



**TO EACH MEMBER OF THE
EXECUTIVE**

04 December 2009

Dear Councillor

EXECUTIVE - Tuesday 8 December 2009

Further to the Chairman's Briefing meeting held on Tuesday 1 December, please find attached the following additional information:-

- 8. Annual Performance Report of Adult Social Care for 2008/09**

Please find attached the CQC report and appendix which details the Annual Performance of Adult Social Care for 2008/09. Members are asked to note that a brief presentation will be given at the meeting.
- 10. Draft Budget 2010/11 to 2014/15**

The revised report and appendices A1 to F have been issued in a separate document.
- 11. Medium Term Accommodation Programme Update**

On the front page of the report the **Public/Exempt:** should show Exempt – Appendix A.
- 14. Future of Special Schooling in the East of the Authority**

Childrens, Families and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on 1 December 2009 and asked a number of questions which are now attached with responses.

15. Holmemead Middle School - New Autism Spectrum Disorder Provision

A question was asked in relation to recommendation (b) and if the financial year 2010/11 was the correct year for the expenditure of funds. The Deputy Director Children Families and Learning and the Assistant Director Specialist Services confirmed that the financial year listed was the correct year and that the 2009/10 expenditure has already been allocated.

22. Audit Minutes

To receive the minutes of the Special Audit Committee held on 30 October 2009.

23. Forward Plan

To receive the Forward Plan which covers the period from 01 January 2010 to 31 December 2010.

Members are also asked to note it was agreed that the order of business may be changed and items containing exempt information dealt with at the end of the meeting.

Should you have any queries regarding the above please contact Democratic Services on Tel: 0300 300 4032

Yours sincerely

Martha Clampitt,
Democratic Services Officer
email: martha.clampitt@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Meeting: Executive
Date: 8 December 2009
Subject: Annual Performance Report for Adult Social Care 2008 - 2009
Report of: Cllr Mrs Carole Hegley , Portfolio Holder for Social Care & Health
Summary: Performance in adult social care services is subject to an annual assessment by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The CQC require that the outcome of the performance assessment is reported to the Executive. The outcome for 2008 - 2009 is that Central Bedfordshire Council has not been given a judgement about performance because of the transition to unitary status in April 2009 and the performance being reported on is that of Bedfordshire County Council.

Advising Officer: Julie Ogley, Director of Social Care, Health & Housing
Contact Officer: Althea Mitcham, Head of Business Infrastructure
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Executive
Key Decision No
Reason for urgency/ exemption from call-in (if appropriate) This report is embargoed from public publication until 2 December 2009, when the Care Quality Commission will publish the national results for Councils with social care responsibilities.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The delivery of services that are high in standard and of good value, contribute to improving the quality of social care and health services for local citizens, by providing better life chances for adults, older people and their carers and enables more vulnerable or chronically sick people to be appropriately cared for in their own or a community home.

The delivery of responsive services meets with the Council's vision to 'improve the quality of life of all in Central Bedfordshire' and its priority of 'supporting and caring for an ageing population'.

Financial:

The ongoing remedial work to improve critical areas of weakness will be financed from within existing resources. External funding sources such as the Joint Investment Programme are being pursued.

There is no earmarked revenue budget provision for the costs associated with the Recovery Programme for Adult Social Care, however, the Directorate has identified uncommitted revenue budget which will be used to meet these short term costs. Additional ongoing revenue budget to support the delivery and maintenance of service improvements has been identified as a growth bid for 2010/11.

Legal:

There are no inherent legal considerations resulting from the report.

Risk Management:

There are no risks inherent in this report as the Council are already engaged in a recovery and improvement programme which is regularly monitored by the Care Quality Commission, but it will be important to address the areas that are considered weak or for development.

Equalities/Human Rights:

All Local Authorities are required to implement a range of equality legislation which requires the Council to:

- Understand issues relating to disability, gender, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, age, and sexual orientation.
- Engage with service users, local communities, staff, stakeholders and contractors to identify and implement improvements
- Tackle barriers which restrict access to services or lead to poorer outcomes when using services, (e.g. inaccessible buildings, poorly publicised services and lack of employee understanding about the needs of particular groups).
- Address abuse of vulnerable adults which can include discriminatory abuse, including racist, sexist, that based on a person's disability, and other forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment.

Central Bedfordshire Council has recently launched specialist equality training for Adult Services staff to help raise awareness of these issues.

The recovery and improvement programme will deliver improved services to those who are amongst the most disadvantaged in the community and reliant on care services to prevent them from going into a residential establishment or in order to undertake daily living tasks.

Improvements to services judged to be weak and under-performing will ensure that service users and their carers receive the most appropriate support and experience services which are appropriate, timely and of high quality. Services will consider the service users and carers' cultural needs as well as specific individual needs as a result of a learning disability or difficulty, poor mental health, visual impairment, hearing impairment, mobility issues or physical health needs.

Summary of Overview and Scrutiny Comments:

An update on the Recovery and Improvement of Adult Care Services was reported to the Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 10 September 2009.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Executive note the content of the report.

Reason for Recommendation(s): There is a requirement from the government regulators of social care services, (Care Quality Commission) that the outcome of the annual assessment is reported to the Executive.

The Health and Social Care Act 2003, sections 79 and 81 require CQC to report to the Minister of State for care services on underperforming councils.

Executive Summary

The report fulfils the national requirement of reporting to a public meeting of the Council's Executive the outcome of the annual performance assessment for adult social care services in Central Bedfordshire for 2008/09. The national publication of the assessments was on 2nd December 2009. For Central Bedfordshire the view of the regulator is expressed in a commentary rather than a judgement acknowledging that 2008/09 adult social care services were delivered by Bedfordshire County Council.

Introduction

1. The reporting and performance monitoring regime for Adult Social Care for 2008 – 2009 has changed in line with new legislation and the introduction of the Comprehensive Area Assessment. The Care Quality Commission is the new regulator for adult social care and health and along with changes in the self assessment format, the way that local authorities are graded has changed. There is no longer a star rating for social care, instead there is judgement against each of the prescribed delivery outcomes and this is aggregated up into an overall judgement about how well the Council is performing overall. The assessment result will inform the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) Organisational Assessment.
2. The new unitary Councils of Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough Councils will not receive a judgement for adult social care services for

performance in 2008/09 but will receive a commentary (Appendix A – embargoed until 2nd December 2009). This is in recognition that Bedfordshire County Council delivered adult social care services in 2008/09 and no longer exists.

3. Members will recall the report to Executive on 18th August 2009 that established a Recovery and Improvement Programme approach to secure the delivery of adult social care services. This was as a result of the fall in performance from 2* to 1* (adequate delivery of outcomes and uncertain capacity to improve) for 2007/08 and the Director and her management team's view that performance had in fact continued to deteriorate in 2008/09.
4. Members will recall the immediate steps taken to review performance through a strategic review and diagnostic work undertaken by the Care Services Efficiency Delivery Team. This was alongside work to determine the robustness of the budget and externally commissioned work to review mental health services delivery and the development of a Workforce Strategy.
5. The Recovery and Improvement approach adopted by the Council is overseeing the 11 key areas of concern: safeguarding; mental health services; carers; commissioning; managing the social care market and contract monitoring/management; workforce strategy; staffing arrangements; partnerships; performance management; budget, and, financial management. The Recovery Programme Board that is chaired by the Chief Executive and reporting to the Members Reference Group is ensuring delivery of the recovery agenda.

Background

6. Councils with Social Care responsibilities are subject to continual assessment by the Care Quality Commission. For Central Bedfordshire this means six weekly meetings with CQC and reflects the level of concern over adult social care performance and the Council's approach to recovery has been supported by CQC and Government Office colleagues.
7. Performance ratings are the product of a wider performance assessment process bringing the Care Quality Commission and local authorities into regular contact throughout the year. The evidence for arriving at the performance assessment comes from in-year monitoring (mainly through the comprehensive Self Assessment Statement and Routine Business Meetings), any inspection or joint review reports, a set of national performance indicators and the Performance Assessment Notebook. Evidence considered is both quantitative and qualitative.

8. The new self assessment focuses on seven outcome areas (see below), and each of these areas can be judged to be poor', 'adequate', 'good' and 'excellent'.
 - Improved health and well-being
 - Improved quality of life
 - Making a positive contribution
 - Increased choice and control
 - Freedom from discrimination and harassment
 - Economic well-being
 - Maintaining personal dignity and respect
9. The assessment includes the areas of 'leadership' and 'commissioning and use of resources', but these are ungraded and the assessment result will be expressed as a narrative..
10. The judgement is usually arrived at by using:
 - the Self-Assessment Survey completed by the council in May;
 - the National Indicator Set, and data from national returns;
 - regulatory activity;
 - service inspection evidence, judgements and monitored progress against action plans;
 - routine business meetings and annual review meeting as part of a continuous dialogue around council performance;
 - progress against agreed improvement/action plans;
 - delivery of relevant Local Area Agreement (LAA) targets and any other local targets underpinned by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) implementation plan;
 - The Performance Assessment Notebook (PAN), containing evidence and some assumptions, which are shared with the Council after the Annual Review Meeting;
 - any other issues suggesting cause for concern which have been discussed with the council such as safeguarding, complaints and enforcement action.

Care Quality Commission Annual Performance Assessment Report for 2008/09

11. The Annual Performance Assessment Report, (Appendix A - embargoes until 2nd December 2009), summarises overall performance for the seven outcome areas and in addition the Care Quality Commission's evaluation of leadership and commissioning and use of resources.
12. The summary of performance indicates that during 2008 – 2009 the Bedfordshire County focused on transitional arrangements and 'failed to drive the necessary improvement or to develop the conditions to transform Adult Social Care'. This lack of focus has resulted in the Central Bedfordshire Council inheriting an under-performing adult social care service with a challenging improvement agenda.

13. There is recognition that the Council has been proactive and responded swiftly by producing a detailed action plan for improvement. There is acknowledgement of focused leadership and corporate support. The report indicates that there is confidence in the recovery and improvement plans proposed.

Conclusion and Next Steps

14. CQC colleagues have been clear that the Council should not have unrealistic expectations about how quickly adult social care services will improve. It seems likely that had the legacy Council continued that there would have been a poorer assessment outcome and the potential for national intervention. It is seen as a strength that Central Bedfordshire has acknowledged the level of performance and is committed to driving improvements.
15. The Recovery Programme approach will deliver the immediate actions required over the next few months to stabilise the service. It is a challenging agenda and requires the continuing commitment of the Council and its partners to be able to deliver the outcomes for Central Bedfordshire residents that we aspire to.
16. The Chief Executive will continue to chair the Recovery Programme Board which will report to the Members Reference Group and the recovery plan will continue to be closely monitored through the 6 weekly meetings with the Care Quality Commission.

Appendices:

Appendix A – (Annual Performance Assessment Report 2008/2009, Care Quality Commission - embargoed until 2 December 2009)

Background Papers: (open to public inspection)

None



Adult Social Care Services

Council Name: Central Bedfordshire

This report is a summary of the performance of how the Council promotes adult social care outcomes for people in the Council area.

The overall grade for performance is combined from the grades given for the individual outcomes.

There is a brief description below – see Grading for Adult Social Care Outcomes 2008/09 in the Performance Assessment Guide web address below, for more detail.

Poorly performing – not delivering the minimum requirements for people

Performing adequately – only delivering the minimum requirements for people

Performing well – consistently delivering above the minimum requirements for people

Performing excellently - overall delivering well above the minimum requirements for people

We also make a written assessment about

Leadership and

Commissioning and use of resources

Information on these additional areas can be found in the outcomes framework

To see the outcomes framework please go to our web site: [Outcomes framework](#)

You will also find an explanation of terms used in the report in the glossary on the web site.

Delivering Outcomes Assessment
Overall Central Bedfordshire Council is performing:

Due to the transition to unitary status in April 2009 the Care Quality Commission will not be making a judgement about the performance of Central Bedfordshire Council in relation to this outcome.

Outcome 1:

[Improved health and well-being](#)

The Council is performing:

Not rated

Outcome 2:

[Improved quality of life](#)

The Council is performing:

Not rated

Outcome 3:

[Making a positive contribution](#)

The Council is performing:

Not rated

Outcome 4:

[Increased choice and control](#)

The Council is performing:

Not rated

Outcome 5:

[Freedom from discrimination and harassment](#)

The Council is performing:

Not rated

Outcome 6:

[Economic well-being](#)

The Council is performing:

Not rated

Outcome 7:

[Maintaining personal dignity and respect](#)

The Council is performing:

Not rated

Click on titles above to view a text summary of the outcome.

Assessment of Leadership and Commissioning and use of resources

Leadership

As a result of Local Government Review, Bedfordshire County Council's key focus during 2008 / 09 was preparing for the transfer of responsibilities to the two new unitary councils in April 2009. This coupled with the early turnover of senior staff (including the Director of Adult Social Care) resulted in a lack of consistent strategic leadership and had a detrimental impact on the pace of improvement. The governance and reporting framework in place was weak and failed to identify or rectify barriers to achieving Adult Social Care improvement targets and performance in most areas deteriorated. The recommendations made by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) in 2008 to improve the councils safeguarding arrangements were not achieved and little progress was made in developing personalised and self directed support services. Positive outcomes for people who use services and their carers could not be evidenced or validated.

This meant that in April 2009, that the new unitary council, inherited an under performing Adult Social Care department. Extensive data cleansing and validation activities have been undertaken by the new unitary council. This has identified a number of quality and accuracy issues in relation to the data and performance information provided by Bedfordshire County Council. In some areas validated performance is significantly lower than had been previously reported; including the level of direct payments in use, the amount of helped to live at home activity and the completion of adult safeguarding referrals. The strategic framework put in place across Adult Social Care by Bedfordshire County Council lacked specific detail and in many instances strategies and partnership arrangements could not be sourced back to the initial agreements, objectives or work plans. This lack of clarity lead to ongoing funding disputes with the PCT regarding continuing care funding and the re-provision of NHS services for people with a Learning Disability.

The Central Bedfordshire Council is new to the delivery of Adult Social Care; however there is the determination and commitment to review all aspects of adult social care and to significantly improve outcomes for the local community. Focused corporate and political support has been evidenced and the portfolio holder and lead member have agreed the key priorities and will be closely involved in monitoring progress. The Adult Social Care, Health and Housing Directorate Plan has been agreed and sets challenging and stretching targets; it is strategically aligned to the Council's objectives and budget setting processes. There is a clear intention to improve and transform adult social care and a determination to develop services that focus on outcomes for the individual. Improving and maximising partnership arrangements are at the heart of the Council's plans to drive forward the required changes. The Council recognises the need to provide strong leadership and to develop governance arrangements across all services and within partnership agreements. Safeguarding is a key priority area and focused attention is evidenced with a commitment to improve this critical aspect of service delivery. The Council

Appendix A (embargoed until 2 December 2009)

recognises the cultural shifts and workforce development strategies that will be required to take this work forward and plans to progress this jointly with partners.

There is a significant improvement journey to be achieved and a key success factor will be the Council's ability to continue to provide the leadership and corporate support required to drive this agenda forward. Capacity building, workforce development and aligned financial support will be critical enablers, along with the ability to maximise partnership opportunities. It is essential that governance and monitoring arrangements are integral to the new performance management strategy to ensure that services delivered and commissioned by the Council are timely, to a high standard and meet the needs and expectations of people living in the local communities. The Council appears to be developing the foundations on which improvement can be achieved and progress will be monitored closely by the Care Quality Commission.

Commissioning and use of resources

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment provides a wide range of information about the needs of the community and identifies a number of health inequalities particularly in relation to BME and economically disadvantaged groups. Further work is required to make it more accessible and to ensure that it is used to inform commissioning strategies. Market development activities have not yet secured the range and variety of services required to meet need or to steer the development of personalised care. There is a recognised reliance on residential care and prevention services are underdeveloped. Mapping and scoping of the independent and voluntary sector is required in order to identify future development needs and to assess its readiness and capacity to contribute to the transformation agenda. Contract compliance and close partnership working has secured improvement in regulated care services and there was a reduction in the number of 'poor' services. However there are a significant percentage of regulated services which are rated as adequate and focused attention is required to drive improvement in the quality of these services.

Central Bedfordshire Council has identified that the social care improvement journey requires a focus on efficiencies and improved commissioning. It has set out the initial priorities, including a range of core activities; a review of and improved use of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, ensuring partnership and strategic frameworks are appropriately focused and incorporate improved performance and delivery of outcomes for the customers. The Council is to review commissioning and the services provided for people with learning disability and to determine with partners the future commissioning arrangements across mental health services. A core priority is to ensure that value for money principles underpin all commissioning activities.

Engagement with providers and partners will be critical. People need to know the direction of travel and also to be able to access the necessary support to help them understand what is required of them to make this 'vision' a reality. Commissioning strategies need to drive the required change and ensure that services focus on personalisation and outcomes from a people who use services' or carers' perspective. Safeguarding considerations need to be embedded in all strategies and developments; these must achieve a balance between protection, personalisation and increased choice and control.

Summary of Performance

Brief overview of performance and progress

During 2008 / 09 Bedfordshire County Council focused on transition and failed to drive the necessary improvement or to develop the conditions to transform Adult Social Care. The inconsistent strategic leadership and the lack of a cohesive operational priorities resulted in an inability to sustain previous performance and a general deterioration in outcomes for the people

Appendix A (embargoed until 2 December 2009)

of Bedfordshire. Governance and monitoring arrangements were weak and failed to secure key improvements or to identify and rectify barriers or issues impacting on the pace of improvement.

This has meant that in April 2009, Central Bedfordshire Council inherited an under performing adult social care department and a challenging improvement agenda. It has responded swiftly and proactively to this realisation and has a detailed action plan for improvement in place. Focused leadership and corporate support is evident and there is a determination to review and improve all aspects of adult social care. Central Bedfordshire Council has a clear vision for the future and is passionate and energised in its determination to significantly improve outcomes for people. A range of actions have been implemented and there are early signs of improved relationships and a more cohesive and strategically aligned management approach. Revised engagement strategies and the openness of the new Director of Adult Social Care has been positively received and appears to be impacting on peoples hopes and aspirations for the future.

Outcome 1: Improved health and well-being

The Council is performing: Due to the transition to unitary status in April 2009 the Care Quality Commission will not be making a judgement about the performance of Central Bedfordshire Council in relation to this outcome.

During the transition to unitary status Bedfordshire County Council continued to support a number of initiatives and strategies designed to help people improve their health and well being. However these lacked a coherent strategic framework to drive forward the required improvements. There continues to be a need to evaluate and evidence the impact and outcomes of these strategies for the community. More work is required to maximise partnership opportunities in this area. There continues to be significant health and well being inequalities amongst some communities and the number of people with long term conditions is increasing.

Central Bedfordshire Council recognises the need to make considerable improvements in this area and has outlined its initial priorities aimed at driving forward the required change. These include the Council's plans to improve strategic partnership arrangements, agree how the Healthy Communities' Strategy is to be delivered and improve the range of intermediate care services. In order to achieve its challenging change and improvement agenda the Council will need to fully understand the needs of the community and maximise partnership working opportunities. It will need to stimulate the market by articulating a vision for the future and by providing the necessary leadership. Engagement with key partners and stakeholders, supported by a systematic approach to governance and monitoring arrangements, will be essential and integral from the beginning.

Outcome 2: Improved quality of life

The Council is performing: Due to the transition to unitary status in April 2009 the Care Quality Commission will not be making a judgement about the performance of Central Bedfordshire Council in relation to this outcome.

There was an overall lack of progress made by Bedfordshire County Council in addressing key areas for improvement in this area. Early intervention and prevention services are underdeveloped and there remains a need to scope and map the services provided by the voluntary sector and to evaluate its capacity to meet the growing needs of prevention and early

Appendix A (embargoed until 2 December 2009)

intervention strategies. Little progress had been made in evaluating and evidencing the outcomes and experiences of people signposted to other agencies or to demonstrate the effectiveness of these services in meeting needs and providing good value for money. There is a need to systematically review carer services and to ensure the strategic framework that is in place supports the development of a wide range of relevant support services, including services targeted at the needs of young carers’.

Central Bedfordshire Council accepts the need to make and demonstrate considerable improvement and has identified its initial priorities. Amongst these it intends to work with its partners to review and increase the use of intermediate care and reablement services, improve the quality of care services, increase the number and timeliness of major adaptations and increase the number of carers receiving a break. The Council recognises the need to build in mechanisms and systems to evidence the impact of these service developments on the lives of people who use services and carers and to evidence how services reduce the need for longer term or higher level care and enhance people’s quality of life.

Outcome 3: Making a positive contribution

The Council is performing: Due to the transition to unitary status in April 2009 the Care Quality Commission will not be making a judgement about the performance of Central Bedfordshire Council in relation to this outcome.

There are a range of forums in place to enable people who use services and their carers to have a say in design, planning and review processes. There is some evidence that these contributions have helped shape commissioning and planning processes. People who use services and carers are now involved in the safeguarding board and awareness raising activities have commenced to improve peoples understanding of safeguarding processes. There is a need to evaluate the impact of these awareness raising strategies and to maximise the engagement opportunities presented through the partnership boards. A strengthened feedback loop is required to help people recognise the value and difference that their contributions have made.

Central Bedfordshire Council has identified a number of ways in which it intends to enable people who use services and carers to make a positive contribution. The intention is to ensure that people who use services, carers and the voluntary sector are all engaged in the development of personalised services and that it works closely with the Bedfordshire LINK. It recognises the importance of volunteering and plans to ensure the voluntary sector has the capacity to help deliver the transformation of services and that care providers are encouraged to facilitate volunteering opportunities. A key success factor will be the Council’s ability to develop a consistent strategic framework, which strengthens engagement activities across all community groups and which integrates user and carer contributions into all aspects of service planning, review and governance. To this end it intends to use customer feedback to drive forward improvements and will work to encourage a cross Council approach to its community engagement and involvement strategies.

Outcome 4: Increased choice and control

The Council is performing: Due to the transition to unitary status in April 2009 the Care Quality Commission will not be making a judgement about the performance of Central Bedfordshire Council in relation to this outcome.

During 2008 / 09 Bedfordshire County Council made limited progress in relation to transforming adult social care and there is a significant amount of work required to make 'Putting People First' a reality. Systems and processes required to progress self directed support are under developed. The planned increase in the uptake of direct payments was not achieved and there are no individual budgets in place. The timeframe for the completion of assessment processes remained stable. However the number of reviews completed reduced. The number of complaints received about adult social care continued to fall and there is a need to fully evaluate and understand the reasons for this reduction. Information leaflets and advice sources need to be fully reviewed and action taken to ensure that these are relevant, provide the information required by people and that everyone who accesses services are involved in any planned development activities.

Central Bedfordshire Council is committed to developing services and support systems by which people are able to exercise greater choice and control. It has set out its initial priorities in this area and these include adopting the Central Bedfordshire Transformation Strategy and action plan to deliver personalised outcomes for people. This will involve improving the options for self directed support, improved advocacy and better information. Success will require corporate leadership and support, a market development strategy supported by aligned budget and a focused workforce development strategy.

Outcome 5: Freedom from discrimination and harassment

The Council is performing: Due to the transition to unitary status in April 2009 the Care Quality Commission will not be making a judgement about the performance of Central Bedfordshire Council in relation to this outcome.

Bedfordshire County Council made some progress in improving access to adult social care. A single point of contact had been introduced, people are offered advice, information and where appropriate are signposted to other agencies and partners. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment helped identify key development areas in relation to minority communities, particularly within the BME and economically disadvantaged groups and market development activities now need to be progressed.

Central Bedfordshire Council is committed to promoting equalities within its work force and across services and has set out its initial priorities. It intends to strengthen the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, enabling it to fully understand the needs of all groups within the community and to focus its market development and commissioning activities. Equality impact assessments will help secure improved access to services for under represented groups within the community and the Council aims to commission a floating support service to address the needs of Gypsy and Travellers sites and to help strengthen these relationships. There is a need to systematically evaluate the experience, impact and outcomes for everyone who engages with social care including those people signposted to other agencies.

Outcome 6: Economic well - being

The Council is performing: Due to the transition to unitary status in April 2009 the Care Quality Commission will not be making a judgement about the performance of Central Bedfordshire Council in relation to this outcome.

Appendix A (embargoed until 2 December 2009)

Bedfordshire County Council supported a range of long standing strategies to help people maximise income and to support them into employment. These included a benefit outreach service into Sikh temples and mosques offered by the welfare rights service, help for cancer sufferers from the McMillan welfare rights service and home visits by community financial advisors. These have helped people claim a significant level of additional benefits. Some specific work has been carried out in relation to carers i.e. the introduction of a 'paying for care' leaflet and 'moving forward' training. However there is a need to strengthen the strategic framework in place and to provide focused leadership to drive the carers agenda forward, including evaluating the impact of strategies to support carers into employment.

Central Bedfordshire Council is committed to improving performance on this outcome. The initial priorities are to work with partners to promote financial inclusion, improve sign posting to money management services and review the fairer charging policy within the transformation programme. It also aims to help people maximise income through supporting them into employment and through the input of its welfare rights and customer financial advice services. There is a need to develop a cohesive and strategically aligned framework to support this across all groups and to integrate these priorities into all assessment, review and support planning processes.

Outcome 7: Maintaining personal dignity and respect

Due to the transition to unitary status in April 2009 the Care Quality Commission will not be making a judgement about the performance of Central Bedfordshire Council in relation to this outcome.

The Council is performing:

Bedfordshire County Council made limited progress in addressing the development needs within adult safeguarding processes and focused attention is required to drive the required improvement. The action plan developed as a result of the Commission for Social Care Inspection in January 2008 needs to be strengthened and carefully monitored. Governance arrangements failed to ensure that the required improvements occurred and to ensure that referrals were tracked, monitored and outcomes recorded. Referral levels have continued to increase. However the numbers of inappropriate referrals suggest that people still do not understand safeguarding or that they are unaware of alternative routes to raise a concern. Therefore the adequacy and impact of awareness raising strategies needs to be evaluated. Work has commenced to strengthen the interagency safeguarding board, including expanding membership to people who use services, carers and the independent and voluntary sector. There remains a significant improvement agenda to be achieved including a step change in the level of staff training and in the assessment of staff competence.

Central Bedfordshire Council has recognised the need for ongoing work both strategically and operationally to secure the required improvement across safeguarding processes and the need to achieve better outcomes. It is committed to driving forward improvement and has highlighted its initial priorities. These include securing commitment to safeguarding across the whole Council, embedding improved governance, revitalising the safeguarding board and increasing awareness in local communities about safeguarding issues. Interim arrangements have been implemented across mental health services and a competitive re-tendering process has commenced. It is essential that the Council maintains the leadership it has shown to date and that governance and monitoring arrangements are central to strategic and operational plans. The involvement of all strategic partners in securing the required improvement is critical and membership of the board should be at a senior level within partner organisations to facilitate timely decision making. All partners need to ensure that respective policies and protocols are aligned to the overall aims, objectives and priorities of the safeguarding board.

Meeting: Executive
Date: 8 December 2009
Subject: The Future of Special Schooling in the East of Central Bedfordshire

Response of the Children, Families & Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1. At its meeting of 1 December 2009, the Children, Families and Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee (CFL OSC) considered the report of the Deputy Director of Children, Families and Learning and Assistant Director of Children's Specialist Services, which sought Members comments on the responses to the consultation of special schooling that was initiated by the Executive, with a view towards supporting the preferred option of merging Sunnyside and Hitchmead schools.
2. Members of the Committee debated the matter at length and also heard from a number of witnesses (via correspondence and in person) regarding concerns over the proposed merger. The concerns raised and the issues discussed are summarised below:-
 - 2.1 There was some concern regarding the validity of the survey and whether it contained an element of bias;
 - 2.2 The lack of sufficient financial analysis to make an informed decision, particularly regarding the cost of the adaptation works required at Hitchmead school to accommodate the merger;
 - 2.3 The lack of any detail regarding how the best features of both schools would be retained in any merger and what the vision, values, leadership and governance would look like in any new school created; and
 - 2.4 The Council's position regarding the provision of a new build school to replace both Sunnyside and Hitchmead.
3. In response to the concerns raised, the Deputy Director of Children, Families and Learning explained that the survey had been based upon a model used by other authorities and there was absolutely no intention of bias. He also confirmed that officers could only prepare detailed financial and school organisation information, and an implementation plan, should the Executive be minded to approve the merger on 8 December and should this happen, the Council would then enter into a further 6 week consultation period regarding the approved option.
4. In conclusion, whilst the Committee supported Option A of the report i.e. the proposed merger of Sunnyside and Hitchmead schools, it did so subject to a number of conditions and these are outlined in the resolutions below.

RESOLVED

- (i) That whilst the Committee wholeheartedly supports the merger of Sunnyside and Hitchmead schools, it calls upon the Executive to consider seriously the urgent and pressing need for a new build facility to replace both, such consideration to include the urgent investigation and identification of sufficient capital resources to do so;**
- (ii) That notwithstanding resolution (i) above, the Committee calls upon the Deputy Director of Children, Families and Learning to submit a written response to the Executive addressing the questions raised by both witnesses (Tim Walker, Head Teacher, Hitchmead School and Stephen Court, member of the public), so that Members of the Executive can make an informed decision regarding the proposals; and**
- (iii) That, should the Executive approve the merger, the CFL OSC receives a further report following the 6 week consultation period, which will provide Members with the detailed financial implications of the initiative and an implementation plan.**

Central Bedfordshire Council

Executive meeting 9th December 2009

Response to issues raised at the Children, Families & Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee (1st December 2009) regarding the future of Special Schooling in the east of Central Bedfordshire.

The Overview & Scrutiny meeting considered the proposal, following consultation, to merge Hitchmead and Sunnyside schools, which is to be decided upon by Executive at their December meeting. A letter was received by the Chair of the committee, Councillor John Street from Mr John Court who raised a number of issues; the Committee also heard Mr Tim Walker, Head Teacher of Hitchmead School raise a number of questions on behalf of parents and staff at the school. The Committee resolved that a written response to the issues raised by both Mr Court and Mr Walker should be prepared and made available to the Executive before the meeting.

Mr Court's concerns

The consultation was not fair or impartial.

- The process was similar to that used previously by the County Council and other local authorities. Every attempt was made to publicise the consultation, public meetings were held. The pros and cons for each option were fairly and impartially identified. There is no evidence that respondents were unduly influenced by the layout of the consultation document.

The term merger is misleading.

- The only way to merge two existing schools is for one school to technically close (cease to be registered with the DCSF) and the other to become the basis for the "new" school.

The SEN review is referred to but 3 key findings are not identified.

- The review's findings are not reproduced in the consultation document. The review is a public document and is referred to as part of the context for the consultation.

The removal of £111,000 from the combined budget will not address the financial viability of the school

- The proposed merger would reduce the fixed costs of the new school and therefore the "lump sum" formula funding which is paid to each school. (Referred to above) For example only one Head teacher is required by a merged school. The combined pupils numbers and reduced fixed costs addresses the viability issue which Hitchmead faces on its own.

There is no mention of the capital expenditure required to make the Hitchmead site suitable for Sunnyside children.

- Some Sunnyside Children already access the site. There would be some capital expenditure required should the decision to merge be taken. Preliminary work suggests that this is relatively minor and could be met from the formula capital already delegated to both schools supplemented by existing resources within the SEN budget.

The report makes mention of the proposed Special Educational Needs and Inclusion Strategy which forms part of the vision for learning. This vision has not yet been adopted by the Council.

- The transitional task force accepted the SEN review. The SEN & Inclusion strategy, based on the review, will form an integral part of the vision for learning. This is consistent with that earlier decision.

No new analysis of the pros & cons and the relative costs has been commissioned or undertaken before the Executive is asked to consider this important matter.

- The SEN review was a substantial piece of work which established the case for area special schools. This approach was adopted by the Council through the transitional taskforce. The executive is being asked to decide, following consultation, whether to issue statutory notices relating to merger of the two schools. To undertake further detailed work prior to the decision would potentially pre-judge the outcome of the consultation and Executive's decision. Both Heads and both Governing bodies support merger as the best way forward.

Questions raised by Mr Walker on behalf of parents and staff.

Can Hitchmead's current financial difficulties be remedied by the merger?

- Hitchmead's difficulties are a consequence of the increased ability of mainstream schools to meet appropriately the needs of more children with Moderate Learning Difficulties. The proposed merger would reduce the fixed costs and maintain the overall number of pupils.

What assurance can be given that the best features of both schools would be preserved in the new schools?

- The ethos, culture and character of the new school will draw on the foundations laid down in the two existing schools. The Head teachers and Governors are committed to work together should the decision to merge be taken. It is the School's leadership and Governors who would be responsible for the standards and ethos of the merged school.

Is there a policy for merging schools?

- There is an established process to establish the governance arrangements for a new school. The implementation of a plan to merge will be undertaken jointly between the Heads, the Governing Bodies and the Local Authority.

What assurances can be given of the commitment of Central Bedfordshire to proper resourcing and longer term development of 21st century school?

- The development of a new building to house the merged school is an aspiration but is dependant on capital funding being available.

The report avoids or glosses over some of the most important issues.

- The report, which is necessarily concise, reports the outcome of the consultation and proposes a preferred option. This option is supported by the consultation and is consistent with the Council's declared approach. The detailed planning can only take place once the decision is reached in principle. The Local Authority is committed to working with the Heads and Governing bodies to implement the plan following the decision. The first meeting with Heads and Chairs of Governors is provisionally booked for Monday 14th December.

Martin Pratt
Assistant Director for Specialist Services
Central Bedfordshire Council

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**Central Bedfordshire Council
Forward Plan of Key Decisions
1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010**

- 1) During the period from **1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010**, Central Bedfordshire Council plans to make key decisions on the issues set out below. “Key decisions” relate to those decisions of the Executive which are likely:
- to result in the incurring of expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant (namely £200,000 or above per annum) having regard to the budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
 - to be significant in terms of their effects on communities living or working in an area comprising one or more wards in the area of Central Bedfordshire.

2) The Forward Plan is a general guide to the key decisions to be determined by the Executive and will be updated on a monthly basis. Key decisions will be taken by the Executive as a whole. The Members of the Executive are:

Member	Portfolio
Cllr Mrs Tricia Turner MBE	Chairman of the Executive and Leader of the Council
Cllr Richard Stay	Vice-Chairman of the Executive and Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Business Transformation
Cllr Mrs Rita Drinkwater	Portfolio Holder for Housing
Cllr Mrs Carole Hegley	Portfolio Holder for Social Care and Health & Portfolio Champion for Business Transformation
Cllr Maurice Jones	Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources
Cllr Mrs Anita Lewis	Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services
Cllr Steve Male	Portfolio Holder for Culture and Skills & Portfolio Champion for Business Transformation
Cllr Ken Matthews	Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth and Regeneration
Cllr David McVicar	Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities
Cllr Tom Nicols	Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Development & Portfolio Champion for Business Transformation

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

4) The agendas for meetings of the Executive will be published as follows:

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

Central Bedfordshire Council

Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2010

Key Decisions

Date of Publication: 3 December 2009

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
1.	Voluntary Severance Scheme -	To agree the creation and operation of a Voluntary Severance Scheme.	12 January 2010	Portfolio Holder - Corporate Resources	Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 10/12/09 to Contact Officer: Gordon McFarlane, Acting Assistant Director Human Resources and Organisational Development gordon.mcfarlane@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01234 276679
2.	Disaggregation of Assets -	To approve the disaggregation of the former Bedfordshire County Council assets and reserves following discussions with Bedford Borough Council.	12 January 2010		Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 10/12/09 to Contact Officer: Matt Bowmer, Assistant Director Financial Services matt.bowmer@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6147
3.	Approval of the Strategic Risk Register -	To seek approval of the Strategic Risk Register for Central Bedfordshire.	12 January 2010	CMT regularly to produce document	Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 10/01/10 to Contact Officer: Nick Murley, Assistant Director Audit & Risk nick.murley@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4605

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
4.	Scheme of Members Allowances -	To seek the views of the Executive as to the budgetary implications arising from the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel for the Scheme of Members' Allowances for the year commencing 1 April 2010.	12 January 2010	Independent Remuneration Panel	Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 10/12/09 to Contact Officer: Stephen Cooke, Electoral/Members' Services Manager stephen.cooke@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4035
5.	Contract Award in connection with the Interim Accommodation Plan -	The Executive is asked to approve the award of the contract to the recommended contractor for construction works related to the Interim Accommodation Plan. Works will be undertaken at the Dunstable Main Office and Technology House, Bedford.	12 January 2010		Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 10/12/09 to Contact Officer: Mark Bassett, Specialist Advisor - Property mark.bassett@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5609

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
6.	Local Delivery Vehicles and Growth Area Fund Programmes -	To approve funding for the Local Delivery Vehicles and to approve the revised growth area fund programmes in the two growth areas in the light of Government's reductions to the capital allocations in 2010/11.	12 January 2010	Key Partners (Luton Gateway, Luton BC, Renaissance Bedford and Bedford BC)	Report	Cllr Ken C Matthews Comments by 10/12/09 to Contact Officer: Jon Cliff, Head of Growth Programme jon.cliff@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4373
7.	Raising Achievement Policy -	To agree the policy which outlines how resources within the council will be targeted to improve provision in schools and early years settings and raise achievement especially that of children and young people in vulnerable circumstances.	12 January 2010		Report	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 10/12/09 to Contact Officer: Patrick Shevlin, Assistant Director Learning & Schools Support patrick.shevlin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6821

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
8.	<p>Central Bedfordshire CQC 2008-09 Annual Performance Assessment (APA) -</p>	<p>Executive are required to receive the Annual Performance Assessment of the 2008/09 of Bedfordshire County Council's adult social care services at a public meeting before the end of January 2010. On this occasion a performance judgement is not provided as Central Bedfordshire Council is a new Council and Executive are asked to note the comments of the Care Quality Commission. In December 2010 Central Bedfordshire Council will receive the Annual Performance Assessment for 2009/10.</p>	12 January 2010		Report	<p>Cllr Mrs Carole Hegley Comments by 10/12/09 to Contact Officer: Julie Ogley, Director of Social Care, Health and Housing julie.ogley@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4330</p>

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
9.	Annual Assessment of Children's Services 2009 -	To report the outcome of Ofsted's Annual Assessment of children's services for 2009 and action to be taken to improve future assessment outcomes.	12 January 2010		None.	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 10/12/09 to Contact Officer: Sylvia Gibson, Interim Assistant Director, Policy, Planning and Commissioning sylvia.gibson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5522
10.	European Social Fund Prospectus 2010 - 2011 for Central Bedfordshire and Bedford -	Approval of the European Social Fund Prospectus 2010 - 2011 for Central Bedfordshire and Bedford	12 January 2010	LSP and Thematic Partnership for Environment and Economy EEDA Members Bulletin and Cabinet Briefing Note Consultation Events	report	Cllr Ken C Matthews Comments by 10/12/09 to Contact Officer: Sarah Hughes, Head of Regeneration and Skills sarah.hughes@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tek: 0300 300 6166
11.	Central Bedfordshire Sub-regional Plan for the European Regional Development Fund and Pipeline Projects -	Approval of the Central Bedfordshire Sub-regional Plan for the European Regional Development Fund and Pipeline Projects	12 January 2010	LSP and Thematic Partnership for Environment and Economy EEDA Cabinet Briefing Note Consultation events 6 November 2009	Draft sub-regional plan	Cllr Ken C Matthews Comments by 10/12/09 to Contact Officer: Sarah Hughes, Head of Regeneration and Skills sarah.hughes@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6166

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
12.	Award of Grass Cutting (North) Contract -	Request for the Executive to award the Grass Cutting (North) Contract.	12 January 2010		Report	Cllr David McVicar Comments by 10/12/09 to Contact Officer: Steve Whittaker, Contract Services Manager steve.whittaker@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4344
13.	Business Transformation Strategy including Total Place Final Report -	To set out ambition, priorities and outcomes for the Council's Transformation over the next 5 years.	12 January 2010		Report	Cllr Richard Stay Comments by 10/12/09 to Contact Officer: Clive Jones, Assistant Director Business Transformation & Customer Services clive.jones@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01462 611168
14.	Budget Monitoring Report -	To consider the monthly Budget Monitoring Report and agree the latest position.	12 January 2010		Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 10/12/09 to Contact Officer: Matt Bowmer, Assistant Director Financial Services matt.bowmer@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6147
15.	Local Development Framework: District Wide Design Guide for Central Bedfordshire -	To approve a new district-wide design guide. The guide will be used to provide clear design guidelines against which planning applications will be determined and is intended to significantly raise the quality of new development.	12 January 2010	Member workshop 10 September 2009 Formal Public Consultation October 2009 for 6 weeks Stakeholder Event October 2009	Report	Cllr Tom Nicols Comments by 10/12/09 to Contact Officer: Fiona Webb, Team Leader, Conservation Project Design fiona.webb@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4405

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
16.	Children's Workforce Development Strategy -	To agree the strategy which sets out how Central Bedfordshire is going to develop the children's workforce locally to create a worldclass workforce.	12 January 2010	Stakeholders and the Children's Trust	Report	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 10/12/09 to Contact Officer: Patrick Shevlin, Assistant Director Learning & Schools Support patrick.shevlin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk tel: 0300 300 6821
17.	Fostering, Adoption and Private Fostering Policy -	To agree the policy which sets out what as an authority we will do to ensure that children who become looked after have their permanence secured through fostering or adoption and how we support these placements.	12 January 2010		Report	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 10/12/09 to Contact Officer: Martin Pratt, Deputy Director Children Families and Learning and Assistant Director Specialist Services martin.pratt@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4484
18.	Environmental Protection Act - report -	To consider the available options with regard to the enforcement of the Environmental Protection Act and other Environmental Legislation and agree a harmonised approach for Central Bedfordshire	12 January 2010	Portfolio Holder for Safer and Stronger Communities Key Stakeholders Sustainable Communities	Report	Cllr David McVicar Comments by 10/12/09 Jane Moakes, Assistant Director Community Safety & Public Protection jane.moakes@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5441

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
19.	People Strategy -	To request the Executive to sign off the People Strategy for Central Bedfordshire.	9 February 2010	Draft Strategy will go through consultation with key stakeholders during November and early December 2009	People Strategy	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 10/01/10 to Contact Officer: Gordon McFarlane, Acting Assistant Director Human Resources and Organisational Development gordon.mcfarlane@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6651
20.	Development of a Uniformed Presence for Central Bedfordshire -	To consider the options available for Central Bedfordshire to undertake enforcement of a range of environmental and community safety legislation (including the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) and Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (CNEA)) and exploring the role that a uniformed team has in that respect.	9 February 2010	Relevant Portfolio Holders Key Stakeholders Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 22 December 2009	Report	Cllr David McVicar Comments by 10/01/10 to Contact Officer: Jane Moakes, Assistant Director Community Safety & Public Protection jane.moakes@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5441
21.	Bedfordshire Music Service -	To consider options with regard to future governance and management arrangements for the Bedfordshire Music Service	9 February 2010		Report	Cllr Stephen F Male Comments by 10/01/10 to Contact Officer: Roy Waterfield, Assistant Director Leisure and Culture, Libraries, Adult and Community Learning roy.waterfield@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4239

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
22.	European Social Fund Plan for 2011-2013 for Central Bedfordshire and Bedford -	Approval of the European Social Fund Plan for 2011-2013 for Central Bedfordshire and Bedford	9 February 2010	LSP and Thematic Partnership for Environment and Economy EEDA Members Bulletin and Cabinet Briefing Note Consultation Events	Report	Cllr Ken C Matthews Comments by 10/01/10 to Contact Officer Sarah Hughes, Head of Regeneration and Skills Sarah.hughes@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6166
23.	Transforming Teaching and Learning: Central Bedfordshire's Educational Vision -	To approve Central Bedfordshire's Educational Vision which sets out the challenges to learning transformation and options for the future realisation of our aspirations.	9 February 2010		Report	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 10/01/10 to Contact Officer Patrick Shevlin, Assistant Director Learning & Schools Support patrick.shevlin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6821
24.	Adoption of Central Bedfordshire Council Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy -		9 February 2010		Draft document	Cllr Mrs Rita J Drinkwater Comments by 10/01/2010 Nick Costin, Head Private Sector Housing nick.costin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5219
25.	Homelessness Strategy -	Recommend adoption of statutory strategy for Central Bedfordshire	9 February 2010		Report	Cllr Mrs Rita J Drinkwater Comments by 10/01/2010 to Contact Officer: Julie Ogley, Director of Social Care, Health and Housing julie.ogley@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4221

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
26.	Budget Monitoring Report -	To consider the monthly Budget Monitoring Report and agree the latest position.	9 February 2010		Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 10/01/10 to Contact Officer: Matt Bowmer, Assistant Director Financial Services matt.bowmer@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6147
27.	CCTV Service Options -	To consider options available to move to a common approach to the provision of a CCTV service within Central Bedfordshire.	9 February 2010	Portfolio Holder (Safer and Stronger Communities) Key Stakeholders Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee – January 2010	Report	Cllr David McVicar Comments by 10/01/10 to Contact Officer: Jane Moakes, Assistant Director Community Safety & Public Protection jane.moakes@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 5441
28.	Property Acquisitions and Disposals Monitoring -	Standing item for key decisions and quarterly basis monitoring and reporting of all property transactions.	9 February 2010	Items will have been reviewed and assessed by the CBC Capital Assets Management Group (CAMG)	Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 10/01/10 to Contact Officer: Mark Bassett, Specialist Advisor - Property mark.bassett@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01234 276889 / 07939 038105
29.	Revenue Budget -	Determination of the Revenue Budget for 2010/11.	9 February 2010		Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 10/01/10 to Contact Officer: Matt Bowmer, Assistant Director Financial Services matt.bowmer@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4254

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
30.	Flitwick Community Football Development Centre and Flitwick Leisure Centre Redevelopment -	To approve a detailed business case for football development, and an outline business case for the provision of the leisure centre. To award design and build contract for football development.	9 February 2010	Sport England Redborne Upper School Flitwick Eagles Football Club The Football Association Flitwick Town Council meeting with PFH on 16 July 2009 agreed current approach to citing the football facilities.	Report	Cllr Stephen F Male Comments by 10/01/10 to Contact Officer Roy Waterfield, Assistant Director Leisure and Culture, Libraries, Adult and Community Learning roy.waterfield@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4239
31.	Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document for Central Bedfordshire -	Adoption of the Planning Obligations Strategy as a Supplementary Planning Document for Central Bedfordshire, following the updating and combination of the adopted Mid Bedfordshire Planning Obligations Strategy and the emerging South Bedfordshire Strategy.	9 February 2010		None.	Cllr Tom Nicols Comments by 10/01/10 to Contact Officer: Pru Khimasia, Senior Planning Officer pru.khimasia@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01462 611473

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
32.	Local Area Agreement (LAA) Refresh -	We will be reviewing the LAA following the publication of the CAA area assessment for Central Bedfordshire to determine whether delivery plans for certain matters have to be strengthened or otherwise amended and we have an opportunity to add in any additional indicators / targets or, in exceptional circumstances, to renegotiate existing targets following the LAA review.	9 February 2010		Report	Cllr Richard Stay Comments by 10/01/10 to Contact Officer: Ian Porter, Assistant Director Service Policy, Partnerships & Performance ian.porter@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6529
33.	Asset Management Plan -	To agree the CBC Asset Management Strategy and the CBC Asset Management Plan.	9 March 2010		Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 10/02/10 to Contact Officer: Caroline Carruthers, Assistant Director Property & ICT caroline.carruthers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01234 288595 / 07825034761

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
34.	Play Strategy -	To agree the strategy which will improve the lives of children and young people by delivering high quality and innovative play opportunities and experiences across Central Bedfordshire.	9 March 2010		Report	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 10/02/10 to Contact Officer: Roy Waterfield, Assistant Director Leisure and Culture, Libraries, Adult and Community Learning roy.waterfield@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4239
35.	Highways Contract Novation -	Following the paper received on 14 April 2009, this paper updates the Executive on progress made on negotiations with Bedford Borough Council (BBC) to secure highways services in Central Bedfordshire. The paper will inform members of expected dates for novating the existing highways contract and identify any risks/costs to service provision.	9 March 2010		Report	Cllr David McVicar Comments by 10/02/10 to Contact Officer: Basil Jackson, Assistant Director Highways basil.jackson@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01234 228601

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
36.	Child Poverty Strategy -	To agree the strategy which sets out how the Local Authorities and its partners intend to reduce child poverty by 2020. This includes 4 targets (relative low income, material deprivation, absolute poverty and persistent poverty). This includes a needs assessment to describe the characteristics of child and family within Central Bedfordshire and a joint child poverty strategy which will outline the steps and accountability for the Local Authority and partners.	9 March 2010		Report	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 10/02/10 Glen Denham, Assistant Director Integrated Services 0-19 glen.denham@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6125

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
37.	Transitions Policy -	To agree the policy which sets out how the Local Authority will work with children transferring from Children's Specialist Services either to service provision within Adult Social Care or to independent adult life to ensure that they are given the support necessary as they move into adulthood.	9 March 2010		Report	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 10/02/10 to Contact Officer: Martin Pratt, Deputy Director Children Families and Learning and Assistant Director Specialist Services martin.pratt@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4484
38.	Looked After Children and Young People Policy -	To adopt the care Matters pledge which sets out the minimum standards and commitments of Central Bedfordshire to children in its care in line with the Children Act 1989, the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 and the Leaving Care Act 2000.	9 March 2010	Children and Young People Children in Care Council Corporate Parenting Panel	Report	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 10/02/10 to Contact Officer: Martin Pratt, Deputy Director Children Families and Learning and Assistant Director Specialist Services martin.pratt@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4484

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
39.	Budget Monitoring Report -	To consider the monthly Budget Monitoring Report and agree the latest position.	9 March 2010		Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 10/02/10 to Contact Officer: Matt Bowmer, Assistant Director Financial Services matt.bowmer@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6147
40.	Children Missing Education Policy -	To agree the policy which sets out how the local authority will meet its statutory duties relating to the provision of education and to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.	9 March 2010		Report	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 10/02/10 to Contact Officer: Patrick Shevlin, Assistant Director Learning & Schools Support patrick.shevlin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6821
41.	Agreement of Statutory Regulatory Service Plans -	To agree the Plans for food law, health & safety and underage sales.	9 March 2010	tbc	Report	Cllr David McVicar Comments by 10/02/10 to Contact Officer: Susan Childerhouse, Head of Public Protection (North) susan.childerhouse@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01462 611394

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
42.	Agreement of Statutory Community Safety Plans -	To agree the Community Safety Plans and associated plans and strategies including domestic abuse, drugs and alcohol.	9 March 2010	Theamatic Partners Key Stakeholders Responsible Authorities	Report	Cllr David McVicar Comments by 10/02/10 to Contact Officer: Jeanette Keyte, Community Safety Manager jeanette.keyte@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0845 849 6252
43.	Contaminated Land Strategy -	To agree the risk rating for contaminated land sites in Central Bedfordshire and approve the strategy.	9 March 2010	tbc	Report and Strategy	Cllr David McVicar Comments by 10/02/10 to Contact Officer: Susan Childerhouse, Head of Public Protection (North) susan.childerhouse@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01462 611394
44.	Climate Strategy -	Adoption of the Climate Strategy and approach of the Council to tackling climate change. Agreement and adoption of carbon footprint reduction targets for the Council's services and operations.	9 March 2010	Business Transformation Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 21 December 2009 Key staff consulted via Climate Change Management Board	Report and supporting documents	Cllr Richard Stay Comments by 10/02/10 to Contact Officers: Elaine Malarky, Head of Policy elaine.malarky@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Stephen.mooring @centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
45.	Community Engagement Strategy and Delivery Plan -	Approval of the finalised Strategy and Delivery Plan which follows the key principles agreed at the October Executive.	9 March 2010		Report	Cllr Richard Stay Comments by 10/02/10 to Contact Officer: Ian Porter, Assistant Director Service Policy, Partnerships & Performance ian.porter@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6529

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
46.	Early Childhood Intervention and Prevention Policy	To agree the policy which outlines how resources will be used to improve the outcomes of all children, especially the most disadvantaged, by enabling, developing and supporting universal and targeted services, delivered by a range of partners.	6 April 2010		Report	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 10/03/10 to Contact Officer: Glen Denham, Assistant Director Integrated Services 0-19 glen.denham@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6125
47.	Child in Need Policy -	To agree the policy which sets out the eligibility criteria for services based on the levels of need of children and their families. It responds to the statutory duties to support children in need.	6 April 2010		None.	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 10/03/10 to Contact Officer: Martin Pratt, Deputy Director Children Families and Learning and Assistant Director Specialist Services martin.pratt@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4484
48.	Budget Monitoring Report -	To consider the monthly Budget Monitoring Report and to agree the latest position.	6 April 2010		Report	Cllr Maurice R Jones Comments by 10/03/10 to Contact Officer: Matt Bowmer, Assistant Director Financial Services matt.bowmer@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 6147

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
49.	Equalities Scheme -	Approval of the Council's Equality and Diversity Scheme which sets out the Council's vision and approach to ensuring all sections of the community get high quality services appropriate to their need and also sets out how the Council will meet its legal responsibilities to ensure equality and diversity is integrated in to its service planning, delivery and human resource systems.	4 May 2010	Portfolio Holder for Business Transformation Divisional Management Teams CBC Equalities Forum Officer Workshops (June - October 2009) The development of the Scheme has included consideration of national and local consultation evidence relating to the nature of inequality.	Report Draft Scheme and Action Plan	Cllr Richard Stay Comments by 07/04/10 to Contact Officer: Elaine Malarky, Head of Policy elaine.malarky@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01234 228269
50.	Safeguarding Annual Report of the Local Safeguarding Children Board -	To receive the report of the LCSB which sets out how the Central Bedfordshire and Partners have met their statutory duties of the authority and how we will work with partner agencies locally to ensure that children are safe.	4 May 2010		Report	Cllr Mrs Anita M Lewis Comments by 07/04/10 to Contact Officer: Martin Pratt, Deputy Director Children Families and Learning and Assistant Director Specialist Services martin.pratt@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4484

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
51.	Gypsy and Traveller DPD for Submission -	To agree the Gypsy and Traveller DPD for Submission. This relates to the LDF North area.	4 May 2010	Stakeholders Members of the public Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Report and draft document	Cllr Tom Nicols Comments by 07/04/2010 to Contact Officer: Richard Fox, Head of Development Plan richard.fox@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4105
52.	Cultural Strategy -	To agree the strategy which encapsulates the vision for cultural entitlement for all citizens in Central Bedfordshire moving to a strategic commissioning and entitlement model and recognises the cross cutting nature of cultural entitlement.	9 June 2010		Report	Cllr Stephen F Male Comments by 12/05/10 to Contact Officer: Roy Waterfield, Assistant Director Leisure and Culture, Libraries, Adult and Community Learning roy.waterfield@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 3004239

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Portfolio Holder and Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
53.	Adoption of the Central Bedfordshire Housing Strategy 2010 -	The Executive are asked to give approval for the adoption of the strategy and the detailed action plan following consideration of the following points: 1. draft Central Bedfordshire Housing Strategy 2010 2. the consultation responses 3. whether the Housing Strategy will meet the housing needs for Central Bedfordshire 4. any recommendation by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Sustainable Communities	9 June 2010	15 January 2010: Key Stakeholders and Partners 28 January 2010: members consultation event Web based consultation December 2009 - February 2010	The Central Bedfordshire Housing Strategy 2010	Cllr Tom Nicols Comments by 12/05/10 to Contact Officer: Zoe Cox, Housing Research & Policy Officer zoe.cox@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk Tel: 0300 300 4479

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

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

The following table sets out the dates on which the Central Bedfordshire Council 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