

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



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

21 February 2013

Dear Councillor

**CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL - THURSDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2013**

Further to the Agenda and papers for the above meeting, previously circulated, please find attached the following additional item of business:-

**8. Recommendations from the Executive**

b) Capital Programme 2013/14 to 2013/17

Please find attached a recommendation from the General Purposes Committee held on 21 February 2013. The recommendation proposes changes to the Council's Constitution regarding the extension of the Executive's authority to add schemes to the Capital programme, as set out in Appendix A to the attached report, be approved and adopted.

Should you have any queries regarding the above please contact Sandra Hobbs on Tel: 0300 300 5257.

Yours sincerely

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<b>Recommendation to Council on 21 February 2013</b>	<b>From: General Purposes Committee on 28 January 2013</b>	<b>Item 8 (b)</b>
	<b>In-Year Changes to the Capital Programme</b>	
1.	Council is asked to approve the following recommendation:-	
	<b>that the proposed changes to the Council’s Constitution regarding the extension of the Executive’s authority to add schemes to the Capital programme, as set out in Appendix A to this report, be approved and adopted.</b>	
	<b>Background</b>	
2.	The Committee considered a report by the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources which sought Members’ views on amending the Council’s Constitution to extend the Executive’s authority to add new capital schemes costing more than £500,000 (whole life cost) to the Capital Programme. The meeting noted that such schemes would be either those already on the Council approved reserve list or those where the costs of the scheme would be met by external funding, with this being subject to the associated revenue costs being accommodated within the approved revenue budget for financing the Capital Programme.	
3.	In support of the proposal the Deputy Leader and Executive Member reminded the meeting that the Council sometimes received funding from central government which required an almost immediate spend. Unfortunately, delay could arise as the Code of Governance currently required that, whilst new schemes could be added to the Capital Programme, schemes costing more than £500,000 (whole life cost) first required Council approval.	
4.	In response to a Member’s query the Deputy Leader and Executive Member explained that, under normal circumstances, no further action would be taken with regard to the schemes on the reserve list. However, if slippage occurred on an approved capital scheme, and the Council’s borrowing requirement was not likely to be breached, the opportunity could arise for a suitable reserve list capital scheme to be progressed.	
<b>Appendices</b>	Appendix A	Proposed Amendment to Part 12 of the Constitution – Capital Programme

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Proposed Amendment to Part I2 of the Constitution

4.10 Capital Programme

4.10.10 In year, the Executive may approve new Capital Schemes that have not previously been included in the Capital Programme, but which are included in the Capital Programme Reserve list approved by Council or which are to be funded in full from external sources, subject to the production of Outline and Detailed Business Cases and provided that the revenue cost of such schemes can be accommodated within the approved revenue budget for the Capital Programme in the relevant financial year, as confirmed by the Chief Finance Officer and the Executive Member for Corporate Resources.

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