

	Party	Question	Questioner
1	Reform	There was recently an incredibly bad crash on Walshaw Road, with the fence, wall and garden of the property on the corner of Harvey Street sustaining damage as a result of the car ploughing through it. The car, when it stopped, was inches away from the wall containing the chimney, a collision with which would have caused significant structural damage to the house. It was further around a metre away from the external gas main, the consequences of a collision with which would require no further explanation. After visiting the resident and the site, this is not an uncommon occurrence. Accidents happen on the Walshaw Road/Harvey Street/Fenton Street on a monthly basis, sometimes even more often than that. The Police are aware, the people who live in the immediate vicinity are aware and the resident of the house has a number of videos showing this. The Police have now assured me that they will be writing to the Council to request that installations are made on the corner in front of the resident's house in order to safeguard it from further damage and I have written to request the same. Please can the Cabinet Member confirm whether they are aware of this incident, my request is being prioritised and when the resident can expect protective bollards or barriers to be installed in front of their house?	Councillor Rydeheard
	Councillor Lucy Smith	As of today we have had no correspondence from the Police on this matter. However we are aware of the recent incident on Walshaw Road. Officers have reviewed the most recent available accident records for the junction held by GMP, which only refer to those incurring injury and cover 2021 to 2025. No injury collisions were recorded during that period. A visit to the junction has determined that the footway at the junction is not wide enough to accommodate vehicle containment bollards or barriers without significantly restricting pedestrian movement and making it more difficult for people to cross the road safely. However the road markings at the junction are faded and the Council's road-marking contractor has been asked to renew them. In addition to this we will install "Dragons Teeth" markings to the Walshaw Road approaches, along with SLOW markings on all approaches. Subject to operational conditions, this work is expected to be completed within six to eight weeks. This should improve the clarity of the junction layout and help users navigate it more safely.	

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2	Labour	Following the disappointing reporting surrounding the Northern Care Alliance in recent weeks, can the cabinet member for health explain what the council is doing to hold the NCA to account, ensuring that Bury residents get the best care possible.	Councillor Ummrana Farooq
	Councillor Tariq	We are certainly very concerned with the significant national and local media coverage concerning patient safety, governance, organisational culture, and the management of concerns within NCA. We recognise some of the coverage relate to historic events and services such as the external reviews relating to gynaecology and also spinal services, while other concerns relate to patient safety, organisational culture, incident investigation, complaints handling, workforce pressures and whether staff feel able to raise concerns through Freedom to Speak Up arrangements. I recognise these concerns have caused anxiety for patients, and for staff. As the Executive member I have written to the GM Mayor and political leadership across the footprint of the NCA expressing our concerns and advocating for concerted actions. On Monday last week the Leader chaired the Locality Board, and received updates from Senior management, the NCA Medical Director Deputy, and the Medical Director of NHS GM seeking assurance on the rigour of the improvement plan in development. The locality board has requested routine updates on a monthly basis, and will receive the improvement plan for review at its next meeting. The Council will also continue to scrutinise the NCA via the local Health Scrutiny committee – a briefing for scrutiny members took place last Friday in advance of the formal scrutiny committee on 24th September, and also the NCA wide scrutiny committee also on 24th September, and the GM scrutiny committee. I thank Cllr Fitzgerald as chair of the Bury Health scrutiny for her leadership in these spaces. I would like to assure the Council that we will maintain detailed focus on the recovery and improvement plan in NCA to ensure Bury residents get the best care possible.	
3	Labour	Following Council's unanimous support for Labour's motion on tackling dodgy shops, and in light of the Labour Government's new national crackdown on businesses linked to organised crime, can the Cabinet Member update Council on the action being taken in Bury with GMP, Trading Standards and national agencies to make full use of these new powers and keep our high streets safe and thriving?	Councillor Rizvi

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	Councillor McGill	I am pleased to report that significant progress has been made since Council unanimously supported the motion on tackling so-called "dodgy shops". The motion closely aligns with work already underway across Bury and has provided an opportunity to formalise and strengthen our existing approach through a borough-wide Zero Tolerance strategy. Bury has been identified by the Labour Government and Greater Manchester Police as one of three priority boroughs in Greater Manchester for enhanced activity under the new High Street Organised Crime Initiative, alongside Bolton and Rochdale. This initiative recognises the growing links between illicit tobacco, illegal vaping products, organised crime, money laundering, illegal working and wider criminality operating through seemingly legitimate retail premises. As part of the national crackdown, GMP is establishing a dedicated High Street Organised Crime Unit, comprising specialist investigators who will work alongside Trading Standards and enforcement partners across the three boroughs. focusing not only on illicit products but also on the organised crime groups that profit from them. This work is backed by significant Government funding. Bury has secured three years of funding up to March 2029. This will enable the recruitment of further dedicated resources to strengthen our enforcement capability and support joint operations with GMP and regional organised crime partners. The Council has already increased capacity through the recruitment of a dedicated Tobacco and Vape Enforcement Apprentice, and officers are developing proposals to utilise the new funding to further strengthen Trading Standards resources, intelligence development and investigative capability. Alongside operational enforcement, officers are developing a Tobacco, Vapes and Illicit Trade Zero Tolerance Strategy 2026-2029, which will provide the framework for future activity. The Strategy is focused on disrupting illicit supply chains, tackling organised criminality, protecting children from underage sales, supporting legitimate businesses, and maximising the use of all available enforcement powers. The objective is not simply to seize illegal products but to disrupt the criminal networks behind them and remove the financial incentives that enable them to operate. an All-Member briefing has been arranged for November and plans are progressing for a borough-wide Illicit Tobacco and Vapes Summit which will bring together Members, businesses, community representatives, GMP, Public Health and enforcement agencies to strengthen collective action across the borough.	

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4	Together for Bury	Given the evidence that stability and continuity are particularly important for children who are looked after, can the Cabinet Member explain what consideration is given before a child is moved away from their existing community, school and established relationships? Where a placement move is necessary, what steps does the Council take to establish that the benefits of the move outweigh the disruption caused, particularly where the child is approaching a major educational transition?	Councillor Lancaster
	Councillor Walmsley	Children only enter care as a last resort where it is not safe for them to remain in the care of their parents/carers. When a child enters care, the preferred option is always that they should remain with their wider family, and preferably near to where they currently live. Even where remaining within their wider family is not possible, we would still seek to keep a child within their existing community and school so that they can retain their existing relationships and support networks. However, sometimes this will not be possible and sometimes it is not in a child's best interests to remain in their current home area. These decisions are never taken lightly and are always taken after detailed consideration of the situation. For every change of home for a child in care and from entry into care onwards, careful consideration of matching of the child to the home and the carer is undertaken, taking into account the child's education, maintenance of relationships with relatives and friends, the child's identity and history and their needs and health. Any matching would also consider the carer's experience, strengths, family composition and the distance from their home to the child's school. Only in exceptional circumstances would a child be moved in a critical education year, as stability is prized to those working with children, and moving home is not something that is sought, but rather something that is strived to be avoided, through regular visits and additional support where they live.	
5	Radcliffe First	Given that selective licensing can have unintended consequences for landlords, tenants and the availability / affordability of private rented accommodation, what risk assessments and impact assessments have been undertaken in relation to the proposed use of selective licensing within Bury's Draft Housing Strategy, particularly regarding its potential impact on the private rented sector, rents, housing supply, landlord participation and tenants?	Councillor Sheppard
	Councillor A Arif	The Draft Housing Strategy identifies selective licensing as one of a range of potential tools that could be considered to improve standards in the private rented sector, where there is robust evidence to justify its use.	

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		At this stage, no specific selective licensing proposals have been developed and therefore no formal scheme specific assessments have been undertaken. The strategy's intention is to explore the potential role that selective licensing could play alongside other interventions, to help improve housing conditions and support responsible landlords. Should selective licensing be considered in any area in the future, the Council will undertake a comprehensive evidence-based assessment in accordance with statutory requirements and government guidance. Any future proposal would also be subject to consultation with tenants, residents, and other stakeholders	
6	Reform	Please can the Leader confirm whether every Councillor on this authority has now completed their PREVENT training, and if not, please may the Leader confirm who has failed to do so?	Councillor Zaman
	Councillor O'Brien	Of the Council's 51 Councillors, 7 are due to undertake their PREVENT training. I would like remind Councillors to submit certificates for Safeguarding Against Radicalisation: The PREVENT Duty (or evidence of any equivalent training done through their employer) to the Democratic Services Team. This will ensure that training records remain accurate and up to date. For those who have not yet completed the training, I would encourage you to engage with the online learning currently available. Alternatively, an in-person training session has been scheduled for the 19th October, and details were shared yesterday (15/09/26).	
7	Labour	Can I congratulate all the Bury students who received their GCSE and A-level results this summer, and thank the teachers, school staff and families who have supported them along the way. Can the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People tell us what action will be taken to improve results next year to help every young person in Bury fulfil their potential and achieve the very best outcomes?	Councillor Tom Pilkington
	Councillor Walmsley	I would also like to extend my congratulations to all those who received their GCSE or A-level results and wish them well as they enter the next stage in their life! Last year, Bury Council launched its Education and Inclusion strategy with ambitious plans to work with schools to improve outcomes achieved by children and young people, particularly in Secondary school. In the strategy we stated our commitment to every child having access to excellent schools, exceptional teachers and the support they need to	

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		achieve the best possible outcomes in learning and the best start in adult life. This improvement process is a journey, and there is more to be done. We will be launching a further initiative with schools in the autumn term: 'Bury Belongs in School', building on school leadership networks, senior leader relationships with MATS, and work to establish an 'Inclusion Charter' for Bury's schools and wider services. We will also be plugging local schools into the deepening 5 neighbourhood-based structures underpinning local implementation of national reforms (Families First, SEND Experts at Hand).	
8	Labour	I was pleased to see Baroness Casey's visit to Whitefield to visit our new flagship LiveWell centre, which was opened to residents just last month, can the cabinet member update the council on the pipeline for other new centres, and how these will help support residents across our borough?	Councillor Rahimov
	Councillor Tariq	The Leader and I were delighted to welcome Baroness Casey to the Live Well Centre in Whitefield just a few weeks ago. We were proud to showcase how Adult Social Care in Bury is increasingly focused on prevention, early intervention, independence and community strengths. We demonstrated closer partnership working, and our partners shared examples of how the borough's Live Well model, Ageing in Place Programme and neighbourhood working approach are helping people access support earlier, maintain their wellbeing and remain active members of their communities for longer. Baroness Casey was so impressed she has asked for follow up meetings, and for more information about how the Bury model is being deployed, and how it is delivering for residents. Putting Bury, and its achievements, at the heart of the national conversation on adult social care. The Live Well Centre in Whitefield is the first of the live well centres in the borough funded by the GMCA and NHSGM and delivered in partnership with the Bury VCFA. It provides a self and welcoming space for residents, community and voluntary groups, and as a base for integrated team working – the early help team and the integrated neighbourhood team. It also acts as a focal point for the network of voluntary and community activity in the neighbourhood. We will be looking to the hub in Radcliffe to provide similar capability, and the Cabinet will be discussing, in October, the further opportunities for roll out of the live well centres in Bury, Ramsbottom and Prestwich.	

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9	Radcliffe First	With the introduction of an Article 4 direction in July 2026, this will require existing small HMOs to apply for a lawful development certificate. Does the Council have a plan or capacity to investigate compliance by private landlords, and will this extend to Serco properties?	Councillor M Smith
	Councillor A Arif	Under permitted development rights granted by national legislation, the change of use from a dwelling (Use Class C3) to a small House in Multiple Occupation (Use Class C4), occupied by up to six unrelated individuals, could previously take place without the need for planning permission. The Council has introduced an Article 4 Direction that removes this permitted development right and therefore planning permission is now required to create any new HMO's within the Borough. Planning law is concerned with the use and development of land, not the identity of the person or company proposing it. The Article 4 Direction will therefore apply to <u>all</u> landlords and developers.	
10	Reform	Scobell Street flooded badly during recent heavy rainfall, which is a situation repeated year-on-year in similar weather conditions due to its geographical vulnerability. Please can the Cabinet Member confirm what plans the Council has for improving drainage on Scobell Street?	Councillor Martin
	Councillor L Smith	We are aware of the surface water flooding issues at Scobell Street, which are primarily caused by lack of capacity and design issues with United Utilities sewer network. The highway drainage in this area is connected into united utilities sewer network which surcharges during periods of intense rainfall. United Utilities are developing proposals to mitigate flooding in all areas where this happens and developing means of diverting surface water away from the sewer. We are of course working closely with United Utilities to help them resolve the issue.	
11	Labour	Can the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People provide an update on the implementation of the Families First programme, including the Best Start Family Hubs?	Councillor Hayes
	Councillor Walmsley	Children's Services is undergoing the most comprehensive national reform programme in over 20 years. The Families First Partnership Programme seeks to change how help for families is provided and also how services are expected to protect children from harm.	

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		Bury's plans for Best Start in Life and implementation of the Families First Programme have been shared with the DfE, and progress towards delivery is monitored through quarterly returns and quarterly meetings with the DfE Regional Office. In Bury we have developed structures and services around the FFP programme reforms and included staff and partners in discussions regarding our proposals. The next stage is to go through formal consultation with staff on the proposed changes. Local delivery of services is a vital component part of Families First and Best Start in Life and we have been developing our Best Start Family Hubs and other local delivery over the past year, with the Chesham Fold Hub being added to the original Redvales Hub and the recent opening of the Whitefield Live Well Centre complementing the services already provided from Whitefield Children's Centre Hub. Over the coming years, we plan to expand delivery in neighbourhoods as we embed the reforms.	
12	Labour	With the latest positive developments on the Radcliffe Hub and Casewells, can the Cabinet Member for Regeneration outline what further progress can be expected over next quarter?	Councillor Noel Bailey
	Councillor Morris	Over the next quarter, the Council will continue to build on the positive momentum already achieved across a number of regeneration projects, across a number of our towns. At Radcliffe Hub and Casewell's, the focus will be on completing final snagging works, overseeing tenant fit-outs and supporting the successful opening and occupation of these important facilities. These projects will bring new opportunities for residents, businesses and community organisations, further strengthening Radcliffe and Bury town centres. Work is also progressing on the next phase of the Bury Town Centre Masterplan. In November, Members will receive an updated Delivery Strategy setting out how the town centre will be enhanced over the short and medium term, including proposals for new investment, improved public spaces and facilities designed to support residents, businesses and visitors. Alongside this, detailed development work on the Mill Gate Shopping Centre continues at pace. At Pyramid Park, the Council is preparing the site for future development, helping to unlock investment and create new opportunities for housing growth. In Prestwich, the new Travel Hub will open to the public, providing better transport infrastructure that supports residents and visitors while complementing the wider regeneration programme already underway in the village centre.	

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		The Council also continues to work closely with partners in the newly established Northern Gateway Mayoral Development Corporation to bring forward this nationally significant employment and investment location. Members will receive a further update on the Western Access Scheme at the next Cabinet meeting, which represents a key milestone in unlocking the site's future development potential.	
13	Radcliffe First	Why was parking not factored into the plans for the Radcliffe leisure hub, RF raised concerns immediately as soon as they were announced & during the building phase as did many local residents?	Councillor Simpson
	Councillor Morris	This is just incorrect; parking was always considered as part of plans for the hub. The hub was designed on the basis that there is already significant parking provision in Radcliffe town centre. Rather than constructing onsite parking and making the hub space smaller, the decision was taken to maximise the hub space and allow residents to use the ample parking around the town centre. We worked with residents and members throughout the development to ensure this was properly considered. A borough-wide parking strategy is currently being finalised, which will help improve the management, utilisation and availability of parking spaces across Radcliffe and the wider borough. In addition, further spaces will become available at the North Block car park following the removal of the temporary modular units currently located on the site.	
14	Reform	Streets for All plans have now been released. Can the Cabinet Member outline what plans will be in place to improve access to the town centre for motorists. How will access be improved by these works, or will it be more restrictions on the roads for motorists & increases in both cycle lanes & parking charges?	Councillor Davies
	Councillor L Smith	Improving public transport and active travel means safer roads, more options for residents and less cars on the road for those that need to drive, improving access to the town centre for all. The Streets for All opportunity is funded by the City Region Sustainable Transport settlement, and phase 1 of this is focused on accessing Bury town Centre from Free Town, Western and Southern Quarters.	

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		The project is part of Greater Manchester vision zero, which aims to eliminate all road traffic fatalities and serious injuries by improving street design, improving junctions, improving crossings, moving bikes out of the road and into cycle lanes and improving paths and footpaths. In practice the refurbishment of the Rochdale Rd / Heywood St junction has introduced improved pedestrian and cycle amenity while also enhancing vehicle passage efficiency. Given the Reform parties concern for improving road safety earlier in this council meeting, I expect them to be in full support of this endeavour to improve road safety for all our residents. I would also encourage members to read the papers more closely, as streets for all also has nothing to do with parking charges.	
15	Radcliffe First	Please can you provide an update on progress of the new procurement transformation planned for the Council and when is implementation of new strategies likely to be seen?	Councillor Birchmore
	Councillor Thorpe	The Procurement Transformation Programme is progressing well and implementation has already commenced in several key areas. Consultation on the proposed new procurement structure is due to commence this month, with advertisements for the new procurement team expected to be released in late September/early October. The Council has also agreed a new Procurement Strategy, providing a clear framework for improving commercial capability, governance and value for money across the organisation. As part of strategy, the Council is currently in the process of being assessed against the national Commercial Continuous Improvement Assessment Framework (CCIAF), which will help identify strengths and opportunities for further development and support continuous improvement. From a Procurement transformation systems perspective, the ScanMarket procurement platform has now been implemented and is operating successfully. This is improving procurement compliance, providing greater visibility of procurement contracts and activity and helping to identify efficiency opportunities across the Council. As the new procurement team becomes fully established, the next phase of the transformation will focus on the rollout of a consistent contract management approach across all services. This will enable Procurement to support and oversee the full commercial lifecycle, from initial commissioning and procurement through to contract management and supplier performance. The aim is to strengthen delivery of social value outcomes; improve contract performance and ensure the Council continues to maximise value for money for the residents and service users of Bury.	

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		Whilst some benefits are already being realised through the new systems and governance arrangements, the full implementation of the transformation programme and associated strategies is expected to accelerate once the new team is in place and fully operational.	
16	Reform	With the indoor market ignored, Casewells is now set to open. Please can the Cabinet Member please clarify as to the lease and specifically confirm the length of the lease and the value of the rent they will be paying?	Councillor Roith
	Councillor Morris	I strongly reject the framing of the question that the Indoor Market has been 'ignored', the indoor market and its traders have been supported by the council following the discovery of unsafe building materials in the roof. The council provided an emergency package of aid exceeding half a million pounds including relocation costs, utility charges and rent and rates relief for existing traders. We have continually invested in and worked with our market and traders, from new canopies delivered on time and without a single lost day of trading, to this new flexihall providing new space for music, culture, popup stalls and community space. Midlands Events Bury have signed a 15-year lease on Casewells, with the option to grant a further 10-year term. The annual rent is £60,000 per annum exclusive of all other outgoings plus a 10% turnover top-up on sales over and above £600,000 capped at £100,000 pa. The annual rent is subject to review on a 5-yearly basis.	
17	Independent	A recent update from Officers explained that after three years eight months of part closure and temporary traffic lights, the design and investigation work for the land slippage scheme at Turton Road is now in place. I understand that property and legal are working on formalising agreements with the landowner but that funding is yet to be secured. Can the Leader give assurances that work will definitely commence in 2027 which will be over 4 years of temporary lights on Turton Road surely unprecedented in this borough.	Councillor Wright
	Councillor L Smith	Officers have submitted a bid in excess of £1million to the Department for Transport to fund a proposed scheme to stabilise the landslip on Turton Road. We anticipate confirmation on whether this bid has been successful sometime in the Autumn.	