

EX.1096 CALCULATION OF THE COUNCIL TAX BASE

(Note: The above item, which was not included on the agenda for the meeting, was allowed by the Chair to be considered as a matter of urgency in order to respond to a change in legislation and to ensure that the Council Tax Base was set in readiness for setting the Council Tax).

It was reported that following legislation, it was no longer a requirement for the Full Council to agree the calculation of the Council Tax Base.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COUNCIL

1. That, following the removal of the requirement for the approval of the calculation of the Council Tax Base by the Full Council in accordance with Section 84 of the Local Government Act 2003, the Director of Finance and E-Government be given delegated authority to agree the calculation of the Council Tax Base.
2. That the Council Constitution be amended accordingly by the deletion of any reference to the calculation of the Council Tax Base in the Constitution and in particular in paragraph 4.02 of Article 4 (Functions of the Full Council).

EXTRACT OF DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

MEETING HELD ON 10 MARCH 2004

DIGEST: 14

PUBLICATION DATE: 23 MARCH 2004

EX.1328 BURY YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2004/2005 AND UPDATE TO 2002/2005 PLAN

The Leader of Council submitted a report and draft 2004/2005 update to the Bury Youth Justice Plan 2002/2005 incorporating:-

- (i) a commentary on the management and resourcing of the Youth Offending Team.
- (ii) an outline of progress against the objectives set in the previous Bury Youth Justice Plan.
- (iii) a summary of the strategies for wider prevention of youth crime and learning and development of Youth Offending Team staff.
- (iv) a plan for future delivery against the 13 performance measures set by the Youth Justice Board for Youth Offending Teams against which they will be assessed.

The draft Plan reflected a number of positive achievements over the previous year and identified reductions in known youth offending and re-offending in Bury.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:

The 2004/2005 update to the Youth Justice Plan 2002/2005 be approved and forwarded to the Youth Justice Board.

EXTRACT OF DECISIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

MEETING HELD ON 10 MARCH 2004

DIGEST: 14

PUBLICATION DATE: 23 MARCH 2004

EX.1329 BURY'S LOCAL AGENDA 21 STRATEGY – REVIEW OF PROGRESS 1998/2003

The Executive Member – Environment and Transport submitted a report and progress report on the Local Agenda 21 Strategy which demonstrates the Council's commitment to addressing sustainable development at the local level.

In total, 53 objectives and 182 actions were detailed in the existing Strategy. Of the 182 actions, 78% had been achieved, 6% were in progress with no significant progress having been made on 16% of the actions, although many actions which had not been achieved, were now outdated and had been superseded by either new initiatives or had been absorbed in more comprehensive actions and targets.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL:

That Bury's Local Agenda 21 Strategy : Review of Progress 1998/2003 and Annex A as submitted, be approved together with the following recommendations for taking the Local Agenda 21 process forward for the future:-

- (i) That the Council recognise the significant progress which has been achieved through the Local Agenda 21 Strategy 1998/2003;
- (ii) That the Council recognise that the five year timeframe of the Local Agenda 21 Strategy has come to an end and that the strategic objectives and actions from the Local Agenda 21 Strategy be absorbed into the Community Strategy with the necessary revisions;
- (iii) That the Council nominate an Elected Member as a Sustainable Development Champion to replace the Local Agenda 21 Champion;
- (iv) That the Council appoint a Task Team with responsibilities for establishing and finalising the mechanics of the proposed changes;
- (v) That Environment and Development Services act as a lead for promoting sustainable development and environment stewardship; and
- (vi) That the Council ensures the continued role of the Environment Forum.

EX.1334 COUNCIL NOMINATIONS TO THE ARMS LENGTH MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION SHADOW BOARD

The Executive Member – Regeneration and Housing submitted a report requesting the Executive to nominate five Members of the Council to sit on the Shadow Board of Management of the Housing Arms Length Management Organisation (Six Town Housing).

The report described the constitution of the Shadow Board and a copy of the Articles of Association of Six Town Housing Limited was attached to the report.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:

That Councillors V D'Albert, D L Gunther, A Isherwood, P J Nesbit and J Smith be appointed as the Council's representative on the Shadow Board for the remainder of the current Municipal Year.

EX.1458 CORPORATE PLAN 2004/2007

The Leader of the Council submitted a report and draft Corporate Plan for the period 2004 to 2007 setting out the Council's Corporate Aims and Key Priorities for change.

The purpose of the plan was to enable the Council to manage its performance more effectively and set out clear objectives, success criteria and targets for

each of the Corporate Aims with lead responsibility clearly assigned to a Lead Executive Member and Chief Officer.

A number of changes to the format and content of the Corporate Plan had been introduced and these were examined in the report. Previous Plans had covered a five year period but the Plan submitted had been re-focused over a three year period in order to link more closely with the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Action Plan being prepared currently as part of the revision of the Community Strategy.

Proposed amendments to the Strategic Priorities were read out by the Leader.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL:

1. That the Corporate Plan 2004/2007 as submitted be agreed.
2. That the amendments to the Strategic Priorities as specified by the Leader be approved.

**EX.1472 APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES – THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER**

The Leader of the Council submitted a report informing the Executive that the Council had been invited to nominate a Member to serve as a Lay Member on the General Assembly of the Higher Education Institution which was to be formed on the merger of the existing University of Manchester and the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology in October 2004.

The appointment would be for the period 1 October 2004 to 31 August 2008 in the first instance.

RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL:

That the Registrar and Secretary to the University of Manchester be informed that this Council has accepted the invitation to appoint one Lay Member to serve on the General Assembly but that the appointment of the Council's representative be considered as part of the Annual Appointments Procedure for the 2004/2005 Municipal Year.

EX.1473 TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2004/2005

In accordance with Minute EX.958 of the meeting of the Executive held on 17 December 2003 and Minute C.1101 of the meeting of the Council held on 28 January 2004, the Leader of the Council submitted a report on minor amendments to the Timetable of Meetings for the 2004/2005 Municipal Year.

RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL:

That the changes to the Timetable of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2004/2005 as set out in the report be approved subject to the inclusion of the Joint Consultative Committees for Lifelong Learning and Teachers both to meet on Thursday, 8 July 2004 and the correction of the date of the Licensing and Safety Panel to be held on Wednesday, 16 March 2005 (and not as stated in the report, on 19 March 2005).

EX.1474 CHANGES TO AREA BOARD BOUNDARIES 2004/2005 AND ONWARDS

The Leader of the Council reported that the Electoral Commission had now completed the Periodic Electoral Review of Ward Boundaries for the Metropolitan Borough and consideration was given to possible options for the boundaries of Area Boards for the 2004/2005 Municipal Year and onwards, which were set out in the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COUNCIL:

1. That, in the light of the decision of the Electoral Commission to increase the number of Wards from 16 to 17, Option 1 in the report for the creation of an Area Board in the north of the Borough comprising Ramsbottom/Tottington/North Manor Wards, be approved.
2. That consideration of the names of the revised Area Board be deferred to a future date.
3. That Radcliffe Area Board comprise Radcliffe East, North and West Wards.
4. That the boundaries of all other Area Boards be aligned with the new boundaries of the Wards making up the areas covered by the remaining Area Boards.
5. That the Council Constitution be amended accordingly.

Reason for the decision:

To enable all Wards in the Borough to be included in the area of an Area Board.

Alternative options considered and rejected:

As set out in the report.

P.1492 OFFICER DELEGATION

A report of the Borough Planning and Economic Development Officer was submitted requesting the Committee to consider the level of officer delegation in respect of planning applications.

The Committee considered the following amendments to the existing scheme of delegation in order that officers have delegated authority to:-

- a. Refuse applications on the grounds of inadequate information.**
- b. Determine major applications where there are no material planning objections.**

(In several instances major development proposals have not raised any local concerns, nor has the development been considered controversial. However the matters have been reported to Committee solely because they are above the given size threshold. This threshold was determined historically by what the Government defined as "major". This definition is not considered to have any particular merit in determining when an application may be decided by officers. Where the application is recommended for approval and material objections are received the matter will continue to be reported to Committee.)

- c. Approve or refuse householder planning applications in accordance with approved supplementary guidance for House Extensions.**

(The receipt of objections will not make the application subject to a committee decision, although again the Committee members will always have the ability to request that ANY application be considered by the Committee.)

- d. Refuse applications that are clearly contrary to an established and adopted planning policy of the Council, or an appeal decision.**
- e. Refuse applications that are a repeat or duplicate applications of one previously refused**
- f. Refuse applications submitted by or on behalf of a member of Council or his/her spouse or by an officer of the Council.**

(This element was designed to ensure that approval of development by staff or members was explicitly impartial and that there was no bias which favoured the individual. Refusal of such schemes is not considered to raise issues of probity.)

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL:

1. That the approval in principle be given for the approval of the amendments to officer delegations and for these changes to be reflected in the Council Constitution, subject to the further consideration being given to the definition of the term "Major" applications.

2. That the Borough Planning and Economic Development Officer be given delegated authority in consultation with the Chair (Councillor Cummings) and Members of the Committee, to produce an amended form of words to define the term "Major" application.
3. That, on satisfactory completion of the consultation with Committee members the proposed amendments to the constitution be submitted to the meeting of Council on 12 May 2004 for final decisions to be made.