

Party	Motion	Update for September Council
Labour	This Council Notes 1. This Labour Council is investing in every town centre across the borough, putting nearly £100m into regeneration projects to support our highstreets and local businesses. However, residents are concerned by the continued national proliferation of so called ‘dodgy shops’. 2. Shops like these are widely reported to be fronts for money laundering, often failing to comply with regulations, and blighting our high street by crowding out genuine shops and small businesses. 3. Such businesses are often associated with criminality that may include antisocial behaviour, theft and violent crime, drug supply and modern slavery. 4. Recent studies from the Chartered Institute for Trading Standards shows that up to ½ of mini-marts and vape retailers, along with a third of ‘American candy stores’ are involved in illicit activities. 5. This council recognises the strong working relationship between the council, Trading Standards, Greater Manchester Police and other enforcement agencies - which has successfully closed a number of illicit stores around the borough, including seizing goods worth around £40,000 from a property in Bury earlier this year. 6. However, more needs to be done to crack down on illicit stores and improve our highstreets. 7. This council notes additional powers and changes brought forward by the Labour Government, recruiting 75 new officers across forces including GMP, an additional £20m to fund a specialist cell in the National Crime Agency, additional funding for trading standards, as well as extending temporary closure powers. This council believes	Progress has been made in developing a borough-wide "Zero Tolerance" approach to illicit trading, focused on enhanced intelligence sharing, coordinated enforcement activity and the use of all available regulatory, civil and criminal powers where evidence of unlawful activity exists. The Council has also strengthened local enforcement capacity through the recruitment of a dedicated Tobacco and Vape Enforcement Apprentice, who has joined the Trading Standards team and commenced training to support intelligence development, enforcement activity and partnership operations. In addition, Bury has been identified as a priority area under the Government's new High Street Organised Crime initiative, with additional funding awarded over a three-year period to support enhanced multi-agency enforcement activity targeting illicit trading, organised criminality and associated high street crime. The funding provides further opportunities to strengthen collaborative working between enforcement partners and increase local operational capacity. Planning is also underway for the multi-agency summit requested by the motion, with engagement taking place between Council

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	1. Thriving town centres depend on legitimate businesses operating on a level playing field. 2. So called “Dodgy shops” engaged in criminality, money laundering, the sale of illicit goods or other unlawful practices damage public confidence, harm local economies and contribute to the decline of high streets. 3. Additional powers from central government, as well as a focused council response, should be utilised to close businesses that are operating unlawfully. This council resolves to 1. Continue working closely with Greater Manchester Police, Trading Standards, HMRC and other relevant agencies to identify and act against businesses engaged in unlawful activity, utilising new powers to increase the rate of successful interventions, closures and prosecutions. 2. Convene a borough-wide summit, bringing together Council Officers, Trading Standards, Greater Manchester Police, Local Members, business leaders and other enforcement agencies to develop a borough-wide coordinated strategy to tackle illicit stores. 3. Adopt and publish a “Zero Tolerance” approach to illicit trading, ensuring where businesses are found to be operating unlawfully, the Council will work with partner agencies to pursue swift enforcement and seek the strongest sanctions available under the law. 4. Request a briefing to all members within six months setting out the scale of the issue across the borough, actions taken to date, outcomes achieved and any further measures required to protect local high streets and legitimate businesses. 5. Reaffirm this Council’s commitment to supporting genuine local business and publicly support and utilise the enhanced enforcement powers granted to	officers, GMP, elected members and other key stakeholders to support development of a coordinated borough-wide response. A dedicated Elected Member briefing and training session has been scheduled for November 2026 to provide Members with an overview of the issue, enforcement activity undertaken, emerging trends and future priorities. Work will continue over the coming months to strengthen partnership activity, develop the Zero Tolerance framework, progress joint enforcement activity, convene the partnership summit and support legitimate businesses by tackling criminal activity that undermines Bury's town centres and high streets. Status: In Progress (on target)

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	Bury, ensuring Bury's town centres remain safe, vibrant and welcoming places for residents, visitors and investors.	
Radcliffe First	This Council notes: • It is estimated that endometriosis impacts approximately 10% of women and those assigned female at birth of reproductive age in the UK suffer from endometriosis. • The intensity of the physical symptoms can vary significantly and is rated stage 1 to 4. Stage 4 is the most severe, advanced classification of the disease, characterized by widespread deep implants, large ovarian cysts (endometriomas), and dense, severe adhesions (scar tissue). Mental health and personal relationships may also be impacted negatively too. • Overall endometriosis is associated with a 30–50% infertility rate, women with Stage 4 (severe) endometriosis face significantly higher challenges, often resulting in infertility rates much higher than this average, with natural conception being rare. • Endometriosis is caused by fragments of tissue similar to the lining of the womb (endometrium). These endometriotic deposits grow outside the womb at sites such as the bowel, bladder and ovaries. These endometriotic deposits thicken, breakdown and bleed with each menstrual cycle, causing pain and many other symptoms. This can result in significant complications depending on the site of the deposit. • It can take many years for the diagnosis of endometriosis to be made. Diagnosis can involve multiple tests including invasive surgery. • The workplace impact of endometriosis is significant. People with endometriosis lose on average between 1.9 and 15.8 work hours per week depending on the severity of their condition and the treatment to help manage the condition.	The team are working through the requirements for signing up to the Endometriosis Friendly Employer scheme and will provide a fuller update in due course.

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	- Becoming an Endometriosis Friendly Employer demonstrates a commitment to raising awareness of the condition, supporting staff, and promoting a positive and inclusive working environment. This Council believes: - That Bury Council should lead by example in tackling stigma and supporting employees struggling with the impact of this potentially debilitating condition. - That signing up to the Endometriosis Friendly Employer scheme will strengthen existing health and wellbeing commitments. This Council therefore resolves to: - Formally apply to become an Endometriosis Friendly Employer through Endometriosis UK. - Commit to meeting the standards required, including awareness-raising, training for managers, and support for staff. - Publicise this status once achieved, to encourage other employers and councils to do the same. Endometriosis Friendly Employer Scheme - https://www.endometriosis-uk.org/endometriosisfriendly-employer-scheme	
Reform	This Council notes that: Bury has a rich military history, with the Lancashire Fusiliers at its heart. To commemorate this, Bury is home to vital cultural assets including the Fusilier Museum, made up of two main galleries (The Lancashire Fusiliers (LF) and The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (RRF)) and Bury Castle Armoury.	 Castle Armoury MP Letter.docx  Castle Armoury Trustees Letter Bury Letters from the Group Leaders were sent to: - Bury and Heywood Drill Halls Trust

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	Bury Castle Armoury is a Grade II Listed building which is situated on top of the original Bury Castle site and which was built in the 1800s. It represents a fundamental part of what it means to be from Bury and is a strong part of Bury's cultural identity. For generations, Bury Castle Armoury has stood as a reminder of Bury's proud connection to the Lancashire Fusiliers and sacrifices made by local people in service to their country. It stands as a window into the story which our community and our town can tell, and make sure that future generations are privy to that history. We express profound sadness at the decline and mismanagement of the asset over many years, which has resulted in the present circumstances and believe that the people of Bury are owed an explanation for how this came about. As a town, we all benefit richly from cultural assets such as Bury Castle Armoury. It was and can be once again a valuable educational resource for schools, colleges and community groups who can engage directly with history, military heritage and the concept of civic responsibility, helping to strengthen community pride amongst all ages. By committing to re-open the armoury as a cultural asset, the Trustees can help to give it prominence and see it flourish and it is therefore important that the site is re-opened to the public and remains operational as a cultural asset. Since 2022, the Council has taken a range of actions to support the repair and reopening of Castle Armoury, including: • While still open, after a visit to a Veterans breakfast where concerns were raised about the lack of maintenance and repairs, the Council	- Bury's two Members of Parliament, James Frith MP (Bury North) and Christian Wakeford MP (Bury South) No response has been received to date

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	Leader, the Armed Forces Champion and Christian Wakeford MP wrote to the Armed Forces Minister, highlighting concerns regarding the lack of maintenance at Castle Armoury and the risk this posed to its continued use. • Passing an unanimously approved motion at Full Council calling for Castle Armoury to be repaired and reopened. • Arranging for a letter signed by several hundred residents to be sent to the Armed Forces Minister, urging that the building be made safe and that the necessary repairs be carried out without delay. • Organising a public online meeting with the Chair of the Trustees and Head of the RFCA NW, providing local residents and interested parties with the opportunity to hear directly from those responsible and to express their views. • Convening a range of meetings between the Chair of the Trustees, Council officers, the Armed Forces Champion and the Head of the RFCA to press for urgent repairs to enable the building to reopen. • Working with the VFCA to support the Chair of the Trustees and provide information on potential grant funding opportunities that could assist in financing the required works. • Requesting enforcement action to be taken by the Trust against the RFCA to secure the necessary repairs where appropriate. This Council further notes that: According to Historic England, historic attractions in England reported a 3.1% increase in total visits from 2023 to 2024 – slightly more than the 1.4% increase reported by the wider England attractions market. England’s historic attractions	

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	benefitted from the continued recovery in inbound tourism in 2024, reporting a 15% increase in Overseas visits compared with 2023. Overall, again according to Historic England, there was a 10% increase in the number of school visits to historic attractions. This is higher than observed in the wider attractions sector and is a continued increase. Other garrison towns have succeeded in converting former military facilities into educational and tourism hubs. By doing this, the Trustees can reopen Castle Armoury as a community museum or cultural centre, an approach which would honour our past while creating new opportunities for education and inspiring pride among residents. The reopening of Bury Castle Armoury under present ownership could also provide a valuable source of income to ensure the sustainable running and upkeep of the building for future generations. This Council resolves to: • Reaffirm its cross-party, long-standing commitment to Bury's culture and history, long-standing cultural assets and its rich military history. • Request that all Group Leaders write a joint letter to Bury and Heywood Drill Halls Trust to demand that Bury Castle Armoury is taken off the market immediately and request that the Trustees bring forward a comprehensive paper detailing a full range of available options for both preventing any repurposing of Bury Castle Armoury and its re-opening, to include but not be limited to full repair and reopening, cost appraisals, details of possible avenues of investment to achieve the same, identification of key local and national stakeholders with whom	

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	the Trustees can work and outline a process for engagement of interested parties who may be able to assist in rectifying the current situation. • Request that all Group Leaders write a joint letter to Bury's two Members of Parliament, James Frith MP (Bury North) and Christian Wakeford MP (Bury South) expressing the Council's support for this motion, seeking their backing to request allocation of part of the Government's £1.5bn fund to repair and reopen the Armoury and requesting that they support and actively seek the implementation of the other resolutions detailed herein.	