

**QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED OF EXECUTIVE
COUNCILLORS AT THE COUNCIL EXECUTIVE
MEETING 5th JULY 2004**

1. Question from Peter Marsden

Would Bath & North East Somerset Council Executive be prepared to recommend, prior to the Public Local Inquiry, the deletion of the proposal contained in the Draft Local Plan to move the Green Belt boundary at Claverton Down if the existence of exceptional circumstances, as required by Government policy, cannot be shown?

Answer to be given by Executive Councillor Rosemary Todd

The 9th July 2003 Council Executive and 17th July 2003 Council meetings agreed for publication for comment the Bath & North East Somerset Local Plan Revised Deposit Draft including minerals and waste policies which allocated the eastern part of the University of Bath Campus for university related uses. It briefly summarises the exceptional circumstances that justify a change to the Green Belt. In response to representations made on the Revised Deposit Draft Local Plan in 2003 further pre-inquiry changes are now recommended which clarify the explanation of the exceptional circumstances. These are set out in Annexes 4 & 5 of the report to the 5th July Council Executive.

The Council Executive will today be considering the representations including those relating to the Green Belt, recommended responses and pre-inquiry changes before making a recommendation to Council. There will still be the opportunity for duly made objections to the Revised Deposit Draft Local Plan and any pre-inquiry changes to be considered at the Local Plan Inquiry subject to the agreement of the Inspector in the case of pre-inquiry changes

2. Question from Councillor Sarah Webb

Many residents and businesses in my ward consider the location of mobile fast food units to be poorly situated in places which are inappropriate if the Council is to fulfil the improvements to the urban public realm as detailed in the corporate plan. This also applies to numerous 'A' boards, 'peddlars', and goods being placed on pavements outside shops.

At the same time there are barriers to the development of pavement café culture which is a desirable feature in appropriate locations.

What would the relevant Executive member suggest to address these concerns?

Could one option be for these concerns to be addressed in the forthcoming Streetscape Manual?

Answer to be given by Executive Councillors Vic Pritchard and/or Rosemary Todd

At the current time, the Council has five Street Trading pitches selling food within the Abbey ward; two of these operate only at night, and one only on Sundays. In each case, the location of each stall, and what they are selling, has been the subject of consultation, which included obtaining the views of the local retailers. Some of the hot food stalls are long established sites, having been there in excess of 20 years, which introduces difficulty in terminating or relocating the pitch.

The issue of the "A" boards and goods being placed on the pavements is currently under review and it is the intention of the Council to develop a specific strategy to address this issue. With regard to the pedlars, the Council has no control over genuine pedlars and is prosecuting those who are not.

It is not clear what the Councillor considers are the barriers to the development of the pavement cafe culture, but like all development, this needs to be examined in light of the practicalities and suitability of the location concerned. In the past few years, the number of cafes with tables on the pavement has been on the increase, but often the restrictions are related to the physical nature of the local environment and whether or not the tables can be positioned without causing obstruction to other users of the highway.

The emerging Bath and North East Somerset Streetscape Manual provides guidance on the specification and maintenance of streetscape materials and street furniture. Issues of use are covered through planning and licensing powers. These are not the focus of the Streetscape Manual.

The Council is looking at the whole of the use of the city centre and a member/officer group has been established to review the current position and to provide a vision, and guidelines, for the future. It is at this forum that the member's concerns can be addressed.