

WRB/EMT

10 March 2006

Sir Michael Lyons
Lyons Inquiry into Local Government
Room 3/12
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

Dear Sir Michael

Lyons Inquiry

I refer to your letter dated 20 January regarding the future role and functions of local government. Following consideration at full Council, the Council has two main points to make which fall under the strategic role of local government.

1. Local democratic accountability is essential to the strategic role of local government and it is important to maintain close links between elected representatives and the electorate.
2. The inequity of the Council Tax system and the issue of local government funding should be addressed. Furthermore, capacity in rural areas is affected by the government funding formula which continues not to properly reflect the cost of sparsity. A fairer funding formula is required.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely

Mr W R Batey
Chief Executive