

**DEMOCRATIC ARRANGEMENTS FORUM
WEDNESDAY, 19 MARCH 2008**

Present: Councillor R A Bibby (in the Chair)
Councillors W A Campbell, T D Pickstone and J F Walton

Officers: M Sanders – Chief Executive
J Hammond – Director of Legal and Democratic Services
D Hanson – Head of Democratic Services

Apology for absence: K Wainwright (Chair of Standards Committee)

1. MAYORAL REFERENDUM

The Forum discussed the following draft documents in relation to the Referendum to be held on 3 July 2008 to decide whether Bury should be governed by an Elected Mayor with Cabinet:-

- Draft report by the Leader to the Council to the Council meeting to be held on 26 March 2008
- Draft Proposals specifying how the Council would be managed under an Elected Mayor with Cabinet and on which the pre-Referendum consultations with the Borough's electors would be undertaken.
- Draft Fall-Back Proposals for the management of the Authority under a Leader with Executive to be implemented if the Referendum rejected an Elected Mayor with Cabinet. These Proposals are the current arrangements for the governance of the Council.

The Draft Proposals, together with the results of the consultations, will be re-considered by the Council at its Special Meeting on 24 April 2008. The resulting Final Agreed Proposals will then be submitted to the Secretary of State for approval.

These issues were discussed in detail:-

The Local Choice functions in the Policy Framework
The Medium Term Financial Strategy
The role of the 'Ceremonial Mayor'
Overview and Scrutiny
Officer Delegation Scheme

It was agreed:

That the Council be informed of these recommendations:-

- (i) that the provisions of the current Council Constitution in respect of the following, be retained in the Draft Proposals for an Elected Mayor with Cabinet:-

w Overview and Scrutiny

w Officer Delegation Scheme

- (ii) That the Medium Term Financial Strategy be included as a matter of local choice within the Policy Framework for the Draft Proposals for an Elected Mayor with Cabinet.

- (iii) That the title of the Councillor chairing Council meetings be 'Chair of Council' and that the Leader of the largest Political Group represented on the Council be appointed annually to that Office.

The 'Chair of Council' be referred to as 'The First Citizen of the Borough'. A 'Deputy Chair of Council' would also be appointed annually.

- (iv) That the determination of the responsibility for undertaking Ceremonial duties be delegated to the Elected Mayor.

- (v) That arrangements be made to obtain impartial advice for Members of this Forum, on governance issues under an Elected Mayor with Cabinet.

COUNCILLOR ROBERT A BIBBY
Chair

(Note: The meeting started at 5.00 p.m. and ended at 5.50 p.m.)