

**Minutes of: JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
WITH TEACHERS**

Date of Meeting: 5 February 2015

Present: Representing Bury Council

Councillors: P Bury, P Heneghan, J Lewis and K Hussain

Representing the Teachers' Side

A Brooks (ATL)
G P Hirst (NAHT)
J Lund (ATL)
L Grant
K Hopwood (NASUWT)
G Stainthorpe (ATL) (Chair)
J Proctor (NASUWT)
B Roadnight (ASCL)
J Woollard (NASUWT)

Apologies: Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S Briggs, Councillor G Campbell, Councillor S Nuttall, A Roberts (ASCL), R Wilkes (NUT), C West (NUT) and D Quayle (NASUWT)

JCC.01 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting

JCC.02 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was agreed:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

JCC.03 BUDGET PROPOSALS 2015/2016

Steve Kenyon, Assistant Director of Resources & Regulation (Finance), gave a presentation detailing the key financial issues facing the Authority and subsequent efficiency savings to be made for Bury Council's 2015/16 budget.

The following key facts were presented:-

- For 2015/16, £16 million will be cut from budgets. This equates to a loss of £54 m (50%) of the budget in 5 years.
- This means the Council will need to prioritise key services at a time when residents' needs and expectations are changing and demand for services is increasing.

- In order to do this the Council are exploring alternative ways of delivering services and reviewing organisational structures.
- For 2015/16 the Council have received only 1 year's funding settlement information from the Government, which has yet to be confirmed.
- The Council's core funding from Government is likely to be cut by 13% (to be confirmed).
- The Council will also face cuts to a number of grants received from the Government, for example Early Intervention and Education Services grants. This is in addition to pressures from levies from other bodies and uncertainty following the localisation of Business Rates.

The meeting was informed of the following key measures to address the cuts:-

- Alternative Service Delivery Models - £3.420m
- Third Sector - £0.200m
- Income Generations - £2.012m
- Better use of External Funding - £3.376m
- Savings from the way the Council buys things - £1.320m
- Managing Assets - £0.726m
- T & C's, Restructuring and vacant posts - £3.229m
- Improved Recycling - £0.862m
- Reduction in provision of services - £0.662m

In terms of the next steps, it was reported that a review of the recent consultation feedback was underway which will be fed into the budget setting process for 2015/16. The Council will debate and formally approve the 2015/16 budget on 25th February 2015

Questions and comments were invited and the following issues were raised:

- Karen Hopwood placed on record her disappointment in respect of the recently imposed changes to staff terms and conditions which had the effect of breaking Conditions of Service. Concerns were expressed about the pressures on the existing workforce as a result of posts not being replaced.
- In response to a question concerning the development of sustainable energy, the assistant Director referred to Energy Conversion Schemes within the Council and grants received from the Carbon Trust.
- With regard to the effect of changes to business rates, the Assistant Director highlighted the potential benefits to the Borough by growing the local business base. However it was explained that the Council had to be mindful of the potential liability from the Appeals process for which provision had been built into the budget.
- In response to a question concerning the budget process it was explained that lists A&B had been replaced by a budget consultation

document. An undertaking was given to circulate the document to Members of the JCC.

Peter Lowe submitted briefing note setting out details of the following budgetary issues for schools in the Borough:

- Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)
- School Funding Formula Values
- Pupil Premium
- Universal Free School Meals for Infants

Following an extensive campaign Bury schools will see the benefit of an extra £5.5m in 2015/16 and beyond which will mean that funding per pupil in Bury's maintained primary, secondary and academy schools will increase by £204 to £4433.88. Members of the Committee welcomed the increased funding for Bury Schools and acknowledged the added responsibilities associated with the significant extra monies. Peter Lowe explained that most of these added responsibilities were as a consequence of changes made by the Department for Education.

Questions and comments were invited from Members of the Committee and the following issues were raised:

- In response to questions relating to funding for Special Needs, Peter Lowe explained that there had been an overall £300k increase although it was highlighted that extra places at Elmsbank and Millwood had yet to be funded. In terms of budget pressures going forward it was explained that having to meet the complex needs of pupils outside the Borough was not sustainable and appropriate funding was necessary to allow the Council to educate children in Bury.
- Karen Hopwood enquired about the impact on funding as a result of the 3 Academy schools in the Borough. Peter Lowe explained that Academies were funded through the same formula although some pockets of money were provided by the Department for Education to each Academy to assist them with their set up costs. Any transfer and conversion costs incurred by the Local Authority would be a financial burden for the Authority.
- With regard to Early Years funding it was reported that the level of funding had been maintained at £3,123.19 per pupil, which is the second lowest of all Local Authorities in England.
- An update was provided to the Committee in respect of the financial position at Manchester Mesitva High School.
- The Chair, Gill Stainthorpe, acknowledged the welcome increase in funding to schools but highlighted that funds would need to be set aside for some services that were now not included within the budget, namely, school crossing patrols; school improvement services and school attendance services.

G STAINTHORPE
Chair

Note: The meeting started at 6pm and finished at 7.20 pm