

Central Bedfordshire
Council
Priory House
Monks Walk
Chicksands,
Shefford SG17 5TQ



**Central
Bedfordshire**

please ask for Jonathon Partridge

direct line 0300 300 4634

date 12 January 2012

NOTICE OF MEETING

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date & Time

Tuesday, 24 January 2012, 10.00 a.m.

Venue at

Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford

Richard Carr
Chief Executive

To: The Chairman and Members of the SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

Cllrs D McVicar (Chairman), A R Bastable (Vice-Chairman), M C Blair,
Mrs C F Chapman MBE, Mrs R B Gammons, Ms C Maudlin, J Murray, B Saunders
and P Williams

[Named Substitutes:

D Bowater, R W Johnstone, D Jones, Mrs M Mustoe, A Shadbolt and
I Shingler]

All other Members of the Council - on request

**MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THIS
MEETING**

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence and notification of substitute members

2. **Members' Interests**

To receive from Members any declarations and the nature thereof in relation to:-

- (a) personal interests in any agenda item
- (b) personal and prejudicial interests in any agenda item
- (c) any political whip in relation to any agenda item.

3. **Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

To receive any announcements from the Chairman and any matters of communication.

4. **Minutes**

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 13 December 2011 and to note actions taken since that meeting.

5. **Petitions**

To receive petitions from members of the public in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in Annex 2 of Part A4 of the Constitution.

6. **Call-In**

To consider any decision of the Executive referred to this Committee for review in accordance with Procedure Rule 10.10 of Part D2.

7. **Requested Items**

To consider any items referred to the Committee at the request of a Member under Procedure Rule 3.1 of Part D2 of the Constitution.

REPORTS

Item	Subject	Page Nos.
8	Member Involvement in the Preparation of Planning and Related Strategy Documents To consider future working arrangements for Member involvement in the plan preparation process and related housing and transportation strategy documents.	* 11 - 16
9	Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment, Identified Priorities for 2012-13 To consider the Community Safety Partnership priorities that have been identified through the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment and to provide recommendations prior to consideration by the Executive.	* 17 - 30
10	Development Brief for Land West of Abbey Lane, Ampthill To receive a report regarding the development brief for land west of Abbey Lane, Ampthill prior to consideration by the Executive.	* 31 - 72
11	Quarter 2 Performance Report To consider the quarter 2 performance monitoring report for the Sustainable Communities directorate.	* 73 - 80
12	Draft Work Programme 2011-2012 and Executive Forward Plan To consider details of the currently drafted Committee work programme and the Executive Forward Plan.	* 81 - 104

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CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Tuesday, 13 December 2011.

PRESENT

Cllr D McVicar (Chairman)
Cllr A R Bastable (Vice-Chairman)

Cllrs M C Blair
Mrs R B Gammons
Ms C Maudlin

Cllrs B Saunders
P Williams

Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Mrs C F Chapman MBE
J Murray

Substitutes: Cllrs D Bowater (In place of Mrs C F Chapman MBE)
I Shingler (In place of J Murray)

Members in Attendance: Cllrs P N Aldis
J G Jamieson
K C Matthews
A Shadbolt
R C Stay
M A G Versallion
J N Young
Leader of the Council
and Chairman of the
Executive
Executive Member for
Sustainable
Communities - Strategic
Planning and Economic
Development
Chairman of
Development
Management Committee
Executive Member for
External Affairs
Executive Member for
Children's Services
Deputy Executive
Member for Sustainable
Communities - Strategic
Planning and Economic
Development

Officers in Attendance: Mr G Alderson – Director of Sustainable
Communities
Ms A Coleman – Service Development Manager
Mr B Fong – Interim Senior Finance Manager
(Sustainable Communities)
Mr J Partridge – Scrutiny Policy Adviser
Ms S Wileman – Service Development Manager

SCOSC/11/38 **Members' Interests**

(a) **Personal Interests:-**

None.

(b) **Personal and Prejudicial Interests:-**

None.

SCOSC/11/39 **Minutes**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 25 October 2011 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

SCOSC/11/40 **Petitions**

No petitions were received from members of the public in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in Part D2 of the Constitution.

SCOSC/11/41 **Questions, Statements or Deputations**

The Committee were told that a total of three speakers had registered to speak at the meeting in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in Annex 1 to Section A4 of the Constitution. The Chairman confirmed that two speakers would be invited to speak under this item and a further speaker, who wished to make a statement relating to Item 10 ("2012/13 Draft Budget") would be invited to speak prior to consideration of that item.

Both speakers raised issues with regards to Item 9 ("Development Strategy Task Force") relating to the following:

- Any progress that had been made in determining the future of the Development Strategy Task Force.
- Attendance of the public at meetings of the Development Strategy Task Force and public engagement in the development of proposals.
- Access to information prior to meetings of the Committee.
- Matters relating to openness, transparency and accountability.

In response to these issues the Chairman stated that the operation of the Development Strategy Task Force was being reviewed due to the cessation of one of it's primary functions, to provide advice to the Luton and South Beds

Joint Planning Committee and as a result there was no longer the requirement for a prescriptive and restrictive terms of reference. There were also changes to the environment including the new localism agenda, imminent new planning legislation and the cessation of regional planning.

As a result of these changes the Council was considering an appropriate way forward and a written report would be submitted to a future committee. The Development Strategy Task Force would not meet until a written report had been considered by the Committee. In the mean time two items that would have been considered by the Task Force had been scheduled to be received by the OSC in January 2012.

In addition the Chairman commented that some meetings would continue to take place in private where sensitive or financial issues were being considered.

SCOSC/11/42 Call-In

The Panel was advised that no decisions of the Executive had been referred to the Panel under the Call-in Procedures set out in Appendix "A" to Rule No. S18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

SCOSC/11/43 Requested Items

No items were referred to the Committee for consideration at the request of a Member under Procedure Rule 3.1 of Part D2 of the Constitution.

SCOSC/11/44 Development Strategy Task Force

The Chairman referred to his previous comments regarding the Development Strategy Task Force and emphasised that a further written report would be submitted to the Committee on 24 January 2012.

Members debated the operation of other future Task Forces and whether they would operate in the same manner as the Development Strategy Task Force, particularly in relation to recommendations being provided directly to the Executive. A Member expressed the view that all recommendations should be presented to the OSC no matter what it referred to despite an undertaking from the Chairman that any matter of 'consequence' would be referred to the OSC for consideration. Members also debated whether the public should be able to attend meetings of the Development Strategy Task Force.

NOTED

That a report on the future operation of the Development Strategy Task Force be presented to the Sustainable Communities OSC on 24 January 2011.

SCOSC/11/45 2012/13 Draft Budget

The Executive Member for Sustainable Communities Planning and Strategy introduced a report relating to the Draft Budget 2012/13, Medium Term Financial Plan 2012 – 2016 and the Capital Programme 2012/13 to 2015/16. The Committee were asked to consider the draft budget proposals and provide their comments for consideration by the Customer and Central Services OSC and the Executive.

In response to the proposals the Committee commented on the following:-

Draft Budget 2012/13 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2012-2016

- The appropriateness of the level of General Fund reserves and how they would be affected by an overall reduction in the Council budget.
- Ongoing work to develop proposals for SC33 “additional savings target” to achieve £644k savings in 2012/13 would need to be completed before the Executive agreed the budget. Additional unspecified savings would need to be specified before the S151 officer would approve them for recommendation.
- Whether it was prudent to include landfill tax uplift from 2010/11 as a budget pressure.
- The harmonisation of Council Tax would be phased over 2 years and be fully effective from 2013/14.
- The Internal Drainage Board had been asked to reduce the precept that we pay to them by 15% over 3 years, in the light of the overall reduction in government grant.

Capital Programme 2012/13 to 2015/16

- Whether further funds for use after 2012/13 should be identified in the budget for leisure facilities at Stotfold Football Development Project Phase 1. Also whether funds from the proposed sale of Roker Park should be identified in the budget for future years.
- The delivery of the Luton and Dunstable Busway, which was currently on schedule and within budget.
- Funding for Dunstable Town Centre Regeneration Phase 2, which was provided from a Local Authority Business Growth Incentive (LABGI).
- The principle of implementing a holistic infrastructure approach to assets within a defined area, how the decisions were made and how it achieved savings.

RECOMMENDED TO THE EXECUTIVE

That the Council’s Draft Budget for 2012/13, Medium Term Financial Plan 2012-16 and Capital Programme 2012/13 to 2015/16 be implemented.

SCOSC/11/46 Draft fees and Charges 2012/13

The Executive Member for Sustainable Communities Planning and Strategy introduced a report that proposed revised fees and charges for the Council to be effective from 1 April 2012.

In response to the proposals the Committee discussed the following:-

- Paragraph 14 of the report refers that there would be a 2% increase for 2011/12, this should read 2012/13.
- The importance of effective enforcement of new fees and charges if they were implemented from 1 April 2012.
- The importance of effective publication of the fees and charges to ensure that residents and businesses were aware of changes and new charges.
- The consented regime for street trading and whether it covered a range of traders.
- Whether the introduction of fees and charges for advertising frames or up to three tables where they did not present an obstruction to rights of way was appropriate.

RECCOMENDED TO THE EXECUTIVE

- 1. That in respect of permissions for tables and chairs on the highway and for advertising frames no charge be applied to small businesses for using either suitable A frames or up to 3 tables in an appropriate manner.**
- 2. That, where reasonable and where flexibility exists, fees and charges should be rounded up to an appropriate figure.**

(Subsequent to the meeting it was established in relation to recommendation 1 detailed above that Council policy already allowed for small businesses to be given consideration. This recommendation of the Committee has already been taken into account in the revised fees and charges that will be recommended to the Executive in February).

SCOSC/11/47 Quarter 2 Revenue Budget Monitoring Report

The Committee considered a report by the Portfolio Holders for Sustainable Communities Planning and Strategy and Sustainable Communities Services, which outlined the quarter 2 revenue position.

In response to a question from a Member it was confirmed that the Council had a policy in place to chase outstanding debts.

NOTED

- 1. the forecast annual outturn of £50,881k;**
- 2. the proposed release of earmarked reserves of £505k; and**
- 3. the forecast under spend of £802k after the use of reserves.**

SCOSC/11/48 **Quarter 2 Capital Report**

The Committee considered a report by the Portfolio Holders for Sustainable Communities Planning and Strategy and Sustainable Communities Services, which outlined the capital programme report for the quarter ending 30 September 2011.

NOTED

- 1. actual expenditure to date of £11,297k and external income of £9,042k;**
- 2. forecast annual expenditure of £26,466k and external funding of £17,685k; and**
- 3. re-phasing of schemes into future years with a net value of £3,840k.**

SCOSC/11/49 **Draft Work Programme 2011/12 and Executive Forward Plan**

The Committee reviewed their work programme for 2011/12 and noted that two items had been added to the agenda for 24 January 2012 as follows:-

- Development Brief for Warren Farm, Ampthill; and
- Development Brief for Stanford Road, Shefford.

In response to a Member question it was commented that the Council was to develop a single Local Development Framework (LDF) for Central Bedfordshire up to 2031. This LDF would detail the allocation of gypsy and traveller sites throughout the region and work would commence on its development in 2012. The previous Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document for the north of the region had been retained to be used as evidence in the development of a new LDF.

RESOLVED

That subject to the addition of development briefs for Warren Farm, Ampthill and Stanford Road, Shefford the work programme for the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee be approved.

NOTED

the Executive Forward Plan.

(Note: The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. and concluded at 12.06 p.m.)

Meeting: Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 24 January 2012

Subject: Member Involvement in the Preparation of Planning and Related Strategy Documents

Report of: Gary Alderson, Director of Sustainable Communities

Summary: The report proposes future working arrangements for Member involvement in the plan preparation process and related housing and transportation strategy documents.

Advising Officer: Gary Alderson, Director of Sustainable Communities

Contact Officer: Richard Fox, Head of Development Planning and Housing Strategy

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

- | |
|--------------------------------|
| 1. Managing Growth Effectively |
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Financial:

- | |
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| 2. The establishment and servicing of Task Groups will utilise existing resources. |
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Legal:

- | |
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| 3. The preparation of a Local Plan is a statutory requirement and the Council's Constitution provides that Overview and Scrutiny Committees have a role in respect of policy development. |
|---|

<p>The Constitution authorises an Overview and Scrutiny Committee to appoint a task force (either a standing task force or a time-limited task and finish group) to conduct an in depth investigation into any matter within its terms of reference. Such task forces are expected to operate on an informal basis with no powers other than to investigate and report their findings to the parent committee. It has not been the practice for such task forces to be open to the public.</p>
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The Local Government Act 2000 makes provision for an Overview and Scrutiny Committee to appoint one or more sub-committees, which may carry out any functions allocated by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Sub-committees appointed in this way are subject to Part VA of the Local Government Act 1972 and so their meetings are open to the public, except where the sub-committee excludes the press and public whilst it considers an exempt item of business.

The Local Government Acts do not make any specific provisions relating to the proceedings of informal groups such as task forces or working parties. However, the High Court has accepted that it is legitimate for local authorities to establish working parties that are distinct from sub-committees. Working parties which are not subject to the requirements of Part VA of the Local Government Act 1972 may inter alia “*enable tentative subjective exchange of ideas, not of course irresponsibly but without exposure to outside criticism and analysis.*” (R -v- Eden District Council ex parte Moffat (1989)).

A task force or working party cannot exercise functions on behalf of the Council or the Overview and Scrutiny Committee by which it is appointed. It must report its findings to its parent committee before any decision can be taken. The concept of a task force lends itself more readily to a task and finish group than to a standing body.

Risk Management:

4. The scrutiny of the plan preparation process by Members minimises the risk of abortive work and programme slippage.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

5. Not applicable.

Equalities/Human Rights:

6. An Equalities Impact Assessment will be carried out on all development plans prepared by the Council.

Community Safety:

7. This is a theme running throughout the development plan.

Sustainability:

8. The Development Strategy and any other plans will be subject to a sustainability appraisal. The principles of sustainable development underpin the development plan process.

Procurement:

9. Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

The Committee is asked to:-

- 1. Endorse Option C) in the report as the basis for future Member input into the preparation of Development Plan and related documents.**

Background

10. At its meeting in June 2011 this Committee resolved to re-establish the Development Strategy Task Force and approved the terms of reference and communications protocol set out in the Appendix to that report. At its meeting on 13 December 2011, Members were advised that there was a need to reconfigure the Development Strategy Task Force because of the reasons below.
11. In the intervening six months between the June Committee meeting and the present several fundamental changes to the operation of the planning system in Central Bedfordshire have taken place and Members will be familiar with many of these. They include the Localism Act, the draft National Planning Policy Framework, the imminent cessation of regional planning and the introduction of neighbourhood planning. All of these have contributed towards an emerging new planning agenda in Central Bedfordshire.
12. At a local level one of the principal reasons for the establishment of the original Local Development Framework Task Force, the operation of Luton and South Bedfordshire Joint Planning Committee, has gone with the demise of that Committee on 31st March 2012. In response to this and the withdrawal of the submitted Joint Core Strategy, Central Bedfordshire Council has agreed to embark on a new plan making programme which was endorsed at the Executive meeting of 4th October 2011. The main element of this programme will be the preparation of a single Development Strategy for the whole of Central Bedfordshire. At that meeting Executive also agreed a challenging and ambitious timetable for the preparation of the document culminating in adoption in 2014.
13. During the preparation of the Development Strategy and other plans for Central Bedfordshire there will be many opportunities for public engagement in the process in formal and informal ways. The Council's Statement of Community Involvement sets these out. These will include exhibitions, letters to all those who have previously made representations to plans, stakeholder workshops, newspaper advertisements, web publicity etc. In addition, the Council's formal Committees, notably the Council, Executive and Overview and Scrutiny Committee are held in public with opportunities for public contributions to those meetings.
14. The various Task Forces have served a useful function to date. However, the new planning climate set out above means it is time to reappraise Member input and involvement with the preparation of planning and related strategy documentation.

15. There are various facets to consider in the establishment of Member advisory bodies and groups. These include formality; the style and extent to which debates are structured; autonomy, to what extent any group has delegated responsibility; membership, the criteria for establishing who is invited to attend; remit, how wide a range of issues will be directed to the group; and finally timeframe and life cycle. All these facets have a range within them for example between most formal and least formal, no autonomy, high level of autonomy etcetera. Whatever format these groups take there is the overarching pre-requisite for compliance with the challenging plan-making timetable and the need for timely decisions by the Executive.

Options

16. In the absence of a Development Strategy Task Force, the options set out below represent potential ways forward for the development of planning policy. There are three options which Members are invited to consider.
 - (A) To form a formal sub-committee of Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive officer reports and which would be fully accessible to the public. All recommendations from the sub-committee would be sent to Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
 - (B) To form an informal task and finish groups drawn from Members of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, meeting in private to receive officer reports. All recommendations from the task and finish groups would be sent to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
 - (C) Overview and Scrutiny Committee receives officer reports directly but preceded by Member briefings open to all Members as considered expedient.
17. There are advantages and disadvantages to the operation of each of the approaches set out above in terms of expediency and opportunities for Member engagement. Option A would provide the opportunity for Member input in a formal setting but would be inflexible, least efficient and most resource intensive. Option B has attractions in terms of being tailored to specific tasks, but could still be rather inflexible and time consuming, involving various groups being set up by the main Committee. Overall, it is the firm conclusion that Option C would afford the best chance of compliance with the challenging Development Strategy timetable through officers reporting directly to Overview and Scrutiny affording the broader Council Membership opportunities to input into the process.
18. It is worth noting that all options are in addition to the full public consultative process set out earlier in this report. In particular, there will be briefing sessions, workshops and other means for Councillors and all interested parties to air their views and understand the development of policy. Also whichever option is adopted it is proposed that the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee continue to consider development plan documents before their approval by the Portfolio Holder for public consultation purposes. These meetings are, of course, open to the general public.

Conclusion and Next Steps

19. It is considered that Option C provides the best opportunity to facilitate policy development through Member engagement in the plan preparation process whilst achieving the challenging plan-making timetable and need for timely decisions by the Executive.

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Meeting: Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 23 January 2012

Subject: Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment, Identified Priorities for 2012–2013

Report of: Cllr Brian Spurr, Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Healthier Lifestyles

Summary: This report informs Members of the three priorities that have been identified through the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment. The identified priorities are the same as last year. The priorities have been agreed by the Community Safety Steering Group and recommended by the Community Safety Executive Group. They are also subject to public consultation. Members have been invited to comment on the three priorities before they are recommended for adoption by the Community Safety Partnership.

Advising Officer: Gary Alderson, Director of Sustainable Communities

Contact Officer: Joy Craven, Community Safety Partnership Manager, Sustainable Communities (0300 300 4649)

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The agreement of the three priorities, and the subsequent work in reducing offences, incidents and offending, will make a significant contribution to the quality of life experienced by local residents and communities. Joint work on the priorities by all of the community safety statutory partners will also contribute to the delivery of the Council's community safety priority of 'Creating Safer Communities' to reduce crime, fear of crime, anti social behaviour and increase public confidence.

As one of the five thematic partnerships of the Central Bedfordshire Together (CBT), Community Safety has an integral role in achieving the CBT Vision of 'Globally connected, delivering sustainable growth to ensure green, prosperous and ambitious place for the benefit of all'. Delivering to the three priorities will have a positive effect on greater economic and community prosperity, sustainable growth and raising standards.

Financial:

1. The majority of the work undertaken is done through existing resources within each partners' organisation. The Home Office does occasionally offer grants to the Partnership for specific areas of work and the Partnership will bid for these to provide additional support to existing resources.
2. Financially the partnership save on resources, by pulling together to work on priority areas that effect them all, using an intelligence led approach.

Legal:

3. Under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council has a statutory duty to do all that it reasonably can to reduce crime and disorder in its' area. The Crime and Disorder Act also places a statutory duty on the Council, along with the other Responsible Authorities, to produce an annual Strategic Assessment which identifies crime and disorder priorities for our area.

Risk Management:

4. There are risks and challenges to working in partnership with the Statutory partners of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) (*Police, Police Authority, NHS Bedfordshire, Bedfordshire & Luton Fire Service, Bedfordshire Probation Trust*), should the Council not agree with the identified priorities.
5. There is a risk to the Council should it not agree with the partnership data and analysis that has been provided. If new priorities were to be agreed without supporting data and evidence, the process would not stand up to audit, and would not be based on intelligence. This would make it difficult to gain support from partners to work with us on any new issue.
6. There are potential community implications if work on the high risk indentified priorities is not undertaken. The three areas have scored highest in the risk matrix, been highlighted through public consultation, and are known to affect Public Confidence and Fear of Crime (Appendix 1).

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

7. None

Equalities/Human Rights:

8. By working on the three priority areas, there will not be unlawful discrimination or contradictions under the European Convention of Human Rights.
9. Statistics and data have been used and analysed to identify the high risk areas to the CSP and our communities. All members of our communities have been taken into account, and there have been no groups omitted from the process.
10. The impact of working on the proposed priority areas will not discriminate against individuals or groups. In fact the work around Anti-Social Behaviour, Reoffending and Domestic Abuse will support minority groups and individuals who may not have felt supported, or engaged.

11. An Equality Impact Assessment has been refreshed for this strategic period. This assessment has highlighted areas of concern due to low level reporting of Anti-Social Behaviour, Domestic Abuse and Crime by vulnerable groups. By recommending the three priority areas for the CSP we will also be addressing high risk areas identified in the Equality Impact Assessment.

Community Development/Safety:

12. The detrimental impact that anti social behaviour causes has continued to be a key concern for local residents. In agreeing this as a priority to be worked on by the partnership, it should help improve the quality of life for our communities; help reduce crime, the fear of crime and anti social behaviour itself.
13. Fear of crime is raised by local residents as a concern, and working on crimes that impact the most, in terms of victims and community impact, will support our co-ordinated approach to decrease fear in the community. Domestic Abuse, Anti-Social Behaviour incidents and becoming a repeat victim, all have a significantly negative impact on our residents.
14. Reducing re-offending is a national concern. It is estimated that approximately 10% of the active offender population is responsible for half of all crime and that a very small proportion of offenders (0.5%) are responsible for one in ten offences. Providing the correct support to the most prolific offenders in Central Bedfordshire will contribute to not only a reduction in crime and disorder but hopefully the rehabilitation of these individuals, which includes providing accessible services to offenders to support them with substance misuse, in particular alcohol and drugs.

Sustainability:

15. The enforcement and prevention work that will be undertaken on the three priorities, can make a significant contribution to the quality of the physical environment, tackle those responsible for crime, disorder and anti social behaviour, and prevent some offences in Central Bedfordshire.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **That the Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommends to the Executive the approval of the three Partnership Strategic Assessment Priorities identified for 2012 - 2013. These Community Safety priorities are:**
- (a) **Anti-Social Behaviour**
 - (b) **Reduce Reoffending**
 - (c) **Domestic Abuse**

Reason for Recommendation: The Council is a statutory member of the Central Bedfordshire Community Safety Partnership. Under the provisions of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Partnership is required to undertake an annual strategic assessment to identify crime and disorder

priorities for the Partnership area. The strategic assessment for Central Bedfordshire, undertaken for 2012/13, has identified the priorities set out in this report.

Introduction

16. The Executive Summary of the Strategic Assessment (Appendix 2) sets out the scanning exercise that was completed together with the matrix used to determine the high risk priorities. These priorities are consistent with last year's and are still the highest risks for 2012 -2013. The matrix can be used as a guide by Members to ascertain what was considered in the scanning process.
17. The report proposes the three priorities for the Central Bedfordshire CSP 2012 – 2013. These are:-
 - **Anti-Social Behaviour**
18. To help combat repeat victimisation of anti-social behaviour (ASB) we will pull our resources together to support victims and their families, support vulnerable members of the community and tackle those who commit ASB.
19. Following Central Bedfordshire's ASB Review in the summer of 2011, a partnership ASB Action Plan had been developed, detailing the processes and methods as to how partners will work together to tackle ASB, and address the key recommendations that require further partnership work. The partnership will agree new protocols to improve the care and support provided to witnesses and repeat victims of ASB.
 - **Reduce Reoffending**
20. We aim to reduce the high number of offences that are committed by the small percentage of offenders who regularly commit them. We aim to support and engage with the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Programme.
21. The countywide IOM Delivery Group gives strategic direction to the implementation of the programme together with collaboration of resources and partnership work across Bedfordshire. The IOM Steering Group supports the Delivery Group to ensure tactical delivery takes place, processes are mapped and there is consistency across how offenders are dealt with in Bedfordshire. By partners working together to target the offenders who commit the majority of crimes in Central Bedfordshire, we will have a positive impact on crime reduction in the area and confidence in partnership working.
 - **Domestic Abuse**
22. To help combat repeat victimisation of domestic abuse we will pull our resources together to support victims and their families, support vulnerable members of the community and tackle those who commit domestic abuse.

23. There is a three year Domestic Abuse Strategy (2009-12) and delivery plan in place, which has been reviewed this year. The Domestic Abuse Steering Implementation Group oversees a co-ordinated approach to domestic abuse in Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough, identifying key actions required to tackle domestic abuse, focussing on prevention, protection and provision. Partners then work together to assist victims ensuring that they are supported and receive the assistance and help they require.
24. Work will shortly start to address the identified gap with perpetrators of Domestic Abuse. A 'Healthier Relationships Course' will be delivered to male perpetrators and shared with victims in order to try to reduce the risk of further domestic abuse and harm to victims of domestic abuse in Central Bedfordshire.
25. The course is aimed at perpetrators who pose a standard to medium risk to their partners, and have not yet been convicted of domestic abuse offences. It would be offered as an awareness raising course, as a means of becoming more aware of what is understood to be abusive behaviour and inviting increased responsibility for their own behaviour. It will look to make people aware of alternative strategies for dealing with conflict within their relationships.
26. The course will have four components: individualised assessment of perpetrators and victims; a perpetrators' awareness raising course; an awareness raising course and/or individual sessions with victims; and an optional restorative justice family meeting..
27. In considering the report, and the three priorities identified, the Committee should note that the partnership will target its work towards these three priorities. A review of outcomes will take place after six months. This review will monitor progress made against the priorities, the partnership work taking place and it will consider if there are any other community safety risks that need to be addressed. This update report is used to inform the Partnership. At the end of the year this report then informs the next Strategic Assessment.
28. Performance Reporting is in place for the CSP against these priorities, and plans are outcome focussed. Performance management is undertaken via the Community Safety Executive Group, which considers overall performance, funding, the Strategic Assessment and Partnership Plan, and ensures that the CSP complies with statutory requirements and adopts best practice.
29. The Steering Group takes a co-ordinated, problem solving approach to identifying, planning & implementing approved outcomes to support the priorities in the Partnership Plan. Partners will inform the group of the progress in their areas, the progress towards their action plans and their outcomes. The Steering Group is also required to make recommendations to the CSP Executive on various aspects of the partnership work.
30. Specific delivery groups then look at individual priorities, which have actions / delivery plans, and deliver the tactical activity required to reduce risk and improve performance.

31. The three priorities are going out to public consultation via our social media sites and in the next News Central magazine (January 2012). Each of the statutory partners has engaged fully in the prioritisation matrix and in the discussions to recommend the priorities for 2012 -2013. Central Bedfordshire Members have been advised of the three priorities via the Member Bulletin dated 8th December, and have been invited to comment on them.
32. During 2011 the CSP created a CSP Business & Action Plan, which outlines how we will achieve our Partnership Plan and mitigate our strategic risks. Owners been allocated from across the partnership and work is taking place around the three priorities, the work required prior to the election of the Police Crime Commissioner and the Police Crime Panel, development of a Communications Plan with regular messages to our communities and increasing our data and intelligence flow between partners.

Conclusion

33. It is essential that Central Bedfordshire CSP has an agreed set of priorities, informed by the Strategic Assessment.
34. It is also important that these new priorities are communicated to local residents, the wider public and businesses in the area, so they can comment on the priorities, and support the CSP. In this way we can work together in keeping the area safe, protected, we are robust around anti social behaviour, crime and re-offending; all of which have an impact on our communities.
35. It is also important that the CSP works together as a partnership, on the key issues that have been identified. By combining our efforts and resources, we will see the biggest impact and start to become proactive rather than reactive.
36. By working to the three priorities, the CSP will contribute significantly to the achievement of the Council's Vision, the CBT Vision, and one of the key deliverables (of Sustainable Communities aim), to *"Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime"*.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Risk Matrix for the Partnership Strategic Assessment

Appendix 2 – Executive Summary of the Partnership Strategic Assessment

	Owner	Gap in current picture	Current CSP priority	Performance issue - deteriorating	National priority	Community concerns/Public perception	Harm/impact to property/environment	Harm/impact to people/victims	Generator of fear/worry	Cross-cutting/impact on other issues	Media attention	Social and economic cost	Risk of increase/budget cuts	Total
Repeat victims of Anti-Social Behaviour	Steve Barrett	5	5	2	5	5	3	5	5	4	5	4	5	53
Vulnerable communities who are victims of Anti-Social Behaviour	Steve Barrett	5	5	2	5	4	3	5	5	4	5	4	5	52
People who are victims of Anti-Social Behaviour	Steve Barrett	3	5	2	5	5	3	5	5	4	5	4	5	51
Anti-Social Behaviour	Katy Bodycombe	4	5	2	5	5	3	5	5	4	5	4	3	50
Reducing drug related offending	Adam Snell	3	5	2	5	3	5	4	5	4	4	5	3	48
Reducing reoffending	Katie Morgan	3	5	2	5	3	5	4	5	4	4	5	3	48
Raise number of domestic abuse incidents reported	Claire Churchley	2	5	4	5	2	2	5	3	4	3	4	3	42
To increase referrals to the MARAC to the level of 20 per month	Claire Churchley	1	5	3	5	2	2	5	3	4	3	4	3	40
Public protection	Katie Morgan	3	5	2	5	3	1	5	3	2	5	2	4	40
To assist & protect high risk domestic abuse victims by sustaining the Independent Domestic Violence Advice service	Claire Churchley	1	5	5	5	1	2	5	1	4	3	4	3	39
Develop an understanding of the impact of drugs and alcohol on domestic abuse.	Claire Churchley	4	5	-	5	2	2	5	1	4	3	4	3	38
Suitable and settled accommodation for offenders	Katie Morgan	4	5	3	5	1	2	2	3	4	2	2	5	38
MSV	Katy Bodycombe	4	0	2	5	2	2	5	3	3	5	5	2	38

To develop a community based perpetrator programme	Claire Churchley	4	5	-	5	2	2	5	1	4	2	4	3	37
Successful completion of orders and licences	Katie Morgan	2	5	2	5	3	2	2	3	4	4	2	3	37
Sustained employment for offenders	Katie Morgan	3	5	3	5	2	2	2	3	4	2	2	3	36
Victim reassurance and liaison	Katie Morgan	3	5	2	5	3	1	4	3	3	2	2	3	36
Planned exits from Drug Treatment (individuals who are drug free)	Adam Snell	4	0	5	0	2	3	5	3	4	3	1	4	34
Scope & assess needs of victims of sexual crime across Bedfordshire to enable us to understand the true picture of sexual assault, prostitution (on & off street) & trafficking.	Sarah Wilson	5	0	-	5	2	1	5	2	2	3	4	5	34
Develop a knowledgeable multi agency workforce across Bedfordshire to provide appropriate responses to sexual abuse disclosures	Sarah Wilson	5	0	-	5	2	1	5	2	2	3	4	5	34
Develop & evaluate the Sexual Abuse Risk Assessment Conference (SARAC) pilot within Bedfordshire to assess benefits & need of multi agency response to sexual abuse.	Sarah Wilson	5	0	-	5	2	1	5	2	2	3	4	5	34
Access to employment and training opportunities	Adam Snell	4	0	4	0	3	3	3	2	4	3	3	4	33
Casualty reduction risks	Hazel Robertson	0	0	3	0	3	3	5	3	2	4	5	5	33
Decrease number of individuals engaging with DIP but still treatment resistant	Adam Snell	3	0	3	0	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	4	32
Access to housing support or appropriate housing	Adam Snell	4	0	3	0	3	3	3	2	4	3	3	4	32
Reduce number of deliberate fires (primary and secondary, including vehicles)	Hayley Stokes	2	0	2	0	2	5	5	2	3	3	5	3	32
To develop a domestic abuse communications strategy	Claire Churchley	5	5	-	5	0	2	5	0	4	0	2	3	31
SSO	Katy Bodycombe	5	0	1	5	2	1	5	2	2	3	3	2	31
Minimising health risks posed by "Blood Bourne Viruses" infection	Adam Snell	3	0	3	0	2	2	5	2	4	3	2	4	30
Increase in appropriate alerts of Safeguarding	Emily White	1	0	4	0	3	1	5	3	4	4	4	1	30
Burglary Dwellings	Katy Bodycombe	2	0	1	5	3	4	3	3	2	2	3	1	29
Reduce number non domestic dwelling fires	Hayley Stokes	2	0	2	0	2	5	4	2	3	3	2	3	28
Reduce number of accidental dwelling fires	Hayley Stokes	2	0	2	0	2	5	4	2	3	3	1	3	27
Reduce number of injuries arising from accident fires in dwellings	Hayley Stokes	2	0	2	0	2	3	5	2	3	3	1	3	26
Robbery	Katy Bodycombe	2	0	1	5	2	2	4	2	2	1	3	2	26



Partnership Strategic Assessment 2012-13

December 2011

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Glossary of Terms

Acronym	Description
ASB	Anti-social Behaviour
BDVP	Bedfordshire Domestic Violence Partnership
CBC	Central Bedfordshire Council
CBT	Central Bedfordshire Together
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
DHR	Domestic Homicide Review
DV	Domestic Violence
IDAP	Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor
IOM	Integrated Offender Management
ISA	Information Sharing Agreement
LCJB	Local Criminal Justice Board
LSP	Local Strategic Partnership
LTT	Lets Talk Together
MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
NHS	National Health Service
NI	National Indicators
NTE	Night Time Economy
PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
PPO	Prolific & Persistent Offender
SAC	Serious Acquisitive Crime
SARC	Sexual Assault Referral Centre
VAP	Violence against the Person

Executive Summary

Central Bedfordshire continues to be a safe place to live, work and socialise in. Over the past 12 months we have seen significant activity across the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and towards the three priorities that were in place during 2011-12.

In 2011-12 there have been improvements in performance in all three priorities. Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents have shown a reduction compared to the previous year and progress has been made in improving data sharing across the Partnership along with risk assessing and improved case management for vulnerable and repeat victims.

The Integrated Offender Management (IOM) programme was launched in 2011 and the team is gradually taking on more cases of repeat offenders. Performance results have shown in Quarter 2 2011-12 a decrease in the number of offenders on the programme reoffending compared to the same time period last year, decreasing from 1.96 reoffences per reoffender to 1.03 reoffences. Full roll out of the programme should be completed in the next few months.

Reports of domestic abuse incidents to the police slightly increased in 2011-12 compared to the previous 12 months and the number of high risk cases referred to the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) has increased. Increasing in domestic abuse reporting can be seen as a positive step towards understanding the true picture of domestic abuse in Central Bedfordshire.

In October 2010 the Government announced their intention to remove the National Indicator (NI) set. The CSP will now be setting its own indicators and multi agency work will be taking place to look at the availability, quality, cost and suitability of data going forward and the best ways in which we can measure performance.

The strategic assessment process looks ahead at the possible threats across Central Bedfordshire; three issues have been raised as a concern and are predicted to continue to cause significant impact to our communities. These three issues are recommended as the CSP Priorities for 2012-12 they are:

- ASB – (emphasis on repeat and vulnerable victims)
- Reducing reoffending – (emphasis on substance misuse related offending)
- Domestic abuse – (emphasis on repeat and vulnerable victims)

ASB continues to be a national priority and research has shown it continues to be a local priority for the community of Central Bedfordshire. Repeat victims of ASB are subject to continued abuse within our communities which affects

the quality of their life along with those around them. Analysis has shown that although improvements have been made regarding the sharing of data and intelligence, further work is needed to ensure that as a Partnership we recognise and address the needs of vulnerable and repeat victims of ASB.

The IOM programme continues to be fully supported by the CSP. National research and the first quarterly performance pack indicates that the programme is working with reoffending rates having reduced compared to the same time period last year. Working with this small cohort of individuals (33 offenders) and successfully rehabilitating them will have a significant impact on the number of offences that are committed within Central Bedfordshire. It is therefore, essential that support continues to be given to the programme and that performance is closely monitored in 2012-13 to ensure that the processes in place continue to provide the reductions expected. Housing needs of offenders continues to be the most significant issue for offenders within Central Bedfordshire and this is the area that should be concentrated on in the following 12 months.

Considerable work has taken place within the Partnership regarding domestic abuse with a number of services in place for supporting and protecting the victims of domestic abuse. Analysis in 2011-12 has shown that there is now an increased requirement to address the needs of the perpetrators of domestic abuse as it is their behaviour that needs to be rehabilitated in order to break the cycle of abuse. Work on a perpetrator programme is essential in order to reduce the number of reports of domestic abuse and in particular in reducing the number of repeat victims.

Sexual abuse is an emerging issue within Central Bedfordshire and one where more work is required to fully understand. Sexual violence has a dramatic impact on the victim and the people around them and is known to be considerably under reported. Although much work has been completed in 2011-12 with the opening of the Sexual Abuse Referral Centre (SARC) and employing crisis workers the true picture is not yet known. It is essential that in 2012-13 further work is carried out by both the Sexual Abuse Co-ordinator and the CSP Analyst to collate data from all partner agencies and to provide the Partnership with a clearer picture of the extent of the issue in Central Bedfordshire.

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Meeting: Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 24 January 2012

Subject: Site Allocations Policy HA4 – Development Brief for Land West of Abbey Lane, Ampthill

Report of: Cllr Matthews, Executive Member for Strategic Planning and Economic Development

Summary: The report recommends that Sustainable Overview and Scrutiny Committee endorse the Development Brief and that Executive adopt it as technical guidance for Development Management purposes.

Given the short lead-in times between Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Executive Committee, a verbal update (together with any Overview and Scrutiny recommendation) will be given at Executive Committee (14th February 2012).

Advising Officer: Gary Alderson, Director of Sustainable Communities

Contact Officer: Trevor Saunders, Assistant Director Planning

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: Ampthill

Function of: Executive

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS
Council Priorities:
1. The Development Brief will support the Council priority of managing growth effectively.
Financial:
2. The creation of the Development Brief does not represent a financial burden on the Council. The costs for creating the Development Brief have been borne in their entirety by the promoters. Furthermore, a Planning Performance Agreement (a collaborative project management tool) has been entered into which secured funding for the administration and supervision of the Development Brief and subsequent determination of future outline planning applications.

Legal:

3. None.

Risk Management:

4. Policy HA4 of the Site Allocations DPD makes clear the requirement for the production of a Development Brief for the site. A failure to endorse the Development Brief and determine any subsequent planning applications in accordance with the agreed Planning Performance Agreement timelines may result in the Council being forced to pay back a meaningful proportion of the monies secured through the Planning Performance Agreement.
5. An adopted Development Brief will give more certainty to the development management process.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

6. Not applicable.

Equalities/Human Rights:

7. Public authorities have a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and to foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

The Site Allocations DPD Equality Impact assessment highlighted the need for:

- The delivery of affordable housing within towns and villages throughout Central Bedfordshire north area.
- The selection of housing sites on the basis that that future residents live in locations close to services and public transport routes.
- Provision of land for community facilities.
- New employment units allocated close to centres of population in order to increase job opportunities locally and help to address unemployment and out-commuting.

The DPD EIA concluded that the emphasis placed on ensuring that developments are allocated within sustainable locations and ensuring that residents are able to access employment opportunities, facilities and services to meet their everyday needs should help to ensure a positive impact for all sections of the community.

8. In addition data suggests that there will be also be a rapid increase in the elderly population in coming years. Providing appropriate accommodation for this age group will therefore also become a priority. In order to provide accommodation for the increasing elderly population, development briefs and masterplans for large housing sites should make provision for housing suitable for the increasing elderly population and for disabled people, through the provision of Lifetime Homes.

Section 27 of the report highlights the key objectives of the development brief, many of which will address key equality issues.

Community Safety:

9. The Council will need to ensure that it complies with its statutory duties under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act and that all plans fulfil the criteria set down for community safety within the Adopted Central Bedfordshire Design Guide.

Sustainability:

10. Within the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) for Central Bedfordshire (North), Ampthill has been identified as a major service centre capable of entertaining additional housing and employment provision. The proposed development would contribute toward the vitality and viability of local facilities thereby reducing the need to travel. Notwithstanding this, the Site Allocations DPD has been the subject of a Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Procurement:

11. Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to:-

1. To endorse the Development Brief and recommend to the Executive that it be adopted as technical guidance.

Purpose of the Development Brief

12. The Development Brief provides the background and policy context for the site and its allocation. It sets out the aims for the development to deliver and identifies the constraints and opportunities which any planning application must address.
13. It is a high level document whose purpose is to set out general principles; the more concentrated and detailed work is a matter to be addressed at the planning application stages of the process.

14. Once adopted, the Development Brief will then support the submission of an Outline Planning Application and assist Development Management in determining the application. Design Codes would then follow the grant of an Outline Planning Application.

Background

15. The Mid Bedfordshire Local Plan (2005) identified the Warren Farm site as safeguarded or “white land” excluded from the Green Belt. In November 2009, the Council adopted the Core Strategy and Development Management DPD following an Examination in Public in June/July of the same year. The Core Strategy required the delivery of at least 17,950 new homes between 2001 and 2026 with 5,000 new homes required in addition to those already committed (such as those allocated in the Mid Bedfordshire Local Plan 2005). Of these 5,000, the Core Strategy stated that 250-500 should be provided in Ampthill (Policy CS5) with the Safeguarded Land identified as being brought forward to accommodate these new homes.
16. As part of the documentation prepared in support of the Site Allocations DPD, the Council was required to prepare a housing trajectory to demonstrate that it has allocated sufficient and suitable land to meet both its 5 and 15 year land requirements. The purpose of the housing trajectory is to act as an estimate of when various sites will come forward for development and the rate at which they will be built out. It is not a phasing policy and does not attempt to enforce a strict phasing regime; it simply indicates the priority order in which it is expected that sites will come forward. Within the updated housing trajectory (that was part of the evidence base subject to the Examination), Warren Farm was identified as coming forward in 2012/13. As the Council, our intention remains to review the housing trajectory annually and if sites have not come forward as anticipated, the Council will encourage the earlier development of other allocated sites.
17. In April 2011, the Council formally adopted the Site Allocations DPD (for the former Mid Bedfordshire Area) following an examination in October 2010. Policy HA4 of the Central Bedfordshire Site Allocations DPD (April 2011) allocates the land west of Abbey Lane, Ampthill (now known as Warren Farm) for the development of a minimum of 410 dwellings.
18. A Planning Performance Agreement has been entered into between Central Bedfordshire Council and the Applicants. The Agreement identifies a shared vision and identifies key milestones and timescales for the delivery of a planning decision by both Central Bedfordshire Council and the Applicant. Whilst it offers project management certainty, this does not mean a favourable planning application outcome is guaranteed.
19. A Stakeholder Group was established in June 2011 by Central Bedfordshire Council with assistance from the applicants’ and their consultation team; its purpose to discuss local issues and the emerging Development Brief for the site. As set out in the agreed Terms of Reference, the group has no legal status but exists to provide a forum for local groups and individuals to help inform the creation of the Development Brief and to have an input in the preparation of the application scheme. Beyond the planning application stages, it is hoped that the group can develop into a community based forum.

20. The Stakeholder Group meets monthly and comprises:
- Ampthill Development Action Group (ADAG)
 - Local Members:- Councillor Duckett (Chair), Councillor Smith and Councillor Blair
 - Ampthill Town Council
 - The Greensand Trust
 - REVAMP:-Group established to implement actions within Ampthill Town Plan
 - Ampthill Chamber of Commerce and Trade
 - Ampthill Community Safety Action Group
 - Redborne School
21. A dedicated website was launched (www.warrenfarmampthill.com); its purpose to provide general information, stakeholder agendas and minutes together with a platform for the subsequent public consultation and exhibitions.
22. On 27th October 2011, delegated authority was afforded for the commencement of formal public consultation. The public consultation period ran for a total of 4 weeks which was considered appropriate given the existence of the Stakeholder group.
23. On 17th November 2011, a presentation was given to Development Strategy Task Force. Its purpose was twofold:-
- i) To notify Task Force that consultation had begun
 - ii) To discuss the purposes of the Development Brief and the Warren Farm objectives.
24. The Development Brief was received favourably by Development Strategy Task Force who commented that the brief was fit for purpose.

Consultation

25. Public consultation began 7th November and concluded 5th December 2011. As part of this, a 2 day public exhibition was held 18th and 19th November 2011 to inform local residents in advance of an outline planning application being made in 2012.
26. The exhibition was also attended by a representative of REVAMP (Ampthill stakeholder group) who used the event as a way of seeking public opinion on town centre priority schemes. Whilst not formally part of the consultation exercise for the Development Brief, the REVAMP presence was a valuable way of seeking local opinion on town centre issues with these findings likely to inform any future review of the Ampthill Town Plan.

The Development Brief

27. As a high level document which sets out general principles, our expectation is for the Development Brief to be succinct in its nature; its key objectives being:-
- a) **Housing:-** In accordance with Policy HA4 of the Site Allocations DPD, a target of 410 new dwellings be delivered across the site. This will include the provision of a wide range of housing types and sizes based on an assessment of the need in this area in accordance with Policy DM10 of the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD. Densities will vary across the site to allow the creation of different character areas in order to give the development a sense of place.
 - b) **Affordable Housing:-** In accordance with Policy CS7 of the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD, the objective is to deliver 35% of the total number of houses as affordable. A mix of tenures will be required that includes open market rent, social rented, low cost market rent and shared equity.
 - c) **Planning Obligation:-** The promoters are to enter into a planning obligation in order to make contributions towards necessary community facilities and services in accordance with Policy CS2 of the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD. This will include the provision of additional school places when required. These contributions will be provided through entering into a S106 Agreement with the Council in accordance with the Planning Obligations Supplementary planning Document (SPD) or any future Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule. As well as new school places, the planning obligation will, where appropriate, also include contributions towards sustainable transport measures, healthcare, sport and recreation facilities, local community facilities and any other requirements as agreed by the Council. Draft Heads of Terms are to be agreed and submitted with the Outline Planning Application.
 - d) **Connectivity across the site:-** The scheme is to allow for convenient movement, whilst ensuring a sense of security to allow the creation of a successful place.
 - e) **Integration with the existing neighbourhood:-** The successful integration of new housing with the existing community, both physically and socially.
 - f) **Access:-** Pedestrian and vehicular access together with the treatment of roads is a key objective.
28. The Development Brief identifies those Constraints which any future planning application will have to consider. A detailed description of these can be found within the Development Brief which is Appended at A.
- a) Topography
 - b) Existing Landscape Features
 - c) Access

- d) Gas Main/Easement
- e) High Pressure Water Main/Easement
- f) Electricity Pylons
- g) Existing Neighbours
- h) Highways Junction Capacity
- i) Utilities Infrastructure Capacity

29. The Development Brief identifies those opportunities which any future planning application will have to consider. A detailed description of these can be found within the Development Brief.

- a) New homes for Ampthill
- b) Quality of Design
- c) Open Spaces
- d) Gateway Features
- e) Positive Integration with the Existing Community
- f) Improved access to the Countryside
- g) Improving Existing Drainage Issues

Analyses from the Consultation Exercise

30. The full results of the public consultation exercise can be found at Appendix B within the Draft Statement of Community Involvement. A final version of the Statement of Community Involvement will be submitted as part of the outline planning application. In brief, 173 visitors attended the exhibitions, 44 feedback forms were completed (and either returned at the exhibition or posted back at a later date). A further 26 responses were received by email including one response from Ampthill Development Action Group which makes reference to an ADAG petition with nearly 2,000 signatures.
31. Objection has been raised on the grounds of prematurity given that Warren Farm is shown not to come forward until 2021/22 (within the previous draft submission Housing Trajectory). Whilst we are mindful of the objection, no weight can be afforded to it given that it is based on a draft submission trajectory which since publication in January 2010 has been superseded following consultation with the developers of the site. As set out at paragraph 16, the Housing Trajectory is not a phasing policy and does not attempt to enforce a strict phasing regime; it simply indicates the priority order in which it is expected that sites will come forward.
32. The high level of attendance and interaction by those who attended the exhibition showed that there is a good level of interest in the scheme proposals and the Development Brief.

33. The consultation on the Development Brief received very little direct feedback with the overwhelming majority of comments being about the principle of development itself, or what residents would like to see included within the application and the development. This suggests that the content of the Brief itself is not contentious.
34. Comments of relevance to the Development Brief include:-
 - a) access to and from the site (opportunities and constraints)
 - b) housing numbers
 - c) density
 - d) proportion of affordable housing

Changes to the Development Brief

35. The proposed changes to the Development Brief are also identified at Appendix A (with text underlined – paras. 2.5 and 4.11). Section 2 – “Background and Planning Policy” has been amended to include details of the public consultation exercise and Section 4 – “Constraints” been amended to include reference to S106 contributions toward education provision.
36. The majority of comments received were of a detailed nature directed at the subsequent planning application stages. Whilst valuable, they are not salient to informing the Development Brief given its purpose as a high level document which identifies key principles that include the constraints and opportunities that the site affords. The purpose of the Development Brief is not to be prescriptive in any way. Furthermore adopted Policy prevails and therefore comments which relate to housing numbers and housing density are not pertinent.

Conclusions

37. Consideration has been afforded to the consultation exercise and where necessary, changes made to the Brief. As a technical document, the Development Brief is fit for development management purposes.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Warren Farm Development Brief and Proposed Changes.

Appendix B – Draft Statement of Community Involvement.

Appendix **A**

**Warren Farm, Ampthill
Development Brief**

For Connolly Homes PLC and Denison Investments Ltd



January 2012

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Section 1 - Introduction

- 1.1 Background - Policy HA4 of Central Bedfordshire Council's Site Allocations Document (April 2011) allocates the land west of Abbey Lane, Ampthill (now known as Warren Farm and referred to as such in the rest of this document) for the development of a minimum of 410 dwellings.
- 1.2 Policy Requirement - The Policy states that development on the site will be subject to a number of requirements (see section 2 below), including the production of a Development Brief to guide development.
- 1.3 What is a Development Brief? - This Development Brief document is a Technical Document which will be subject to public consultation, prior to ratification by Central Bedfordshire Councils' Executive Committee. The Development Brief will then sit alongside an Outline Planning Application and assist Central Bedfordshire Council in determining the application. Design Codes would follow the grant of an Outline Planning Application as a conditional requirement.
- 1.4 Purpose of the Development Brief - The Development Brief provides the background and Policy context for the Site and its Allocation; sets out the aims for the development to deliver; and identifies the constraints and opportunities which any planning application must address.
- 1.5 Site Context - Ampthill is one of the two largest towns in the western part of Central Bedfordshire and acts as an important service and employment centre in its local area. The site is situated at the southern edge of the town between Flitwick Road and Abbey Lane, and bounded to the south by the Redborne Upper School and an area of green belt land, which separates Ampthill from Flitwick.



Figure 1.1 Warren Farm Ampthill: Aerial Photograph showing site allocation and boundary

Section 2 - Background and Planning Policy

- 2.1 Policy Background - The Mid Bedfordshire Local Plan (2005), identified the Warren Farm site as safeguarded or 'white land', excluded from the Green Belt. In November 2009, Central Bedfordshire Council adopted their Core Strategy and Development Management DPD (for the Northern Area), following an Examination in Public in June/ July of the same year.
- 2.2 Core Strategy - The Core Strategy required the delivery of at least 17,950 new homes between 2001 and 2026, with 5,000 new homes required in addition to those already committed (such as those allocated in the Mid Bedfordshire Local Plan (2005)). Of these 5000, the Core Strategy stated that 250 – 500 should be provided in Ampthill (Policy CS5), with the Safeguarded Land identified as being brought forward to accommodate these new homes.
- 2.3 Site Allocations - In April 2011, Central Bedfordshire Adopted their Site Allocations DPD (for the Northern Area), following an examination in October 2010. Policy HA4 of the Site Allocations Document states:

“Policy HA4: Land West of Abbey Lane, Ampthill

Site Area: 13.65 ha

Land west of Abbey Lane, Ampthill, as identified on the Proposals Map, is allocated for residential development providing a minimum of 410 dwellings.

Section 2 - Background and Planning Policy

In addition to general policy requirements in the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD and appropriate contributions to infrastructure provision in the Planning Obligations SPD, development on this site will be subject to the following:

- The production of a Development Brief to guide development;
- Preparation of a Transport Assessment to help identify the impact of the development on the highway network. This assessment should specifically include the impact on the A507 roundabout and town centre, and to assist in identifying and addressing any off site transport improvements;
- Provision of adequate multifunctional open space to mitigate impacts of any additional pressure from residents of the development on the nearby Cooper's Hill SSSI and Flitwick Moor SSSI. The Development Brief will include appropriate levels and functions of open space in order to provide such mitigation;
- Provision of a 'green corridor' alongside the A507 providing substantial landscaping and opportunities for countryside recreation;
- Provision of suitable links including within and between the development parcels to the town centre; nearby sporting facilities; Redborne Upper School and Community College; the network of paths serving the adjoining countryside; and the proposed country park along the A507;
- Provision of a non-vehicular connection between the development and the employment site at Doolittle Mill and Yard; and
- Provision of a footpath through the site connecting Abbey Lane to the east and Flitwick Road to the west, which is capable of connecting to the existing network of footpaths in the locality."

2.4 Material Considerations - The development will also comply with the requirements of National and Local Policy, such as relevant PPGs and PPSs and the Central Bedfordshire Planning Obligations Strategy SPD (November 2009).

2.5 Public Consultation – The Development Brief was subject to a public consultation between 7th November and 5th December 2011. This included a two day public exhibition alongside a consultation relating to a future planning application for the site.

The results of the Public Consultation will be summarised in a Statement of Community Involvement submitted alongside a future planning application. The comments received during the consultation primarily related to the principle of development as well as detailed comments relating to any future planning application.

Section 2 - Background and Planning Policy

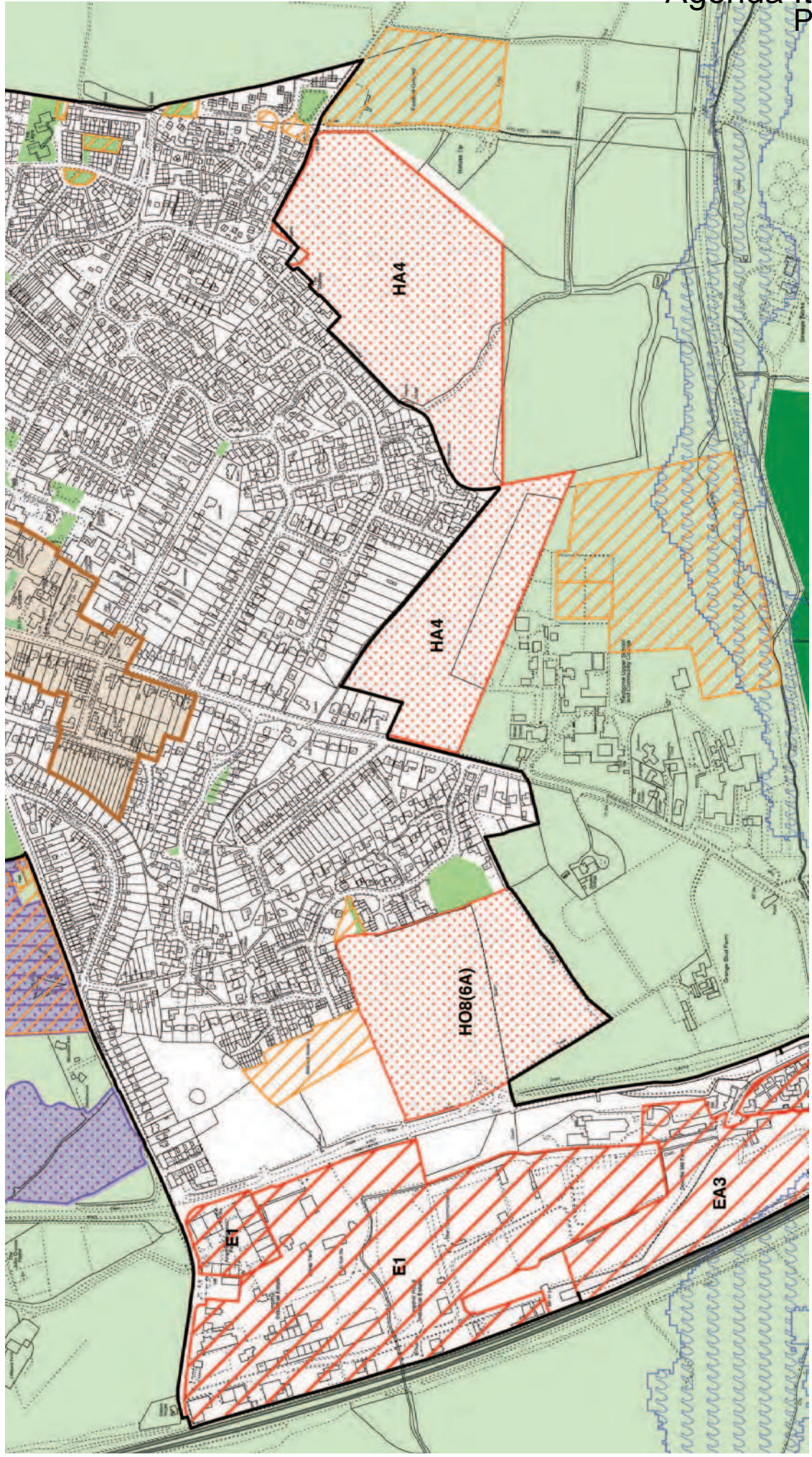


Figure 2.1 Policy HA4 land West of Abbey Lane, Amptihill from CBC Site Allocations Document, April 2011

Section 3 - Proposals and Vision for the site

- 3.1 Delivery of Housing - Policy HA4 of the Site Allocations DPD sets a target of delivering 410 new dwellings across the site. This will include provision of a wide range of housing types and sizes based on an assessment of the need in this area in accordance with Policy DM10 of the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies (CSDMP) DPD. Densities will vary across the site to allow the creation of different character areas in order to give the development a sense of place.
- 3.2 Affordable Housing – This will need to be provided as part of the scheme in accordance with Policy CS7 of the Core Strategy, with the aim being for 35% of the total number of houses to be affordable. A mix of tenures will be included including open market rent, social rented, low cost market rent and shared equity. The delivery and allocation of affordable housing will be in alignment with Central Bedfordshire Procedures.
- The affordable units are to be provided in clusters or small groups of up to 20 spread across the site. The masterplan for the site will highlight indicative locations for these groups. Specific sites will then be identified at the detailed stage following the grant of Outline Planning permission. The exact tenure mix of the affordable units will be determined through negotiation with the Council and will be provided by a Registered Provider.
- 3.3 Planning Obligation – The promoters of the site will enter into a planning obligation in order to make contributions towards necessary community facilities and services in accordance with Policy CS2 of the CSDMP DPD. This will include the provision of additional school places where required. These contributions will be provided through entering into a S106 Agreement with the Council in accordance with its Planning Obligations Strategy SPD, or any future Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule.
- As well as new school places, the planning obligation will, where appropriate, also include contributions towards sustainable transport measures, healthcare, sport and recreation facilities, local community facilities and any other requirements as agreed with the Local Planning Authority. Draft Heads of Terms are to be agreed and submitted with the Outline Planning Application.

Section 3 - Proposals and Vision for the site

- 3.4 Connectivity across the site – The scheme will need to allow for convenient movement, whilst ensuring a sense of security to allow the creation of a successful place. Routes for walking and cycling to facilitate movement to, through and around the development should be identified in the indicative masterplan. Safe access to formal and informal play areas, including natural surveillance will be a priority in the design of the scheme.
- 3.5 Integration with the existing neighbourhood – The development of the site will form an extension to an existing town and a key objective must therefore be the successful integration of the new housing with the existing community, both physically in terms of design and socially. The site adjoins existing housing along much of its northern and part of its eastern boundary and the masterplan will need to consider carefully the interrelationship between new and existing housing at these points to ensure the harmonious integration of the development with the existing built form. Good connections to existing facilities will also be important.
- 3.6 Access – Pedestrian and vehicular access will be provided at both ends of the development, from Flitwick Road and Abbey Lane. A continual through route between these access points will be provided as part of the development. This will need to be carefully considered to ensure that the road has an appropriate design speed so as not to compromise pedestrian safety or the quality of residential environment created.

Section 4 - Constraints

- 4.1 Topography – The land does not have any unusually steep or difficult to access areas, the western site falls generally from north-west to south-east at an average gradient of approximately 1 in 36. There is a total change in level of approximately 12m across the site over 430m.
- The eastern site falls generally from north to south at an average gradient of approximately 1 in 50. There is a total change in level of approximately 5m across the site over 250m. The site is crossed by a drainage ditch/ water course forming a shallow valley.
- 4.2 Existing Landscape Features – A tree-lined drainage ditch/ watercourse crosses the eastern site. The northern boundary of the western site is characterised by a drainage ditch and a belt of trees, which divide the site from the neighbouring rear gardens. The western site also contains a number of individual trees, which should be integrated into the design where possible.
- 4.3 Access – Vehicular access can be formed off Flitwick Road and Abbey Lane. Precise form and location of these junctions should be agreed with the Highways Authority.
- 4.4 Gas Main/ Easement – The Gas Main, which runs through the site, has a 6m easement, 3m either side from the centre of the pipe. Development including back gardens cannot be built within the 6m strip, which should be accessible for repair and maintenance. Any works within the 6m strip will require National Grid's prior approval. If required, the Gas Main can be diverted to suit the layout at the developers' expense.
- 4.5 High Pressure Water Main/ Easement – The High Pressure Water Main has a 9m easement, 4.5m either side of the centre line of the pipe. The pipe will need to be incorporated into the layout of the site, either in public open space or under the public highway. The pipe can be diverted to suit the layout at the developers' expense.
- 4.6 Electricity Pylons – Overhead electricity cables cross the site from north to south adjacent to the existing tree-lined drainage ditch. There is a wayleave granted which is determinable on 6 months notice. The developers should consider relocating these cables underground.



Figure 4.1 East Site North Boundary



Figure 4.2 West Site North Boundary



Figure 4.3 Junction between East and West Site

Section 4 - Constraints

- 4.7 Existing Neighbours – Proposals should include appropriate design responses to the adjoining uses:
- Residential: The site is bounded to the north by residential properties with rear gardens adjacent to the boundary.
 - School: Redborne Upper School and Community College forms the southern boundary to the western site.
 - Woodland: A commercial woodland, comprising a crop of poplar trees with a margin of native species, forms the southern boundary to the eastern site.
 - Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC): The 'Tidy Tip' is accessed from Abbey Lane and lies immediately adjacent to the south-east boundary of the site. It is well screened by mature trees.
- 4.8 Highways Junction Capacity – A full Transport Assessment should be submitted as part of the Outline Planning Application. The document will assess the critical highway junctions (as advised by Central Bedfordshire Council's highway department) in the vicinity of the site. The developers will carry out mitigation measures at locations, which are predicted to operate over capacity as a direct result of the Warren Farm development. At junctions which currently operate over capacity mitigation measures will be introduced to achieve a nil-detriment situation. A Green Travel Plan will also be submitted as part of the Planning Application. The purpose of the Green Travel Plan will be to include measures proposed by the developers to promote the use of sustainable modes of transport among residents of Warren Farm and Ampthill/ Flitwick as a whole.

- 4.9 Utilities Infrastructure Capacity – Anglian Water have confirmed that there are no capacity issues at the Sewage Treatment Works and that the development can discharge via gravity into the existing public sewer network which passes through the site. Water supply to the site will be taken from either the existing main along Abbey Lane/ Oliver Street or the existing main along Flitwick Road. Reinforcement works will be required which will be carried out at the developers' expense.

Discussions with gas and electricity providers are ongoing. The extent to which any reinforcement works are required will be assessed nearer the start of construction to ensure they are based on up to date capacity estimates, however, initial enquiries indicate significant reinforcement is unlikely to be necessary. Any reinforcement works that are required will be paid for by the developers.



Figure 4.4 Drainage Ditch looking North



Figure 4.5 Drainage Ditch looking North



Figure 4.6 View of Woodland Edge

Section 4 - Constraints

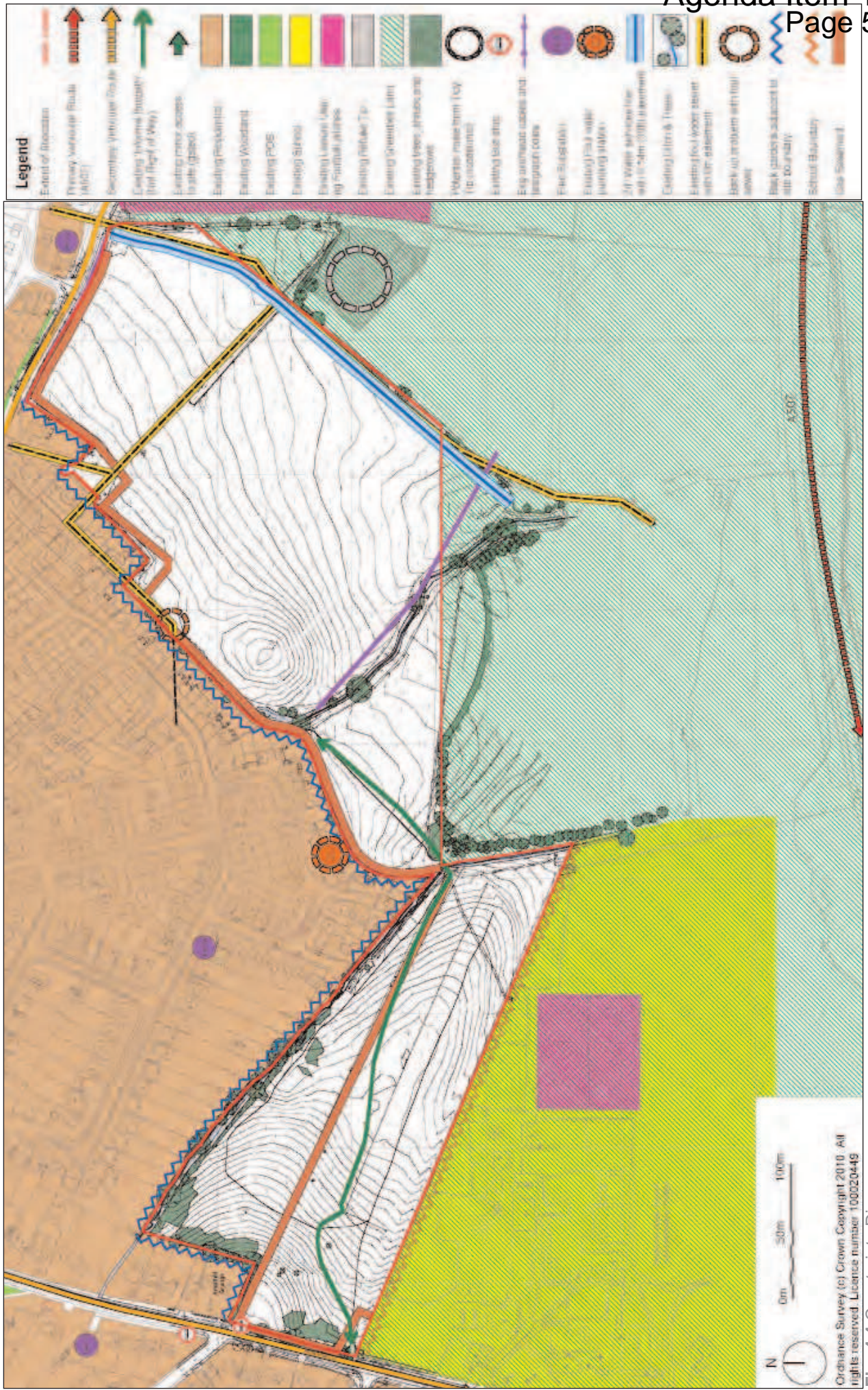


Fig. 4.4 Constraints Diagram

Section 4 - Constraints

4.10 Green Belt - An area of land between the two development parcels remains in the Green Belt and is shown on the constraints plan. Within that area, Green Belt policy continues meaning that inappropriate development such as residential will not be acceptable unless very special circumstances sufficient to override established plan policy can be demonstrated. However, pedestrian and vehicular links along with small-scale community infrastructure such as play facilities are acceptable to the Local Planning Authority. It will be important to ensure the space joining the two development parcels is treated sensitively and contributes to the creation of a good quality scheme across the whole site.

4.11 Education – Any planning application will be required to provide financial contributions as part of a S106 package towards education provision. These contributions will be required to ensure sufficient school places are made available for the pupils generated by the new development.



Figure 4.7 East Site off Abbey Lane



Figure 4.8 East Site Northern Boundary



Figure 4.9 West Site from Flitwick Road

Section 5 - Opportunities

- 5.1 New homes for Ampthill – This site provides the opportunity to deliver 410 new homes to help meet the local housing need for Ampthill. The proposals will provide a range of housing, tenures and sizes, in order to meet the needs of all sections of the local community and to promote a sustainable development.
- 5.2 Quality of Design – This is an opportunity to create an extension to Ampthill that will be a fully formed place whilst becoming an integral part of the town. It should demonstrate an understanding of the regional context, providing a variety of scale and enclosure of space. Proposals will employ appropriate variations in height, density, building types and roofscape to contribute to the creation of a rich and characterful place.
- The formation of diverse characters will introduce variety, uniqueness and legibility to the development to ensure that it is distinctive, and easy to navigate. Each area should have its own sense of place whilst contributing to the creation of a holistic and coherent neighbourhood. Consideration of the transitions between character areas will be vital to maintain an overarching sense of place.
- 5.3 Open Spaces – A public open space strategy will provide opportunity for amenity, informal recreation and play as an integral part of the design. The variety of safe, overlooked landscaped spaces will be central to the definition of character areas and may include parks, informal greenways, garden courts and children’s play areas. Areas and type of amenity space should be discussed with the Central Bedfordshire Amenity Officer during the design process.
- 5.4 Gateway Features – The junctions with Flitwick Road and Abbey Lane provide opportunities for high quality townscape at these important interfaces with the existing town. These areas should be considered not only as entrances to the Warren Farm development but also as part of the journey through Ampthill. They should therefore reinforce the character of the existing context.
- The junction between the west and east sites is also a gateway. Built form in this area is constrained by the site allocation boundary, but there is an opportunity to use the landscape and open space to generate a more positive connection.

Section 5 - Opportunities

- 5.5 Positive Integration with Existing Community – The development will include a network of footpaths and cycle routes, which will connect with existing paths serving the adjoining area. Suitable pedestrian connections to the residential areas to the north should be provided where possible. Whilst there are no public footpaths crossing the site, a popular informal route connects the residential areas with Redborne School. This link will be improved and incorporated into the scheme.
- 5.6 Improved access to the countryside – The proposals should also make provision for pedestrian/ cycle connections from the site to the network of paths that serve the surrounding countryside.
- 5.7 Improving Existing Drainage Issues – The potential to improve existing foul drainage problems associated with the pumping station and rising main will be investigated and works undertaken to ensure that the proposed development does not exacerbate the current situation.

Section 5 - Opportunities

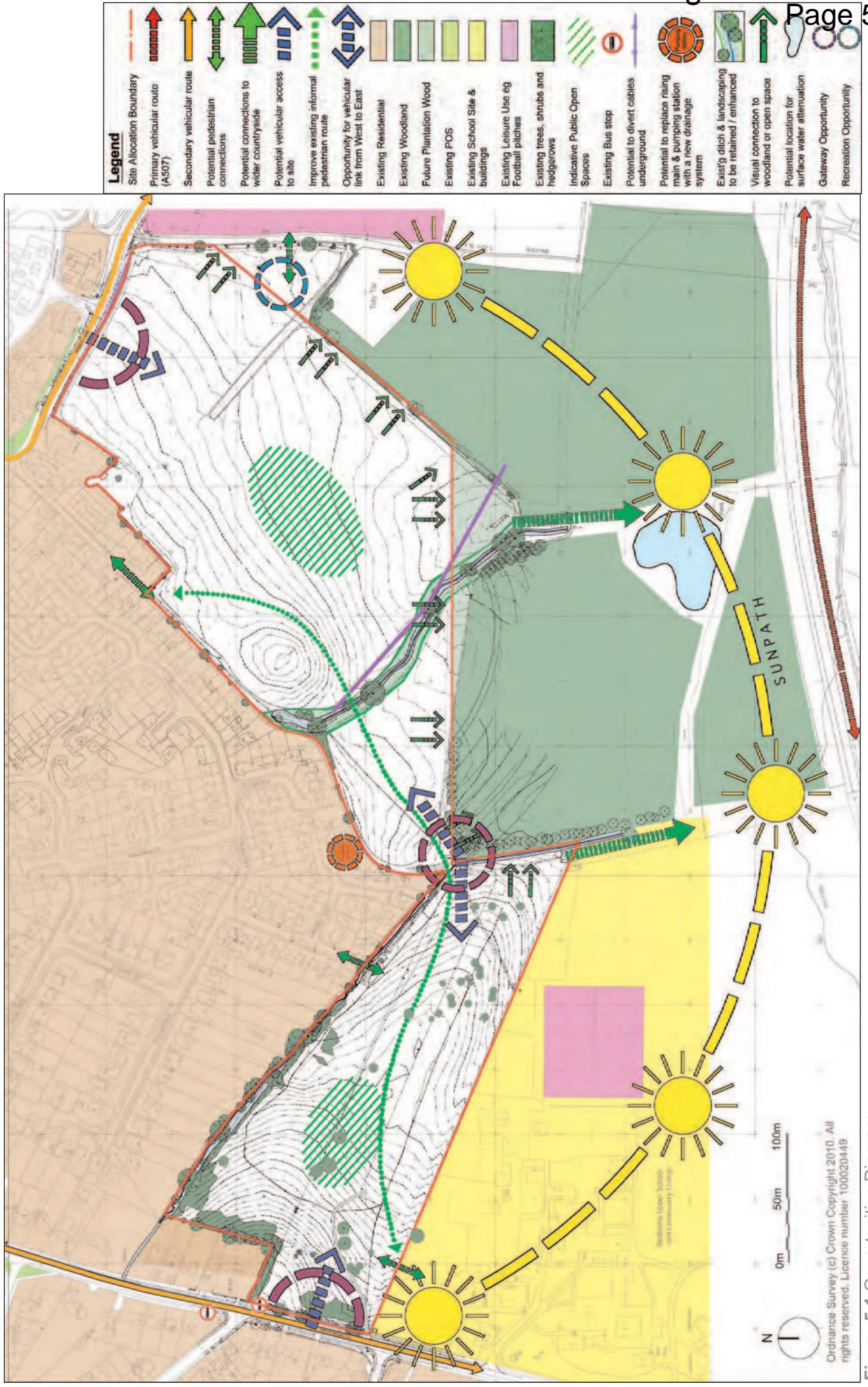


Figure 5.1 Opportunities Diagram



Appendix B

LAND AT WARREN FARM, AMPTHILL

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

ON BEHALF OF

DENISON INVESTMENTS LTD AND CONNOLLY HOMES PLC

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Ref: TP/306

Date: January 2012

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- 2 METHODOLOGY
- 3 RESULTS OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION
- 4 ANALYSIS OF FEEDBACK
- 5 CONCLUSIONS

APPENDICES – TO BE INCLUDED IN FINAL DOCUMENT

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| Appendix 2 | Public Exhibition Poster |
| Appendix 3 | Locations at which the public exhibition poster was displayed |
| Appendix 4 | Beds on Sunday Public Notice |
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document is a draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) for the development proposals at Warren Farm, Ampthill described in the accompanying planning application. This report outlines the public consultation undertaken on behalf of Denison Investments Ltd and Connolly Homes PLC in relation to both their proposal for residential development at Warren Farm, and the Warren Farm Development Brief. It will be fully updated and published in final format as part of the outline planning application submission in 2012.
- 1.2 The consultation primarily took the form of public exhibitions held on 18th and 19th November 2011, with a consultation period running from 7th November to 5th December. The SCI highlights the key issues raised and the responses made during this consultation process. Reference is also made to consultations undertaken, and liaison with third parties, in relation to the adopted Development Plan.
- 1.3 Paragraph 41 of PPS1 (Delivering Sustainable Development) advises that *“one of the principles of sustainable development is to involve the community in developing the vision for its area. Communities should be asked to offer ideas about what that vision should be, and how it can be achieved.”*
- 1.4 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires Local Authorities to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement *“in which they set out their policy on involving their community in preparing regional spatial strategies, local development documents and on planning applications”* (PPS1, paragraph 44).
- 1.5 Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) adopted their Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) for the north Central Bedfordshire area in (former Mid Beds area) in February 2006. The CBC SCI sets out four key ways the Council would wish to see the Community engaged on major applications (para 6.11):
- *“Developers or landowners take a key role in this [public consultation] as part of their obligation to the local community;*
 - *Consultation carried out at the earliest stage of the application process with local people to explore their reactions and optimise potential community benefits as part of the development;*
 - *Extra effort made to engage with hard to reach groups;*
 - *Exhibitions and/or workshops being held to involve people in a non-confrontational way, if appropriate.”*

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 This section of the Statement of Community Consultation describes the public consultation exercise that was undertaken by Denison Investments and Connolly Homes (DI & CH).

Stakeholder Group

2.2 A Stakeholder Group was set up in June 2011 by Central Bedfordshire Council with assistance from the applicants' and their consultant team. The Stakeholder Group (SG) meets monthly and was set up to inform the local residents and interest groups of what is happening with the site, and its future development.

2.3 The SG is chaired by the local member, Councillor Paul Duckett, and invited attendees are:

- Ampthill Development Action Group (ADAG);
- Local Members Councillor Duckett, Councillor Smith and Councillor Blair;
- Ampthill Town Council;
- The Greensand Trust;
- REVAMP;
- Ampthill Chamber of Commerce and Trade;
- Ampthill Community Action Safety Group;
- Redborne School.

2.4 Representatives from Central Bedfordshire Council and the applicants' team attend every meeting, with some meetings attended by specialist consultants and Council officers to cover topics such as highways and education.

2.5 The Stakeholder Group have been kept fully informed of the process, and the comments and thoughts of the group have been sought throughout in order to help inform the application and development.

Warren Farm Website

2.6 The Warren Farm website (www.warrenfarmamphill.com) was set up at the start of 2011 to provide a central source for up to date information on what is going on with the development of the site, as well as any investigative works or assessments that might be taking place on the site at any time.

2.7 The Warren Farm website has available for download all of the agendas and minutes of the previous Stakeholder Group meetings. The website was also used to assist with the consultation on the Development Brief and public exhibition (detailed below) and had a copy of the exhibition boards, Development Brief and feedback forms available to download.

2.8 The website also includes a comments section and email address for people to ask any questions about what is going on with the site.

Exhibitions

2.9 Public exhibitions were held at Ampthill Town Council on Friday 18th November 2011 1:00pm – 7:00pm and Redborne Upper School North site on Saturday 19th November 2011 10:00am – 3:30pm. The purpose of the exhibitions was to brief local residents on the scheme proposals in advance of an outline planning application being made in 2012; and to display and answer questions on the Development Brief.

2.10 The exhibition was advertised in the following ways:

- i Posters (Appendix 2) were displayed around the site and in the town at the following locations:
 - Lamp post Oliver Street/ The Stables junction 1 @ A4
 - Lamp post Abbey Lane/ Osier Link junction 1 @ A4
 - Gate to site on Flitwick Road 1 @ A4
 - Central Beds Council Offices at Technology House 2 @ A3
 - Central Beds Council Offices at Chicksands
 - Ampthill Town Council Offices 1 @ A3
 - Ampthill Town Council - supplied for Notice Boards 3 @ A5
 - Ampthill Library 1 @ A3 + 1 @ A4
 - Redborne School -
 - Reception 'North School 1 @ A3
 - Entrance at South School 1 @ A3
 - Waitrose Community Notice board 1 @ A3
 - Doctors Surgeries Oliver Street:
 - Greensand Surgery 1 @ A3 - Waiting area/reception
 - Greensand Surgery 1 @ A4 - Staff room
 - Houghton Close Surgery 1 @ A3 - Waiting area/reception
 - Cambridge Wine Merchants, Church Street 1 @ A4
 - Community Contact Point (old Magistrates Courts) 1 @ A4

- ii An advert on the Warren Farm website
- iii An advert on the Central Bedfordshire Council website
- iv An advert in the Beds on Sunday newspaper
- v An advert in the Fuddler publication
- vi An advert on the Ampthill Town Council website

2.11 The exhibition displayed nine boards (Appendix 6) that contained information on the proposed development, while a team of consultants was on hand to answer questions and collect feedback. The consultants present included Masterplanners, Planners, Transport Engineers and Drainage/Utility consultants and all were able to provide technical information as well as dealing with general queries and questions.

2.12 Over the course of the two days, approximately 173 visitors attended the exhibitions; 55 people attended the Friday exhibition; 118 people attended the Saturday exhibition. Feedback forms were made available at the exhibition for people to complete and either leave with the consultant team, or take away and complete and return by the 5th December. The form, alongside the displayed material, was also made available on the Warren Farm website for people to download and email or post back.

2.13 The exhibition was also attended by a representative of the REVAMP group who asked the following question of attendees: *“How would you spend the New Homes Bonus arising from the Warren Farm and Ampthill Heights developments?”*. A summary of the responses is included in Appendix 8. REVAMP worked alongside Ampthill Town Council to prepare the current Ampthill Town Plan and are currently working towards a new Town Plan, which they hope this consultation process will help to inform.

3.0 RESULTS OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION

3.1 This section of the Statement of Community Consultation highlights the comments that resulted from the public exhibitions.

3.2 In total, 44 feedback forms were completed and either returned at the exhibition or posted back at a later date. A further 26 responses were received by email, including one response from Ampthill Development Action Group which makes reference to an ADAG petition with close to 2,000 signatories.

3.3 The completed feedback forms highlight a number of issues and comments regarding the proposed development at Warren Farm. The following sections summarise these comments.

Question 1

“What type of development would you like to see at Warren Farm, e.g. starter homes, 2/3 storey houses?”

- A mix of types and sizes – town houses, bungalows, traditional looking houses;
- Housing for the elderly – bungalows, sheltered accommodation, open space;
- Quality 2/3 storey houses;
- A general store;
- Extension to the school [Redborne];
- Creation of a new managed open space area for Ampthill;
- Starter homes for first time buyers;
- No development;
- No 3 storey development, just 2 storey and bungalows;
- Houses to ‘look old’ in keeping with the town;
- Garages and parking to be included with the houses;
- Do not want to see development like Ampthill Heights design;
- A maximum of 200 dwellings and less than 35% affordable housing;
- Mixed in character with Ampthill;
- Mixed 3/4 bedroom houses;
- No more than 50 houses;
- A large proportion of the affordable housing should be for elderly residents;

3.4 Question 2:

What concerns do you have about development at Warren Farm?

- Infrastructure at Ampthill cannot cope with proposed housing;
- Whether there would be sufficient mains water and foul water disposal capacity;
- Too big;
- Oliver Street could become more of a 'rat run';
- Traffic through Ampthill Town Centre;
- School capacity;
- Doctor and midwife capacity;
- This development, combined with others, will destroy the semi-rural nature of Ampthill;
- Transport and parking problems in the town;
- Extra traffic on the junction of Abbey Lane onto Maulden Road;
- Not enough access points for cars – Lammas Way should be used;
- Extra junction near school increases traffic risk significantly;
- 410 houses is already too much;
- Schools are already full;
- Loss of the rural environment;
- Fallowfield will become congested and noisy;
- Lack of allotment space;
- Overcrowding green spaces;
- It will force Redborne Upper School to close the farm;
- Loss of privacy and value for existing residents adjoining the site;
- Not keen on 3 storey houses;
- The access at Flitwick Road needs a roundabout;

3.5 Question 3:

What do you think could be improved as a result of the development and how, e.g. safe access to the school?

- A good access to the school site for walking and cycle;
- Nothing – it will ruin a lovely town;
- A roundabout on Flitwick Road;
- Extra car parking at the health centre for the extra patients;
- Safe children's access to Redborne School;
- Direct traffic through Maulden to Ampthill up Church Road;
- The proposed footpath strategy and road improvements could be beneficial;
- A road or pedestrian access through Lamas Way;
- Lots of landscaping and play areas;

- More car parks;
- A separate school at upper level to serve Flitwick;
- School extension;
- Money towards community projects e.g. Parkside Hall;
- Reduced housing density;
- Pedestrian/cycle links to local amenities to encourage walking;
- Removal of sewerage pump house;
- Improved sewers;
- A running track;
- No access onto Flitwick Road;
- New Homes Bonus could provide funding for traffic management, parking and community facilities;
- Staggered barriers at the bottom of Lammas Way for pedestrian safety;

3.6 Question 4:

How important is it to provide connections from the site to the surrounding area?

- Very important;
- Traffic nightmare at present – would only be far worse;
- Provided they do not become rat runs then it is a good idea;
- Crucial but depends on ‘connections’;
- Very important but not via Flitwick Road – instead a new access directly onto the A507;
- Essential;
- Do not open Lammas Way to vehicular access as it would turn surrounding roads into a rat run;
- Very important to integrate the town to the new development;
- Connections very important but not many mews style areas;
- A safe route to the town centre by foot and cycle;
- Priority routes for emergency vehicles on Oliver Street and no parking in Oliver Street;
- Only one vehicular access to the site, which would be via Flitwick Road;
- Needs to be part of Ampthill unlike Ampthill Heights which is like its own village;
- Extremely important to ensure residents feel part of the community they are joining;
- Not important – would prefer no access to Lammas Way (not as proposed);
- Access and egress should be directly onto the A507;

3.7 Question 5:

Do you have any further comments?

- The link road through the site needs careful design to stop it being used as a short cut;
- Loss of existing outlook and devaluation of existing properties;
- The site plan does not correctly show the boundary in relation to the stream along the boundary of the existing properties;
- Ampthill will be ruined/spoilt by this development;
- This development is unnecessary;
- 20mph speed limit on new development;
- Better public transport needed for the area including cyclepaths between Ampthill and Flitwick;
- Ampthill cannot cope with this development without ruining the town centre and access to Bedford;
- Town and roads will become overloaded;
- Will the doctors/dental surgeries be enlarged, with an increase in staff?
- There should be a link road to the A507 from Hazelwood Lane;
- Proposed housing and footpath strategy will be beneficial;
- Where is the developers' grant money [s106] given to Central Beds? What benefits will the community see from this money? Recommend that this money is administered by the developers, not CBC to provide items such as a cycleway from Ampthill to Flitwick Station and a roundabout on Flitwick Road and at Steppingley Road by Steppingley Hospital;
- Include shops to replace those on Russell Drive;
- Keep the area as green space;
- The overall worry is drainage/sewerage which is already bad;
- The infrastructure cannot cope with 400 more houses;
- Money to set up a youth club;
- Old people's home;
- Excited to see the development and will consider moving here from Flitwick;
- In favour of Abbey Lane/Oliver Street realignment proposal;
- Will be more difficult to park or attend the medical centre in Oliver Street;
- Should not be building against the wishes of Ampthill residents;
- More car parking on edge of Ampthill town centre;
- Rebuilding of Parkside community centre;
- Not enough money from developers is put into overcrowding issues in Ampthill – where is the New Homes Bonus money going – should be spent in Ampthill;
- Lack of space allocated for allotments;
- Do not want pedestrian/cycle access via Lammas Way;

- Do not want the A Level Environmental Studies course to close at Redborne school if the farm is lost;
- Positive use of spare land – could some be used for 'green space';
- No pathway through the Stables as it is a road with no paths;
- The stream should stay as it is and not be piped;
- Density is too high – should be approximately 300 dwellings;

3.8 Additional responses were received which did not specifically respond to the questions on the feedback form. These responses raised the following points:

- There should be a landscaped nature strip at the northern boundary of the site which follows the line of the existing gas main and informal footpath; it should be unlit and include a footpath and should not be routed through the Stables;
- Houses on the northern boundary should be side on to existing housing;
- A major proportion of the affordable housing should be for the ageing population and should be in the northern part of the development;
- Play areas should be in the centre of the new development or at the southern end, away from existing housing;
- New fencing should be provided for existing houses backing onto the development;
- The density should be reduced to a maximum of 350 dwellings with ample parking provision;
- Main road access should be directly from the A507;
- The development should not start until the dates shown in the housing trajectory and should not commence until the Ampthill Heights, Limes and Greensand Woods developments are completed and sold;
- The access road to the tidy tip should be re-aligned to reduce the risk of accidents;
- All funds generated by the development (S106 or anything else) should be clearly identified, made transparent and used in Ampthill;
- The visibility splays at the Tidy Tip should be improved;
- The Flitwick Road junction needs to be a roundabout;
- There should be additional retail opportunities;
- Why do CBC want building work to start in 2013 instead of 2020?
- Residents do not agree with the Core Strategy or the allocated numbers and it should be a minimum of 250 dwellings, not 410;
- The Transport Assessment needs to cover all areas impacted including Flitwick and the M1;
- Ampthill does not have sufficient infrastructure and services to cope currently;

- There should be a minimum of 1 off road parking space per bedroom;
- There should be no development on the green belt;
- Support the general principles set out in the Development Brief and the additional housing will help to maintain the viability of Ampthill as a commercial centre;
- Council should maximise linkages to nearby facilities and in particular the residential areas to the north of the site;
- The development will be cramped and out of keeping with the surrounding area;
- Ampthill Heights is a depressing development – this scheme should have more of a “garden city” feel with front gardens and proper driveways;
- What is CBC’s plan for the New Homes Bonus money resulting from the Ampthill Heights and Warren Farm developments (circa £5.5 million)?
- In favour of the proposed Abbey Lane/Oliver Street realignment;
- How many people in the area are in favour of the development?
- Should be garden to garden development along the boundary between the new houses and Fallowfields;
- Pedestrian/cycle routes through Lammas Way and the Stables are a good idea;
- Should be 4, 5 and 6 bedroom houses;
- There are naturally seeded oak trees on site which should not be destroyed;
- Important to retain natural green spaces in addition to open play areas;
- Should not be pedestrian access to the Stables;
- The development should be well integrated with the existing community;
- Planning permission should not be granted until such time as there is a north/south Ampthill bypass built;
- Lack of town centre car parks;
- Schools and emergency services cannot cope;
- What are the employment prospects to support the inhabitants of the development;
- There should be a maximum number of dwellings, rather than a minimum number;
- Will the pressures of the residents on Coopers Hill and Flitwick Moor take account of the impact of Centre Parcs as well?
- Great care needs to be taken in considering the design of the new link road and its impact upon the amenity of existing residents;
- Transport Assessment should take into account all other existing and planned developments such as Centre Parcs and Steppingley Road;

- What contingencies are in place for possible disturbance to existing residents during the construction period?
- Welcome the green space and possible green space enhancements and connections;
- Development Brief needs to mention the wider Green Infrastructure network, ecological constraints and opportunities and connectivity and access to green infrastructure;

DRAFT

4.0 ANALYSIS OF FEEDBACK

- 4.1 The high level of attendance and interaction by those who did attend the exhibition showed that there is a good level of interest and understanding in the scheme proposals and the Development Brief.
- 4.2 Whilst there were a number of responses questioning the need for the proposals or requesting that development does not go ahead – many did not have regard to the allocation of the site in the Site Allocations DPD and are not reflective of the relatively low levels of relevant responses to the various stages of public consultation on the Core Strategy and Site Allocations DPD.
- 4.3 The completed feedback forms and further responses highlight what local residents consider are the key issues regarding the proposed development at Warren Farm.

Development Brief Considerations

- 4.4 The consultation on the Development Brief received very little direct feedback – the overwhelming majority of comments were either about the principle of development itself, or what residents would like to see included within the application and the development.
- 4.5 Comments of relevance to the Development Brief include access to and from the site (opportunities and constraints); housing numbers; density; and proportion of affordable housing.
- 4.6 The Development Brief has been updated to reflect these comments. The second section on Background now includes additional information on the public consultation exercise carried out, whilst further information is contained on Education in the constraints section.
- 4.7 Given the overarching nature of the Development Brief, and its aims in identifying opportunities and constraints but not prescriptively detailing how the development should be set out, it is considered that no further changes to the Development Brief are required resulting from the consultation (other than those referenced in paragraph 4.6 above). The comments relating to density and housing numbers do not comply with the adopted Site Allocations DPD (Policy HA4) which the Development Brief should be compliant with. The Development Brief has therefore not been amended in respect to those points.

- 4.8 This Statement of Community Involvement will be further updated following consideration of the Development Brief at Central Beds Council's Overhead and Scrutiny and Executive Committees.

Outline Planning Application Considerations

- 4.9 The outline planning application will be accompanied by a further detailed version of this Statement of Community Involvement. It will include information as to how the planning application has considered the comments received in the public consultation and how the application material reflects this.

DRAFT

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 This draft Statement of Community Involvement has been prepared to consider the outcomes of the November/December 2011 public consultation on the Warren Farm Development Brief and public exhibitions, ahead of the 2012 application submission.
- 5.2 The Development Brief was published in November 2011 and consulted upon between 7th November and 5th December. As part of this consultation, a public exhibition was held attend by approximately 173 visitors.
- 5.3 As part of the consultation, 44 feedback forms were completed and either returned at the exhibition or posted back at a later date. A further 26 responses were received by email.
- 5.4 Many of the consultation responses focused on matters of principle such as the location of development, the quantum of development and the potential impact upon Ampthill town. These matters have previously been considered in the consultations and Examination in Public for the adopted Core Strategy and adopted Site Allocations DPDs.
- 5.5 Matters specifically relating to the Development Brief have been considered and the Development Brief updated to reflect these comments. A new version of the Development Brief will be published following its consideration by Central Bedfordshire members at Committees in January and February.
- 5.6 The outline application will be submitted following the approval by Central Bedfordshire Council of the revised Development Brief and will be accompanied by a final version of this Statement, updated to demonstrate how the application submission has responded to the outcome of the public consultation.

Meeting: Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 24 January 2012

Subject: Quarter Two Performance Report

Report of: Cllr Ken Matthews , Executive Member for Sustainable Communities – Strategic planning and Economic Development and Cllr Brian Spurr, Executive Member for Sustainable Communities – Services

Summary: The report highlights the Quarter One performance from Sustainable Communities.

Advising Officer: Gary Alderson, Director of Sustainable Communities

Contact Officer: Iain Melville, Performance Improvement Manager

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

- | |
|--|
| 1. The quarterly performance report underpins the delivery of the Council's priorities |
|--|

Financial:

- | |
|---------------------------|
| 2. No Direct Implications |
|---------------------------|

Legal:

- | |
|---------------------------|
| 3. No Direct Implications |
|---------------------------|

Risk Management:

- | |
|---|
| 4. Areas of ongoing under performance are a risk to both service delivery and the reputation of the Council |
|---|

Staffing (including Trades Unions):
--

- | |
|---------------------------|
| 5. No Direct Implications |
|---------------------------|

Equalities/Human Rights:

6. This report highlights performance in respect of how the Council and its services impact across all communities within Central Bedfordshire, so the specific areas of underperformance can be highlighted for further analysis/drilling down as necessary.

Community Safety:

7. The corporate performance suite includes an indicator on Serious Acquisitive Crime.

Sustainability:

8. Included in the indicator set are a broad range of indicators relating to sustainability including those covering employment, affordable housing and waste.

Procurement:

9. No Direct Implications

RECOMMENDATION(S):

The Committee is asked to:-

1. **Note and consider the report.**

Background

10. The Council's framework for performance management supports the delivery of the Council's priorities.
11. The Director's Summary for Quarter 2 is set out below. Appendix A provides the detailed performance data.

Director's Summary

12. Central Bedfordshire continues to perform above regional and national averages for economic growth, although this is against a backdrop of real world economic challenges that are affecting the whole country. The service continues to perform well in its response to these challenges. The first CBC Economic Development Plan was agreed by Executive in November. The Plan seeks to affirm the Council's commitment to support sustainable economic growth in Central Bedfordshire and will be presented to full Council on the 24 November as part of the Council Policy Framework.
13. Planning continues to perform well throughout all service areas and the October Executive resolved to support the preparation of the Development Strategy, Gypsy and Traveller Plan and Site Allocations Plan / Neighbourhood Plans.

14. The Council continues to deliver value for money on its highways services as recently reported to the November Executive by the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The target for the length of road resurfaced is forecast to be achieved by the end of Quarter 3.
15. Quarter 2 has seen significant reductions in domestic burglaries and theft of motor vehicles, a slight reduction in robberies but an increase in theft from motor vehicles. The Community Safety Partnership is working closely with a number of key partners to tackle the increase in theft from motor vehicles.
16. Final confirmation has now been received that we have increased recycling to over 51% in 2010/11 through continued improvement of the service, such as offering reuse and plasterboard recycling at HWRCs and continued promotion of waste minimisation and recycling including targeted work in areas where there has historically been low levels of recycling.

Conclusion and Next Steps

17. Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes and considers this report.

Appendices:

Appendix A – (Quarter 1 Performance Indicators)

Background papers and their location: (open to public inspection)

Executive 4 October 2011

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Performance Report Appendix A

Quarter 2 2011/12

Performance Judgement	Trend		RAG score	
		Performance is reducing	R	RED - target missed / off target - Performance at least 10% below the required level of improvement
		Performance remains unchanged	A	AMBER - target missed / off target - Performance less than 10% below the required level of improvement
	æ	Performance is improving	G	GREEN - Target achieved or performance on track to achieve target

Sustainable Communities

Ref	Indicator	Performance Judgement	
SC 1	Number of Serious Acquisitive crimes per 1,000 population (NI 16)	æ	G
SC 2	The number of out of work benefit claimants	Not scored	Not scored
SC 3	The number of people in employment (Aged 16 to 64)	Not scored	Not scored
SC 4	Number of affordable homes created	æ	A
SC 5	Length of road resurfaced	æ	G
SC 6	Percentage of household waste sent for recycling (NI 192)		G
SC 7	Percentage of municipal waste landfilled (NI 193)		G

Sustainable Communities

Director: Gary Alderson

Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Services - Cllr Brian J Spurr
Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Strategic Planning & Economic Development - Cllr Ken C Mathews
Deputy Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Services - Cllr Budge Wells
Deputy Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Services - Cllr Ian Dalgarno
Deputy Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Strategic Planning & Economic Development - Cllr J Nigel Young

Seasonal = Compared to the same time in the previous year
 Quarter on quarter = Compared to the previous quarter
 Annual = Compared to one fixed point in the previous year

SC 1		Number of serious acquisitive crimes per 1,000 population (NI 16)																			
Unit	Good is	2009/10	2010/11						2011/12						Latest comparator group average	14.3 PWC 2009/10	Report comparison	Seasonal	Performance Judgement	æ	G
		Outturn	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn							
Number	Low	11.5	13.30	3.3	3.1	3.2	3.5	13.1	13.30	2.8	2.6										

Comment: Serious acquisitive crime includes domestic burglary, robbery, theft of motor vehicle and theft from motor vehicle. Quarter 2 performance has improved when compared to the same quarter in 2010/11, there were 90 less serious acquisitive crimes, a reduction of 13%.

There were significant reductions in domestic burglaries (down 28%) and theft of motor vehicles (down 43%), a slight reduction in robberies (down 2%) but an increase in theft from motor vehicle (up 15%). There were 79 less burglaries in Quarter 2, 2011/12 compared to 2010/11, which has been achieved through successful targeting and subsequent arrests of identified offenders, including persistent offenders. Much work has also taken place with regards to crime prevention, including the "Lift the Handle" advertising campaign run by the Community Safety Partnership. Central Bedfordshire Council and its partners passed on a clear message to communities to ensure their properties were secure all year round.

The Community Safety Partnership is working closely with a number of key partners to tackle the increase in theft from motor vehicle. The Car Accessory Protection Scheme continues to be run regularly offering members of the public free number plate securing where road-shows are run at key locations across Central Bedfordshire. Bedfordshire Police are also running Operation FINISTERRE which is aimed at proactively dealing with the problem of catalytic converter thefts which is proving to be a nationwide issue. Crime reduction advice regarding securing and marking catalytic converters is being promoted to the residents of Central Bedfordshire. Due to the very good progress made in 2010/11 for this indicator, the target has been set to maintain these reductions in 2011/12.

SC 2		The number of out of work benefit claimants																			
Unit	Good is	2009	2010/11						2011/12						Latest comparator group average	-	Report comparison	Seasonal	Performance Judgement	Not scored	Not scored
		Outturn FEB 10	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1 MAY 10	Qu 2 AUG 10	Qu 3 NOV 10	Qu 4 FEB 11	Outturn	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1 MAY 11	Qu 2 AUG 11	Qu 3 NOV 11	Qu 4 FEB 12	Outturn							
Number	Low	13,030	No target set	12,370	12,490	12,210	12,570		No target set	Not yet available	Not yet available										

Comment: This indicator is part of the official labour market statistics provided by the Office of National Statistics and is the most reliable data available. However, the data is only available six months in arrears. This indicator is used by the Environment and Economy Thematic Partnership and will only be delivered through joint working between the partners. The partnership is currently discussing a target for this indicator.

There has been an increase in the number of out of work benefit claimants in the quarter 4 2010/11. Following similar trends in previous years, this may be due to seasonal employment coming to an end. It is positive to note that the number of claimants is lower than it was at the same time in both 2010 and 2009, however the number remains significantly higher than prior to the economic downturn (in May 2007 the number of out of work benefit claimants was 9,930). Uncertainty over the wider economic environment remains a concern.

The reporting of this indicator is likely to be affected by proposed changes by Government to bring all existing benefits together and to create a single Universal Credit.

SC 3		The number of people in employment (Aged 16 to 64)												Latest comparator group average	Report comparison	Quarter on quarter	Performance Judgement	Not scored	Not scored
Unit	Good is	2009/10	2010/11				2011/12												
		Outturn (APR 09 TO MAR 10)	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1 JUL 09 TO JUN 10	Qu 2 OCT 09 TO SEP 10	Qu 3 JAN 10 TO DEC 10	Qu 4 / Outturn APR 10 TO MAR 11	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1 JUL 10 TO JUN 11	Qu 2 OCT 10 TO SEP 11	Qu 3 JAN 11 TO DEC 11	Qu 4 / Outturn APR 11 TO MAR 12							
Number	High	125,900	No target set	128,000	127,400	126,300	125,000		Not yet available	Not yet available									

Comment: This indicator is part of the official labour market statistics provided by the Office of National Statistics and is the most reliable data available. However, this indicator uses an average for the year to the close of the quarter and the data is only available six months in arrears. This indicator is used by the Environment and Economy Thematic Partnership and will only be delivered through joint working between the partners. A target has not currently been set but work is underway to develop a robust target by the partnership.

In Quarter 4 2011 the number of people in employment aged 16-64 had fallen again and was the lowest it has been since 2007. At 76%, however, this remains higher than the East of England (73%) and England (70%) but the decrease in that quarter was not in line with national and regional trends.

SC 4		Number of affordable homes created												Latest comparator group average	Report comparison	Seasonal	Performance Judgement	æ	A
Unit	Good is	2010/11						2011/12											
		Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Year to date	Outturn					
Number	High	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	302	300	36	59									

Comment: The figures provided (and target of 300) relate to affordable new dwellings and change in tenure through confirmation from the registered provider to the Housing Strategy Team. This provides an indication as to the number of properties ready for occupation. These figures differ to the Local Development Framework (LDF) affordable housing monitoring figures which is based on affordable new dwellings built which are secure only (i.e. they have a roof, window and doors). The target has been consulted upon and set in the Housing Strategy and given the current economic climate will be stretching.

Quarter 2 outturn is slightly below desired performance by this stage. This may be the early effects of reduced government funding and a new delivery regime. However, a late rush of affordable housing delivery is expected in the latter part of the year. This usually occurs within the last quarter and we are therefore still expecting to meet the overall target or at least be very close to it. A plan is in place to aid achieve of this.

SC 5		Length of road resurfaced												Latest comparator group average	Report comparison	Seasonal	Performance Judgement	æ	G
Unit	Good is	2009/10	2010/11				2011/12												
		Outturn	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn					
km	High	28.00	25	6.488	3.357	3.807	5.939	19.59	18	3.713	5.570								

Comment: This is a proxy measure for NI168 which measures annually the percentage of road requiring maintenance and is based on the amount of road resurfacing required to maintain standards during the year. The target has been set to meet the Council's agreed funding for road resurfacing. The length of road resurfaced in Quarter 2 2011/12 has increased compared to the same quarter in the previous financial year. This is due to comparatively low figure in Quarter 1 and so the cumulative figure for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 in 2010/11 and 2011/12 are comparable. As the winter weather may limit the amount of resurfacing that can be achieved work is only planned for Quarter 1 to Quarter 3 in 2011/12.

In response to the budget challenges the Council continues to ensure we find the best value for money road treatments, therefore as well as resurfacing the Council is making use of a range of surface treatment techniques. 13.096km of surface dressing was delivered in Quarter 2, but this is not included in the calculation of this indicator.

SC 6		Percentage of household waste sent for recycling (NI 192)																			
Unit	Good is	2009/10	2010/11						2011/12						Latest comparator group average	47.8% PWC 2009/10	Report comparison	Seasonal	Performance Judgement		G
		Outturn	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn							
%	High	50.30	50.0	53.82	51.43	49.02	51.70	51.6	51	53.2 provisional	Not yet available										

Comment: Confirmation of the Quarter 4 and full year 2010/11 outturn has been received. The final outturn for NI192 is 51.6%. and shows that we have exceeded our target. This has been achieved through continued improvement of the recycling service, such as offering reuse and plasterboard recycling at HWRCs and continued promotion of waste minimisation and recycling including targeted work in areas where there has historically been low levels of recycling.

Central Bedfordshire is a high performing council and further increases in performance will be delivered through the BEaR project. The target for 2011/12 is therefore to maintain last year's performance.

Due to external verification of data through the Waste Data Flow system, the Quarter 1 figure is provisional and the Quarter 2 figure is not yet available.

The provisional Quarter 1 performance is similar (-0.6%) to Quarter 1 in 2010/11.

SC 7		Percentage of municipal waste landfilled (NI 193)																			
Unit	Good is	2009/10	2010/11						2011/12						Latest comparator group average	45.8 PWC 2009/10	Report comparison	Seasonal	Performance Judgement		G
		Outturn	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn							
%	Low	44.20	50	43.44	45.95	49.52	46.8	46.3	46	43.9 provisional	Not yet available										

Comment: Confirmation of the quarter 4 and full year 2010/11 outturn has been received. The final outturn for NI193 is 46.3%. This shows that we have exceeded our target, although there has been a slight deterioration in performance since 2009/10.

The deterioration in 2010/11 performance compared to 2009/10 can be attributed to the fact that, due to the additional cost, no residual waste was diverted for energy recovery. However our overall tonnage of municipal waste collected fell by over 3,000 tonnes year on year. This is still a very good outturn for this indicator and waste arisings generally continue to fall mirroring the national trend of reducing waste arisings. Due to the continued higher cost of energy from waste we will not be investing in this to increase performance and the 2011/12 target is to maintain last year's performance.

Due to external verification of data through the Waste Data Flow system, the Quarter 1 figure is provisional and the Quarter 2 figure is not yet available

Note: NI192 and NI193 will not total 100% because they do not include all waste. For example, NI192 only represents household waste for Reuse, Recycling/Composting and does not include clinical waste, flytipping and rubble.

Meeting: Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date: 24 January 2012
Subject: Draft Work Programme 2011–2012 & Executive Forward Plan
Report of: Richard Carr, Chief Executive
Summary: The report provides Members with details of the current Committee work programme and the latest Executive Forward Plan.

Contact Officer: Jonathon Partridge, Scrutiny Policy Adviser (0300 300 4634)
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The work programme of the Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee should contribute to all 5 Council priorities, and will specifically support those 2 directly related to the work of the Sustainable Communities directorate, being managing growth effectively and creating safer communities.

Financial:

n/a

Legal:

n/a

Risk Management:

n/a

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

n/a

Equalities/Human Rights:

n/a

Community Development/Safety:

n/a

Sustainability:

n/a

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **That the Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee:**
 - (a) **considers and approves the attached work programme, subject to any further amendments it may wish to make;**
 - (b) **considers the Executive Forward Plan; and**
 - (c) **considers whether it wishes to add any further items to the work programme.**

Work Programme

1. The work programme is kept regularly under review by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and is amended as appropriate, which also includes adding further items during the course of the year if Members so wish and capacity exists. The current work programme is attached at **Appendix A**.
2. Also attached at **Appendix B** is the latest version of the Executive's Forward Plan so that Overview & Scrutiny Members are fully aware of the key issues Executive Members will be taking decisions upon in the coming months. Those items relating specifically to this Committee's terms of reference are shaded in grey.

Conclusion

3. The Committee is requested to consider the attached work programme and make any further amendments it considers necessary.

Appendices:

Appendix A: Proposed Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2011 – 12.

Appendix B: The latest Executive Forward Plan.

Draft Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2011 – 2012

Ref.	Indicative Overview & Scrutiny Meeting Date	Report Title	Report Description	Comment
1.	06 March 2012	Development Brief for Sanford Hill, Shefford	To receive a report regarding the development brief prior to a public consultation.	Executive: TBC
2.	06 March 2012	Local Development Framework (South): Leighton Buzzard Town Centre Opportunity Sites Planning and Development Briefs Officer: Matt Pyecroft, Major Projects Officer	This document is technical guidance for the purpose development management. This report is to consider the outcome of consultation and to support recommendations to the Executive.	The date for this item depends upon the dates for formal public consultation and will be clarified closer to the meeting. Executive: 27 March 2012
3.	06 March 2012	Review of Central Bedfordshire Council Library Service Officer: Kate McFarlane ,Head of Community Regeneration & Adult Skills	To consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Central Bedfordshire vision for the Libraries Service; and • a sustainable model of future Library Service provision. 	To receive the final draft report on the vision and service delivery models and provide recommendations to the Executive. Executive: 27 March 2012

NOT PROTECTED

Note: an item on the Committee's work programme will be received at each meeting.

Last Update: 09 January 2012

Ref.	Indicative Overview & Scrutiny Meeting Date	Report Title	Report Description	Comment
4.	06 March 2012	<p>Consultation on Central Bedfordshire's draft Approach to Parking Management</p> <p>Officer: David Bowie, Head of Traffic Management</p>	To consider the consultation on Central Bedfordshire's draft Approach to Parking Management.	<p>Executive requested to approve a consultation on 12 July 2011. Members will receive the outcomes of consultation in order to inform the report prior to the Executive.</p> <p>Executive: TBC</p>
5.	06 March 2012	<p>Consultation on a Review of the Supported Public Transport Network</p> <p>Officer: John Brown, Head of Passenger Transport Unit</p>	To consider the consultation on a review of the Supported Public Transport Network.	<p>Dates for this item are subject to confirmation</p> <p>Members will receive the outcomes of consultation in order to inform the report prior to the Executive.</p> <p>Executive: TBC</p>
6.	06 March 2012	<p>Planning Obligations and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)</p> <p>Officer: Mark Saccoccio, LDF North Team Leader</p>	To receive a report that outlines the legislative changes and associated process Central Beds Council is involved in; the plan to consult stakeholders and communities and to agree when the input of elected members would be most beneficial.	<p>This item is provisional only</p> <p>Executive: TBC</p>
7.	10 April 2012	Medium Term Objectives	To consider the Council's draft Medium Term Objectives relating to Sustainable Communities	

NOT PROTECTED

Note: an item on the Committee's work programme will be received at each meeting.

Last Update: 09 January 2012

Ref.	Indicative Overview & Scrutiny Meeting Date	Report Title	Report Description	Comment
8.	10 April 2012	Q3 Budget Monitoring Report Officer: Brighton Fong, Senior Finance Manager	To receive the Q3 capital and revenue budget positions for the Sustainable Communities directorate.	Executive: 27 March 2012
9.	10 April 2012	Q3 Performance Report Officer: Iain Melville, Performance Improvement Manager	To highlight key quarter 3 performance for the Sustainable Communities directorate	This date is provisional until this report is added to the Executive Forward Plan. Executive: TBC
10.	10 April 2012	Brewers Hill Road Sites, Dunstable Regeneration Officer: Andy Lewis, Major Projects Officer	This document is technical guidance for the purpose development management. This report is to consider the outcome of consultation and to support recommendations to the Executive.	The date for this item depends upon the dates for formal public consultation and will be clarified closer to the meeting. Executive: 15 May 2012
11.	12 June 2012	Q4 Budget Monitoring Report Officer: Brighton Fong, Senior Finance Manager	To receive the Q4 capital and revenue budget positions for the Sustainable Communities directorate.	Executive: TBC
12.	12 June 2012	Q4 Performance Report Officer: Iain Melville, Performance Improvement Manager	To highlight key quarter 4 performance for the Sustainable Communities directorate	This date is provisional until this report is added to the Executive Forward Plan. Executive: TBC

NOT PROTECTED

Note: an item on the Committee's work programme will be received at each meeting.

Last Update: 09 January 2012

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Central Bedfordshire Council Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2012

- 1) During the period from **1 January 2012 to 31 December 2012**, Central Bedfordshire Council plans to make key decisions on the issues set out below. “Key decisions” relate to those decisions of the Executive which are likely:
- to result in the incurring of expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant (namely £200,000 or above per annum) having regard to the budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
 - to be significant in terms of their effects on communities living or working in an area comprising one or more wards in the area of Central Bedfordshire.
- 2) The Forward Plan is a general guide to the key decisions to be determined by the Executive and will be updated on a monthly basis. Key decisions will be taken by the Executive as a whole. The Members of the Executive are:

Cllr James Jamieson	Leader of the Council and Chairman of the Executive
Cllr Maurice Jones	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources
Cllr Mark Versallion	Executive Member for Children’s Services
Cllr Mrs Carole Hegley	Executive Member for Social Care, Health and Housing
Cllr Ken Matthews	Executive Member for Sustainable Communities – Strategic Planning and Economic Development
Cllr Brian Spurr	Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Services
Cllr Mrs Tricia Turner MBE	Executive Member for Economic Partnerships
Cllr Richard Stay	Executive Member for External Affairs

- 3) Those items identified for decision more than one month in advance may change in forthcoming Plans. Each new Plan supersedes the previous Plan. Any person who wishes to make representations to the Executive about the matter in respect of which the decision is to be made should do so to the officer whose telephone number and e-mail address are shown in the Forward Plan. Any correspondence should be sent to the contact officer at the relevant address as shown below. General questions about the Plan such as specific dates, should be addressed to the Committee Services Manager, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford SG17 5TQ.
- 4) The agendas for meetings of the Executive will be published as follows:

Meeting Date	Publication of Agenda
15 March 2011	03 March 2011
05 April 2011	24 March 2011
31 May 2011	19 May 2011
12 July 2011	30 June 2011
23 August 2011	11 August 2011
4 October 2011	22 September 2011
15 November 2011	3 November 2011
6 December 2011	24 November 2011
10 January 2012	22 December 2011
14 February 2012	2 February 2012
27 March 2012	15 March 2012
15 May 2012	3 May 2012

Central Bedfordshire Council

Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2012

Key Decisions

Date of Publication: 15 December 2012

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
1.	Harmonisation of the Housing Needs Service in Central Bedfordshire -	To approve the harmonisation of the Housing Needs Service in Central Bedfordshire.	10 January 2012		Report	Executive Member for Social Care, Health and Housing Comments by 09/12/11 to Contact Officer: Mary Goodson, Policy Advisor Email: mary.goodson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5515
2.	Fairer Charging - Phase 2 -	To receive an update on phase 2 fairer charging and to make a decision on the introduction of weekly charge for Telecare Services.	10 January 2012	Current Telecare users (individual letter and survey); Stakeholder Groups and Public (email and web-based survey) 15 August 2011 – 4 November 2011.	Report Consultation document containing proposals Analysis of consultation responses	Executive Member for Social Care, Health and Housing Comments by 09/12/11 to Contact Officer: Tim Hoyle, Head of Business Systems Email: tim.hoyle@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6065

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
3.	ICT Framework Document -	To approve the ICT Framework document.	10 January 2012		Report	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources Comments by 09/12/2011 to Contact Officer: Clive Jones, Chief ICT Officer Email: clive.jones@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4168
4.	Outcome of the Review of Children's Centres -	To consider the outcome of the review of children's centres.	10 January 2012		Report	Executive Member for Children's Services Comments by 09/12/2011 to Contact Officer: Catherine Parry, Assistant Director (Acting), Children's Services Operations Email: catherine.parry@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6441
5.	Treasury Management Policy and the Treasury Management Strategy -	To recommend to Council the adoption of the Treasury Management Policy and Treasury Management Strategy.	10 January 2012		Report	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources Comments by 09/12/11 to Contact Officer: Charles Warboys, Chief Finance Officer & Section 151 Officer Email: charles.warboys@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6147

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
6.	Budget 2012/13 -	To recommend to Council the proposed budget for 2012/13: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenue Budget; • Capital Budget; and • Fees and Charges. 	14 February 2012		Report	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources Comments by 13/01/12 to Contact Officer: Charles Warboys, Chief Finance Officer & Section 151 Officer Email: charles.warboys@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6147
7.	Housing Revenue Account Budget 2012/13 -	To recommend to Council the Housing Revenue Account Budget 2012/13 for approval.	14 February 2012		Report	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources, Executive Member for Social Care, Health and Housing Comments by 13/01/12 to Contact Officer: Charles Warboys, Chief Finance Officer & Section 151 Officer and/or Tony Keaveney, Assistant Director Housing Services Email: charles.warboys@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6147 and/or tony.keaveney@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5213

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
8.	Localism Bill -	To consider the Localism Bill and the delivery through the Community Strategy.	14 February 2012		Report	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources Comments by 13/01/12 to Contact Officer: Peter Fraser, Head of Partnerships & Community Engagement Email: peter.fraser@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6740
9.	Corporate Asset Management Strategy -	To approve the Corporate Asset Management Strategy.	14 February 2012		Report	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources Comments by 13/01/12 to Contact Officer: Ian Brown, Interim Chief Assets Officer Email: ian.brown@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5711

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
10.	Central Bedfordshire Local Broadband Plan -	To approve the Central Bedfordshire Local Broadband Plan, setting out the vision for broadband in the area and approval to use Council funds to enter into the Broadband Delivery UK procurement framework to deliver necessary infrastructure to deliver superfast broadband for the area.	14 February 2012	A public consultation on the vision for the area will be undertaken prior to any procurement exercises.	The draft Local Broadband Plan	Deputy Executive Member for Corporate Resources Comments by 13/01/2012 to Contact Officer: James Cushing, Head of Economic Policy Email: james.cushing@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4984
11.	Review of Central Bedfordshire Council Library Service -	Approval is sought to: A: agree the Central Bedfordshire vision for the Libraries Service; and B: agree a sustainable model of future Library Service provision.	27 March 2012	Throughout May - July 2011 a series of focus groups and workshops with service users and partners and stakeholders. From October 2011 – January 2012 a formal consultation on the vision and potential service delivery models.	Emerging vision, core service offer and aspiration Libraries Service Review Report Outcomes from consultation process Equality Impact Assessment	Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Services Comments by 26/02/12 to Contact Officer: Kate McFarlane, Head of Community Regeneration & Adult Skills Email: kate.mcfarlane@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5858

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
12.	Community Safety Partnership Priorities and the Community Safety Partnership Plan for 2012-2013 -	To adopt the Community Safety Partnership Priorities and the Community Safety Partnership Plan for 2012-2013.	27 March 2012	Strategic Assessment & Partnership Plan will be considered at the Community Safety Partnership Executive meeting in November/December, Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Local Strategic Partnership.	Strategic Assessment Priorities & Community Safety Partnership Plan 2012-2013	Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Services Comments by 26/02/12 to Contact Officer: Jeanette Keyte, Community Safety Manager Email: jeanette.keyte@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5232
13.	Leighton Buzzard Town Centre Planning and Development Briefs -	To endorse the planning document for two sites as Interim Technical Guidance for Development Management Purposes.	27 March 2012	Statutory consultation procedure to be carried out in Autumn 2011.	Leighton Buzzard Town Centre sites Planning and Development Briefs	Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Strategic Planning and Economic Development Comments by 26/02/12 to Contact Officer: Liz Wade, Assistant Director Economic Growth and Regeneration Email: liz.wade@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6288
14.	Quarter 3 Budget Monitoring -	To consider quarter 3 budget monitoring report.	27 March 2012		Report	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources Comments by 26/02/12 to Contact Officer: Charles Warboys, Chief Finance Officer & Section 151 Officer Email: charles.warboys@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6147

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
15.	Alternative Future Provision of the Pupil Referral Unit -	To consider an alternative provision free school - Pupil Referral Unit	27 March 2012		Report	Executive Member for Children's Services Comments by 26/02/12 to Contact Officer: Pete Dudley, Assistant Director Children's Service Email: pete.dudley@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4203
16.	Local Lettings Policy to Rural Exception Sites in Central Bedfordshire -	To agree the Local Lettings Policy to allocate affordable housing to Rural Exception Sites in Central Bedfordshire.	27 March 2012		Report Report	Executive Member for Social Care, Health and Housing Comments by 26/02/12 to Contact Officer: Hamid Khan, Head of Housing Needs Email: hamid.khan@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5369

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
17.	All Age Skills Strategy and the Skills Role of the Local Authority -	Approval is sought to agree the All Age Skills Strategy for Central Bedfordshire and to agree on the future role of the local authority in the skills agenda.	27 March 2012	<p>The draft All Age Skills Strategy was created following a series of workshops, focus groups and interviews with partners, stakeholders and individuals, during June and July 2011. From early August to late October 2011, a formal 13 week consultation on the draft strategy was held. A follow up stakeholder workshop was held in mid October.</p> <p>Across November and December 2011, a series of one to one meetings, structured interviews and workshops will be held internally to establish the existing skills role of the local authority and to seek views on the potential future role. In January 2012 external stakeholders will be consulted with, again through workshops and interviews to examine Central Bedfordshire wide skills governance arrangements.</p>	<p>All Age Skill Strategy All Age Skills Strategy Consultation Report Report on the future role of the local authority in the skills agenda, with options analysis and implementation plan for the preferred option Equality Impact Assessment</p>	<p>Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Strategic Planning and Economic Development Comments by 26/02/11 to Contact Officer: Kate McFarlane, Head of Community Regeneration & Adult Skills Email: kate.mcfarlane@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5858</p>

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
18.	The Future of Special Schooling in the South of Central Bedfordshire -	To consider the responses to the statutory notices to merge Hillcrest Community Special School and Glenwood Community Special School to create a single area special school for pupils with complex educational needs (Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD), Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD) and Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) with additional needs) ages 3-19, and make a recommendation as a consequence of this process having been completed.	27 March 2012		Report	Executive Member for Children's Services Comments by 26/02/12 to Contact Officer: Pete Dudley, Assistant Director Children's Service Email: pete.dudley@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4203

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
19.	Medium Term Accommodation Plan - Capital Approval -	To approve the capital for the Medium Term Accommodation Plan.	27 March 2012		Report	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources Comments by 26/02/2012 to Contact Officer: Gillian Dent, Project Manager Email: gillian.dent@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4656
20.	Award of the Housing Responsive Maintenance and Void Repairs Contract -	To award the housing responsive maintenance and void repairs contract.	27 March 2012		Report	Executive Member for Social Care, Health and Housing Comments by 26/02/12 to Contact Officer: Basil Quinn, Housing Asset Manager Performance Email: basil.quinn@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5118

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21.	Implementation of the School Organisation Plan: New School places programme 2011/12 - 2016/17 -	The Council's statutory duty regarding sufficiency of school places and implementation of the identified need in the previously published school organisation plan. The report will set out each proposed new place project and outline the source of funding.	27 March 2012	Consultation with Governors and parents in areas where new schemes apply.	Report	Executive Member for Children's Services Comments by 26/02/2012 to Contact Officer: Pete Dudley, Assistant Director Children's Service Email: pete.dudley@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4203
22.	Brewers Hill Road Sites, Dunstable Regeneration -	To adopt/endorse the plans for the Brewers Hill Road sites as a Supplementary Planning Document or endorsement as Interim Technical Guidance for Development Management Purposes.	15 May 2012	Statutory consultation procedure to be carried out in January/February 2012 using exhibitions, meetings, presentations and questionnaires.	Brewers Hill Road sites, Dunstable Planning and Development Brief	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources, Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Strategic Planning and Economic Development Comments by 14/04/12 to Contact Officer: Andy Lewis, Major Projects Officer or Peter Burt, MRICS, Head of Property Assets Email: peter.burt@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5281 or andy.lewis@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5526

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
23.	The Approach to Central Bedfordshire Council Parking -	To consider how Central Bedfordshire Council manage parking across the district, recognising the needs of shoppers businesses, residents and new developments.	15 May 2012	The Strategy has been through a full public consultation before coming back to the Executive for approval.	Report	Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Services Comments by 14/04/2011 to Contact Officer: Basil Jackson, Assistant Director Highways & Transport Email: basil.jackson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6171
24.	Development Strategy -	The Development Strategy will set out the broad approach to new development across Central Bedfordshire to 2031, including new housing and employment targets and new large-scale development sites. The Executive will be requested to consider and agree the Central Bedfordshire Development Strategy for the purposes of Publication and subsequent Submission to the Secretary of State.)	6 November 2012	Consultation expected in May/June 2012, Member consideration through Development Strategy Task Force/Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel.	Draft Development Strategy (Pre-Submission version) Sustainability Appraisal Report of consultation and other technical/evidence reports	Executive Member for Sustainable Communities - Strategic Planning and Economic Development Comments by 05/10/12 to Contact Officer: Richard Fox, Head of Development Planning and Housing Strategy Email: richard.fox@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4105

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
NON KEY DECISIONS						
25.	Outcome of the Disability Review Children's Services -	A review of the non schools provision for disabled children is on going during September to December 2011. There may be need for structural changes which would form the content of an Executive report.	10 January 2012		Report	Executive Member for Children's Services Comments by 09/12/11 to Contact Officer: Catherine Parry, Assistant Director (Acting), Children's Services Operations Email: catherine.parry@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6441
26.	Quarter 2 Performance Report -	To receive quarter 2 performance report.	10 January 2012		Report	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources Comments by 09/12/11 to Contact Officer: Elaine Malarky, Head of Programmes & Performance Management Email: elaine.malarky@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5517

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27.	Delegation of Powers to Provide and Operate the Markets in Dunstable and Leighton Buzzard -	To consider delegating powers for the operation of the markets in Dunstable and Leighton Buzzard to the respective Town Council.	10 January 2012	Consultation will be carried out with the Ward Members for both Dunstable and Leighton Buzzard/Leighton Linslade, Dunstable Town Council and Leighton-Linslade Town Council.	Report Specification for Market Management Letters from the Town Council's	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources Comments by 15/12/2011 to Contact Officer: Peter Fraser, Head of Partnerships & Community Engagement or Mark Woolsey, Managing Solicitor Email: peter.fraser@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6740 or mark.woolsey@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4025
28.	Scrap Metal -	To draw attention to the Private Members Bill before Parliament in January 2012 and to seek member support for changes in legislation relating to Scrap Metal Dealers registration.	10 January 2012		Report	Deputy Executive Members for Sustainable Communities - Services Comments by 15/12/2011 to Contact Officer: Susan Childrehouse, Head of Public Protection (North) Email: susan.childrehouse@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4394

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29.	Quarter 3 Performance Report -	To receive quarter 3 performance report.	27 March 2012		Report	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources Comments by 26/02/12 to Contact Officer: Elaine Malarky, Head of Programmes & Performance Management Email: elaine.malarky@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5517
30.	Quarter 4 Performance Report -	To receive quarter 4 performance report.	3 July 2012		Report	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources Comments by 02/06/12 to Contact Officer: Elaine Malarky, Head of Programmes & Performance Management Email: elaine.malarky@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5517

Postal address for Contact Officers: Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford SG17 5TQ

**Central Bedfordshire Council
Forward Plan of Decisions on Key Issues**

For the Municipal Year 2011/12 the Forward Plan will be published on the fifteenth day of each month or, where the fifteenth day is not a working day, the working day immediately proceeding the fifteenth day, or in February 2012 when the plan will be published on the fourteenth day:

Date of Publication	Period of Plan
15.04.11	1 May 2011 – 30 April 2012
13.05.11	1 June 2011 – 31 May 2012
15.06.11	1 July 2011 – 30 June 2012
15.07.11	1 August 2011 – 31 July 2012
15.08.11	1 September 2011 – 31 August 2012
15.09.11	1 October 2011 – 30 September 2012
14.10.11	1 November 2011 – 31 October 2012
15.11.11	1 December 2011 – 30 November 2012
15.12.11	1 January 2012 – 31 December 2012
13.01.12	1 February 2012 – 31 January 2013
14.02.12	1 March 2012 – 28 February 2013
15.03.12	1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013