

REPORT FOR INFORMATION

DECISION MAKER:	AUDIT COMMITTEE
DATE:	22 February 2011
SUBJECT:	PUBLICATION OF SPEND OVER £500
REPORT FROM:	Director of Finance and E-Government
CONTACT OFFICER:	Sarah Janusz, Head of Strategic Procurement & Project Planning – 0161 253 6147
TYPE OF REPORT	BRIEFING NOTE FOR MEMBERS OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:	This paper is within the public domain
OPTIONS & RECOMMENDED OPTION	To note the information.

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has committed Councils to publish details of all expenditure over £500 by the end of January 2011. Expenditure is defined as including invoice payments, grant payments, expense payments and other transactions. Certain payments are exempt from publication eg salary payments to staff (except when published under the senior salary scheme), severance payments, pension and national insurance contributions. Other payments may be published with some details (normally the name of the recipient) redacted eg payments which identify an individual (unless the individual has provided goods or services to the Council as a sole trader), payments to individuals from legal processes, competition prizes or where there is potential betrayal of a commercial confidence or prejudice to a legitimate commercial interest.

2.0 PROCESS

- 2.1 Spend information for Bury will be published by 31 January 2011 on our website. Initially this will be in the Your Council/Councils/Council Tax and Finance section. The data will be presented in .csv file format to conform to open data standards. For each month there will be an individual spreadsheet. The initial information will cover the period 1 April to 31 December 2010.

Monthly updates will be added by the end of the following month i.e. January 2011 data will be published by the end of February 2011.

3.0 MANAGING COMMUNICATIONS

- 3.1 The publication of this data could generate significant interest from both the general public and the local press. Elected Members may be questioned directly about particular items of spend. It is important that any requests for comment or further information are handled consistently and in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. Requests for comment from the press should be directed to the Press Office. Requests for additional information should be directed to the Corporate Procurement team.

Contact Details:-

Sarah Janusz, Head of Strategic Procurement & Project Planning
0161 253 6147