

GENERAL REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 JULY 2026

URGENT BUSINESS – BURY ART MUSEUM ROOF

1. The Cabinet Member for Culture, Economy and Skills presented a report which sought approval to appoint a contractor for work to the Bury Art Museum roof. This had been deferred from the previous meeting in order to clarify a point regarding the named contractor. Councillor McGill confirmed the crux of the matter was a mistake over two similar trading names, and gave assurances around the enhanced due diligence that had been undertaken. In response to Members' questions, it was noted that Constellia, the external procurement agency, had issued a letter of apology and the Council retained confidence in using their services for future projects.
2. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

CORPORATE PLAN QUARTER FOUR 2025-26 PERFORMANCE & DELIVERY

3. The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services presented a report providing an overview of progress for strategic priorities and delivery objectives during Quarter Four (January to March 2026) and the overall position at year end. Councillor Thorpe advised that the position was positive on the whole, with the majority of objectives delivered or on track, and mitigations in place for amber risks. He advised of one red rated risk, relating to the impact of an external provider delaying the flood defences at Hardy's Gate bridge and, in response to Members' questions, it was noted that there were other flood defences in the area and the external company was still committed to carry out the works.
4. In response to further questions, it was noted that the PRU site at Milton Road was on track for an opening date in September 2028, and the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme in place from September 2026 was welcomed, but support to help families before reaching crisis point continued. With regards to a rise in staff sickness, it was noted that this was a national trend across the public sector from increased pressure on staff, and Bury continued to develop programmes of support for staff mental health and wellbeing. With regards to Bury Market, it was noted that the problems were very complex to find solutions for and of a highly technical nature. Officers confirmed that the Markets Team communicated regularly with market traders, but more collaborative communication work was now needed.
5. Finally, Councillor Thorpe advised that the reduction in agency staff had been successful and was continuing, with a strong employment offer being an inducement to work in Bury; an overview of the Unit 4 software could be provided outside of the meeting; KPIs were reviewed to ensure they remained appropriate; and a breakdown of households in temporary accommodation could be provided outside of the meeting.
6. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

FINANCE UPDATE REPORT - 2025/26 OUTTURN POSITION

7. The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services presented a report regarding the Council's final outturn position across the General Fund revenue and Capital budgets, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Councillor Thorpe reported that the General Fund outturn position was an overspend of £7.266m, which represented a favourable movement of £0.673m from the Quarter 3 forecast overspend. 68.19% of savings targets had been delivered, with the rest programmed in for next year. The Capital Programme had also seen slippage and would be reviewed and reprofiled with regards to delivery. It was noted that a drawdown of £7.266m from the budget stabilisation reserve has been required, and the reserve was no longer sufficient to support the forecast funding gap beyond 2027/28, though work continued on the budget review to identify savings and income generation.
8. In response to Members' questions, it was noted that:
 - The next 12 months would be a critical time, and nothing was "off the table" in terms of financial savings..
 - Savings plans put in place months or even years ago were starting to take effect (e.g. in Childrens Services). These had taken a long time to embed but were now showing financial benefits.
 - The biggest contributor to the non-service specific overspend was the delayed housing integration which was being closely monitored.
 - Internal governance structures were much stronger, giving better oversight and tracking of savings delivery, an identifying slippage or delays much sooner.
 - Care in the Community costs were split with NHS, and work was underway with NHS partners to review arrangements.
 - Underspend in personal budgets were followed up to ensure residents were happy, but spend was their personal choice.
9. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR QUARTER FOUR, 2025/26

10. The Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Health and Public Service Reform presented a report regarding the Quarter 4 reporting for Adult Social Care, including delivery of the Adult Social Care Strategic Plan, preparation for the Care Quality Commission (CQC) Assessment, and the department's performance framework. Thanks were extended to staff in Killelea House, which had achieved an Outstanding rating in the recent CQC inspection.
11. In response to Members' questions, it was noted that the Care Act assessment waiting list had been reduced from 83 to 68 and work was in place to reduce this further. Waiting lists were reviewed regularly and governed by the Waiting Well protocol, with individual care needs triaged at each stage of the journey. With regards to complaints, these were varied in subject and significance, but still represented a low number compared to number of residents served.
12. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

OUTCOME OF CQC LOCAL AUTHORITY ASSESSMENT OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE

12. The Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Health and Public Service Reform presented a report regarding the results of first CQC assessment of Bury Local Authority and summarised the key strengths and areas where improvement was required. Councillor Tariq advised that the overall assessment found that Bury delivers Good standard of adult social care, with strengths in leadership, effective safeguarding, partnership working and a clear strategic vision. Members expressed their thanks to all staff and partners for their work and contribution, and officers thanked cross-party Councillors for their part in the inspection and outcome.
13. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

ADVOCACY CONTRACT EXTENSION & TENDER

14. The Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Health and Public Service Reform presented a report providing a position update to Bury's independent advocacy services and sought approval for a 3-month extension to the current contract and permission to retender. In response to Members' questions, it was noted that the extension had an above inflation increase, reflecting wage inflation, but still offered value for money as the provider was tested and reliable. With regards to the financial commitment from the ICB, this was a statutory duty so was assured.
15. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

BURY'S LOCAL AREA SEND MONITORING INSPECTION

16. The Deputy Leader and Interim Cabinet Member for Children and Young People presented a report regarding the outcome of the monitoring inspection undertaken in March 2026 by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC), which had concluded that effective action has been taken in all six priority action areas. Members congratulated all involved in getting Bury to this point. In response to Members' questions, it was noted that neurodiverse diagnoses sat at a GM level and could be discussed in full at the Health Scrutiny meeting next week.
17. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

ALTERNATIVE PROVISION

18. The Deputy Leader and Interim Cabinet Member for Children and Young People presented a report regarding the short-term extension and recommissioning of Bury's Alternative Provision for children and young people. In response to Members' questions, it was noted that the cost of extending the contract did not exceed a pro-rata measurement of the overall contract cost, but did allow additional time and flexibility to plan moving forwards.
19. Cabinet approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

PRESTWICH VILLAGE REGENERATION PROJECT: DELIVERY OF PHASE 1A (TRAVEL HUB) - ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUEST

20. The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Growth presented a report regarding the approval for £153,009.00 additional capital funding for extra works to fully deliver the first phase of the Prestwich Village Regeneration project. Councillor Morris

advised that the requirement for additional funding was identified as a late requirement through the statutory planning consultation. In response to Members' questions, it was noted that this included ICT equipment costs which needed to wait until the end of the construction contract in order to be in-line with the car park operator. It was noted there were no risks of other costs rising anticipated.

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

PYRAMID PARK - REMEDIATION MAIN WORKS CONTRACT

22. The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Growth presented a report regarding proposed works packages included within the JCT Design and Build Contract (2016) encompassing the delivery of a full land remediation strategy and associated preparatory enabling works at Pyramid Park, a 7.4-acre disused brownfield site identified for a high-quality, sustainable residential development.

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REGENERATION GRANT FUNDING

24. The Cabinet Member for Culture, Economy and Skills presented a report regarding the extension of the Local Growth and Place Flexible Grant (LGPFG) programme 2025/26 and the new year of funding, now called Economic Development & Regeneration Grant Funding 2026/27. Members welcomed the paper and the contributions to cultural projects.

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