

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



**TO EACH MEMBER OF THE
CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

13 October 2016

Dear Councillor

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - Tuesday 18 October
2016**

Further to the Agenda and papers for the above meeting, previously circulated, please find attached the following additional report(s):-

2. Minutes

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 6 September 2016 and to note actions taken since that meeting.

14. Work Programme 2016/17 & Executive Forward Plan

The report provides Members with details of the currently drafted Committee work programme and the latest Executive Forward Plan. Members will be provided the opportunity to discuss in depth the comprehensive list of items proposed for the Committee work programme, helping shape the future direction of travel.

Should you have any queries regarding the above please contact Scrutiny on Tel: 0300 300 4193

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Preen
Scrutiny Policy Adviser
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CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Tuesday, 6 September 2016

PRESENT

Cllr M A G Versallion (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs D B Gurney (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:	J Chatterley Mrs J Freeman A Ryan	Councillors:	B Saunders D Shelvey
Parental Co-optees:	Mr S Court Mrs G Deans Mrs E Rowlands		
Church of England Co-optee:	Mr D Morton		
Apologies for Absence:	Cllrs P A Duckett P Hollick Mrs D Main B Walker		
	Mrs D Main - Roman Catholic Co-optee		
Substitutes:	Cllrs R D Berry D Bowater		
Members in Attendance:	Cllrs S Dixon Mrs A L Dodwell Mrs C Hegley M R Jones P Smith	Executive Member for Education and Skills Deputy Executive Member for Social Care and Housing Executive Member for Social Care and Housing Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Health	
Officers in Attendance:	Mrs P Everitt Mr S Mitchelmore Miss H Redding	Scrutiny Policy Adviser Assistant Director, Adult Social Care Assistant Director School Improvement	
Others in Attendance:	Mrs K Green	Parent Carer and Engagement Officer	
Public:	0		

CS/16/16. **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 21 June 2016 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

CS/16/17. **Members' Interests**

The following Members declared an interest:-

- Cllr D Bowater - a Board Member of SEPT.
- Cllr D Gurney - a Governor at Everton Lower School
- Mrs G Deans - a Governor at Sandy Upper and parent of children at St Swithuns School, Sandy
- Mr S Court - a parent of a special needs child attending a special school.
- Cllr M Versallion a parent of children using the music service.

CS/16/18. **Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

The Chairman announced that the Regional School's Commissioner had accepted an invitation to attend the November meeting of the Committee.

CS/16/19. **Petitions**

None.

CS/16/20. **Questions, Statements or Deputations**

None.

CS/16/21. **Call-In**

None.

CS/16/22. **Requested Items**

None.

CS/16/23. **Executive Members' Updates**

The Executive Member for Social Care and Housing announced the opening of a new Care Leavers Hub and drop-in centre in Houghton Regis. Representatives of Children in Care had presented their new pledge at the Corporate Parenting Panel meeting. The Executive Members also advised that Member budget process drop-in sessions would be made available to those who wished to attend.

The Executive Member for Education and Skills advised the education locality workshops were helping to shape the future of learning for children in Central

Bedfordshire. The workshops would continue to be held with schools only at this stage, however, outcomes would be shared with the Committee.

The Executive Member announced the unverified A Level and GCSE results. Early indications are that A Level and equivalent outcomes had remained similar to last year's level. There has been a reported national decline in the number of children that had taken up a University place, but we do not yet know the pattern in Central Bedfordshire. School reported data indicates GCSE results A* - C risen by 4% which was in contrast to the national picture where results are reported to have gone down. The Committee congratulated schools on the improved GCSE results.

The Executive Member for Health announced the Better Care Fund submission had been approved and the Social Care Health and Housing OSC would consider a report on the Re-procurement of 0-19 years Children's Services and Memorandum of Understanding at their meeting on 20 September, 2016. The Executive Member also announced the planned merger of South Essex Partnership Trust (SEPT) and North Essex Partnership Trust.

CS/16/24. **Schools Trading 2017/18**

The Head of Finance introduced a report that outlined the proposed traded services to schools and Academies for non statutory services in 2017/18. The Executive Member for Education and Skills advised that learning from the locality workshops from across the region would help inform the appropriate services required by schools. A customer focussed Schools Trading document would be updated accordingly.

Concern regarding the high cost of recruiting teaching staff was raised and whether additional recruitment services could be provided to schools? The Executive Member confirmed this was a key area of work being developed in the Locality Workshops.

A written response would be circulated to the Committee on:

- The cost of fees charged for schools admissions appeals and how this impacted on successful Academies.
- Additional detail be provided on the charges based on published admission numbers for schools.

The Head of Finance would circulate details as they are announced of the Government's proposals regarding a fairer funding formula for schools and the demise of the Education Services Grant.

It was agreed that officers would seek to provide timelines and economy of scale on completion of the assessment of school need of services process. The Head of Finance would provide a list of those new services to be offered to schools and the planned completion date for next year's booklet.

Recommended that the Head of Finance provide additional information to the Committee on:-

1. **The cost of fees charged for the schools admissions appeals. Additional detail be provided on the charges based on published admission numbers for schools.**
2. **Details of the government consultation regarding a fairer funding formula and its impact on the Dedicated Schools Grant be circulated.**
3. **That a commitment be made to conduct an assessment on the services needed by schools with timings for completion, from council officers.**

CS/16/25. Consultation to change the school age range of Everton Lower to enable it to extend to Year 5 and Year 6 pupils

The Executive Member for Education and Skills introduced a report that outlined the proposal for Everton Lower School to extend its age range to Year 5 and Year 6 pupils and, subject to the approval of the Executive, a consultation process would be started. The Assistant Director advised that schools in the locality had been included in discussions regarding Everton's proposals, and other schools proposals in the local area to consult on proposals to change their age ranges. Year 7 pupils would have the choice of attending middle school in Central Bedfordshire or secondary schools across the boarder in Cambridgeshire (subject to places being available). Sandy Upper School is also proposing to consult on extending its age range down to a Year 7 point of admission. It was noted that the changes to the school age in Bedford Borough would have an effect in the area too.

Members were in support of the proposal to provide information for parents on the school admission section of the Council website in addition to local meetings to be arranged in the area. Officers would ensure support was available for all local schools affected by the changes.

RECOMMENDED

1. **Detailed information on school options for pupils be provided to parents in the Everton locality. Parent information and advice on school options be detailed on the School's Admissions web pages.**
2. **That officers facilitate and coordinate the proposed changes in age range and undertake to mitigate any repercussions to neighbouring schools in the vicinity where possible.**
3. **That subject to the above, the Committee support the proposal to initiate a consultation to extend the age range at Everton Lower School.**

CS/16/26. Shared Vision (Education, Health and Social Care) for Children and Young People (0-25) from Central Bedfordshire with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

The Executive Member for Social Care and Housing introduced the Shared Vision for Children and Young People with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) that had been co-produced with parent representatives, mainstream and special schools and services providers and representatives of the Special Needs Action Panel (SNAP). The vision was the culmination of a significant amount of collective work and implementation of these plans was key to support children and young people in achieving the best they can.

Members welcomed the shared vision document and commended the good work that was clearly evident. Members discussed the current provision of services that varied across the district and proposed that the vision seek to offer equality of services across Central Bedfordshire where it was required. The Assistant Director advised that officers continued to develop the provision of services within the current work streams and would incorporate a stronger message in the Vision document.

There was a concern that detail on the future service provision was missing from the document and should include some indication of what the landscape of provision could look like in 5 years and 10 years time. The Assistant Director would include a paragraph in the cover report to cover this aspect.

Recommended

- **that the Vision incorporates a stronger message around consistency of services across Central Bedfordshire.**
- **that colocation of services should be where this is in the best interests of the child and family.**
- **that a paragraph on context and future landscape of provision to be included in the report.**
- **the Committee welcomed the SEND vision and the new ways of working with parent groups.**

CS/16/27. **Fees & Charges 2017**

The Head of Finance introduced a report that detailed the proposed charges for Fees and Charges for the Directorate in 2017, that recommended an increase of 1%. A benchmarking exercise had been undertaken to compare costs with other Councils and to ensure costs were on a par.

In light of the report a Member requested further details regarding the charge to Kingsland. A written response would be provided by the Head of Finance to the Committee.

Following a debate regarding fees charged for the Music Service, the Head of Finance advised the charges related to the regional hub work were subsidised as they are part funded by the Arts Council Grant.

RECOMMENDED

Noted the report.

CS/16/28. **Quarter 1 (April to June) 2016/17 Performance Report**

The Assistant Director School Improvement introduced the quarter one performance (April to June 2016) for the Directorate. The report incorporated some new measures following the implementation of the new five year plan 2015-2020.

Whilst it was noted the percentage of young people 16-18 in education, employment or training was good, a Member requested that an additional indicator that captured the details of young people 19-21 in this category. The Assistant Director advised that destination data was not currently captured, however, it was proposed to look into how this could be achieved.

Noted the report.

CS/16/29. **Work Programme 2016/17 & Executive Forward Plan**

NOTED the current draft work programme for the Committee that would be updated reviewed by the Chairman and Members of the Committee in light of a recent survey.

(Note: The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. and concluded at 12.00 p.m.)

Chairman

Dated

Central Bedfordshire Council

CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

18 October 2016

Work Programme & Executive Forward Plan

Advising Officer: Rebecca Preen, Scrutiny Policy Adviser
rebecca.preen@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Purpose of this report

The report provides Members with details of the currently drafted Committee work programme and the latest Executive Forward Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to:

1. Consider and approve the work programme attached, subject to any further amendments it may wish to make, specifically relating to **appendix 2**;
2. Consider the Executive Forward Plan; and
3. Consider whether it wishes to suggest any further items for the work programme and/or establish any enquiries to assist it in reviewing specific items.

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

1. Throughout June and July 2016 residents were encouraged to propose items to be considered by the Council's overview and scrutiny committees.
2. In addition a workshop took place in June 2016 at which Members and partners were invited to propose additional items and to indicate the priorities that they would like to consider throughout 2016/17.
3. Throughout this process Members have been encouraged to adopt several key principles relating to ways of working that were previously agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Panel, namely:-
 - Minimising duplication
 - Focusing on requested items
 - Focusing on outcomes and the 5-year plan

4. A long-list of items has been proposed, some of which have been included in the work programme of the relevant overview and scrutiny committee. At the request of the Overview and Scrutiny Coordination Panel the full list of items, including those specific to this OSC and those of a cross-cutting nature are included at **appendix 2**. The Committee are asked to consider the full list of items and highlight any that they feel ought to be added to the work programme as a priority.
5. This work programme aims to provide a balance of those items on which the Executive would be grateful for a steer in addition to those items that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) has proactively requested to receive.
6. The Committee is requested to consider the work programme and the indicated outcomes at **appendix 1** and to amend or add to it as necessary.

Overview and Scrutiny Task Forces

7. In addition to consideration of the work programme, Members may also wish to consider how each item will be reviewed, i.e. by the Committee itself (over one or a number of Committee meetings) or by establishing a Member Task Force to review an item in greater depth and report back its findings.

Executive Forward Plan

8. Listed below are those items relating specifically to this Committee's terms of reference contained in the latest version of the Executive Forward Plan that are not presently included in the Committee's work programme. The full Executive Forward Plan can be viewed on the Council's website at the link at the end of this report:-

Item	Indicative Exec Meeting date
Refresh of the Partnership Vision for Education	6 December 2016
Commissioning of New School Places in Barton-le-Clay and Marston Moretaine for September 2018 (Consultation)	6 December 2016
Determination of the Council's Admission Arrangements for the Academic Year 2018/19	7 February 2017
Commissioning of New School Places in Barton-le-Clay and Marston Moretaine for September 2018 (Outcome of Consultation)	4 April 2017
Non Key Decisions	Indicative Exec Meeting date

Corporate Implications

9. The work programme of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will contribute indirectly to all 5 Council priorities. Whilst there are no direct implications arising from this report the implications of proposals will be details in full in each report submitted to the Committee.

Conclusion and next Steps

10. Members are requested to consider and agree the attached work programme, subject to any further amendment/additions they may wish to make and highlight those items within it where they may wish to establish a Task Force to assist the Committee in its work. This will allow officers to plan accordingly but will not preclude further items being added during the course of the year if Members so wish and capacity exists.

Appendices

Appendix 1: OSC work programme

Appendix 2: Suggestions arising from public survey

Background Papers

Executive Forward Plan (can be viewed at any time on the Council's website) at the following link:-

<http://centralbeds.moderngov.co.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=577&RD=0>

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Appendix 1

Children's Services OSC Work Programme (2016/17)

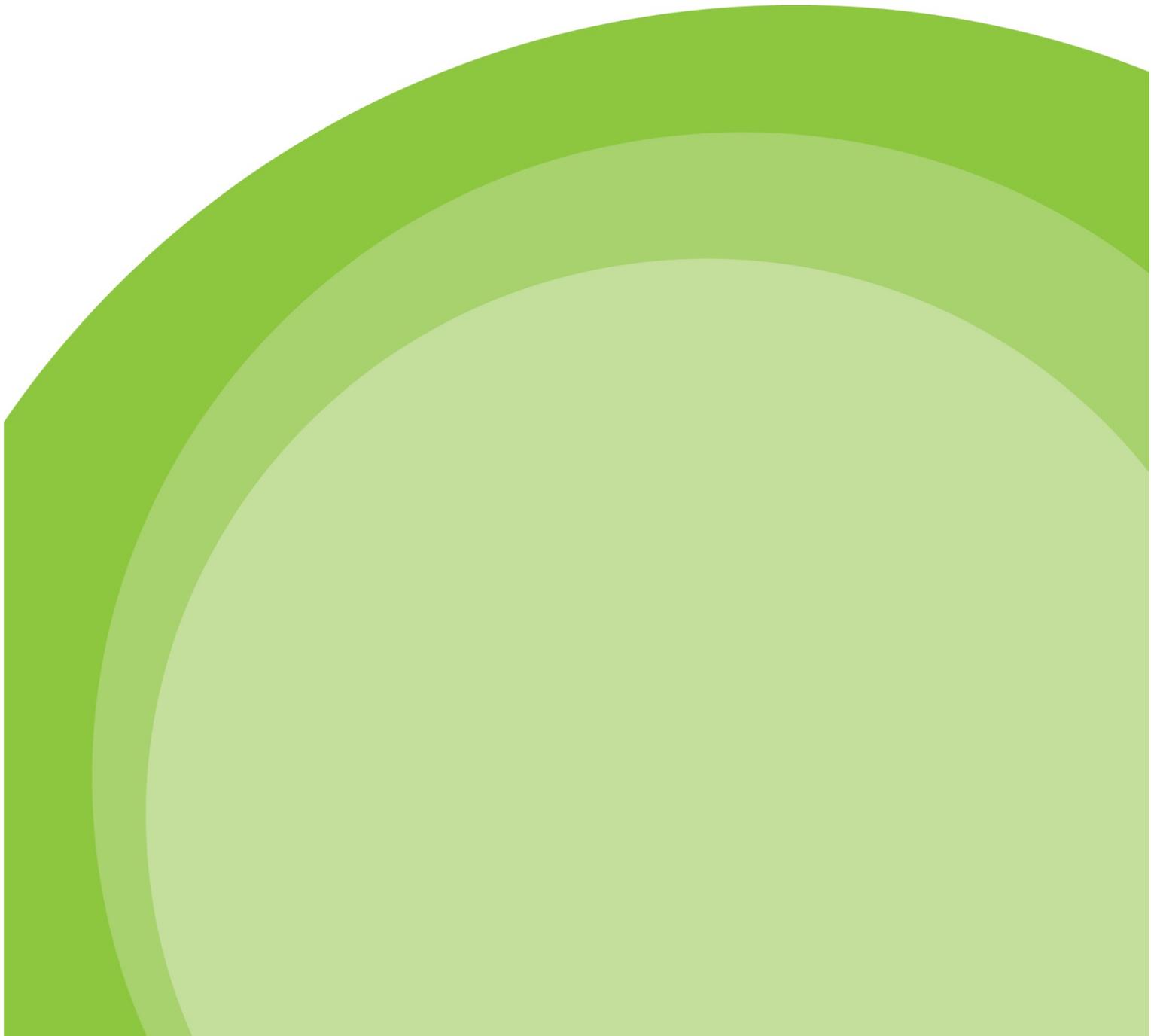
Meeting date	Report Title	Outcomes we are seeking to achieve
22 November 2016	Regional Schools Commissioner	To receive a presentation on the role of Regional Schools Commissioner and how joint working with CBC will bring about improved outcomes for children.
22 November 2016	Children's Services Transformation Programme update including Children's Centres	To consider the progress made to redesign the service and reduce the number of children from the early years stage onwards that are required to be taken into care.
22 November 2016	Pupil attainment	To review pupil attainment at GCSE and A Level, comparing data from those considered disadvantaged to advantaged children
22 November 2016	Review of Children's Disability Provision	To review the proposals outlined in the Children's Disability Service Provision and provide recommendation to the Executive.
12 January 2017	Performance and budget reports	To receive a presentation on the relevant quarterly performance and budget information
12 January 2017	Draft Budget, Capital and Medium Term Financial Plan 2017/18-20/21	To consider the draft Budget, updated Medium Term Financial Plan, Housing Revenue Account and Capital Programme pertaining to the Children's Services Directorate only. Information that is relevant to the other directorates will be considered in the other relevant OSC meetings. Members are requested to submit their comments, observations and recommendations in respect of the Executive's proposals with particular reference to the Children's Services Directorate proposals, to the meeting of the Executive.
14 March 2017	TBC	

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Appendix 2

Overview & Scrutiny work programmes (2016/17)



OSC work programmes

Items proposed for 2016/17

In June 2016 all Members were invited to attend a session to discuss the items that they would like to receive at the Overview and Scrutiny Committees during 2016/17.

At this session we discussed those principles that we were most keen to encourage. Namely to have shorter agendas, to include more requested items and to encourage policy development.

At the conclusion of the meeting those who attended had highlighted the items listed below as those that they would like to discuss at the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

The list of items overleaf are those that are currently not listed on the work programme of any of the overview and scrutiny committees. For each item an indication is provided of the:-

- Report title:** the title that was provided by Members or the public
- Parent committee:** the suggested committee with responsibility for the item unless it is cross-cutting
- Originated from:** whether the item originates from the Member workshop earlier this year or the residents survey

Members are asked to indicate those items that they are particularly keen to receive at a formal meeting of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Report Title	Parent committee(s)	Originated from
Admissions arrangements	Children's Services OSC	Member Workshop
School places, expansions and new schools (viability) & 6th form viability	Children's Services OSC	Member Workshop
Children's services transformation programme	Children's Services OSC	Member Workshop
Curriculum for life	Children's Services OSC	Member Workshop
Speech and language service	Children's Services OSC	Member Workshop
Info, advice and guidance for school pupils	Children's Services OSC	Member Workshop
Teacher Recruitment Strategy	Children's Services OSC	Member Workshop
Young people being work ready	Children's Services OSC	Member Workshop
Meeting the needs of the less academic & skills needs of local employers.	Children's Services OSC	Member Workshop
Children With Disabilities	Children's Services OSC	Member Workshop
Academy & maintained school performance and Ofsted judgements (results) incorporating EYFS, KS2, 4 & deprived gap and performance	Children's Services OSC	Member Workshop
Children's Centres	Children's Services OSC	Member Workshop
Education Partnership Vision	Children's Services OSC	Member Workshop
Better school outcomes & reputation	Children's Services OSC	Member Workshop
Teaching school	Children's Services OSC	Member Workshop
Children's services transformation programme	Children's Services OSC	Member Workshop
Guidance on schools performance	Children's Services OSC	Member Workshop
Curriculum for life & budget management	Children's Services OSC	Public survey
Higher Education	Children's Services OSC	Public survey
Working Smarter	Corporate Resources OSC	Member Workshop
Legal Services	Corporate Resources OSC	Member Workshop
Council responsiveness	Corporate Resources OSC	Member Workshop
Communication between Member/Officer & Public/Officer	Cross-cutting	Member Workshop
Preparing for Adulthood	Cross-cutting	Member Workshop
ELFT (Q1 and Q2 performance)	Cross-cutting	Member Workshop
Partnership working with top councils	Cross-cutting	Member Workshop
Delegation to local towns and parishes and its implications	Cross-cutting	Member Workshop
Building, creating facilities for	Cross-cutting	Member Workshop

Report Title	Parent committee(s)	Originated from
addicts/carers		
School transport	Cross-cutting	Member Workshop
Right Homes for the right people in the right place ("Right Homes"; housing rent affordability; housing improvements)	Cross-cutting	Member Workshop
Improved mental health for young people	Cross-cutting	Public survey
Safer crossings (access to schools)	Cross-cutting	Public survey
Asset disposal	Cross-cutting	Public survey
Language of complaints handling	Cross-cutting	Public survey
Cost effectiveness	Cross-cutting	Public survey
Fit for Op	Social Care, Health & Housing OSC	Member Workshop
Excess Weight Strategy	Social Care, Health & Housing OSC	Member Workshop
Policy for housing assistance	Social Care, Health & Housing OSC	Member Workshop
Dementia Strategy	Social Care, Health & Housing OSC	Member Workshop
Step up step down service in Chiltern vale & LB localities	Social Care, Health & Housing OSC	Member Workshop
Quality accounts	Social Care, Health & Housing OSC	Member Workshop
Preparing for adulthood strategy	Cross-cutting	Member Workshop
Primary care strategy	Social Care, Health & Housing OSC	Member Workshop
Re-procurement of community mental health services	Social Care, Health & Housing OSC	Member Workshop
Meeting residents needs	Social Care, Health & Housing OSC	Member Workshop
Health education	Social Care, Health & Housing OSC	Member Workshop
Care Act 2014 (phase 2)	Social Care, Health & Housing OSC	Member Workshop
Better Care Fund II	Social Care, Health & Housing OSC	Member Workshop
The Integration of Health and Social Care in Central Bedfordshire.	Social Care, Health & Housing OSC	Member Workshop
Musculoskeletal Services (MSK)	Social Care, Health & Housing OSC	Public survey
Linking with the UK Border Force	Sustainable Communities OSC	Member Workshop
Dunstable Leisure Centre Update	Sustainable Communities OSC	Member Workshop
Links between the SCHHOSC & community safety plan	Sustainable Communities OSC	Member Workshop
Community Infrastructure Levy	Sustainable Communities OSC	Member Workshop
Public engagement strategy (everything but especially the local plan)	Sustainable Communities OSC	Member Workshop
Retail structure of South Bedfordshire	Sustainable Communities OSC	Member Workshop
Planning Enforcement	Sustainable Communities OSC	Public survey

Report Title	Parent committee(s)	Originated from
Local Plan (incorporating the G&T Plan)	Sustainable Communities OSC	Public survey
Protecting the greenbelt	Sustainable Communities OSC	Public survey
Site selection criteria and various planning considerations	Sustainable Communities OSC	Public survey
Traffic congestion	Sustainable Communities OSC	Public survey



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Contact us...

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