

Mr Jones

By email:

request-194634-1bec74b@whatdotheyknow.com

Damien Bourke
Assistant Executive Director

Council Offices, Wellington Road
Ashton-under-Lyne, Tameside. OL6 6DL

Call Centre 0161-342-8355
Fax 0161-342-2747

www.tameside.gov.uk
email: damien.bourke@tameside.gov.uk

Doc Ref FOI 2442
Ask for Damien Bourke
Direct Line 0161 342 3544
Date 7 March 2014

Dear Mr Jones

Freedom of Information – Request for Information
Unique Reference No: FOI 2442

Thank you for your request for information which the Council received on 27 January 2014. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your request. This was because in order to ensure a full and accurate response, we had to make a comprehensive manual search of detailed documentation and files, and this took longer than we had anticipated. I apologise for any inconvenience this delay may have caused you. You have requested information as follows:

I refer to seven plots of land transferred to New Charter, - Burlington Street car park; land off Buttermere Road; Cotton Street East car park and the Katherine House site, all Ashton; Kynder Street car park, Denton, land on Grosvenor Street, Stalybridge, the old Hawthorn School site in Audenshaw.

I would like to know:-

- 1) *The tendering process used to determine who received the land. Where was the availability of the land and/or the tendering process advertised?*
- 2) *How many groups, organisations, companies or individuals tendered for the individual plots.*
- 3) *How much did TMBC receive from New Charter for the individual plots? (If only a total figure is available this will be acceptable)*
- 4) *Who, besides New Charter, tendered or made an offer for any of the plots?*

I am pleased to advise that the Council can provide the information that you have requested.

The information is detailed below:

- 1) The land (with the exception of the Hawthorns School site which was sold to New Charter Housing for £1m) was transferred to New Charter Housing as part of Tameside Council's policy to promote development of affordable housing. This land contributed to over 150 new affordable homes in the borough. The governments National Affordable Housing Programme supported those schemes where local authorities sought to utilise assets for the programme. The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has given a general consent for Local Authorities to dispose of land for this purpose.

2) One other party tendered for part of the Hawthorns site but subsequently withdrew their offer. One other party expressed an interest in the Katherine House site but did not provide a full tender.

3) The land was exchanged with an agreement to receive an agreed unit valuation on future sale of the properties. Tameside council received £1m for the Hawthorns site.

4) One other party tendered for part of the Hawthorns site but subsequently withdrew their offer. One other party expressed an interest in the Katherine House site but did not provide a full tender.

If you have any queries about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint, or request a review of the Council's decision, please write to Sandra J Stewart, Borough Solicitor, at Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council, Wellington Road, Ashton-under-Lyne, Tameside OL6 6DL

If you are not content with the outcome your complaint, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Commissioner cannot normally make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the Council. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF and at www.ico.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Damien Bourke
Assistant Executive Director
Sustainable Growth