

Local Government Information Unit

NEWS RELEASE

RELEASE IMMEDIATE: 21 June 2004

### **Our top tip councillor**



Oldham councillor Jeremy Sutcliffe has become the Local Government Information Unit's (LGIU) "top tip councillor".

Britain's leading local democracy thinktank awarded Jeremy the title after his advice for new councillors was judged to be the best of all those included in the LGIU's recently published factsheet pack for new councillors - Now you're a councillor, what you should know!

Jeremy's tips for new councillors are:

1. Don't promise what you can't deliver
2. Put every query on behalf of constituents to an officer in writing. Copy to the constituent, also a copy of the reply.
3. Don't be afraid to ask the obvious question. Experienced members are often too inhibited to show their lack of knowledge.
4. Don't take sides in a neighbourhood dispute.

Cllr Sutcliffe, 58, was successfully re-elected in the Chadderton North Ward in Oldham on 10 June and has been a councillor in Oldham since 1995, after first serving from 1971 to 1974. He is presently a Cabinet Member for Environment Services. Jeremy's prize for being the LGIU's 'top tipster' is a voucher to attend LGIU training event or seminar free of charge.

ENDS

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### **Notes to Editors**

1. Founded in 1983, originally to campaign against ratecapping, the Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) is Britain's foremost independent local democracy think tank, campaigning to extend local authority best practice, freedoms and responsibilities. The LGIU works to influence the debate on local government modernisation. The LGIU and its sister organisations The Education Network (TEN) and the Democratic Health Network (DHN) provide research, policy briefings, information, advice, training and lobbying services to local authority and trade union affiliates. Previous LGIU news releases and statements can be viewed at <http://www.lgiu.gov.uk/>.

2. Copies of the Now you're a councillor, what you should know factsheets are on sale at £20 for each set (£10 to LGIU affiliates)

from Central Books on 0845 458 9910, 0845 458 9912 (fax) or e-mail [mo@centralbooks.com](mailto:mo@centralbooks.com).

3. A PDF version of Now you're a councillor, what you should know is available to journalists by contacting Kevin Morton at [kevin.morton@lgiu.org.uk](mailto:kevin.morton@lgiu.org.uk). Kevin Morton should also be contacted regarding requests for articles or interviews about this publication.

4. A photograph of Cllr Jeremy Sutcliffe is attached with this news release.