that the Prestwich scheme was quite advanced in terms of delivery when compared with other schemes. Prestwich and other town centres were becoming tired and suffering from vacancies, in contrast to their vibrant communities, and therefore the schemes benefitted from being very clearly defined. Bury Town Centre regeneration, however, was coming from an existing position of strength, which was a different dynamic and arguably more complex in terms of sequencing delivery.
23. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

CORPORATE PLAN QUARTER TWO 2025-26 PERFORMANCE & DELIVERY

24. The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation presented the summary report for the Corporate Plan. This described the progress made in the second quarter of the financial year (July – September 2025) including some significant achievements such as the lifting of the ILACS intervention, ongoing SEND transformation, and key regeneration projects progressing on track or ahead of schedule. Councillor Thorpe also highlighted some Amber rated indicators, which would be reviewed and mitigated for Quarter 3, but advised that these largely did not reflect the Council's ability to deliver but were delayed by external influences.
25. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report

DRAFT 2026/27 REVENUE BUDGET

26. The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation presented a report which presented the updated budget position for 2026/27, informed Members of the updated budget gap of £16.000m for 2026/27, presented a draft set of budget proposals and the remaining budget gap, informed members of the forecast reserves position over the three years 2026/27 to 2028/29, and set out the 2026/27 budget setting process ahead of Budget Council on 25 February 2026. Members thanked officers in the Finance Team and across departments for their work in developing these proposals, as well as Cabinet Members for leading on their portfolio areas. It was noted that a one-year MTFS was proposed until more detail

was available regarding the Fairer Funding review, and that consultation would begin on 4th December.

27. In response to Members' questions it was noted that the zero base budgeting exercise had been valuable in identifying efficiencies and therefore securing savings that would not impact residents. Even when a service was changing, e.g. Adult Care, proposals included changing service provision in order to retain or improve the standard of care. Some fees and charges would increase, but these would be in-line with financial assessments and were increasing from a historically low base. It was noted that the delivery plan would provide greater detail on any expected impact, and where noticeable impact on a group or a service was anticipated, a specific consultation would be held around that issue.
28. With regards to collaboration with other boroughs, this would be done where appropriate. School transport was an area with possibilities for an efficient and equitable shared service but was complex to develop, and it was important for other local issues to secure Bury-specific solutions. It was noted that a benchmarking exercise would be undertaken to see how Bury compared with other boroughs.
29. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE PERFORMANCE QUARTER TWO REPORT 2025/26

30. The Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Health, and Public Service Reform presented the Adult Social Care Department Quarter 2 Report for 2025-26 which outlined delivery of the Adult Social Care Strategic Plan, preparation for the new CQC Assessment regime for local authorities, and provided an illustration and report on the department's performance framework. In response to Members' questions it was noted that some effects of summer holidays but also the time taken preparing for CQC this quarter had resulted in drops in activity which had led to increases in waiting lists and outstanding reviews, but recovery in Quarter 3 was expected.
31. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT HOUSING SERVICES - YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACCOMMODATION & SUPPORT TENDER

32. The Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Health and Public Service Reform presented a report regarding a tendering exercise for Young People's Accommodation and Support Services. This commission would be the most significant transformation of accommodation for young people in the last 20 years in the borough, having a positive impact on young people and young families experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Bury, in particular Bury Care Leavers.
33. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

HOUSING MAJOR WORKS PROGRAMME 2025/26

34. The Cabinet Member for Housing Services presented a report which sought formal approval of two contract awards which form part of the Housing Major Works Programme in respect of internal works consisting of new kitchens and bathrooms,

heating and electrical works. It was noted these works would target individual properties rather than estates.

35. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

AB ELECTRICAL EICR AND LD2 SERVICES CONTRACT AWARD DECISION

36. The Cabinet Member for Housing Services presented a report which sought formal approval of a contract award, through the Procure Plus framework, for the completion of Electrical Installation Condition Reports (EICR) and the installation of fire detectors to a Category LD2 system standard required in all domestic property circulation areas that form part of the escape routes and in all specified rooms or areas that present a high fire risk to occupants.

37. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSING FUND, ROUND 3, (LAFH)

38. The Cabinet Member for Housing Services presented a report regarding an expression of interest submitted by the Council for 40% grant funding under LAFH Round 3 to acquire seven properties to provide temporary accommodation for homeless families. Bury was successful and has been awarded £447,200 from MHCLG, and this report sought approval to match fund the grant.

39. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report