Priory House Monks Walk Chicksands Shefford SG17 5TQ

Chief Executive Jaki Salisbury

TO EACH MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE

09 April 2009

Dear Councillor

EXECUTIVE - Tuesday 14 April 2009

Following Chairman's Briefing for the above meeting held on 9 April 2009, Members received the following documentation and were advised as follows:-

Agenda Item Description

2. Minutes

- (b) To receive and sign the Minutes of the meetings of the Executives of the predecessor authorities as follows:
 - (i) Bedfordshire County Council 10 March 2009
 - (ii) South Bedfordshire District Council 17 March 2009
 - (iii) Mid Bedfordshire District Council 18 March 2009 (now attached)

8. Interim Customer Charter

Please find attached the printed version of the Customer Charter.

[Note: The contact address for the Customer Charter printed on the leaflet will be corrected before final circulation.]

9. Central Bedfordshire Local Safeguarding Children Board

With reference to the proposed structure in Appendix 2A, it was noted that the meeting of the Central Bedfordshire's Children's Trust on 9 April 2009 would be recommended to separate the themes of "Stay Safe" and "Be Healthy" in light of the full implications of The Laming Report – "The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report" 2009. The Director of Children, Families and Learning will give a verbal update on the outcome at the meeting.

11. Creating Central Bedfordshire - Progress Report

Please note that the Portfolio holder for Business Transformation is withdrawing recommendation 2 contained in her report as a decision is not required on this matter.

12. Forward Plan

To receive the Forward Plan for the period 1 May 2009 to 30 April 2010 which was published on 9 April 2009.

(now attached)

Should you have any queries regarding the above please contact Democratic Services on Tel: 01234 228857

Yours sincerely

Devina Lester, Senior Democratic Services Officer email: <u>devina.lester@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</u>



Minutes

Name of Meeting:	Executive
Date of Meeting:	10 March 2009
Present:	Councillors: M Russell (Chairman), R Drinkwater, D Reedman, J Scott, J Street and T Wootton
Other Members In Attendance:	Councillors: P Blaine, G Colling, T Rogers, P Swaisland and G Willey

08-09ex90 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Hollick and Stay

08-09ex91 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2009 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

08-09ex92 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

No Member declared an interest in any items on the Agenda.

08-09ex93 COMMUNICATIONS

Leaders Communications

The Leader of the Council reported that she had written to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in line with the Executive's acceptance of Environment Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee's recommendation that she write to the Secretary of State, outlining the concerns of the Authority about the potential adverse long term effects of the significant growth in housing planned for Bedfordshire.

The letter stressed that any new housing planned for Bedfordshire needed to be accompanied by a similar growth in employment and infrastructure.

The Secretary of State's commitment was requested to not only review the quantity of housing required in the County but also to consider whether the balance of public investment in priming the local economy to support growth equally reflects the county's housing, infrastructure and employment needs.

The opportunity was also taken to highlight what the County Council had been doing to develop the county's economy. This included the County Council's work with local businesses to help support them during the current economic crisis through initiatives such as the faster processing of invoices to our suppliers and the provision additional business support grants through the local Business Link.

The letter also referred to the work that the County Council is doing to deliver appropriate infrastructure ahead of the construction of new housing, stressing that accelerating the delivery of this infrastructure would help support both the construction industry and the broader local economy during the current economic downturn. Particularly mentioned was the accelerated delivery of the A5 – M1 link road and junction 11a M1 junction would release significant land for much needed local employment growth.

The Secretary of State's reply was still awaited.

08-09ex94 TO CONSIDER QUESTIONS (IF ANY) FROM

There were no questions submitted by members of the public or Councillors.

08-09ex95 TO RECEIVE PETITIONS (IF ANY) FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (15 MINUTES)

There were no petitions received from members of the public.

08-09ex96 PROPOSED ACADEMY AT JOHN BUNYAN UPPER SCHOOL - PROPOSAL TO PUBLISH STATUTORY NOTICES

The Executive considered a report from Councillor Rita Drinkwater, Cabinet Member for Education setting out an analysis of responses to the consultation on the future of John Bunyan Upper School and a summary of the main issues which were raised in those responses.

Members' were reminded that on 3 June 2008 (min 08-09ex18 refers) the Executive resolved to support the submission of an Expression of Interest for John Bunyan Upper School to become an academy. The Expression of Interest received ministerial support and as a result consultation was undertaken on the possible closure of John Bunyan Upper School and its reopening as an academy.

The consultation which ended on 9 February 2009 received widespread support for the establishment of an academy. There had been just six responses opposed to the proposals including one received well after the closing date. Three of these responses had been copied, as they had requested, to the members of the Executive.

In response to a question about the transfer of assets to the Academy Trust and what could happen to them Members' were informed that in reality, the land and buildings would only be leased to the Trust. The Trust would be required to manage them and be accountable for them. However, should the Trust cease to run the academy, the land, buildings and other assets which the Local Authority had provided would transfer back to the Local Authority at that time.

RESOLVED:

1. That the responses received to the consultation on the possible closure of John Bunyan Upper School and its reopening as an academy be noted.

- 2. That agreement be given to the publication of statutory notices for the closure of John Bunyan Upper School with effect from 31 August 2010.
- 3. That the opening of the Bedford Academy on the John Bunyan site with effect from 1 September 2010 be supported.

08-09ex97 PROPOSED ACADEMY AT NORTHFIELDS UPPER SCHOOL - RESPONSE TO STATUTORY NOTICE

The Executive considered a report from Councillor Rita Drinkwater, Cabinet Member for Education summarising the main issues which were raised in the three objections to the closure of Northfields Technology College and its replacement by an academy, to be known as All Saints' Academy.

Members' were reminded that on 3 June 2008 (min 08-09ex18 refers) the Executive supported the submission of an Expression of Interest for Northfields Technology College to become an academy. The Expression of Interest received ministerial support and as a result, a consultation was undertaken on the possible closure of Northfields Technology College and its replacement by an academy. As the proposal was generally supported in the responses to the consultation the Executive on 25 November 2008 (minute 08-09ex18 refers) agreed to the publication of statutory notices for the closure of the College on 31 August 2009.

In accordance with the Education and Inspections Act 2006, the Executive now needed to determine whether or not to implement the proposals which were made in the statutory notices.

Members' were advised that the three objections centred largely around the Church of England as a sponsor and the possible impact of the Church on the delivery of the curriculum. In respect of the curriculum the Church had indicated it would not be seeking to influence the wider curriculum on religious grounds.

In response to questions raised by a non Executive Member the Director of Children's Services explained that the local authority would work in partnership with the academy. Whilst the local authority would no longer have financial responsibility which would be under the control of the trustees, the authority would continue to have an interest in the performance of the school and as such would work with the sponsors if there was any need to address underperformance. It was noted that academies were subject to OFSTED inspections in the normal manner.

RESOLVED:

- 1. The Executive notes that three objections have been received to the published statutory proposal for the closure of Northfields Technology College.
- 2. That agreement be given to the closure of Northfields Technology College on 31 August 2009, conditional upon the signing of a funding agreement by 15 July 2009 for its replacement by an academy on 1 September 2009 because the proposal:
 - has widespread support from the local community
 - is believed to be the best way of raising standards of achievement at the school

- would provide the students with an improved quality and breadth of education within a sound ethical framework
- would improve levels of inclusion and provision for pupils with special educational needs
- would provide the opportunity to construct new buildings to a modern design and high standard.

08-09ex98 BEAR PROJECT - EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Executive considered a joint report from Councillor Tom Wootton, Cabinet Member for Highways and Waste and Councillor Richard Stay, Cabinet Member for Finance. Councillor Wootton introduced the report which sought approval to proposed procurement criteria and weightings for evaluating the bids for the Bedfordshire Energy and Recycling BEaR project.

Since submitting the Outline Business Case (OBC) in October 2008 to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) in a bid for a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) minute 08-09ex58 of the meeting held on 21 October 2008 refers the BEaR Project Team had focused on creating the extensive documentation to take the project through the procurement phase including the evaluation criteria to be used to deliver the contract.

The submitted report updated the Executive on the project, specifically setting out the evaluation criteria that in accordance with the Joint Working Agreement was a reserved matter for Executive approval, as well as requiring specific approval of the Shadow Executive of Central Bedfordshire Council, implementation Executive of Bedford Borough Council and Luton Borough Council. The full backing of each partnering authority was essential to enable the Project to progress into the procurement phase. Failure to agree the evaluation criteria and weightings to be used could cause significant delay leading to additional Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) fines and potential loss of PFI funding aid.

It was noted that a series of seminars had been held for all members of the Partnership Authorities. These seminars gave an update on the project; outlined the purpose of the evaluation criteria; detailed how the evaluation criteria were derived; and explained the methodology for applying them when assessing bids. Individual briefings had also been offered to those members who wanted them.

In noting that the Partnership was going out to the market on a technology neutral basis members' questioned, in view of the fact that a long process had already been gone through to agree an energy from waste solution, why this was happening.

The Executive was advised that a technologically neutral procurement process was agreed by all the Partner authorities prior to the submission of the Outline Business Case last year. The intention was to encourage bidders to put forward different solutions to meet the project's requirements. It was noted that there had been testing of the criteria and this had shown there was no bias towards any particular technology. The evaluation framework had been designed to ensure that the Partnership selects most economically advantageous tender (MEAT) based on proven, deliverable technology.

The Chairman expressed concern that despite the hard work that the Council had done to identify a preferred site for a residual waste treatment facility the Partnership was neutral on sites and that whilst a site will be offered to bidders they will be invited to submit their own sites, if available. Following discussion on

this issue it was suggested that the contract documentation could be refined to specify that bidders must provide at least one bid for a solution located within Bedfordshire. It was noted that any proposed site will be assessed in terms of its location, suitability for the particular technology and the likely success of any planning application.

A non Executive member in attendance then spoke at length about member involvement in the development of the proposed procurement criteria and weightings and questioned how transparent the political process had been. The Chairman recognising the concerns of the member acknowledged the project was not the same scheme that the County Council wanted to take forward two years ago. The unitary situation meant that there needed to be joint agreement between all the authorities in Bedfordshire for the project to go forward. Members were advised that the proposed evaluation strategy had been designed to ensure it assesses bids on the basis of the Partnerships objectives and had been stress tested to ensure it meets their needs. Members were assured that there had been Executive representation on the Partnership Board from each of the Partner authorities. Members also had the opportunity to attend a number of seminars on the development of the Project. It was acknowledged it would have been useful to have received Environment Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee's comments on the proposals before this Executive meeting. It was noted that Environment Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be receiving an update on the project at its meeting on Tuesday 17 March.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the contents of the report on the Bedfordshire Energy and Recycling (BEaR) Project including the Project update be noted.
- 2. That the proposed criteria, sub criteria and weightings to be used to evaluate bidders' submissions during the procurement for the long term residual waste treatment contract set out in the submitted report be agreed.
- 3. That the contract documents stipulate a minimum requirement for bidders to submit at least one bid which provides for a solution within the County of Bedfordshire, variant bids will be allowed.

08-09ex99 DECEMBER QUARTER BUDGET MONITORING REPORT (UPDATED FOR JANUARY INFORMATION) AND 3RD QUARTER CLOSE 2008/09

The Executive considered a report from Councillor Richard Stay, Cabinet Member for Finance presenting the projected outturn position for the financial year ending 31st March 2009 based on information to the end of December 2008, together with explanations of variations from budget.

Presenting the report the Director of Resources referred to the County Council's excellent budgetary control which had been established in recent years which had continued in 2008/09. This was evidenced by the robust financial position which was to be handed over to the two new authorities on 1 April 2009.

It was noted that the revenue was forecast to be underspent by $\pounds 0.246m$ at outturn. However, since the report had been drafted an additional pay award of 0.30% above what had been budgeted for 2008 had been settled that may impact on the forecast underspend.

The Council's robustness and consistency to financial management had translated though to strong reserves; these had been strengthened in year and continued to be in line with the policy set out in the Council's Budget Strategy. The County's excellent record on efficiency was also maintained with performance forecast expected to exceed 3%.

Budgets would continue to be monitored robustly and actions would continue to be taken to address emerging and future pressures to ensure there was as little variation as possible from this. It was fully expected that Services would spend within the overall cash limit set by Council in February 2008 which would ensure sound financial positions for both Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough on 1st April 2009.

The report also reflected the contribution from Capital Financing Charges to fund service pressures as reported to the Corporate Management Board in October 2008 and approved by the Cabinet Member for Resources and Director of Corporate Resources in accordance with Financial Regulations.

Members' were advised that during the drafting of the report more up to date financial information had became available from the January monitoring and from future planned work. Changes in circumstances included increased costs of gritting and category 1 road maintenance due to the severe weather conditions, receipt of additional LABGI grant which had only just been announced by the Government following a review, and additional packages in Mental Health Service.

The third quarter closedown of the accounts had gone well with no issues or surprises. It was noted that the Audit Committee would be considering the Statement of Accounts at its meeting on 16 March before being presented to Council on 26 March.

RESOLVED:

- 1. The Executive notes the forecast outturn position as at 31st December 2008 (updated for January information) for Bedfordshire County Council and the robust financial management in place prior to the handover of services to the two new unitary authorities on 1 April 2009. The revenue and capital positions are under control, the efficiency target is being met, general reserves are being strengthened and treasury management continues to perform above target with secure investments.
- 2. That approval be given to the utilisation of £325k from Contingency for the Scolarest termination clause.
- 3. That the contribution from Capital Financing Charges to support service pressures as approved by the Cabinet Member for Resources and the Director of Corporate Resources be noted.
- 4. That approval be given to the proposed transfers to earmarked reserves as set out in Appendix D to the submitted report.
- 5. That agreement be given to the level of non earmarked reserves as set out in Appendix D to the submitted report.
- 6. That agreement be given to the level of provisions as set out in Appendix D to the submitted report.

- 7. That the school balances as shown at Appendix D to the submitted report be noted.
- 8. That agreement be given to the overall revenue under spend being transferred to BSF Reserve.

08-09ex100 RECOMMENDATION FROM BEDFORDSHIRE HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT.

The Executive considered a recommendation from Bedfordshire Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee from its meeting on 23 January 2009 relating to matters arising from the Quarter 2 Performance Monitoring Report.

The Director of Community Services advised the Executive that it was difficult to establish how many hospital patients were not being admitted directly to residential care but to step-down beds first. He explained it was not necessarily bad to admit patients direct to residential care as their needs maybe best met by doing so. It was acknowledged that the target was ambitious which had been influenced by a higher demand because of the increasing number of older people in Bedfordshire. It was acknowledged that, whilst most of the targets had been met or exceeded, they should be set at an achievable level. It was noted that the new unitary authorities would also have the opportunity to consider next year's targets before adopting them.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations from Bedfordshire Health & Adult Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee from its meeting on 23 January 2009 be noted as they are no longer something for this Council to take forward. This page is intentionally left blank

EXECUTIVE

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held at the Dunstable Community Fire Station, Dunstable, on Tuesday, 17 March 2009.

Present:

Councillors:

Councillors:

Costin (Chairman) Mrs Hegley McVicar Nicols Penman Rawcliffe Spurr Mrs Staples

Others in attendance: Councillor Snelling

Officers attending: Mr Ruddick, Ms Malarky, Ms Stevens, Mr Armstrong, Mr Carlisle, Mr Emerton, Mrs Hobbs, Ms Hulks, Mrs Rooker and Mr Young

78. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 13 January 2009 as a correct record and to authorise the Chairman to sign them, subject to the inclusion of Mr Emerton being in attendance.

79. SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

80. QUESTIONS UNDER EXECUTIVE PROCEDURE RULE 2.3 (iv)

None.

81. EXECUTIVE MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Nicols advised Members that the Council had been requested to take an active role in the City Regional Submission. Luton and Central Bedfordshire would be supporting the Department of Communities and Local Government.

82. MANAGING OUR PERFORMANCE 2008-2009

Members received a performance report setting the overall position for the year to date. Appendix A to the report detailed performance in quarter three against targets set out in the 2008 Council Plan for our priorities for action and heartbeat indicators, including a number of key financial indicators.

Members received a presentation that gave an overview of the Council Plan 2008/09 and the key areas under each ambition. The Council Plan agreed in June 2008, set out 13 priorities for action under the Council's control whereby six exceeded/met the target and seven had just missed the target. At the end of quarter two the South Bedfordshire District's overall performance was amber.

Quarter three budget monitoring outlined the General Fund overspend reported in quarter two of £159k had been contained and a contribution to reserves of £209k would be possible. The Council had been able to contain the impact of the current economic downturn with no impact on current service delivery. There had been no adverse matters that needed reporting for the Housing Revenue Account and capital programme.

Members were advised that the work programmes that were no longer directly under the Council's control would be taken forward by Central Bedfordshire teams. Where this was the case the performance management system had classified these accordingly and their progress would not affect the overall South Bedfordshire performance outcome against the relevant PFA and Ambition.

The reason for resolving the following was to ensure the Council continued to closely monitor council priorities and its performance and effectively managed the transition process.

NOTED the performance in relation to targets and milestones as set out in the 2008 Council Plan.

83. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2008/09

The Executive received a report which enabled Members to review the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) prior to its inclusion in the 2008/09 Statement of Accounts. The Audit Committee would consider the Statement on 19 March 2009 and be referred to Central Bedfordshire before being published. The 2008/09 Statement of Accounts would be produced by Central Bedfordshire following the Council's demise on 31 March 2009.

The reason for resolving the following was to begin the process whereby the Annual Governance Statement would be published via the annual statement of accounts for 2008/09.

RESOLVED

- 1) that the Annual Governance Statement as set out at Appendix A to the report be approved
- 2) that the Annual Governance Statement for 2008/09 be referred to the Audit Committee for consideration and approval for inclusion within the 2008/09 Statement of Accounts for South Bedfordshire District Council.

84. SUNDRY DEBTOR ACCOUNTS – UNCOLLECTABLE ARREARS

The Executive received a report that sought Members approval for the write-off of uncollectible arrears of the sundry debts detailed in the report.

The report was set out into two parts, the first part was the total of delegated write-offs that had been authorised by the Corporate Service Manager (Business Services) and Corporate Service Manager (Legal and Democratic). The second part sought Members approval to write-off the eight cases that were over £2,500 which totalled £70,626.21.

Members discussed the reliability of the guarantors and suggested that the guarantors' financial situation be reviewed at regular intervals.

NOTED that the delegated write-off of sundry debts tabled in section 3.0 of the report.

RESOLVED to authorise the write-off of uncollectible sundry debts over $\pounds 2,500$ as set out in section 4.0 of the report.

85. HOUSING BENEFIT OVERPAYMENTS

The Executive sought Members approval to authorise the write-off of the Housing Benefit accounts listed in the report that were in excess of $\pounds 2,500.00$. These accounts had undergone the normal channels of recovery and were deemed to be irrecoverable. Members noted that if at any time the whereabouts of the claimants became known to the Council, the debt would be written back on and pursued.

The reason for resolving the following was that the sum of £48,540.84 consisting of 13 accounts detailed in Appendices A and B to the report, each of which exceeded the sum of £2,500.00 allowed for delegated authority.

RESOLVED to authorise the writing off of 13 irrecoverable Housing Benefit Overpayments outlined in the report.

86. KITCHEN, BATHROOM AND LEVEL ACCESS REFURBISHMENT CONTRACT FOR 2009/10

The Executive received a report that informed Members of the procurement status of the new Decent Homes Contract 2009/10 and to extend the current contracts.

The reason for resolving the following was that new contracts for kitchens, bathrooms, level access refurbishment and re-roofing were out for tender and would be evaluated and awarded in April 2009 with a start on site date sometime during May 2009. The two existing contracts for kitchens, bathrooms and level access refurbishment were due for completion on 31 March 2009. Extending the contracts outside of the term would enable the Council to continue with its Decent Homes work, until the new contract was awarded. The existing re-roofing contract did not require an extension as the works had been completed.

RESOLVED that the existing contracts be extended up to a maximum of six months.

87. MINUTES OF HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 27 NOVEMBER 2008

The Executive received and considered the minutes for the Houghton Regis Town Centre Management Committee held on 27 November 2008.

Councillors Mrs Staples advised Members that it had been a pleasure serving on the HRTCMC. She had attended several site visits to the refurbishment of Bedford Square, Houghton Regis and it was an exciting time to look forward to.

88. MINUTES OF THE DUNSTABLE TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 DECEMBER 2008

The Executive received and considered the minutes for the Dunstable Town Centre Management Committee held on 9 December 2008.

Councillor McVicar advised Members that improvements to the Town Centre was being considered as part of the Masterplan. He had attended a meeting where representative from the Highways Agency, Department for Transport, East of England Development Agency etc attended to highlight the need for the Northern Dunstable Bypass.

In a response to a query Councillor McVicar advised Members that the Town Centre Management Committees would continue the same arrangements that were currently in place with South Bedfordshire District Council whereby the minutes from these meetings would be submitted to the Central Bedfordshire Executive. Members discussed the provision of a budget for the Town Centre Management Committees and requested that clarity be sought as to whether this would still be available after 1 April 2009.

Members also discussed the request from Leighton Linslade Town Council for funding to support the Borrowers' Centre. The Executive had supported the principle of releasing revenue reserves of £15,000, subject to previous concerns expressed at the meeting on 19 August 2008 and a business case demonstrating a viable project. Members were made aware that a business case had not been forthcoming. Members were advised that the legalities of using the Borrowers name was being considered and a brochure was being produced about how the name would be protected, which the Town Council needed funding for. The Executive agreed that the above concerns needed to be addressed before any revenue could be released.

NOTED the minutes of the Dunstable Town Centre Management Committee held on 9 December 2008.

89. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

RESOLVED to exclude the public from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business which contained exempt information as defined in Section 100 (1) of the local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

90. FORMER LEASEHOLDER'S ARREARS – WRITE OFF

Exempt Paragraph 3

The Executive received a report that sought Members approval to write-off a former leaseholder's arrears, which had been identified as irrecoverable.

The reason for resolving the write-off was that the debt had been accepted in return for the surrender of the leaseholder's lease, and exceeded the sum allowed for delegated authority.

RESOLVED to authorise the write-off of the leaseholder debts, as set out in paragraph 4.0 in the report.

91. TRICO – CREASEY PARK COMMUNITY FOOTBALL PROJECT

Exempt Paragraph 3

The Executive received a report that sought Members approval to waive standing orders and financial regulations in order to appoint an architect to undertake the remaining design work and to project manage the Creasey Park Community Football project.

The reason for resolving the following was to enable the project to proceed in what was considered the most appropriate way recognising the many and carried competing demands on Central Bedfordshire.

RESOLVED that the Strategic Director be authorised to appoint AND Architects to provide professional services in accordance with RIBA conditions E to L for second Phase of Creasey Park Community Football project and to provide the overall onsite project management, and such appointment to be conditional on Central Bedfordshire Council providing the necessary capital funding to enable the scheme to proceed.

As it was the last meeting of the South Bedfordshire District Council Executive the Leader of the Council thanked Members (including the opposition Members) and Officers for taking part and for their contribution to the Executive. The Executive had worked well as a team and it was why South Bedfordshire was moving forward in a strong position.

CHAIRMAN

MID BEDFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **EXECUTIVE** held in the Council Chamber, Priory House, Chicksands on Wednesday, 18 March 2009.

PRESENT

Cllr Mrs P E Turner MBE (Chairman) Cllr K C Matthews (Vice-Chairman)

Cllrs Mrs C F Chapman MBE Cllrs S F Male M R Jones B Wells Mrs J G Lawrence

Apology for Absence: Cllr Mrs A M Lewis

Members in Attendance:	Cllrs	P N Aldis	Cllrs	H T W Harper
		A R Bastable		D J Lawrence
		I Dalgarno		J A G Saunders
		B J Golby		J Street
		Ms A M W Graham		Mrs C Turner

Officers in Attendance:	Mr G Alderson	_	Director of Environmental & Planning Services
	Mr S Andrews	_	Acting Forward Plans Manager
	Mr B Carter	_	Overview & Scrutiny Manager
	Mr J Cliff	_	Special Projects Manager
	Mr R Parsons	_	Community Services Manager
	Mr J Phillipson	_	Senior Committee Administrator
	Miss C Ruvolo	_	Communications Officer
	Mrs J Salisbury	-	Chief Executive, MBDC/Interim Chief Executive, CBC
	Mr D Sutherland	_	Chief Finance Officer
	Miss F Webb	-	Team Leader, Conservation Project Design
	Mr M Woolsey	-	Solicitor

E/08/60 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 21 January 2009 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

E/08/61 **MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

(a) Personal Interests:-

None.

(b) Personal and Prejudicial Interests:-

None.

E/08/62 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Chairman announced that no applications had been received under Appendix "A" to Executive Procedure Rule No. E14 to speak during the 15 minute question and statement period set aside for public participation at the beginning of the meeting. However in respect of Agenda Item No. P1 an application to speak had been received. Using her discretion under the scheme of public participation the Chairman extended the question and statement period in order that four members of the public could address the Executive.

E/08/63 VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chairman advised that she intended to vary the order of business under the Provisions of Executive Procedure Rule No. E19 to enable Agenda Item No. P1 to be taken first in the order of business.

E/08/64 EXEMPT ITEM(S) OF BUSINESS

It was noted that there were no exempt items of business to be dealt with at this meeting.

E/08/65 **PETITIONS**

The Executive was advised that there were no petitions referred from Council requiring consideration at this meeting.

E/08/66 CALL-IN AND BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK RULES

The Executive was advised that no matters had been referred for consideration in accordance with Rule No. S12 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules or the Budget Policy Framework Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of the Constitution.

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E/08/67 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM GYPSY AND TRAVELLER DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT

Following upon notification given under Minute No. E/08/62, the Executive received public participation under Executive Procedure Rule No. E14 in respect of Agenda Item No. P1.

Having noted the comments made by the speakers, the Portfolio Holder (Planning Services) presented the report of the Director of Environmental and Planning Services. The Executive were invited to consider determining the way forward in relation to the Local Democracy Forum (LDF) recommendation that a review be undertaken of the present range of sites, together with a further site search in order to meet the requirements for additional gypsy and traveller pitches and possible transit provision as recommended by the Panel report into the East of England Plans Single Issue Review.

During the consideration of the report now presented the Executive endorsed the recommendation of the Local Development Forum Task Force.

Reason for decision: To obtain agreement from the Executive on the delay to the current LDF Timetable in relation to the Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document.

RESOLVED

- 1. that a review be undertaken of the present range of sites together with a further site search in order to meet the total requirements for Gypsy and Traveller pitches within the District including those recommended by the Panel Report into the East of England Plan Single Issue Review;
- 2. that arrangements be made for the Vision Twenty One report on responses to consultation to be published before the end of April 2009; and
- 3. that GoEast be requested to clarify the level of pitch provision recommended for Mid Bedfordshire in the light of the most up-todate information and evidence.

E/08/68 **REFERENCES FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 12 MARCH 2009**

The Executive received and considered the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Manager in relation to references from the Scrutiny Committee held on 12 March 2009.

Having considered in detail the recommendations as now presented the Executive endorsed the findings of the Scrutiny Committee.

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Reason for decision: To respond to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee in respect of the final report of the Biggleswade Skate Park Task Force, decreasing performance against the target relating to Other Burglary and the forwarding of performance management arrangements to the new Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

RESOLVED

- 1. that the Executive endorses the recommendations contained within the final report of the Biggleswade Skate Park Task Force and takes appropriate steps to ensure these recommendations are communicated to and implemented by Central Bedfordshire from 1 April 2009;
- 2. that the Executive take steps to ensure that Central Bedfordshire investigates at the earliest opportunity decreasing performance against the target relating to Other Burglary and asks Bedfordshire Police to explain what it is doing to improve performance in this area; and
- 3. that the Executive take steps to ensure that Central Bedfordshire officers submit reports to the first meetings of the new Overview and Scrutiny Committees setting out the performance management arrangements proposed in the new Council.

E/08/69 **DESIGN GUIDE FOR MID BEDFORDSHIRE**

The Portfolio Holder (Planning Services) presented the report of the Director of Environmental and Planning Services inviting consideration of responses following public consultation on the draft design guide and design supplement seeking endorsement of the documents as technical guidance for the Mid Bedfordshire Local Development Framework for the consideration and determination of planning applications for development.

During consideration of this matter representations were made with regard to the design requirements contained in the Guide in relation to the size of garages and car parking space provision. Although the Executive considered it appropriate for the Design Guide in relation to the size of garages to be amended, the Executive acknowledged the need to review a Draft Design Guide and Design Supplements further it was not only in this respect but also in respect of the matters discussed at the meeting including car parking provision and accordingly was considered appropriate for the Local Development Framework Task Force at its meeting to be held on 23 April 2009 to conduct a detailed review and present recommendations upon the design guide for Mid Bedfordshire to the Executive of the new Council.

Reason for decision: To help underpin Local Development Framework Policy National Planning Guidance aimed at improving the quality and sustainability of new development.

RESOLVED

that the Executive requests the LDF Task Force at its meeting to be held on 23 April 2009 to further consider the Design Guide and Design Supplements in the light of the Executive's opinion that the dimensions of garages should be 7m x 3m and that the recommendations of the Task Force be presented to the Executive of the new Council.

E/08/70 FLITWICK TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENTS

The Portfolio Holder (Planning Services) presented the report of the Director of Environmental and Planning Services requested the Executive to release funds to Flitwick Town Council to enable them to progress the proposals for the enhancement of the High Street and Station Square area of the town centre.

Reason for decision: To enable progress to be made with developing and proposals for and implementing the enhancement of the High Street and Station Square area of Flitwick Town Centre.

RESOLVED

that the Executive approves the release of £80,000 to Flitwick Town Council from the Town Centre Enhancement Budget, and contributions secured via Section 106 Agreements for the purposes set out in paragraph 6 of the report, subject to:-

- (a) an undertaking from the Town Council that the monies will be spent in accordance with the Business Plan; and
- (b) the securing of an indemnity from the Town Council that if Section 106 monies are not used in accordance with the terms of the relevant Section 106 Agreements, they would be repaid to the Central Bedfordshire Council.

(Note: The meeting commenced at 9.30 a.m. and concluded at 12.31 p.m.)

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Central Bedfordshire in contact

on the telephone... 0300 300 8000

by email... info@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

on the web... www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

by post...

Central Bedfordshire Council

Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, Bedfordshire SG17 5TO



Contact by E mail, letter and fax

We aim to respond to you via your chosen method of communication and we aim to:

- Acknowledge receipt of your enguiry within 1 working day
- Provide a full response to your enquiry within 5 working days or
- Tell you if your enquiry relates to statutory timescales, or involves consultation with partners. Such enquiries may take longer to provide a full response and we will advise you when we will be giving a response
- Reply using plain, jargon free language.

Our Website

We aim to make it easy for you to find the information you want at a time that is convenient to you and we will:

- Ensure that our website information is accurate and up to date
- Let you make payments, fill in forms and get information on all Council services
- Ensure that our website is accessible to all our customers, by providing speech software and visually compliant pages

Visits to customers homes/ business premises

We appreciate that it is sometimes necessary for us to visit you and we will:

• provide you, where appropriate, in advance with the name and contact details of the person visiting you

- Agree an appointment time, where appropriate, with you and will keep you informed if a delav occurs
- Show identification cards, with our names and photograph, on arrival and give you the opportunity to check our identity (please do not let anyone into your home unless you know them or have checked their identity)

Help us to help you

We are committed to delivering a high quality service to all our customers and ask that in return, you:

- Let us know about any changes in your personal circumstances that may affect the service we provide for you
- Let us know if you have any special needs so that we can provide the right help
- Let us know if you cannot keep an appointment
- Treat our staff and other customers with respect. Our staff, partners and contractors will not tolerate abusive or violent behaviour and action will be taken as appropriate to address any such situations

Listening to our customers

Our aim is to help you in the best way we can. We want to ensure that our service standards meet your requirements and will listen and act on any complaint, comment or compliment that you wish to make.

• A formal feedback process is available by contacting our Customer Services team by telephone, in person or via e mail. The process is also available on our website.

- Questions relating to schools must be directed to the school. Please contact the relevant member of staff via the school office
- Social Care feedback may be subject to a different procedure. Please do contact us if you would like any further information

Customer satisfaction surveys and feedback are a valuable method of seeking your comments. These are regularly distributed to people who live in, work in and travel though Central Bedfordshire.

Comments can be made to any member of staff, by telephone, in person or by e mail or by completing or requesting a customer comment card. We will monitor customer feedback and learn from it.

Contact Us

This Charter must continue to develop and change to meet the needs of our customers. If you have any comments or ideas, please contact

Head of Customer Services

Central Bedfordshire Council Priory House Monks Walk Priorv House Chicksands Shefford Beds SG17 5TO

Telephone 0300 300 8000 e mail customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk



Central Bedfordshire Customer Charter

Putting the customer at the heart of everything we do



Vision / commitment

We are committed to providing you with an excellent customer experience when you use our services. We will provide you with a high quality accessible service that meets your needs.

What Can You Expect?

This Charter sets out the standards that we aim to follow in order to provide you with the highest possible standard of customer service, no matter how you choose to contact us.

As a Council we will:

- Always treat our customers fairly
- Be professional, open and honest
- Expect our employees to be focused on our customers' needs
- Listen and respond to the needs of each customer, treating everyone with courtesy, dignity and respect
- Treat any information you give us on a strictly confidential basis, within the law
- Respond quickly and efficiently to requests for service and information
- Keep you informed so you know what to expect, explaining what we will do next, and by when
- Use clear non technical language
- Work with our partners and contractors to ensure they commit to our standards so that every customer receives the best possible service
- Seek and act on feedback received to continuously improve our service delivery



Services for all

We are committed to delivering services to everyone living in, working in or travelling through Central Bedfordshire without discrimination, prejudice or bias on the grounds of:

- Age or disability
- Religion or belief
- Colour, race or ethnic background
- Gender, marital status or sexual orientation.

Accessibility of information

Information on all Council services can be made available in the following additional formats on request

- Audio cassette tape
- Braille
- Larger print
- In another language

A translation or interpretation service is available when needed to ensure information about Council services is available to all customers.

In all your dealings with us, you have the right to:

- See personal information we hold about you under the Data Protection Act 1998; and
- Ask us for any information we hold that may be available under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

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Our Service Standards

Set out below you will find the expectations we have set ourselves for responding to your enquiries.

Contact by Telephone

We will provide you with a friendly, professional, efficient service and we aim to:

- Answer your call within 20 seconds
- $\boldsymbol{\cdot}$ Tell you our name when we answer
- Answer your enquiry immediately or, where this is not possible identify who is able to answer your enquiry and provide you with their details
- $\boldsymbol{\cdot}$ Connect you to the right extension first time
- Ask if you want to speak to someone else or leave a message if the person you are calling is not available
- Advise you when you can expect a response from us

Visits to our offices

We aim to provide you with as many services as possible in a location convenient to you and we will:

- Greet you within 2 minutes of your arrival
- See you within 5 minutes of your appointment time where you have an appointment,
- Ensure you are seen by a member of staff, who can deal with your enquiry, within 10 minutes of your arrival, where you do not have an appointment
- Arrange for a private interview room if necessary
- $\boldsymbol{\cdot}$ Provide suitable and comfortable waiting areas
- Accommodate any additional needs you may have.

Central Bedfordshire Executive Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1 May 2009 to 30 April 2010

- Any correspondence should be sent to the contact Member or officer at the relevant address as shown below. General questions about the 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 contact Member, or to the officer whose telephone number and e-mail address are shown in the Forward Plan. Plan such as specific dates, should be addressed to the Democratic Services Manager, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford SG17 5TQ. (c)
- 4) The agendas for meetings of the Executive will be published as follows:

Publication of Agenda	2 April 2009	01 May 2009	15 June 2009	13 July 2009	10 August 2009	7 September 2009	5 October 2009	2 November 2009	30 November 2009	4 January 2010	1 February 2010	1 March 2010	25 March 2010
Meeting Date	14 April 2008	12 May 2009	23 June 2009	21 July 2009	18 August 2009	15 September 2009	13 October 2009	10 November 2009	8 December 2009	12 January 2010	9 February 2010	9 March 2010	6 April 2010

Central Bedfordshire Council

Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 1 May 2009 to 30 April 2010

Key Decisions

Date of Publication: 9 April 2009

Issue for Key the Executive	ey Decision by ve	eting	Consultees and Date / Method	Documents which may be considered	Contact Members and Officer (Method of Comment and Closing Date)
Wilton Keynes a Beds Memoranc Understanding c Working for the Expansion Area	Milton Keynes and Central Beds Memorandum of Understanding on Joint Working for the South East Expansion Area	12 May 2009	Portfolio Holder (Sater and Stronger Communities) Relevant Ward Members	Кероп	Cilr Peter Shelling Comments by 17/04/09 to Contact Officer: Sue Frost, Senior Planning Officer sue.frost@midbeds.gov.uk Tel: 01462 611337
Key Inforn Part 3	Key Information Policies Part 3	12 May 2009	Portfolio Holder (Corporate Resources)	Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 17/04/09 to Contact Officer: Rob Wood, Assistant Director ICT, CBC rob.wood@midbeds.gov.uk Tel: 01582 474161
Members Policy	Members ICT Provision Policy	12 May 2009	Portfolio Holder (Corporate Resources)	Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 17/04/09 to Contact Officer: Rob Wood, Assistant Director ICT, CBC rob.wood@midbeds.gov.uk Tel: 01582 474161
Approval Grant Aid	Approval of Criteria for Grant Aid Schemes	12 May 2009	Portfolio Holder (Safer & Stronger Communities)	Report	Cllr Peter Snelling Comments by 17/04/09 to Contact Officer: Sue Barrow, PA to Director of Community Services & Grants Officer sue.barrow@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01462 611243

Contact Members and Officer (Method of Comment and Closing Date)	Cllr Ken C Matthews Comments by 17/04/09 to Contact Officer: Pru Khimasia, Senior Planning Officer pru.khimasia@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01462 611473	Cllr Ken C Matthews Comments by 17/04/09 to Contact Officer: Roy Romans, Minerals and Waste Team Leader roy.romans@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01234 228091	Cllr Peter Snelling Comments by 02/06/09 to Contact Officer: Susan Childerhouse, Work Environment Manager, MBDC susan.childerhouse@midbeds.gov.uk Tel: 01462 611394	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 02/06/09 to Contact Officer: Brian Mew, Interim Financial Services Manager, MBDC brian.mew@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01462 611070	Cllr Mrs Rita J Drinkwater Comments by 02/06/09 to Contact Officer: lan Porter, Assistant Director Service Policy, Partnerships & Performance, CBC ian.porter@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01234 276067
Documents which may be considered	Report	Report	Report	Report	Report
Consultees and Date / Method	Portfolio Holder (Sustainable Development) Members Steering Group of the Joint Committee (April LDF Task Force (April 23))	Portfolio Holder (Sustainable Development) Director of Sustainable Communities Bedford Borough Council Luton Borough Council	Properties of businesses where the Council have a duty of enforcement under the Food Hygiene (England) Regs 2005.	Portfolio HOlder (Corporate Resources)	Portfolio Holder (Business Transformation) Directors
Indicative Meeting Date	12 May 2009	12 May 2009	23 June 2009	23 June 2009	23 June 2009
Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	RSS14: East of England Regional Spatial Strategy Single Issue Review Consultation - Planning for Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation: Proposed Changes (April 2009)	Minerals and Waste Local Development Scheme to be approved	Food Safety Service Plan to be approved	Revenue Outturns 2008/09 - Mid Bedfordshire and South Bedfordshire District Councils	Information Governance and Security Policy
Ref No.	ک	ف	7.	αj	ര്

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date / Method	Documents which may be considered	Contact Members and Officer (Method of Comment and Closing Date)
15.	Community Safety Strategic Assessment and Community Safety Plan	23 June 2009	Portfolio Holder (Safer and Stronger Communities) LSP Partners CSP Partners Comments received from publication of plan as per national standards	Report	Cllr Peter Snelling Comments by 02/06/09 to Contact Officer: Jeanette Keyte, Community Safety Manager, SBDC jeanette.keyte@southbeds.gov.uk tel: 0845 849 6252
16.	The Underage Sales Plan	23 June 2009	Portfolio Holder (Safer and Stronger Communities) Police Youth Offending Service Key External Stakeholders	Report	Cllr Peter Snelling Comments by 02/06/09 to Contact Officer: Sandra Moore, Environmental Health Manager, SBDC sandra.moore@southbeds.gov.uk tel: 0845 849 6298
17.	Community Engagement Strategy	15 September 2009	Portfolio Holder (Business Transformation) LSP Partners	Report	Cllr Mrs Rita J Drinkwater Comments by 21/08/09 to Contact Officer: Ian Porter, Assistant Director Service Policy, Partnerships & Performance, CBC ian.porter@bedscc.gov.uk Tel: 01234 276067
	Central Bedfordshire Children's and Young Peoples Plan 2009 - 2010	15 September 2009	Initial Consultation has been formulated from draft plan by Bedfordshire CC. This plan has been significantly revised and refreshed by Central Bedfordshire's Children, Families and Learning Services Directorate in consultation with strategic partners.	Report	Cllr Norman B Costin Comments by 21/08/09 to Contact Officer: Tim Long, Head of Strategic & Joint Commissioning tim.long@bedscc.gov.uk

	sion by	eting	ethod	Documents which may be considered	Contact Members and Officer (Method of Comment and Closing Date)
St Cr	Customer Services Strategy	15 September 2009	Portfolio Holder (Business Transformation) Directors	Report	Cllr Mrs Rita J Drinkwater Comments by 21/08/09 to Contact Officer: Clive Jones, Head of Customer Services & Business Transformation (including Revenues & Benefits), CBC clive.jones@midbeds.gov.uk Tel: 01462 611168
	Licensing Policy and Framework	15 September 2009	Licensing Trade Portfolio Holder (Safer and Stronger Communities) Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Licensing Committee Three month period commencing 1 April 2009, meetings, publication on website and in other media	Report	Cllr Peter Snelling Comments by 21/08/09 to Contact Officer: Susan Childerhouse, Work Environment Manager, MBDC susan.childerhouse@midbeds.gov.uk Tel: 01462 611394
0 Å Ā	Central Bedfordshire Partnership Approach to Anti Social Behaviour	15 September 2009	Portfolio Holder (Safer and Stronger Communities) LSP Partners CSP Partners Key Stakeholders	Report	Cllr Peter Snelling Comments by 21/08/09 to Contact Officer: Jeanette Keyte, Community Safety Manager, SBDC jeanette.keyte@southbeds.gov.uk tel: 0845 849 6252
<u>م ب</u>	Business Transformation Strategy	13 October 2009	Portfolio Holder (Business Transformation) Directors	Report	Cllr Mrs Rita J Drinkwater Comments by 22/09/09 to Contact Officer: Clive Jones, Head of Customer Services & Business Transformation (including Revenues & Benefits), CBC clive.jones@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01462 611168

Issue for Key Decision by Indicative Meeting the Executive Date		Consultees and Date / Method	Documents which may be considered	Contact Members and Officer (Method of Comment and Closing Date)	
Development of a Uniformed Presence for Central Bedfordshire	12 January 2010	Relevant Portfolio Holders	Report	Cllr Peter Snelling Comments by 10/12/09 to Contact Officer: Jeanette Keyte, Community Safety Manager, SBDC jeanette.keyte@southbeds.gov.uk tel: 0845 849 6252	
CCTV Service Options	9 February 2010	Portfolio Holder (Safer and Stronger Communities) Key Stakeholders	Report	Cllr Peter Snelling Comments by 15/01/10 to Contact Officer: Jeanette Keyte, Community Safety Manager, SBDC jeanette.keyte@southbeds.gov.uk tel: 0845 849 6252	
Community Safety Strategic Assessment and Community Safety Plan 2010 - 2011	9 May 2009	Portfolio Holder (Safer and Stronger Communities) LSP Partners CSP Partners Comments received from publication of plan priorities as per national standards	Report	Cllr Peter Snelling Comments by 16/03/10 to Contact Officer: Jeanette Keyte, Community Safety Manager, SBDC jeanette.keyte@southbeds.gov.uk Tel: 0845 849 6252	

Mid Beds District Council, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford SG17 5TQ South Bedfordshire District Council, The District Offices, High Street North, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU6 1LF Bedfordshire County Council, County Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford MK42 9AP Postal address for Contact Officers:

Central Bedfordshire Executive Forward Plan of Decisions on Key Issues

The following table sets out the dates on which the Central Beds Forward Plan will be published in 2009/10:

Date of Publication	Period of Plan
08.05.09	1 June 2009 – 31 May 2010
15.06.09	1 July 2009 – 30 June 2010
15.07.09	1 August 2009 – 31 July 2010
13.08.09	1 September 2009 – 31 August 2010
10.09.09	1 October 2009 – 30 September 2010
08.10.09	1 November 2009 – 31 October 2010
05.11.09	1 December 2009 – 30 November 2010
03.12.09	1 January – 31 December 2010
07.01.10	1 February 2010 – 31 January 2011
04.02.10	1 March 2010 – 28 February 2011
04.03.10	1 April 2010 – 31 March 2011
31.03.10	1 May 2010 – 30 April 2011

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