

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Thursday, 19 November 2015.

PRESENT

Cllr D Bowater (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs C F Chapman MBE (Vice-Chairman)

Cllrs	M C Blair A D Brown J Chatterley Mrs S Clark K M Collins N B Costin I Dalgarno S Dixon Mrs A L Dodwell P A Duckett K Ferguson F Firth Mrs J Freeman E Ghent Mrs S A Goodchild Ms A M W Graham	Cllrs	Mrs D B Gurney C Hegley P Hollick J G Jamieson K Janes R W Johnstone M R Jones J Kane D J Lawrence Mrs J G Lawrence K C Matthews R Morris T Nicols G Perham A Ryan B Saunders	Cllrs	D Shelvey I Shingler P Smith B J Spurr T Stock T Swain G Tubb A M Turner M A G Versallion B Walker N Warren B Wells R D Wenham J N Young A Zerny
-------	--	-------	--	-------	--

Apologies for Absence

Cllrs	Mrs A Barker R D Berry L Birt P Downing	Cllrs	C C Gomm Ms C Maudlin D McVicar J A G Saunders	Cllrs	R C Stay T Woodward
-------	--	-------	---	-------	------------------------

Officers:	Miss H Bell	–	Committee Services Officer
	Mr R Carr	–	Chief Executive
	Mrs D Broadbent-Clarke	–	Director of Improvement and Corporate Services
	Mr M Coiffait	–	Director of Community Services
	Mrs S Harrison	–	Director of Children's Services
	Mr J Longhurst	–	Director of Regeneration and Business
	Mr C Warboys	–	Chief Finance Officer
	Mrs M Clampitt	–	Committee Services Officer

C/15/43. **Silent Tribute**

Council stood in silent tribute to the memory of the people who had lost their lives in the recent terrorist attacks in Paris.

C/15/44. **PRAYERS**

Prayers were taken by Reverend Paul Niemiec, Community Minister, Leighton Buzzard.

C/15/45. **Minutes**

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2015 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to recording Charles Warboys in the list of officers in attendance.

C/15/46. **Members' Interests**

None were declared.

C/15/47. **Questions, Statements and Deputations**

Mrs Gloria Martin, Dunstable Town Council made a statement about the possible effects that the proposal to increase parking fees from 50p for two hours to £1.00 would have upon the economy in Dunstable and asked Council to reconsider the proposed increase.

C/15/48. **Petitions**

No petitions were received.

C/15/49. **Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

The Chairman announced that he had attended The Young Person of the Year awards.

C/15/50. **Leader of the Council's Announcements and Communications**

The Leader reported upon:

- the redevelopment of Flitwick Leisure Centre which was now near completion
- the progress being made on the M1/A5 Link Road
- a meeting with the Minister at the Department of Business to discuss how improvements to the local economy could be made.

C/15/51. **Executive Member Presentations**

Councillor Hegley, Executive Member for Social Care and Housing reported on work within her portfolio area including:

- progress being made on the developments of Independent Living schemes
- 29 sites had been allocated for parking schemes throughout Central Bedfordshire
- work underway on the Empty Homes initiative
- attendance at the Foster Care Celebration event and Children in Care awards.

Councillor Hegley responded to questions.

Councillor Spurr, Executive Member for Stronger Communities reported on work within his portfolio area including:

- remedial work that had been undertaken on vandalised play equipment and fencing
- the Biggleswade tidy tip was due to re open in January 2016 and work was planned for the Ampthill tidy tip
- work in progress on the Safer Routes to School initiative
- the success of the reporting pot holes dedicated telephone hotline
- the success of the Building Control Team at a recent national awards ceremony and associated fund raising.

Councillor Spurr responded to questions.

C/15/52.

Recommendations from the Executive

The Leader announced that item (2) fees and Charges 2016 would be considered prior to item (1)

(2) Fees and Charges 2016

The Council considered recommendations from the Executive that proposed the fees and charges for 2016.

Additional recommendations were tabled at the meeting as follows:

5. that for car parks where the current charge for up to two hours car parking is 50p, the charge is increased to £1.
6. that until pay on exit technology is introduced, a trial of two hours free parking is implemented once a week in Ashton Square (Dunstable) and Duncombe Drive (Leighton Buzzard) during low footfall periods to support footfall increases in the towns. The timing of free parking in these car parks will be discussed with stakeholders through the Partnership Committee.
7. that an evaluation of the effectiveness of the free parking trial is completed once pay on exit technology is installed, the results of which will inform further discussions on continuation of free parking subject to stakeholder funding.

RESOLVED

1. that the Fees and Charges prices for 2016/17 be agreed and introduced with the exception of charges for the Music Service which should be brought back to Council with the 2016/17 Medium Term Financial Plan;
2. that Fairer Charging be brought in line with Residential Care charging, and that charging commence from the point when the care started with effect from 1 January 2016, as set out in paragraphs 11 and 12 in the Executive report;
3. that whilst some statutory charges have been left at the 2015 rate currently, these would be amended to the new charges once the Council had been advised of the rates applicable to 20116;
4. the progress of the Fees and Charges cyclical review process, as set out at Appendix D to the Executive report, be noted;
5. that for car parks where the current charge for up to two hours car parking is 50p, the charge is increased to £1;
6. that until pay on exit technology is introduced, a trial of two hours free parking is implemented once a week in Ashton Square (Dunstable) and Duncombe Drive (Leighton Buzzard) during low footfall periods to support footfall increases in the towns. The timing of free parking in these car parks will be discussed with stakeholders through the Partnership Committee;
7. that an evaluation of the effectiveness of the free parking trial is completed once pay on exit technology is installed, the results of which will inform further discussions on continuation of free parking subject to stakeholder funding.

With regard to the Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommendation 2.

Charges proposed to be held at zero increase are largely where:

- ***They are statutory and the Council has not yet been notified of the charges for 2016. Once notification is received, the charges will be amended accordingly;***
- ***The value of the charge is low, and once rounded a 1% increase would still result in the same charge; and***
- ***The volume of transactions is so low that it is not economically viable to increase the charge in line with inflation.***

(3)Central Bedfordshire's Five Year Plan 2015-2020

The Council considered a recommendation from the Executive concerning the proposed Five Year Plan 2015-2020, following engagement with the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and stakeholders.

An amendment was proposed to paragraph 2 on page 9, as follows:

“Key components of this will be providing appropriate housing, particularly for the elderly and moving care to focus more on prevention rather than cure, with services and support provided in the right place at the right time. This will require working closely with the National Health Service, to provide services locally seven days a week. Social care will continue to be developed to help people to live independently for as long as possible, either in their own homes with support or in specialist accommodation.”

RESOLVED

that the Five Year Plan 2015-2020 for Central Bedfordshire be approved, subject to the above amendment to the second paragraph on page 9 of the Plan.

(3)Appointment of Proper Officer under Public Health Legislation

The Council considered a recommendation from the Executive setting out proposals for the appointment of all medical Consultants in Communicable Disease Control and other suitably medically qualified deputising officers in the Public Health East of England area as Proper Officers as required by Public Health legislation.

RESOLVED

- 1. all the Medical Consultants in Communicable Disease Control (CCDCs) and other equivalently medically qualified deputising officers** in Public Health East of England (the Public Health England centre responsible for the East of England area) be designated as Proper Officers under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 (as amended)*;**
- 2. Central Bedfordshire Council's Director of *Public Health*, or successor titles, employed by Central Bedfordshire Council with the duty to safeguard public health as a Proper Officer under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 (as amended)* be so designated;**
- 3. Central Bedfordshire Council's Director of Community Services, being the lead officer for Environmental Health employed by Central Bedfordshire Council with the duty to safeguard public health as a Proper Officer under the 1984 Act (as amended)* be so designated; and**

4. that the Directors identified in 2 and 3 above, be empowered to authorise officers to carry out particular functions or exercise particular powers for the purpose of safeguarding public health.
- * Act amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2008 and regulations made under it and the Public Health Acts of 1936 and 1961.
- ** Defined as a person suitably qualified in the field of health protection and registered with an appropriate body such as the Faculty of Public Health, and the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health and/or the Nursing and Midwifery Council or the General Medical Council.

(4) Plan Making Programme for Central Bedfordshire

The Council considered a recommendation from the Executive proposing that the authority withdraw the Development Strategy and discontinue legal proceedings.

RESOLVED

that the Development Strategy be withdrawn and the legal proceedings be discontinued.

C/15/53.

Recommendations from the Licensing Committee

The Council considered recommendations from the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 5 November 2015 which sought adoption of The Gambling Act 2005 Policy.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the Gambling Act 2005 Policy as set out at Appendix A to the report be adopted;**
- (2) that the Head of Public Protection & Interim Head of Passenger Transport, in consultation with the Executive Member for Community Services, be given delegated authority to make any necessary minor amendments to the policy prior to publication.**

C/15/54.

Appointment to Deputy Executive Member Vacancy - Social Care and Housing

The Council received and considered a report of the Leader advising of the appointment of a Deputy Executive Member for Adult Social Care.

RESOLVED

- 1. that Councillor Eugene Ghent be appointed to the vacancy of Deputy Executive Member for Adult Social Care**

2. **that in view of Councillor Ghent's appointment to the vacancy of Deputy Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Councillor Paul Downing be appointed as Vice Chairman of the Social Care, Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**
3. **that in view of recommendation 2 above, Councillor Berry be appointed as a member of the Social Care, Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

C/15/55. Treasury Management Outturn Mid Year Report 2015/16

The Council considered a report from the Executive Member for Corporate Resources that provided a review of Treasury Management activities for the six month period ending 30 September 2015.

RESOLVED

that the Treasury Management and the prudential indicators for the 6 month period ending 30 September 2015 be noted.

C/15/56. Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report 2014/15

The Council received the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2014/15 which summarised the activities of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees during the last twelve months.

RESOLVED

that the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2014/15 be noted.

C/15/57. Report of the Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority

The Council received and considered a report of the Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority following its meeting held on 21 October 2015.

RESOLVED

that the report of the Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority be noted.

C/15/58. Motions (if any)

No motions were received.

C/15/59. Written Questions

No written questions were received.

C/15/60. **Open Questions**

The Chairman invited the Minority Group Leaders to ask a question each prior to the consideration of questions that had been placed in the Open Questions receptacle.

1. Councillor Zerny asked a question of the Leader of the Council about devolution and Central Bedfordshire's plans for strengthening working with neighbouring authorities.

The Leader of the Council advised of discussions that were underway with neighbouring authorities.

2. Councillor Goodchild asked a question about what steps Central Bedfordshire Council was taking to ensure that low cost homes would be built to meet the needs of the most vulnerable members of the community.

The Executive Member for Regeneration advised that The Housing Bill was currently going through Parliament and that he would keep Members closely informed on schemes throughout Central Bedfordshire.

(Note: The meeting commenced at 6.30 p.m. and concluded at 7.45 p.m.)

Chairman

Dated