

Public Questions

	Questioner/ Respondent	Question
1	Andy Hay (attending)	Could the leader please advise me and the people of Prestwich on the current costings and timescales for the Prestwich regeneration?
	Councillor Thorpe	<p>The first phase of the Prestwich Village Regeneration project which is the delivery of the Travel Hub has been on site since mid-March 2025 and is on track for completion by the end July 2026.</p> <p>The second phase which includes the delivery of the market hall, retail and library hub, new homes, and the village square is currently scheduled to commence in the second financial quarter of 2026 with the full programme of works planned to conclude by 2029.</p> <p>To date the project has secured £14m of inward investment from the Department of Transport's City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement which is funding the Travel Hub.</p> <p>As the second phase of the project is still being designed the cost profile is still being finalised. At present, we expect this phase to cost £98m.</p> <p>We have already secured a grant of £6.8m from the Greater Manchester Good Growth Fund with the remaining estimated £91.2m being funded via the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Bury Council.</p> <p>Bury Council will provide a Prudential Loan to support the regeneration elements of the project (library/retail/public realm) only. Loan repayments will be funded from the income we receive from the retail units within the scheme and will be cost neutral to the Authority in terms of its revenue budget.</p> <p>Overall, the project will see £112m of investment into Prestwich (Phase 1 £14m, and Phase 2 £98m).</p>
2	Jonathan Moss (Attending)	Could the council confirm how much of this years highways budget will be and how much of it has been allocated to address the many problems with Ramsbottoms roads and footpaths, whilst some side roads have been addressed in previous years, the main roads remain in a terrible state of repair and require investment

	<p>Councillor Thorpe</p>	<p>The highways allocation has been set out in our budget papers, which we'll be discussing today.</p> <p>To give you the top lines – we've allocated nearly £12m to road maintenance in 26/27, including £5.4m for planned maintenance, £1.5m for our key routes, and £600k dedicated to ensuring our roads remain safe for residents.</p> <p>In the last 12 months, we've transformed more than 60 miles of roads across Bury at hundreds of locations through our Highways Investment Plan, and through a separate fund we repair over 11,000 potholes annually. Over the past 9 years we've invested £30m into our roads, and we are continuing this trend tonight in our budget.</p> <p>In terms of allocation to Ramsbottom the programme is currently still in development I cannot share accurate details; the asset condition surveys will determine priority recipients, although we try to ensure each districts highway network receives a fair share of attention.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Andrew White</p>	<p>I am a resident of Turton Road in Tottington.</p> <p>This question is in the context of the potential waste of public money associated with the multiple temporary traffic lights, and other road defects, including potholes and collapsed culverts . In particular one section of Turton Road, adjacent to Meadow Nook farm, where the carriageway has subsided and 'temporary' traffic lights have been in place for over three years.</p> <p>I (Andrew White) submitted a freedom information request at the end of October 2025 (regarding the cost of the temporary lights and associated defects) which I've still not received a response to, regarding cost of all these temporary measures as it would appear that the cost of permanent repairs could have been substantially reduced if the planned works had progressed in a more timely manner.</p> <p>In this context I would like to ask the council for a confirmation that these works are in the 26/7 and/or 27/28 budget and that firm dates are made when Turton Road will be rebuilt due to subsidence and be fully resurfaced for long term best value</p>

	Councillor Thorpe	<p>Turton Road has been affected by significant subsidence. Ground investigation works have confirmed that the issue is the result of a localised landslip. A preliminary design has now been developed to stabilise the slope adjacent to Turton Road and allow for full reinstatement of the highway.</p> <p>This is a complex scheme that requires close coordination with utility providers due to the presence of a medium- pressure gas main within the footway and nearby overhead electricity pylons. The proposed works will also extend into privately owned land, and officers are currently in negotiations with the landowner to establish an easement agreement.</p> <p>Given the technical complexities of the project and the ongoing landowner negotiations, it is not possible at this stage to provide a definitive timeframe for delivery.</p> <p>However, please be assured that every effort is being made to progress the scheme as quickly as possible.</p>
4	Samantha White	<p>The situation has now become dangerous as there have been multiple cars who have had tyres destroyed by defects or skidded on the ice and hit fences. I only hope that there is not a fatality or citizen injury if this is not sorted.</p> <p>This is unfortunately getting more likely please will the member/ officer responsible commit to a site visit to see the problem for themselves and expedite the solution? What is the council spend on damage claims for this financial year which are arguably preventable and depriving budget from sustainable repairs?</p> <p>I understand Blackpool have a novel approach that both improves road conditions and also reduced road maintenance costs, can this be considered for adoption in Bury to ensure best value for council tax payers and safer roads?</p>
	Councillor Thorpe	<p>Officers would be happy to meet on site to discuss your concerns.</p> <p>Bury Council adopts many of the same practices for highway maintenance that Blackpool and other local</p>

		<p>highway authorities employ. Both Bury and Blackpool have recently been given the same rating for road maintenance by the DfT.</p> <p>Since 1 April 2025, the Council has received 130 claims relating to vehicle damage caused by potholes on the carriageway. Of these, 49 claims have been settled, at a total cost of £13,328, representing an average payment of £272 per successful claim.</p>
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