



TO EACH MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

25 February 2010

Dear Councillor

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL - Thursday 25 February 2010

Further to the circulation of the Council agenda for the meeting on Thursday 25 February 2010, please find attached the following:-

***Agenda Item
No. 9***

***Treasury Management Strategy - Recommendation
from the Executive***

Members are requested to note that since the meeting of the Executive held on 12 January 2010, a change in advice has been received from CIPFA necessitating a correction to the counterparty list in the Treasury Management Strategy, as the list cannot now rely on a single indicator for credit rating counterparties.

Additionally, a variation to accommodate the views of Overview and Scrutiny Committee is also proposed to the section on "Maturity Structure of Borrowing".

The Portfolio holder for Corporate Resources therefore intends to move the following revisions to the Treasury Management Strategy

- (a) Maturity Structure of Borrowing
Appendix B – page 18 (page 65 of Council agenda)
 - (i) Addition of a new paragraph 11.3 as follows:-

"The maturity of the Council's borrowing is profiled in order that no more than 20% matures in any one financial year"; and
 - (ii) Deletion of Table 11 and renumbering of Table 12 as Table 11.

(b) Counterparty list
Appendix D – page 23 (page 72 of Council agenda)

(i) Delete the following:

“For credit rated counterparties, the minimum criteria will be the highest short term and a long term rating (equivalent to AA- or higher) assigned by various agencies which may include Moody’s Investor Services, Standards and Poor’s, Fitch rating.”

(ii) Replace with the following:

“With credit rated counterparties, the minimum criteria will be the highest short term and a long term rating (equivalent to A+ or higher) assigned by Moody’s Investor Services, Standards & Poor’s, Fitch ratings and either have access to the UK Government’s Credit Guarantee Scheme or are systemically important to the sovereign state’s economy.

**Agenda Item
No 14**

Report of the Bedfordshire Police Authority

The report of the meeting of the Police Authority held on 12 February 2010 is now attached.

**Agenda Item
No. 14A**

Appointment to Bedfordshire Police Authority

Members will note from Item 4 of the report that in the light of the resignation of Cllr Alison Graham from the Police Authority with effect from 28 February 2010, it is therefore necessary for the Council to consider appointing to the vacancy.

The Chairman of the Council has agreed to take the attached report as an additional item of business as a matter of urgency in accordance with Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972 because it is necessary for the Bedfordshire Police Authority to be fully constituted at the earliest opportunity and the appointment to the vacancy will therefore not await the next scheduled meeting of the Council on 22 April 2010.

**Agenda Item
No. 20**

Calendar of Meetings 2010/11

A revised Calendar of Meetings is attached. The Calendar has been reviewed at the request of the Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to allow a greater period of time between meetings of Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the Executive.

(Note: The original version circulated with the Council agenda was based upon the current committee structure, with a note showing that in the event of the Council approving the proposed implementation of a structure of 4 overview and scrutiny committees, the dates scheduled for the Business Transformation OSC would be used for the new Customer and Central Services OSC with the dates for the Corporate Resources OSC being removed from the Calendar. In the interests of clarity, the attached version is based upon the proposal for implementation of a structure of 4 overview and scrutiny committees in the next municipal year, rather than the current structure.)

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

Yours sincerely

Sandra Hobbs
Democratic Services Officer
email: sandra.hobbs@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

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CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

25TH February 2010

1. MEETING

The Bedfordshire Police Authority met on 12 February 2010.

The main purpose of the meeting was to consider the 2010/11 Revenue Budget but included are other areas which will be of interest.

2. REVENUE BUDGET 2010/11

The revenue budget for 2010-11 has been set at £102.821M, an increase of £3.314M over last year. The increase in the policing precept, has been kept as low as possible at 3% (£4.21 p.a.) for a Band D household, which is approximately 8 pence per week.

To maintain Council tax levels at a minimum the Authority has overseen some significant process reviews over the past few months, that will provide the public with a more visible police force through a more focused response function and better crime investigation.

This level of budget will mean that resources can be redirected into areas of organised criminality to enable a greater ability to tackle organised crime associated with burglary, vehicle crime and drug and knife crime. Further investment has been agreed for the protection of vulnerable people, such as victims of child and domestic abuse and sexual offences and Neighbourhood Policing activity which will continue to be developed to provide a more consistent approach across all neighbourhoods.

The budget allows for 1264 Police Officers and 992 Police Staff, a small reduction on the 2009-10 year, who will be focussed on the provision of visible and effective frontline services.

The Authority's consultation with local people indicates that the protection of vulnerable people and Neighbourhood Policing are areas of police work in which they would like to see further investment.

Our consultation has also indicated that a Council Tax increase of 3% is considered to be a reasonable amount.

3. PERFORMANCE

Crime across Bedfordshire has dropped by 2744 incidents (8%) in the nine months ending 31st December 2009 compared to the previous year.

Members have recently considered performance data for this period which indicated that overall recorded crime levels continued to be better than the target. There had been large reductions in serious acquisitive crime (domestic burglary, robbery and theft of and from motor vehicles).

In comparison to the same period in 2009 the data indicated reductions in acquisitive crime as follows

- robbery offences 33% or 269 offences
- domestic burglary offences 15% or 452 offences
- theft from a vehicle 20% or 789 offences
- theft of a vehicle 21% or 217 offences.

All crime and criminal damage areas were better than target and again in comparison to the same period in the previous year there had been a 7% reduction in criminal damage (477 fewer incidents); a drop in sexual offences of 14% (59 fewer crimes) and a 26% (285) fall in fraud and forgery offences.

Violent crime areas were however above target and the Members have expressed their concern about this increase despite a number of strategies put in place to tackle violent crime and will be monitoring the effectiveness of the initiatives that have been put in place.

In terms of the detection rate this continued to be slightly below target but was an improvement on the previous year. Detections relating to robbery, vehicle crime, violent crime and racially aggravated crime were below the target set.

The Authority wishes to see further progress with detections, particularly in priority areas, in light of the significant investment made by the Authority over recent years, the Force having its highest ever number of officers and there being less recorded crime to investigate.

Members are also disappointed that, despite the reduction in recorded crime, there is no evidence of a corresponding rise in public confidence, which is now the Government's key target measure for all police forces and a report on the activities being undertaken by other forces who have seen increases in their public confidence has been asked for.

In respect of the delivery of the Policing Pledge further improvements have been made since the Force was inspected by Her Majesty's

Inspectorate of Constabulary last year and Members will receive a detailed assessment detailing the extent to which the force is meeting the standards set out by the Pledge in terms of their accessibility to local people.

4 **Membership**

Further to the resignation effective of 28 February 2010 from the Police Authority of Councillor Alison Graham, Central Bedfordshire Council, there is a need for a nomination to be made to the vacancy.

The Council is asked facilitate the filling of the vacancy at the earliest opportunity.

**PETER HOLLICK
REPRESENTATIVE ON THE BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE
AUTHORITY**

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Meeting: Council
Date: 25 February 2010
Subject: Appointment to Bedfordshire Police Authority
Report of: Cllr Tricia Turner, Leader of the Council
Summary: To consider the appointment of a member of the Liberal Democrat Group to serve upon the Joint Selection Committee for the Bedfordshire Police Authority and to be nominated to serve upon the Police Authority.

Contact Officer: Kathrin John, Head of Democratic Services
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: N/A
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The appointment is required as part of the Council's statutory responsibilities.

Financial:

None to this Council – the Police Authority meets the expenses of the Council's representatives.

Legal:

Appointments to the Joint Selection Committee and Bedfordshire Police Authority are governed by the Police Act 1996 (as amended by S.I. 2009/119) and The Police Authority Regulations 2008 (S.I. 2009/119).

Risk Management:

None

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

None

Equalities/Human Rights:

None

Community Safety:

None

Sustainability:

None

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. That the nomination of the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group to fill the vacancy for his group upon the Bedfordshire Police Authority Joint Selection Committee and to be nominated to fill the place upon the Police Authority, be approved.**
- 2. That, in the event that the Liberal Democrat Group Leader is unable to make a nomination at the meeting, the Monitoring Officer, after consultation with the Liberal Democrat Leader, be authorised to appoint a Member of the Liberal Democrat Group to serve upon the Joint Selection Committee and to be nominated to fill the vacancy upon the Police Authority.**

1. As Members will see from paragraph 4 of the submitted report of the Police Authority, Cllr Alison Graham has tendered her resignation as a member of the Police Authority with effect from 28 February 2010.

2. It is now necessary for the Council to consider appointing to fill the resulting vacancy.

3. Regulations made under the Police Act 1996 require appointments to be made by a joint selection committee consisting of members appointed by Central Bedfordshire, Luton Borough and Bedford Borough Councils. In making its appointments, the joint committee must ensure, as far as practicable, that the membership reflects the balance of the political parties of the three constituent councils.

4. The three authorities agreed in March 2009, after consultation with the Home Office Minister, that the Joint Selection Committee would comprise 11 members, being 3 from Bedford Borough Council, 5 from Central Bedfordshire and 3 from Luton Borough Council, with the composition being reviewed every two years and adjusted as necessary to reflect any changes in population. It was also agreed that the Joint Selection Committee should allocate the 9 local authority seats on the Police Authority on the basis of population as follows:-

Bedford Borough Council	2 seats
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Central Bedfordshire Council	4 seats
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Luton Borough Council	3 seats
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6. The 4 Central Bedfordshire seats have been allocated in accordance with the political balance, with 3 seats going to the Conservative Group and 1 seat to the Liberal Democrat Group.

7. As the vacant seat has been allocated to the Liberal Democrat Group, the Leader of that Group has been requested to nominate a member to fill the vacancy on the Joint Selection Committee and to be the Council's nominee for the vacant place upon the Police Authority.
8. In the event that the Liberal Democrat Group Leader is unable to make a nomination at the meeting, the Council is requested to authorise the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Liberal Democrat Leader, to appoint a member to serve upon the Joint Selection Committee and to be nominated to fill the vacancy upon the Police Authority.

Appendices:

None

Background Papers: (open to public inspection)

Report of the Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic to the meeting of the Council held on 18 June 2009.

Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands

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DRAFT CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2010/11

Appendix A (Version 2)

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
JUN 2010	7 14 C&CS OSC (R) 21 28 AUDIT	1 EXECUTIVE 8 15 SC OSC (R) 22 CFL OSC (R) 29	2 9 16 23 DMC 30	3 GENERAL PURPOSES 10 17 SCH&H OSC (R) 24 COUNCIL (C)	4 11 18 25
JUL 2010	5 12 19 C&CS OSC 26	6 13 EXECUTIVE 20 SC OSC 27 CFL OSC	7 14 21 DMC 28	1 LSP 8 15 22 29 SCH&H OSC	2 9 16 OSCP 23 L&SBJC (D) 30
AUG 2010	2 9 16 C&CS OSC (R) 23 SC OSC (R) 30 HOLIDAY	3 10 17 EXECUTIVE 24 CFL OSC (R) 31	4 11 18 DMC 25 LIC'NG/REG	5 12 19 SCH&H OSC (R) 26	6 STANDARDS 13 20 27
SEP 2010	6 13 20 C&CS OSC 27 AUDIT	7 14 EXECUTIVE 21 CFL OSC 28 SC OSC	1 8 15 DMC 22 29	2 LSP 9 16 23 COUNCIL (D) 30 SCH&H OSC	3 10 17 L&SBJC (L) 24
OCT 2010	4 11 18 C&CS OSC (R) 25	5 12 EXECUTIVE 19 CFL OSC (R) 26 SC OSC (R)	6 13 DMC 20 27	7 GENERAL PURPOSES 14 21 LSP 28 SCH&H OSC (R)	1 8 15 OSCP 22 L&SBJC (D) 29
NOV 2010	1 8 C&CS OSC 15 22 29	2 9 EXECUTIVE 16 CFL OSC 23 SC OSC 30	3 10 DMC 17 LIC'NG/REG 24	4 11 18 SCH&H OSC 25 COUNCIL (C)	5 STANDARDS 12 19 26
DEC 2010	6 13 C&CS OSC (R) 20 27 HOLIDAY	7 14 EXECUTIVE 21 CFL OSC (R) 28 HOLIDAY	1 8 DMC 15 22 29	2 9 LSP 16 SCH&H OSC (R) 23 SC OSC (R) 30	3 10 17 L&SBJC (L) 24 31
JAN 2011	3 HOLIDAY 10 17 C&CS OSC (Budget) 24 AUDIT	4 11 EXECUTIVE 18 CFL OSC 25 SC OSC (R)	5 DMC 12 19 26	6 13 GENERAL PURPOSES 20 COUNCIL (D) 27 SCH&H OSC	7 14 OSCP 21 28 L&SBJC (D)
FEB 2011	7 14 21 C&CS OSC (R) 28 SC OSC (R)	1 8 EXECUTIVE (Budget) 15 CFL OSC (R) 22 SCH&H OSC (R)	2 DMC 9 16 LIC'NG/REG 23	3 10 17 LSP 24 COUNCIL (Budget) (C)	4 11 STANDARDS 18 25
MAR 2011	7 14 21 C&CS OSC 28	1 8 EXECUTIVE 15 22 CFL OSC 29 SC OSC	2 DMC 9 16 23 30 DMC	3 10 17 24 SCH&H OSC 31 GENERAL PURPOSES	4 11 18 25 L&SBJC (L)
APR 2011	4 AUDIT 11 C&CS OSC (AM) (R) 11 SC OSC (PM) (R) 18 25 HOLIDAY	5 EXECUTIVE (R) 12 CFL OSC (AM) (R) 12 SCH&H OSC (PM) (R) 19 26 LSP	6 13 LIC'NG/REG 20 27 DMC	7 14 COUNCIL (D) 21 28	1 STANDARDS 8 OSCP 15 22 HOLIDAY 29
MAY 2011	2 HOLIDAY 9 16 23 30 HOLIDAY	3 10 17 24 31 EXECUTIVE	4 11 18 25 DMC	5 ELECTIONS 12 INDUCTION EVENT 19 COUNCIL (AGM) (C) 26	6 13 20 27
JUNE 2011	6 13 20 C&CS OSC 27	7 SC OSC 14 CFL OSC 21 28 EXECUTIVE	1 8 15 22 DMC 29	2 GENERAL PURPOSES 9 SCH&H OSC 16 23 30	3 10 17 24 L&SBJC (D)

KEY: DMC Development Management Committee LIC'NG/REG Licensing and Regulation Committees OSCP Overview & Scrutiny Committee Panel L&SBJC Luton & South Bedfordshire Joint Committee C&CS OSC Customer & Central Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee SC OSC Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee CFL OSC Children, Families & Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee SCH&H OSC Social Care, Health & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

TIME AND VENUES: All meetings will start at 9.30 a.m. unless otherwise stated on the agenda, with the exception of Council starting at 6.30 p.m. and Overview and Scrutiny Committees starting at 10.00 am. (R) indicates a reserve date. Meetings of the Council will be held at alternating venues as indicated: (C) Chicksands or (D) Dunstable. Overview and Scrutiny Committees venues to be determined by each Committee, according to the business to be conducted. Licensing Sub-Committees will be arranged at local venues as and when required. Meetings of the Luton and South Bedfordshire Joint Committee alternate between Dunstable (D) and Luton (L). All other meetings will normally be at Chicksands.