



**TO EACH MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**

14 June 2012

Dear Councillor

**CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL - Thursday 14 June 2012**

Further to the agenda and papers for the above meeting previously circulated, please find attached notification of a revised recommendation (item 9), a recommendation marked to follow, an additional recommendation to be tabled at the meeting (item 10), two reports which were previously unavailable (i.e. items 12 and 15), also the response to a written question (item 17).

**9. Recommendations from the Executive**

A revised recommendation for the Capital Expenditure Slippage from 2011/12 to 2012/13

(attached page 3)

**10. Recommendations from the General Purposes Committee**

Community Governance Review – Stotfold Parish (Area of Fairfield)

(attached pages 5 – 9)

The Localism Act 2011 and Ethical Standards

(attached pages 10 - 14)

**12. Appointments to the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel**

To make appointments to the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel

(attached pages 15 - 22)

**15. Report of the Police Authority**

To receive the report, consider any recommendations and answer questions asked under Rule No. 13.1.

(attached pages 23 - 26)

**17. Written Questions**

Please find attached the response to the Written Question from Cllr Aldis, which was detailed in the main agenda.

(attached pages 27 – 28)

Should you have any queries regarding the above please contact Democratic Services on Tel: 0300 300 4040.

Yours sincerely

Helen Bell,  
Committee Services Officer  
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**COUNCIL MEETING – 14 JUNE 2012**

**Recommendation to Council from the Executive meeting  
Held on 15 May 2012**

Revised Recommendation Item (c) Capital expenditure Slippage from 2011/12 to 2012/13.

- 1. a total of £22.289M, within which there is a Central Bedfordshire Council contribution of £13.596M of capital expenditure included in the Council's approved Capital Programme be carried forward from the financial year 2011/12 to 2012/13;**

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**COUNCIL MEETING – 14 JUNE 2012**

**Recommendation to Council from the General Purposes Committee  
meeting held on 7 June 2012 – Item 10(a)**

GPC/12/7

**Community Governance Review - Stotfold Parish (Area of Fairfield)**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services regarding the Community Governance Review currently being undertaken for the area of Fairfield within Stotfold parish.

Mindful that the membership of the Committee had recently increased, and to ensure that new Members were fully aware of the background to the Committee's previous discussions on 8 December 2011, copies of all documents considered by the Committee at that meeting were attached as appendices to the report. A copy of the relevant minute from the Committee's meeting on 8 December was also attached. In addition the Committee had before it the results of a secondary consultation carried out at the request of the Committee on 8 December together with an analysis of the comments received and representations from Stotfold Town Council. The Committee was also provided with the following general background information relating to the Review process:

- Criteria for undertaking a review
- Initial/secondary consultation
- Timing
- Recommendations and decisions
- Reorganisation Order
- Alternative styles for parishes
- Electoral arrangements
- Publicising draft proposals.

The officer's report reminded Members that the Committee had originally resolved to carry out a Community Governance Review in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 at its meeting on 4 August 2011. Members were aware that this decision followed the submission of a petition to Central Bedfordshire Council by the Fairfield Community Action Group. The petition had called upon the Council to undertake a Governance Review and create a new community council for the representation of the residents of Fairfield.

The petition had been considered by the Committee and accepted as a valid petition under the Act. To comply with the terms of the Governance Review the Council was required to consider representations made by local people and interested parties. The Committee had, therefore, undertaken a consultation with the Stotfold parish electorate and interested parties under which all respondents were invited to agree or disagree with the proposal to create a new Fairfield Community Council. The results, together with an analysis of the comments received, representations from Stotfold Town Council and a further submission by the Action Group had been considered at

the Committee's meeting on 8 December 2011. The Committee had noted that 73% of those responding had supported the creation of a new community council for the area of Fairfield. Nonetheless, as an alternative to the creation of a separate community council, the Committee had also considered the possibility of creating a separate Fairfield ward within Stotfold parish and it had been resolved that the Head of Legal and Democratic Services explore the concept warding of the parish and report his findings.

A second consultation exercise had therefore been carried out with the Stotfold parish electorate and all interested parties to establish whether they agreed or disagreed with the concept of warding the whole parish using the existing polling districts as the basis. The results of the second consultation revealed that 60% of those responding did not support the concept of warding.

In view of the level of local support for the creation of a separate community council for Fairfield, rather than the warding of the existing Stotfold parish, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services recommended to the Committee in his report that a new parish council be formed. The meeting noted that the Head of Legal and Democratic Services had recommended that the new body be a parish rather than community council, as had been requested by the Action Group, as the existing 71 local councils within Central Bedfordshire were parishes or towns and the use of the term 'community', whilst permitted under the Local Government Act 1972, would cause confusion.

Members sought clarification on a number of points. With regard to the arrangements under which the new parish council would be clerked and operated the Democratic Services Manager explained that the new parish council would be established with effect from 1 April 2013 with the first election of parish councillors being held on 2 May 2013. During this short interim period responsibility for the administration of the parish council would rest with Central Bedfordshire Council as the principle council and, specifically, the following persons:

- The Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources
- The Chairman of the General Purposes Committee
- The three Central Bedfordshire Council ward Members representing Stotfold and Langford.

Central Bedfordshire Council would also provide and bear the cost of a temporary clerk to the parish and prepare an advertisement for a permanent clerk. The temporary clerk would be sourced from within the Council's Committee Services team and provide his or her services until the operation of the parish council was transferred to the new councillors on 9 May 2013. A locum clerk could be appointed by the parish if necessary until such time as a permanent holder could be found, possibly within three months of the transfer of responsibilities. He advised that Members of the new Parish Council would sit on the interviewing panel for the appointment of the clerk.

The financial cost of operating a new parish council was raised and clarification sought on the level of precept proposed. In response the Democratic Services Manager stated that the sum was estimated to be approximately £90k pa, similar to the amount currently raised from Fairfield within the current Stotfold Town Council precept. The money raised would cover the cost of employing a parish clerk, the cost of forthcoming local elections, the appointment of a community youth worker and the creation of reserves. The proposed precept would go before Central Bedfordshire Council for consideration in February 2013 as part of the normal budget process.

With regard to the administrative area of the new parish the Democratic Services Manager stated that the map illustrating the proposed boundary of the new parish council was as originally submitted by the Action Group and had not been amended. Both consultation exercises had been carried out based on the boundary shown on the map. Stotfold Town Council had circulated three maps displaying its own preferred options.

With regard to access to the facilities provided on the Fairfield Estate the meeting was advised that the creation of a new parish council would not alter their status and such facilities would be available to the public at large as they were at present.

Given the clear local support for the creation of a Fairfield Parish Council, and in recognition of local determination and democracy, the Committee expressed its own support in favour of the creation a parish council for the area of Fairfield.

#### **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

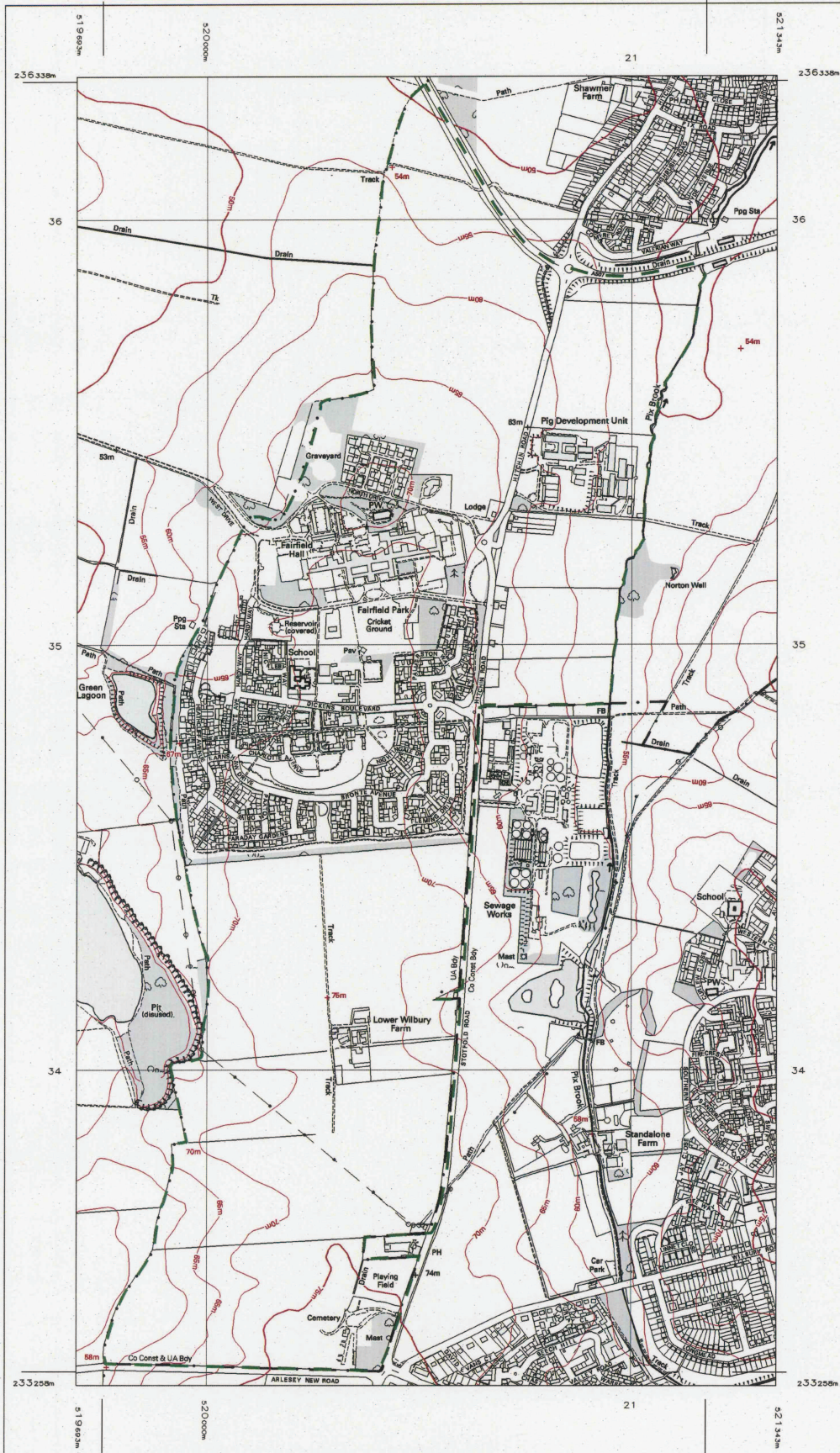
- 1 that the Council makes a Reorganisation Order under Section 86 of the Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007; which creates a parish in the Fairfield Park area of the current Stotfold parish and establishes a parish council in that area to be named Fairfield Parish Council;**
- 2 that the Reorganisation Order referred to in 1 above be based on the following key principles:**
  - a) the boundaries of the parish are as shown on the map attached at Appendix A to these minutes and the parish is named the Parish of Fairfield;**
  - b) the parish council is called 'Fairfield Parish Council';**
  - c) the establishment of the parish council to take effect from 1 April 2013 with the first election to be held on 2 May 2013;**

- d) the first term of office of elected councillors be for 2 years and the following elections be held on the ordinary day for elections in 2015 and every fourth year thereafter i.e. 2019, 2023 etc.;
  - e) the size of the Council relating to the number of councillors to be elected to the parish is set at 7, providing a ratio of 270 electors to each parish councillor;
  - f) the parish council is not split into separate wards;
  - g) the amount of the initial precept of the new parish council for the 2013/14 financial year is £92,525;
  - h) until the councillors elected to the new parish council come into office, the new parish is administered by the persons holding the offices listed below who are in post immediately on 1 April 2013:
    - CBC Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources
    - CBC Chairman of the General Purpose Committee
    - The existing 3 CBC ward members representing Stotfold and Langford;
- 3 that the present size of Stotfold Town Council remains unchanged at 15 members pending a Community Governance Review across the whole of the Central Bedfordshire Council area in 2013.**

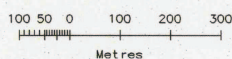




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<p><b>Recommendation to Council on 14 June 2012</b></p>	<p><b>From: General Purposes Committee on 7 June 2012</b></p>	<p><b>Item 10 b)</b></p>
<p><b>The Localism Act 2011 and Ethical Standards</b></p>		
<p>1.</p>	<p>Council is asked to approve the following recommendation:-</p>	
<p><b>that, subject to the Secretary of State making the requisite regulations (“the Regulations”) which bring the relevant provisions of Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011 (“the Act”) into force with effect from 1 July 2012, the following arrangements shall apply:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a) The Code of Conduct approved by the Council on 19 April 2012, amended as necessary to give effect to the Regulations, shall be adopted with effect from 1 July 2012;</b></li> <li><b>b) In accordance with sections 29 and 30 of the Act, Schedule 1 of the Code of Conduct shall incorporate the disclosable pecuniary interests specified in the Regulations;</b></li> <li><b>c) The General Purposes Committee shall be authorised to determine what other interests (if any) should be incorporated into the Code of Conduct, including arrangements for the recording of gifts and hospitality accepted by Members;</b></li> <li><b>d) Members shall be required (as now) to disclose when they are present at meetings of the Council, the Executive and all Committees, Sub-Committees and Joint Committees of the Council if they have a pecuniary or other interest in an item of business on the agenda of the meeting and the nature of that interest and, where the interest constitutes a disclosable pecuniary interest, to withdraw from the meeting during the consideration of that item of business;</b></li> <li><b>e) The Standards Committee shall be dissolved on 30 June 2012 and from 1 July 2012 the General Purposes Committee shall assume responsibility for overseeing the Council’s duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct.</b></li> <li><b>f) The Monitoring Officer shall make any consequential amendments to the Council’s Constitution following consultation with the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee.</b></li> </ul>		

	<b>Background</b>
2.	At its meeting on 7 June 2012 the General Purposes Committee considered a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services which set out the arrangements that were required to be in place to ensure that the Council was ready to implement the relevant provisions of the Localism Act 2011 on 1 July 2012. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services advised that the Secretary of State had yet to make the regulations required to bring the relevant parts of the Localism Act 2011 into force. However, the expectation was that the regulations would be made shortly and that the new provisions regulating ethical standards would come into effect as envisaged on 1 July 2012.
	<b>Procedures for Investigating and Making Decisions about Complaints, Including Sanctions</b>
3.	The Committee approved the proposed arrangements for the investigation and determination of complaints, including the identification of any sanctions that might be involved. Members also agreed to establish a panel, composed of all members and substitutes on the General Purposes Committee, from which Standards Sub-Committees could be appointed by the Monitoring Officer as and when required.
	<b>Appointment of Independent Persons</b>
4.	The Committee considered the requirement under the Act to appoint at least one independent person who had to be consulted in connection with the investigation and determination of complaints. The Committee agreed to collaborate with neighbouring authorities in the recruitment of independent persons and the appointment of a joint panel of at least eight independent persons who would be available to undertake this role for any of the participating authorities.
	<b>Establishment of Register of Interests and Introduction of “Disclosable Pecuniary Interests”</b>
5.	The meeting considered the requirement under the Localism Act for the establishment and maintenance of a register of Members’ interests. The Committee had also considered the government’s decision to reintroduce the concept of pecuniary interests to replace the existing ‘personal interests’.

6.	The Committee noted that a draft schedule defining ‘disposable pecuniary interests’ had recently been made available by the Secretary of State. Copies of the draft schedule were circulated at the meeting and Members compared this with those interests currently defined as ‘personal interests’. The meeting noted the strong overlap in content. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services indicated that he would report further on this matter to the next meeting of the Committee by which time the final schedule of ‘disclosable pecuniary interests’ should have been forthcoming.	
7.	Members were advised that the Council could decide to register other interests besides ‘disclosable pecuniary interests’. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services proposed the creation of a list of those other interests which Members would have to include on the register but which would not prevent them from participating in a meeting.	
8.	Some concern was expressed by Members regarding aspects of the Act’s registration requirements. It was felt that some Members could inadvertently fail to update the register of interests or participate in a debate resulting in a contravention of the Act. The meeting supported the introduction of a process to prevent this from occurring.	
9.	In order that the Council was in a position to implement the Act’s provisions when they came into force on 1 July 2012 the Committee agreed to submit the above recommendation to Council.	
<b>Appendices</b>	None	

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**Meeting:** Council  
**Date:** 14 June 2012  
**Subject:** Appointments to the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel  
**Report of:** Cllr James Jamieson, Leader of the Council  
**Summary:** This report proposes appointments to the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel to enable local authority membership of the Panel to be notified to the Secretary of State in line with the Home Office deadline.

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**Advising Officer:** Deb Clarke, Assistant Chief Executive – People and Organisation  
**Contact Officer:** Mel Peaston, Committee Services Manager  
**Public/Exempt:** Public  
**Wards Affected:** All  
**Function of:** Council

#### **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

##### **Council Priorities:**

The setting up of the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) will contribute to the Council's priority Creating Safer Communities.

##### **Financial:**

1. There are no financial implications arising from the appointment of local authority representatives to the PCP. It will be a matter for the Council to determine, when it next reviews its Members' Allowances Scheme, whether it wishes to pay a Special Responsibility Allowance to its representatives on the PCP. Members of the PCP will be entitled to claim mileage or other travelling allowances to attend meetings in accordance with the approved Members' Allowances Scheme. The costs arising from this will be met from within existing budgetary provision.
2. The host authority (Bedford Borough Council) will receive a grant of approximately £53,300 annually from the Home Office to meet PCP and support costs, including the expenses (mileage etc) claimable by co-opted members.

##### **Legal:**

3. The law governing the establishment and operation of the Police and Crime Panels (PCPs) is set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and regulations made thereunder.

4. The Act provides that the PCP must consist of 10 local authority members appointed (in the Bedfordshire PCP case) by all three constituent local authorities, and two co-opted or lay members. The PCP may itself (once established) resolve to appoint a larger number of co-opted members (which could include additional local authority members) but this would require the Secretary of State's agreement. Regulations covering the appointment of additional co-opted members are anticipated but their likely content (even at draft stage) is not known.
5. The Act requires each constituent council to appoint at least one Member to the PCP and, collectively, the appointments made must as far as reasonably practical, meet the "balanced appointment objective". This means that, taken together, the Local Authority appointments must:
  - represent all parts of the Force area
  - represent the political make-up of the constituent authorities individually and collectively;
  - have the skills, knowledge and experience necessary for the PCP to discharge its functions effectively.
6. The proposals for local authority membership of the Bedfordshire PCP (set out in paragraph 24 below) reflect these requirements.

**Risk Management:**

7. There are no risk management implications.

**Staffing (including Trades Unions):**

8. Not applicable.

**Equalities/Human Rights:**

9. The appointment of the Council's representatives onto the PCP does not impact on the Council's duties to promote good relations, promote positive attitudes and eliminate unlawful discrimination. An equalities impact assessment is not required.

**Public Health**

10. Not applicable.

**Community Safety:**

11. There are no community safety implications in the nomination of members on the Police and Crime Panel.

**Sustainability:**

12. Not applicable.

**Procurement:**

13. Not applicable.

**Overview and Scrutiny:**

14. This matter has not been considered by overview and scrutiny.



**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**Council is asked to:**

1. **appoint 3 Conservative and 1 Independent Member as Central Bedfordshire Council's representatives on the Police and Crime Panel;**
2. **make these appointments for the period until the Council's Annual Meeting in 2015;**
3. **agree that from the Annual Meeting in 2015, the appointments to the Police and Crime Panel will be made for a 4 year term.**

*Reason for Recommendation(s): To enable the Police and Crime Panel to be set up in line with the balanced appointment objective to meet the Home Office deadline of 2 July 2012; and also to make provision for future appointing arrangements.*

**Executive Summary**

15. Under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, Police Authorities in England and Wales will be abolished in November 2012 and replaced by a directly elected Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). The PCC will have responsibility for the totality of policing within their Force area and for holding the Force Chief Constable to account, on behalf of the public, for the operational delivery of policing.
16. The Act also requires a Police and Crime Panel (PCP) to be established for each Force area (the functions of the PCP are set out in **Appendix A** to this report). This will be a Joint Committee of all the local authorities in the Force area and the purpose of this report is to enable the Council to make appointments to the Bedfordshire PCP to enable local authority membership of the Panel to be notified to the Secretary of State for Home Affairs by the Home Office deadline of 2 July 2012.

**Allocation of seats on the PCP**

17. The three unitary authorities in Bedfordshire must agree an allocation of seats on the PCP between them which meets the requirements set out in paragraph 5 of this report, and are each required to appoint their representatives to the Panel in time for the host authority (Bedford Borough Council) to advise the Secretary of State of the PCP's composition and local authority membership by 2 July 2012.
18. Discussion between senior Members and officers of the three authorities concerned have resulted in agreement that allocation of seats (in terms of numbers) between the authorities should be determined with reference to the relative populations of each local authority area.

19. Based on this approach and using the most up to date population estimates (ie, the 2010 mid year estimates rounded to the nearest 1,000), the initial allocation of seats between the three authorities is as follows:

20. Authority	2010 ONS (in 000s)	Number of PCP seats (actual number in brackets)
Bedford Borough	161	2.62 (3)
Central Bedfordshire	255	4.15 (4)
Luton Borough	188	3.26 (3)
<b>totals</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>10</b>

21. As noted in paragraph 5 above appointments must, as far as practicable, reflect the balance of the political groups across the three councils as a whole as well as their individual political make-up. The political balance calculations for the PCP are as follows:

22. Authority	Conservative	Indepen dent	Labour	Liberal Democrat	Total
Bedford	12	4	12	13	41
Central Beds	49	4	1	5	59
Luton	4	0	36	8	48
% of total seats	43.92%	5.41%	33.10%	17.56%	99.99%
<b>PCP of 10 LA seats (actual in brackets)</b>	<b>4.39 (4)</b>	<b>0.54 (1)</b>	<b>3.31 (3)</b>	<b>1.76 (2)</b>	<b>10</b>

23. This provides the following scheme for the allocation of seats which achieves the balanced appointment objective:

24. Group and total number of places on PCP	Bedford Borough	Central Bedfordshire	Luton Borough	Totals
Conservative - 4	1	3	0	<b>4</b>
Independent - 1	0	1	0	<b>1</b>
Labour - 3	1	0	2	<b>3</b>
Liberal Democrat - 2	1	0	1	<b>2</b>
<b>Totals - 10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>

### Restrictions on membership of the PCP

25. There are no restrictions on which Councillors can sit on the PCP; that is, councils can appoint both Executive and non-Executive Councillors. The law requires Bedford Borough Council, as a Mayoral Authority, to nominate its Elected Mayor for membership although the Mayor may decline the nomination in which case another member of that Council may be appointed.

26. In considering its appointments to the PCP the Council should however be aware of the potential for conflicts of interest to arise in the case of the Leader, Executive Members, and in particular the Executive Member with responsibility for community safety. These Members are the most likely to be in discussion with the PCC about local crime and disorder issues and may not be well placed to scrutinise the PCC's arrangements.

### **Summary of Consultations and Outcome**

27. The proposals in this report reflect the outcome of consultations which have taken place between the three unitary authorities in the Force area.

### **Appendices:**

Appendix A – Functions of the PCP

**Background Papers:** (open to public inspection)

None

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**Appendix A**

**Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011**

**Police and Crime Panels – Functions**

A Police and Crime Panel has to be established for each Police Area (outside the Metropolitan Police District). The Panel must exercise its functions “with a view to supporting the effective exercise of the functions of the Police and Crime Commissioner for that Police Area”.

The Panel’s functions will be to:-

- (1) Review and report/make recommendations to the Police and Crime Commissioner in respect of his/her draft police and crime plan or any draft variation to their current plan.
- (2) Review and report/make recommendations to the Police and Crime Commissioner in his/her annual report.
- (3) Review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, by the Police and Crime Commissioner in connection with the discharge of his/her functions and make reports or recommendations to the PCC with respect to the discharge of those functions.
- (4) Review and report back to the PCC on appointments he/she proposes to make to the following posts:
  - the Commissioner’s Chief Executive
  - the Commissioner’s Director of Finance
  - a Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

(note: for this purpose the PCP will be required to hold “confirmation hearings” in public at which the candidate is requested to appear for the purpose of answering questions relating to the appointment. The Panel’s report to the Commissioner must include a recommendation as to whether or not the candidate should be appointed, which the PCC may choose to accept or not).

- (5) Review and report/make recommendations to the PCC on his/her proposed precept for the financial year.

(note: the PCP will have the power to veto the proposed precept provided at least 2/3 of the Panel Members at the time vote to do so).

- (6) Review and report back to PCC on his/her proposed appointment of a Chief Constable as with the appointments in (4) above.

(note: the PCP will be required to hold a confirmation hearing in public and may veto the appointment, provided at least 2/3 of the Panel Members at the time vote to do so).

- (7) Review and report/make recommendations to the PCC on any proposal by him/her to call on the Chief Constable to retire or resign. In undertaking any such review, the PCP may consult the Chief Inspector of Constabulary and must hold a scrutiny hearing in private which both the PCC and the CC are entitled to attend for the purposes of making representations. The PCC may either accept or reject the Panel's recommendation.
- (8) The PCP will also have the power to suspend a PCC if he/she has been charged with an offence (in the UK, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) which carries a maximum term of imprisonment exceeding two years and will have other responsibilities in relation to:

PCPs will have the power to

- require the relevant PCC and members of his/her staff to attend before the Panel (at reasonable notice) to answer any questions that the Panel considers necessary in order to carry out its functions (they cannot however require a member of the PCC's staff to give any evidence or produce any document that discloses advice the individual has given to the PCC).
- require the relevant PCC to respond in writing within a reasonable period determined by the Panel, to any report or recommendation the Panel has made to the PCC.

Where the PCP has required the PCC to attend before it, it may also request the Chief Constable to attend before it on the same occasion in order to answer any questions the Panel consider necessary in order to carry out their functions.



**CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**

**14 June 2012**

**1. MEETING**

The Authority last met on 30 May 2012 which was the AGM

Set out below are some of the issues discussed

**2. POLICE AUTHORITY APPOINTMENTS**

The Authority has re - elected Peter Conniff as the Chair and the Authority and Linda Hockey as the Vice Chair for the final 6 months of the Authority.

**3. ANNUAL REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE**

Members have praised new performance figures which show the Force has dramatically improved its status in the national ranking for solving the most prolific crimes during the past year.

Annual data has revealed that the Force has achieved its target to rank 20<sup>th</sup> or better, nationally, in four out of five priority crime types; domestic burglary, vehicle crime, most serious violence and serious sexual offences in line with the ambition to ensure that people in Bedfordshire are less likely to be a victim of crime.

The biggest improvements were recorded in serious sexual offences detections which saw force performance increase from 20% in 2010/11 to 46% in 2011/12 and resulted in a rank change of 40<sup>th</sup> place to 1<sup>st</sup>. The detection rate of the domestic burglary category also improved considerably from 16% to 20.4% - placing the force 17<sup>th</sup> nationally.

In the four priority crime areas (domestic burglary, vehicle crime, most serious violence and serious sexual offences), the force had climbed no fewer than 92 places in the national rankings for crime detection since March 2011 – an average of 23 places for each crime type.

Meanwhile, recorded crime has fallen across many major crime categories including the overall number of recorded crimes which has dropped from 43,617 offences in 2010/11 to 40,795 in 2011/12 (6.5% or 2822 offences) – a reduction of eight offences every day.

Figures for domestic burglary – a key aim outlined in the force's Policing Plan – show the force has reduced the number of offences from 3,923 to 3,149 in 12 months – a drop of 2.1 offences a day. The performance figures also show

most serious violent offences fell by 34% (118 offences) in the 12 months ending March 31 this year while anti-social behaviour – another important ambition set out by the Force and the Authority - dropped by 8.6%.

Earlier this year, the Authority and Force agreed the Policing Plan 2012-16 which set out four clear ambitions for performance: protection of life, protection from violence, protection of property and protection from disorder. The figures show many of the goals are already being achieved as well as the Force and Authority's efficiency drive, which has delivered major savings to the budget.

These improvements are due to a series of innovations in the way the force have been investigating crime and include the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) programme and improved forensics within Serious Acquisitive Crime investigations. The new policing model has enabled more Officers to be on the streets to tackle volume crime and this has had a positive effect on offence levels, which has fallen across many areas. However the Force are still below the desired target public satisfaction rates, which have slightly improved during the past 12 months but will continue to be a focus in 2012/13. The challenge now lies in strengthening Police performance further over the next six months as we prepare to hand over the reins to the incoming Police and Crime Commissioner.

#### **4. BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND HERTFORDSHIRE STRATEGIC ALLIANCE**

Members have received an overview of the collaboration work that Bedfordshire had undertaken with Hertfordshire and from May 2011 with Cambridgeshire as part of the Strategic Alliance.

Under the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Collaboration Programme by April 2011 there were 13 collaborative units and one with Cambridgeshire delivering, mainly Protective Service functions across two Forces and generating some £4.4M of cash savings per annum.

In the new Strategic Alliance it is aimed to deliver approximately £20M of cashable savings through the collaboration of the three Forces Protective Services, Operational Support and Organisational Support functions

In respect of Protective Services four went live between January 2012 and April 2012, these being Professional Standards, Scientific Services, Major Crime and Armed Policing. Through collaboration in these areas the three Forces had delivered annual savings within 2012/13 of some £2.55M. These are expected to increase by some £0.95M, as well as providing significant levels of capability and capacity across the three Forces. A business case was approved at a special meeting of the Authority in April for a collaborated Counter Terrorism and Domestic Extremism unit which would go live in November 2012 and is expected to deliver savings of some £0.250M. Business Cases are expected to be submitted to the next meeting of the Authority for the Dogs, Operational Planning and Roads Policing Units. These are expected to bring with them a level of cash savings as well as a greater ability to protect local policing resources. Work also continued on Serious and Organised Crime and it was expected that the first phase Business Case for this area would be presented to Authorities later in the year.

In terms of the Organisational Support work stream which covers all of the



support service departments including Human Resources, Finance, ICT and Estates savings of around £10 to £12M are expected to be achieved across the three Forces through streamlining these functions. Police Authority members in the three counties will be asked to consider later this month how these services could be delivered in future as part of a joint recommendation made by the three chief constables which proposes the development a full business case outsourcing support services through the existing Lincolnshire Police framework, with G4S as the supplier. The Police Authority will be holding a special meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> June to consider the proposal.

In terms of the Operational Support work stream which includes activities such as Contact Management, Call Handling and Criminal Justice it is anticipated that a report would be considered by Chief Officers in June suggesting what a collaborative Contact Management function would look like and work will also commence in June on the creation of business cases for the remainder of the Operational Support functions with business cases expected to be completed by the commencement of the new calendar year.

A business case for the centralisation of the camera tickets and collisions administrative functions was approved at the meeting which would provide potential efficiencies in the region of £573,000K

## **5. TRANSITION TO POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS**

With less than six months to go until the election of Bedfordshire's first Police and Crime Commissioner Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) is undertaking a programme of support and challenge meetings to monitor risks associated with the transition from police authorities to police and crime commissioners.

An identified risk for a successful transition is the failure of partners to establish the arrangements for the election, police and crime panel and community safety arrangements. Central Bedfordshire Council is one of the statutory partners that share this risk with the Authority and are members of the Transition Programme Board. The inspection reviewed all risks facing the Police Authority in fulfilling its statutory duties, including holding the Chief Constable to account and making key decisions as well as ensuring a seamless handover to the PCC and the effectiveness of the arrangements for stakeholder engagement during the transition. A public facing report will be issued in mid July however the initial feedback from the inspection was positive for Bedfordshire Police Authority and its partners.

**PETER HOLLICK**

**REPRESENTATIVE ON THE BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY**

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## **Written Question to Executive Member for Sustainable Communities Full Council 14<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

There was recently a prosecution against a Dunstable resident who is a market trader in various parts of the district for allegedly dumping household items outside a Tidy Tip. The perpetrator was denied access as he had a van.

While the strength of the evidence was disputed by each side the magistrates decided the defendant was not guilty as he maintained from the outset some 12 months earlier.

This case prompts concerns about the veracity of the evidence and the methodology in which it was obtained. There was no photographic evidence and some statements were made a year after the offence was said to have taken place.

Will there be an investigation into all the circumstances surrounding this case and whether the prosecution was in the best interests of this Authority?

What is the total number of prosecutions that this Council initiates for environmental crimes and what is the success rate?

### **Response:**

**There will be no investigation into the circumstances surrounding this case.**

- **Officers from the Environmental Protection Team received the complaint from one of the Councils' Waste Services Contract Officers who had witnessed the incident.**
- **The complaint was investigated following established procedures with appropriate evidence being gathered and a prosecution file being submitted to Legal Services for assessment as to whether the evidence gathered was of a satisfactory standard, and whether it was appropriate for the Authority to pursue a prosecution.**
- **On consideration of the nature of the offence and the available evidence the legal advice was that it was appropriate to prosecute.**
- **The Magistrates were clear that they found all witnesses to be credible, indicating that they believed the witnesses evidence but felt that there were weaknesses in relation to identification, noting the legal guidance provided upon the issue.**
- **Following the verdict, Legal Services produced a summary of the two learning points in this case. These are already being acted upon and they do not warrant any further investigation.**

**Since April 2009 the Council has undertaken 40 environmental crime prosecutions investigated by the Environmental Protection Team, of which 4 were withdrawn and 1, this particular case, was unsuccessful.**

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