
BURY VALUES PROSPECTUS

Bury Metropolitan Borough Council has drawn up a statement of values to be known as the Bury Values Prospectus upon which it has consulted widely. The Values Prospectus aims to capture and define a set of shared values to which all can subscribe, and provide a foundation for community cohesion in Bury. As a sign of commitment the Values Prospectus will form a preface to the Council Constitution in order to guide decisions of Members and officers of the Council. The Council is committed to leading by example across all points in the document.

We already have a strong foundation upon which to build. Positive contacts exist between our diverse communities, every community is valued and values each other, and rights and responsibilities are of equal importance.

Equality of Opportunity

- The Council has set out a series of ambitions for Bury. In working to achieve these ambitions we will create opportunities for all, so that all, from whatever background, have similar life opportunities.
- Whilst the Council values and celebrates diversity it believes that the way forward lies in developing shared futures rather than addressing visible differences
- The Council will ensure that where it intervenes to affect the prospects of individual communities this will be based on objective criteria which are justly and fairly established. Further, the Council will communicate these decisions transparently to all to prevent the potential build up of resentment concerning the perceived treatment of others
- In particular the Council recognises that where public resources are finite there may be competition for these resources. We will address these issues on the basis of shared concerns rather than competition between communities.
- Disadvantage arising from the structure of society will be sought out and combated.

Community Safety and the Rule of Law

- It is the prime responsibility of the Council to do all in its power to ensure the safety and security of its citizens*.
- The Council recognises that the active support and participation of all communities is essential if it is to fulfil this responsibility
- We will work with our strategic partner organisations to identify extremist elements and hate crime that threaten community safety and community cohesion, whether in Bury or elsewhere.
- In particular the Council will seek to build bridges within, and between communities, in order that all sections of our community seek actively to promote peaceful and harmonious relationships and are committed to confronting any extremism within their own communities and identifying any potential threats to cohesion.
- Respect for the law by all is fundamental to a cohesive community. The Council will obey, and expect all citizens to comply with, the law of the land.
- It has the right and duty to campaign against what it considers to be bad law and injustice, but not to disobey the law.

Democracy

- The Council will actively promote participation in the democratic process and protect each citizen's right to vote fairly, freely and secretly.
- It will listen to and take account of the views of the people.
- It will be open in its decision-making, except where the law declares otherwise.

Human Dignity and Liberty

- Every citizen has a right to life and freedom from mental and physical harm, and also to self-determination in this respect. These rights will not be overridden, given the understanding that, on occasions, adjudication may be necessary when the rights of one party conflict with the same right of another individual or group.
- The Council will not interfere with those who do not jeopardise the freedoms of others.
- It will actively promote tolerance of all views and lifestyles which are consistent with the law of the land and not prejudicial to others.
- The Council respects all faith traditions, and those with no faith, equally
- The right to hold and practise a religious faith or other tradition must not be used to justify curtailment of human rights or the rights of other groups.
- Members and officers of the Council are entitled to hold their own views, but when representing the Council must behave in ways which are consistent with the Council's values.

Economic Exclusion

- Economic exclusion of communities and individuals threatens cohesion. We will work to create job and training opportunities in the Borough appropriate to the needs, skills and abilities of all members of society, including disabled people.
 - The Council welcomes all people who wish to come to Bury to live or work as a positive contribution to creating a successful, dynamic economy, and cosmopolitan society
 - The Council will work with employers, their representative organisations, and trade unions to ensure that acceptable and improving terms and conditions of employment are maintained for existing employees and in-comers alike.
 - The Council values its workforce highly. It will protect employees' welfare and provide suitable support in developing their potential, including achievement of full (Level 5) National Equality Standard for Local Government
 - It will endeavour to provide an example to other employers in the Borough and work with partner organisations to disseminate good practice.
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