

NOTICE OF MEETING

LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Date & Time

Wednesday, 22 April 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

Venue at

Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Dunstable

Chaired by: Councillor Mrs P E Turner MBE

Vice Chairman: John Gelder

Jaki Salisbury
Interim Chief Executive

***MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THIS
MEETING***

Agenda

Item	Subject	Page Nos.
1	Apologies, Welcome & Introduction Tricia Turner	*
2	Minutes & Matters Arising Tricia Turner	* 2/1 – 2/8
3	Compact Formal sign off of the Bedfordshire and Luton Voluntary Compact “Getting It Right Together”. This item will include a group photograph. John Gelder	*
4	Local Area Agreement (LAA) To endorse the targets in Central Bedfordshire’s first LAA and agree the next steps. To also receive a copy of the performance to-date (year one quarter three). Peter Fraser	* 4/1 – 4/15
5	Comprehensive Area Agreement (CAA) To receive a presentation by Nigel Smith from the Audit Commission on the final CAA framework. To receive a paper on the implications for the LSP. Nigel Smith, Audit Commission	* 5/1 – 5/4
6	Luton and South Bedfordshire Core Strategy Preferred Options To provide a formal response from the LSP to the Luton and South Bedfordshire Joint Committee Local development Framework Core Strategy document April 2009. John Gelder	* 6/1 – 6/26

7 **The Future ambition and development of the LSP** * 7/1 – 7/8

To discuss the ongoing development and future ambitions of the LSP, including an offer of peer support.

Richard Ellis

8 **Any other business** *

Tricia Turner

Date of next meeting: 30 June 2009

Future meeting dates:

22 September 2009

15 December 2009

23 March 2010

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**CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE
SHADOW LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

**Notes from the meeting held on Tuesday 6 January 2009
at South Bedfordshire District Council Offices**

11. ATTENDANCE:

Board Members: Julie Benson, Councillor Peter Blaine, Rod Calvert, John Gelder (Vice –Chairman chairing the meeting), Jim Gledhill, Andrew Morgan, Jaki Salisbury, Muriel Scott, Andy Street and Chris Vesey.

Officers: Sandra Einon, Richard Ellis, Peter Fraser, Edwina Grant, Suzanne Hulks, Paula Judd, Karen Oellermann and Ian Porter

Attendees: Colin Anderson (GO East) and Neil Wilson (Bedfordshire Police).

Apologies: Cllr Tricia Turner

12. MINUTES

The notes from the meeting of 11 November 2008 were agreed subject to the following amendments:

Minute 5 – the names of Muriel Scott and Wendi Ogle-Welbourne to be transposed on pages 2/2 and 2/3.

Minute 6 – paragraph 3 – the indicator referred should read NI4, not NI14.

13. LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

PF advised the Board that the targets shown in Appendix A had, in the main, been disaggregated. However, some of the targets had not been agreed as the the place survey data was not available.

A review was due to be completed by 9 January. This would consider progress against targets, delivery and involvement.

Members were asked to note that the economic downturn was having an impact, particularly on the housing target, which may have to be re-profiled for the next few years.

Further risks had been identified in respect of the disaggregation of drug usage figures for the DIP (Drug Intervention Programme), as the figures were not thought to be robust below county level. Consequently, this was likely to remain a county-wide target.

AS commented that the Police supported a force-wide target as there was a risk otherwise that the figures could be skewed and this could affect where funds should be directed.

Breakdown of the NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) figures was also proving problematic, but confirmation was given that they would be split.

JS commented that Julie Ogle and Edwina Grant would be working together to produce an improvement plan which would then be monitored via the LAA. This would be used to input to the work for improving Health and Well-being. Input from partners was welcomed.

Actions for improvements to adult social care should be considered as an additional local target within the LAA, as it was necessary to demonstrate the work that was being done as CSCI would monitor whether adequate attention was being given to this area of work.

AS stated that the Police were nervous of the outcomes of a perception survey as they were not in control of how to address the outcomes. There was an awareness that criminal damage increased crime figures and that this should be addressed by introducing positive activities for young people. A lot of work was already taking place in this area.

Members agreed that the local media should be challenged on assumptions when negative messages were being delivered and a more positive picture needed to be presented.

CA advised that it was necessary to report against indicators as there had to be evidence of how the concerns of residents were being addressed. He added that the involvement of the Fire and Rescue Service had been effective elsewhere.

AS felt that the indicators would not measure the work that was being done with young people.

PF advised the Board that it was a legal requirement for the Council to sign-off the LAA, but the LSP would determine the "what and how" of the document.

CA stated that there would be a bigger refresh next year for Central Bedfordshire than for any other authority and this meant that a review and changes could be made in light of LGR.

JS commented that, as the start of the new authority was imminent, there needed to be a picture of the situation for Central Bedfordshire, not detail of the legacy authorities.

AS advised that work on Domestic Violence would be a shared service and a decision would be made as to whether the target should be disaggregated.

RESOLVED

1. to agree the proposed list of indicators and indicators as detailed at Appendix A of the report and to recommend their inclusion in the refreshed LAA for Central Bedfordshire
2. to authorise the appropriate Theme Lead to negotiate and agree targets, where not already set, with Central Government in consultation with their Thematic Partnerships
3. to task Thematic Partnerships with evaluating the inclusion of any additional indicators in the refreshed LAA, as detailed in paragraphs 3.5 and 3.6 of the report.

14. COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENT

The Board received an update from IP in which Members were informed that the goalposts had been moved for both the Organisational Assessment and Area Assessment.

Central Bedfordshire would not have a formal Organisational Assessment. Performance Indicators would be looked at, but not Use of Resources.

The assessment the following year would review progress in 2009/10, so it was therefore necessary to embed the principles to be effective from 1 April.

There was a requirement to self-assess soon after vesting day and the document of self-assessment would be considered by the LSP prior to submission to the Audit Commission. There would be ten key questions to be addressed and the LSP Manager would work closely with the Thematic Partnerships to identify key issues.

The transition would be considered in the context of the assessment. Recommendations would be forward looking.

The green and red flag system would still be in place, but there was pressure on the Audit Commission to reconsider this system, possibly in March, as it was thought that the red flag served no real purpose.

Members were advised that the Audit Commission might be less critical than some of the other agencies, but it was necessary to be prepared to be judged on the highest standards.

AM pointed out that the authority would be judged on:

Identifying priorities
Who has been consulted
How consultation was undertaken
How issues raised were addressed

IP stated that there was a requirement for a strong LAA and a strong partnership with GO East. Evidence needed to be given on how the Sustainable Community Strategy would be produced for 2010.

NOTED the report.

15. ADOPTING THE COMPACT

Members were presented with a report that gave information on the Bedfordshire and Luton Voluntary Compact and the associated Codes of Good Practice.

The document sets out a series of principles which should underpin the relationship between all parties who are working towards a common goal. It also details the commitment to partnership working for improved quality of life, encouragement and support for voluntary and community activity and jointly influencing planning and policy where appropriate.

Adoption of the Compact would indicate the commitment of this LSP to working within its principles and to the promotion and encouragement for other agencies and organisations to become actively involved.

RESOLVED to adopt the Bedfordshire and Luton Voluntary Sector Compact "Getting It Right Together".

16. FEEDBACK FROM THE GROWTH SUB-COMMITTEE

JG gave some background information relating to the input to the Core Strategy by the South Bedfordshire and Luton LSP Growth Sub-Committees. He explained that there had been a great deal of work and discussion by the groups, both individually and jointly, in preparing a vision that covered the aspirations of all partners.

This vision had been presented to the Joint Committee whose Members expressed a desire for the document to be condensed. The rewording was tasked to the Member Steering Group which produced an amended version for consideration by the Sub-Committee

The Sub-Committee did not feel that the revised version reflected the ambitions of the Sustainable Community Strategies, particularly with regard to transport, access to jobs and skills, social infrastructure, strong and safe communities, health inequalities and climate change. Further work was done by the Sub-Committee and a revised version was submitted to the Joint Committee alongside the Member Steering Group version.

Unfortunately, not all Members of the LSP were supportive of the version put forward by the Sub-Committee and, as it could not be said that the LSPs supported the revised version, the Joint Committee endorsed the version submitted by the Member Steering Group.

As a result of this, additional issues and concessions, previously agreed by the LSP and the Joint Committee, had been lost and it was felt that the vision was not necessarily reflective of the views of LSP Members.

As it is unlikely that there would be further opportunity to influence this document, the Shadow LSP needed to ensure that the issues were addressed in one of the other documents within the suite of documents that made up the Core Strategy. It was agreed that it would be important to respond to the consultation document to be published in March/April.

Members agreed that it was important for previous negative issues to be discarded and to move forward in a positive way.

NOTED the report.

17. SOUNDING BOARD UPDATE

Members were advised that the Sounding Board had been given the task of producing a brand and logo for the Central Bedfordshire LSP.

CV had offered the services of students at Dunstable College to help with the project. The college had run a competition amongst the students. They had been given a list of keywords and asked to produce a logo. The best results were presented to the LSP for consideration and comment.

Members agreed that it was not their task to create the logo by committee, merely to comment on the options presented. There was also the need to consider that the final design needed to be effective in black and white as well as colour.

AS asked whether it would be possible to include the badges of the individual partners in the finished item, but it was felt that this would not be possible as it would take up too much space. However, it was felt that the badges of the individual agencies could be included if one of them was a lead agency on a specific piece of work.

Discussion took place regarding whether the Board should have been given a different title, for example “Impact” and a logo built around that. It was felt, though, that, as the authority was new and the area of Central Bedfordshire newly defined, it was better to emphasise this.

RE emphasised that Central Bedfordshire did not refer to the authority, but to the whole of the area that the authority covered and it was the sense of place that was important.

CV asked Members to agree a shortlist from the options presented. The students shortlisted would then work with the design team to produce the final version which would be used on all LSP related documents.

RESOLVED to shortlist the options.

18. CLIMATE CHANGE

Members were presented with a report that explained the context and purpose of a Climate Change Conference for Bedfordshire and which asked for the support of the LSP to host the event.

The Conference would be an opportunity to engage with stakeholders and to capture information regarding activities happening around the area which contribute to CO₂ reduction. The outcome of the conference would be to shape the delivery plan for years 2 and 3 of the LAA.

The LAA target for “Per Capita reduction in CO₂ emissions” is 3.9% by 2001 from a 2005 baseline. Currently, the reduction is running at 0.17%.

Current practice has been assessed by GO East as an example of good practice.

The Board felt that it might be worthwhile including Luton in this work as there was already joint work on housing and transportation, both of which contributed to and had an impact on climate change.

Luton had recently held a similar event, so it was unlikely that there would be support from that area for this.

Officers stated that this would be a low key local event which would be aimed at community groups who would be asked for feedback from the day. It would provide attendees with information on where we are now and where we want/need to be.

The Board stated that it was essential that early conferences run by Central Bedfordshire should be brilliant with some external speakers to provide new information and new input.

Members felt that they would like to support the event. However they agreed more thought was needed and there needed to be clarification of the audience that would be targeted.

PJ and IP to do some more work on this item.

NOTED the report.

19. FORWARD PLAN AND MEETINGS TIMETABLE

Members agreed to schedule 4 meetings a year for the Board at the following frequency:

Mid/late March 2009
Mid/late June 2009
Mid/late Sept 2009
Mid Dec 2009
Mid/late March 2010

Subsequent to the meeting, it was agreed to hold the next meeting on 22 April 2009 as this tied in with other deadlines.

Items for April meeting and forward plan are shown at Appendix A to these minutes.

20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members were advised that work on the Community Area Networks had slowed down. This was because officers wanted to make sure that any model implemented for Community Engagement was fit for purpose. Networks needed to be based on issues and how to address them, not just on geography. Further work needed to be done.

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tackle worklessness, and continue to report progress to the LSP, our performance will not be monitored by GO-East.

2.7. As there was previously no target agreed for NI 172 the Theme Lead, in consultation with partners, has negotiated a target that will ensure that small businesses in Central Bedfordshire will be supported to grow at a faster rate than the regional average. This is known as a 'convergence' target and shows our relative position as a percentage of the regional average.

3. LOCAL TARGETS

3.1. Due to the difficulties in obtaining robust baseline data, local targets have not yet been finalised for:

- NI 7+ developing an environment for a thriving third sector; and
- NI 116 the proportion of children living in poverty.

3.2. Partners have been working hard to develop robust delivery plans and appropriate proxy measures (in the absence of suitable national data) for these indicators. The LSP is requested to task the Thematic Partnership for Stronger Communities to conclude the negotiation of local targets for these indicators before the next LSP meeting.

4. LAA PERFORMANCE

4.1. The Year 1 Quarter 3 performance report is attached as Appendix 2.

4.2. The report highlights two significant risks: NI 152 the percentage of working age people on out of work benefits; and NI 154 the number of net additional homes built. These risks are being managed through a robust, partnership approach to delivery.

4.3. The risk to achieving the child obesity target in 2010/11 is assessed as amber based on the latest (2007/8) data showing performance at 14.5% against a target of 13.6%.

4.4. Four indicators are flagged as amber based on current performance being off target. The issues behind all red and amber assessed performance are being discussed and actions put in place as appropriate by the Thematic Partnerships.

5. NEXT STEPS

5.1. All of the Thematic Partnerships have now met at least once or have scheduled their first meetings.

5.2. The Community Safety Executive held its first meeting and agreed that the Theme Lead for Community Safety as Gary Alderson, Director of Sustainable Communities, Central Bedfordshire Council.

- 5.3. The Thematic Partnership for Health and Well-Being has been re-named as Healthy Communities and Older People to reflect its full remit. Julie Ogley, Director of Adult Social Care, Health and Housing will take the lead with Muriel Scott.
- 5.4. Karen Oellermann has been appointed as the interim Theme Lead for Children and Young People.
- 5.5. Target Leads have been agreed for each of the indicators and targets in the LAA. The Partnership Team will work with these, the Theme Leads and Thematic Partnerships to ensure robust delivery plans are developed and implemented for each target. This includes establishing a partnership driven performance management framework and the development of proxy measures, where necessary, to enable performance to be monitored and reported on a quarterly basis.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1. Central Bedfordshire remains on track to deliver against each of its LAA targets and outcomes.
- 6.2. LSP Board members are requested to agree the recommendations set out earlier.

Peter Fraser
Head of Partnerships & Community Engagement
14th April 2009

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Central Bedfordshire Local Area Agreement

Agenda Item 4, Appendix 1

Indicator	Baseline 2007/08	LAA improvement Target, including those to be designated (shown with a *)			Partners who have signed-up to the target
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	
GROWING OUR ECONOMY					
NI 152 Working age people on out of work benefits PSA 8	6.5%	6.4%*	6.3%*	6.2%* Cumulative 0.37% (560 people)	Central Bedfordshire Council Learning & Skills Council Jobcentre Plus The Learning Partnership EEDA Shaw Trust
Lead Partner: Central Bedfordshire Council		Due to the economic downturn target 'suspended' pending renegotiation for April 2010.			
NI 154 Net additional homes provided PSA 20	0	385	275	500	Central Bedfordshire Council Sub-regional Housing Partnership Homes and Communities Agency Aragon Housing Association Luton Gateway Renaissance Bedford
		Central Beds	390*	324*	
		Total North Growth Area	665	824	
		Total South Growth Area (Central Beds & Luton)	1095*	2055*	
Lead Partner: Central Bedfordshire Council		Target renegotiated via 2009 Refresh.			
NI 163 Working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher. PSA 2	65.9% (2006)	Baseline +3% points* (68.9%)	Baseline +5% points* (70.9%)	Baseline +7% points* (72.9%)	Learning & Skills Council EEDA The Learning Partnership Bedford College Dunstable College Jobcentre Plus Regional Train to Gain Broker
Lead Partner: Learning & Skills Council					

NI 165 Working age population qualified to at least Level 4 or higher. PSA 2	Central Bedfordshire Council	24.1% (2006)	Baseline +2% points* (26.1%)	Baseline +3% points* (27.1%)	Baseline +4% points* (28.1%)	Central Bedfordshire Council EEDA The Learning Partnership University of Bedfordshire Learning & Skills Council Regional Train to Gain Broker
						Central Bedfordshire Council
NI 171 (Local indicator) New business registration rate. BERR DSO	Central Bedfordshire Council	822 (average 2001/06) (Average 2001/06)	875	925	975	Central Bedfordshire Council EEDA Business Link East The Chamber WENTA
						Central Bedfordshire Council
NI 172 VAT registered businesses in the area showing growth. BERR DSO	Central Bedfordshire Council	95.0% (of regional average 2004 - 07)	97.5% (of regional average)*	98.8% (of regional average)*	100.0% (i.e. in line with regional average)*	Central Bedfordshire Council EEDA Business Link East The Chamber WENTA
						This target will ensure that businesses in Central Bedfordshire are supported to grow at a faster rate than the regional average. The target will be reviewed again for April 2010.

DSO									Communities Charity Marston Vale Trust Beds & Luton Green Infrastructure Consortium Beds & Luton Biodiversity Forum
Lead Partner: Central Bedfordshire Council									
NI 198 Children travelling to school - mode of travel usually used DfT DSO	27.4% (06/07) assumes outturn in 07/08 of 25.3%	24.5%*	23.8%*	23.0%*					Central Bedfordshire Council Stagecoach Central Bedfordshire Schools Bedfordshire & Luton Fire and Rescue Service
Lead Partner: Central Bedfordshire Council									

Indicator	Baseline – 2007/8	LAA improvement Target, including those to be designated (shown with a *)			Partners who have signed-up to the target
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	
IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELL-BEING					
NI 120 All-age all cause mortality rate PSA 18 Lead Partner: NHS Bedfordshire	647 Males 480 Females (2006)	635 M* 460 F*	615 M* 450 F*	595 M* 440 F*	NHS Bedfordshire Bedford NHS Hospital Trust Horizon Health Care Bedfordshire and Luton Mental Health Trust
NI 123 16+ current smoking rate prevalence PSA 18 Lead Partner: NHS Bedfordshire	683 per 100,000 (1338 quitters - 3yr average 04/05 to 06/07)	822* (1672 quitters)	783* (1611 quitters)	820* (1705 quitters)	NHS Bedfordshire Bedford NHS Hospital Trust
NI 130 Social Care clients receiving Self Directed Support (Direct Payments and Individual Budgets) DH DSO Lead Partner: Central Bedfordshire Council	3.6% (245 clients) new definition (2006/07) 127 per 100,000	452 per 100,000* (894 clients) Old definition (Direct Payments per population)	18.0%*	30.0%*	Central Bedfordshire Council NHS Bedfordshire
NI 135 (Local indicator) Carers receiving needs assessment or review and a specific carer's service, or advice and information. DH DSO Lead Partner: Central Bedfordshire Council	17.87%	20%	30%	40%	Central Bedfordshire Council NHS Bedfordshire
NI 141 Number of vulnerable people achieving independent living CLG DSO Lead Partner: Central Bedfordshire Council	70.24%	73.08%*	76.92%*	79.81%*	Central Bedfordshire Council NHS Bedfordshire Bedfordshire Probation Service
NI 142 (Local indicator) Number of vulnerable people who are supported to maintain independent living. CLG DSO Lead Partner: Central Bedfordshire Council	99.40% (07/08)	98%	98.25%	98.5%	Central Bedfordshire Council NHS Bedfordshire Bedfordshire Probation Service

Indicator	Baseline – 2007/8	LAA improvement Target, including those to be designated (shown with a *)			Partners who have signed-up to the target
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	
BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES					
NI 3 Civic participation in the local area PSA 15	12.7% (Place Survey 2008)			16.2%* (3.5% increase)	Beds Rural Communities Charity Central Bedfordshire Council Town and Parish Councils NHS Bedfordshire Bedford Race Equality Council Bedford Pilgrims Housing Association Bedfordshire Police Bedford Advice Forum
Lead Partners: Beds Rural Communities Charity Central Bedfordshire Council					
NI 4 % of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality PSA 21	24.0% (Place Survey 2008)			28.0%* (4% increase)	Beds Rural Communities Charity Central Bedfordshire Council Town and Parish Councils NHS Bedfordshire Bedford Race Equality Council Bedford Pilgrims Housing Association Bedfordshire Police Bedford Advice Forum Bedfordshire & Luton Fire and Rescue Service
Lead Partners: Beds Rural Communities Charity Central Bedfordshire Council					
NI 6 (Local indicator) Participation in regular volunteering. CO DSO	N/A	24.1%		27.1%	Volunteer Centre Bedford Central Bedfordshire Council Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity Bedford Race Equality Council Community and Voluntary Service Voluntary and Community Action
Lead Partner: Volunteer Centre Bedford					
NI 7+ (Local indicator) Environment for a thriving third sector. CO DSO					Community and Voluntary Service Central Bedfordshire Council Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity Bedford Race Equality Council Voluntary and Community Action
Lead Partner: Community and Voluntary Service					
NI 8 Adult participation in sport DCMS DSO	21.9% (2005/06)	23.9%*	27.0%*	25.9%*	County Sports Partnership – Team Beds & Luton Central Bedfordshire Council Sport England Town and Parish Association
Lead Partner: County Sports Partnership – Team Beds & Luton					
NI 11 (Local indicator)	41.8% (Countywide –			+4% (Countywide)	Central Bedfordshire Council

Baseline will be set Jan – Mar, based on local survey

Engagement in the arts. DCMS DSO	Active People Survey 2008)				
Lead Partner: Central Bedfordshire Council	A new data collection source is being developed nationally as the current Family Resources Survey data is not large enough to be used at a local authority level. A baseline will be established during 2008/09 from which targets will be developed for years two and three of the LAA.				Central Bedfordshire Council Tackling Poverty Together Group Beds Rural Communities Charity NHS Bedfordshire Bedford Advice Forum Jobcentre Plus Learning and Skills Council
NI 116 (Local indicator) Proportion of children in poverty. PSA 9					

Indicator	Baseline – 2007/8	LAA improvement Target, including those to be designated (shown with a *)			Partners who have signed-up to the target
BUILDING SAFE COMMUNITIES					
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	
NI 16 Serious acquisitive crime rate PSA 23 Lead Partner: Bedfordshire Police	16.10 per 1,000 pop 4,002 crimes	15.10 per 1,000 pop* 3,757 crimes (-9%)	14.20 per 1,000 pop* 3,531 crimes (-9%)	13.30 per 1,000 pop* 3,321 crimes (-9%)	Bedfordshire Police Bedfordshire Police Authority Bedfordshire Probation Service NHS Bedfordshire Central Bedfordshire Council Beds & Luton Fire and Rescue Service
NI 30 Re-offending rate of prolific and priority offenders HO DSO Lead Partner: Bedfordshire Probation Service	For 2009/10 (Oct 07-Sept 08 = 96) For 2010/11 (baseline year to be confirmed)	- 17.5%*	-16% reduction in offences from 96 baseline (no more than 81 offences)	The target will be arrived at by applying the common ration of 1.10 to the performance ceiling % target identified after the cohort has been refreshed	Bedfordshire Probation Service Bedfordshire Police Bedfordshire Police Authority NHS Bedfordshire Central Bedfordshire Council
NI 32 Repeat incidents of domestic violence PSA 23 Lead Partner: Central Bedfordshire Council	31.00%	N/A	31.00%*	28.00%*	Central Bedfordshire Council Bedfordshire Police Bedfordshire Police Authority Bedfordshire Probation Service NHS Bedfordshire
NI 40 Drug users in effective treatment PSA 25 Lead Partner: Central Bedfordshire Council	788 (National Treatment Agency)	812* (baseline +3%)	827 * (baseline +5%)	843* (baseline +7%)	Central Bedfordshire Council Bedfordshire Police Bedfordshire Police Authority Bedfordshire Probation Service NHS Bedfordshire
National Treatment Agency recommend a countywide target					

Indicator	Baseline – 2007/8	LAA improvement Target, including those to be designated (shown with a *)			Partners who have signed-up to the target
		2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	
SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE					
NI 51 Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health (CAMHs) services DCSF DSO Lead Partner: NHS Bedfordshire	11	13*	15*	16*	NHS Bedfordshire Central Bedfordshire Council Bedfordshire & Luton Mental Health Trust
NI 56 Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6 DCSF DSO Lead Partner: NHS Bedfordshire	13.7% (2006/07)	13.6%*	13.5%*	13.4%*	NHS Bedfordshire Central Bedfordshire Council
NI 110 Young people's participation in positive activities PSA 14 Lead Partner: Central Bedfordshire Council	73.9%	N/A	77.9*	82.9%*	Central Bedfordshire Council Bedfordshire Police Bedfordshire & Luton Fire & Rescue Service
NI 115 Substance misuse by young people Lead Partner: Central Bedfordshire Council	13.3%	N/A	11.8%*	9.3%*	Central Bedfordshire Council NHS Bedfordshire Bedfordshire Police
NI 117 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) PSA 14	6.1%	5.8%* (countywide)	5.6%*	5.0%*	Central Bedfordshire Council Learning & Skills Council Bedford College Dunstable College

Lead Partner: Central Bedfordshire Council						Education Business Partnership
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Central Bedfordshire Local Area Agreement April 2008 - March 2011
Performance Report as at end of Year 1 Quarter 3 (April - Dec 2008)

What are we measuring?		Where did we start from?	How are we doing in the first year?		What do we aim to achieve?
LAA Ref.	Performance Indicator	Baseline Actual 2007/8	Target 2008/9	LAA2 First Year Performance Actual 2008/9	Trend Target 2010/11
NI3 CBC	Civic participation	12.7% (08 Place Survey)			16.2% (3.5% increase)
NI4 CBC	Influence decisions	24% (Place Survey 2008)			28% (4% increase)
NI6 CBC	Volunteering			Place Survey will be used to set targets for 2009-11	
NI7 CBC	Thriving third sector	Awaiting survey data available Mar 09			
NI8 CBC	Sport	21.9% (05/06)	23.9%	26.4%(APS2 07/08)	↑ 25.9%
NI11 CBC	Arts	Bedfordshire baseline 41.8% (Active People Survey 2008) Targets to be agreed			+4% countywide
NI16 CBC	Serious Acquisitive Crime	16.1 per 1000 pop 4002 crimes (07/08)	15.1 per 1000 pop 3757 crimes (-6%)	-5% = 3815 crimes	↑ 13.3. per 1000 pop 3321 crimes (-6%)
NI30 CBC	Reoffending rate for PPO's	Awaiting baseline from central government	-17.5%		
NI32 CBC	Domestic violence	31%		19% as at Jan 09	28%
NI40 CBC	Drugs users	788 (07/08)	812 (baseline +3%)	842 forecast yr end	↑ 843 (baseline +7%)

	in treatment	National Treatment Agency recommend operating a countywide target		clients in effective drug treatment	
NI116 CBC	Children in poverty	A new data collection source is being developed nationally as the current Family Resources Survey data is not large enough to be used at a local authority level. A baseline will be established during 2008/09 from which targets will be developed for years			
NI151 CBC	Effectiveness of CAMHS	11	13	13	↑ 16
NI156 CBC	Obesity in children	13.70%	13.6%	14.5%	↓ 13.4%
NI110 CBC	Positive activities	73.9%			82.9%
NI115 CBC	Substance misuse	13.3%			9.3%
NI117 CBC	NEET	6.1%			5.0%
NI120 CBC	All age all cause mortality	647 Males 480 Females (06)	635 M & 460 F	pledges 5&7 on track pledge 8 off track overall off track	595 M & 440 F
NI123 CBC	Stopping smoking	1338 quitters (2004/5-2006/7)	822 (1672 quitters)	936 quitters @ Q3	↔ 880 (1705 quitters)
NI130 CBC	Clients in receipt of Self Directed Support	3.6% (127 clients-6/7) - new def	452 (894 clients) - old def	300 (588 clients)	↑ 30% - new def
NI135 CBC	Carers receiving	17.87% (07/08)	20%	22.7% as at Feb 09	↑ 40%

	advice etc					
NI141 CBC	Achieving independent living	70.24% (07/08)	73.08%	66.67% Q2	↑	79.81%
NI142 CBC	Maintaining independent living	99.40% (07/08)	98%	99.33% Q2	↑	98.5%
NI152 CBC	Worklessness	6.50%	6.4%	n/a		6.2% Cumulative 0.37% (560 people)
NI154 CBC	Additional homes	1349 (07/08)	370	371 completions (=Q2) 413 starts (=Q2)		324
NI163 CBC	Level 2 qualification	65.9% (2006)	68.9% (Baseline + 3%)	(+ 2.9%) 68.8% (2007)	↑	72.9% (Baseline + 7%)
NI165 CBC	Level 4 qualification	24.1% (2006)	26.1% (Baseline + 2%)	(+ 2.1%) 26.2% (2007)	↑	28.1% (Baseline + 4%)
NI171 CBC	New business registration	882 (Average 2001/06)	875	980 (2007)	↑	975
NI 172 CBC	Employment Growth	95.0% (of regional average 04/07)	97.5% (of regional average)			100% (of regional average)
NI175 CBC	Public transport	99% (07/08)	75%	99% (07/08) as at Dec 08		75%
NI186 CBC	Reduction in CO ₂	6.3 tonnes (2005)	6.17 tonnes (-2.0% reduction)	6.3 (2006)	↑	5.62 tonnes (-5.0% reduction)
NI193 CBC	Municipal waste land-filled	59.02% (77,093 tonnes)	54.02% (70,234 tonnes)	46.67% (32,382 tonnes)	↑	48.19% (63,385 tonnes)
NI197 CBC	Local biodiversity	38.3% = 100 out of 261 sites	46% (+ 20 sites)			54% (+ 40 sites)

NI198 CBC	Travel to school	27.4% (06/07) assumes outturn in 07/08 of 25.3%	24.5%		23.0%
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Item 4 Appendix 2

achieve?	Who is leading on this target?
Targets Risk	Delivery Manager
	Janet Ridge BRCC
	Will Sparrow, Volunteer Centre
	Martin Trinder, CVS
GREEN	Lloyd Conaway, Team Beds & Luton
	Sandra Einon, Central Bedfordshire Council
GREEN	Andy Street, Beds Police
	Linda Hennigan, Probation Service
	Claire Churchley
GREEN	Barbara O'Rourke

	Sue Tyler, CBC
GREEN	Lee Miller, NHS Bedfordshire
AMBER	Craig Lister, NHS Bedfordshire
	Glen Denham CBC
	Martin Pratt CBC
	Glen Denham CBC
	Martin Westerby, NHS Bedfordshire
GREEN	Ros O'Connor, NHS Bedfordshire
GREEN	David Jones, CBC

GREEN	David Jones, CBC
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GREEN	David Jones, CBC
GREEN	David Jones, CBC
RED	Sarah Hughes, CBC
RED	Trevor Saunders, CBC
GREEN	Graham Moores, Learning & Skills Council
GREEN	Liz Wade, CBC
GREEN	Helen Shaw, CBC
	Helen Shaw, CBC
GREEN	Melanie McLeod, Beds CC
AMBER	Judith Grice, Groundwork East of England
GREEN	Steve Whittaker, CBC
	Dr Graham Bellamy, The Wildlife Trust



TITLE: COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSEMENT

Recommendation:

- LSP Board members are requested to commission the Thematic Partnerships to lead on the Area Assessment process and submit a report to the LSP on 30 June.

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform Central Bedfordshire LSP Board members of the new arrangements for Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) and recommend our approach to the Area Assessment.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The previous Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) approach focused on assessing an organisation and comparing performance against other authorities. This was at a council level and only had a limited impact on the LSP. The CAA approach acknowledges that each community is different. Consequently it focuses on developing partnerships to deliver improvements on issues that relate to the locality (based on Council areas). **The emphasis is on outcomes not processes, whilst the focus is on sustainability, inequality, people whose circumstances make them vulnerable and value for money.**

- 2.2 The CAA Framework comprises two main elements – the Area Assessment and the Organisational Assessments (see Appendix 1).

2.3 Area Assessment

For the Area Assessment the inspectorates will take the locally agreed priorities in the LAA and Sustainable Community Strategy as the starting point. They will look at the prospects for future improvement in these outcomes that are most important, including over the longer term. They will take into account how well we understand our communities and reflect this in our priorities. It will also take into account how well local people are served. In order to answer these subjects, the inspectorates will ask ten key questions of the area (see Appendix 2).

- 2.4 The Area Assessment will be reported as a narrative and will not receive a numerical score or other overall rating. If the action being taken in the area to improve an important outcome is unlikely to deliver the improvement sought, this may be highlighted as a significant concern using a red flag. This is likely to result in a future inspection. Where there is exceptional performance or improvement, or promising improvement through innovation, this may be highlighted as a source of learning for others using a green flag.

2.5 Organisational Assessment

The Organisational Assessment will combine the use of resources and managing performance themes into a combined assessment of organisational effectiveness scored from 1 (lowest) to 4 (highest).

- 2.6 This assessment only applies to the PCT, Police and Fire this year. The Council will be subject to this assessment from next year.

3 EVIDENCE

3.1 A wide range of evidence will be used to form the judgements for CAA. This will include:

- (a) LAA, sustainable community strategy and other locally agreed targets.
- (b) National indicator Set and other nationally available data
- (c) Local performance management information used to monitor local priorities including any self evaluations and evidence from scrutiny
- (d) Findings from inspection, regulation and audit, including relevant evidence from other performance frameworks
- (e) Briefings from other agencies including GO-East, strategic health authority, Tenant Services Authority etc
- (f) Views of people who use services including residents, voluntary organisations and local businesses.

4 LOCAL PERFORMANCE INFORMATION AND SELF-ASSESSMENT

4.1 Whilst self-assessments are not required they are strongly encouraged. The inspectorates will use the information that partnerships and other organisations use to evaluate and manage their own performance to help gauge how well performance is being managed in organisations and across areas. One key element of this is to understand the views of our stakeholders. It is therefore very important that the LSP has a joined up approach to consultation.

4.2 As well as any self-assessment, inspectorates will draw evidence from key documents such as the Housing Strategy, Local Development Framework, Children and Young People's Plan, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, Community Safety Partnership Plan and reports to, and minutes of, the LSP, children's trust, council and scrutiny committees.

5 LOCAL PEOPLE

5.1 The views and experiences of local people are key sources of evidence for CAA. The inspectorates will draw on the findings of the new biennial Place Survey, the National Survey of Third Sector Organisations and the annual Business Survey. In addition our own evidence about users' views of local services will be taken into account. This will need to include information about the views of children and young people; those who may experience disadvantage in accessing public services; groups and individuals whose views are seldom heard; people whose circumstances make them vulnerable and the voluntary sector. We need to ensure that we have a co-ordinated approach to consultation across the LSP.

6 TIMETABLE

6.1 The timetable determined by GO-East to meet CLG's deadline is set out in the table below:

TIMING	ACTIVITY	BY WHOM
23 April	Initial analysis from evidence and shared judgements already published	Nigel Smith (CAA Lead)
23 April	LSP commission Thematic Partnerships to produce self evaluation	LSP
30 June	Report back self evaluation	Thematic Partnerships

End of June	Share joint emerging picture and key issues with LSP	Nigel Smith
October	Final adjustments to report text and further engagement with the LSP	Nigel Smith
Mid October to Mid November	Inspectorates consider any formal representation by the LSP about red flags	LSP
End of November	CAA results published	Joint Inspectorates
January 2010	Agree principal areas of focus for the 2010 assessment with the LSP	Joint Inspectorates

7 KEY ACTIONS

- Discuss initial analysis presented by Nigel Smith
- Commission the Thematic Partnerships to prepare a self evaluation based on the IDeA's locality self evaluation.
- Thematic Partnerships feed back self evaluation to the LSP
- Continue to work with Nigel Smith to prepare a joint view of the issues facing Central Bedfordshire.

8 CONCLUSION

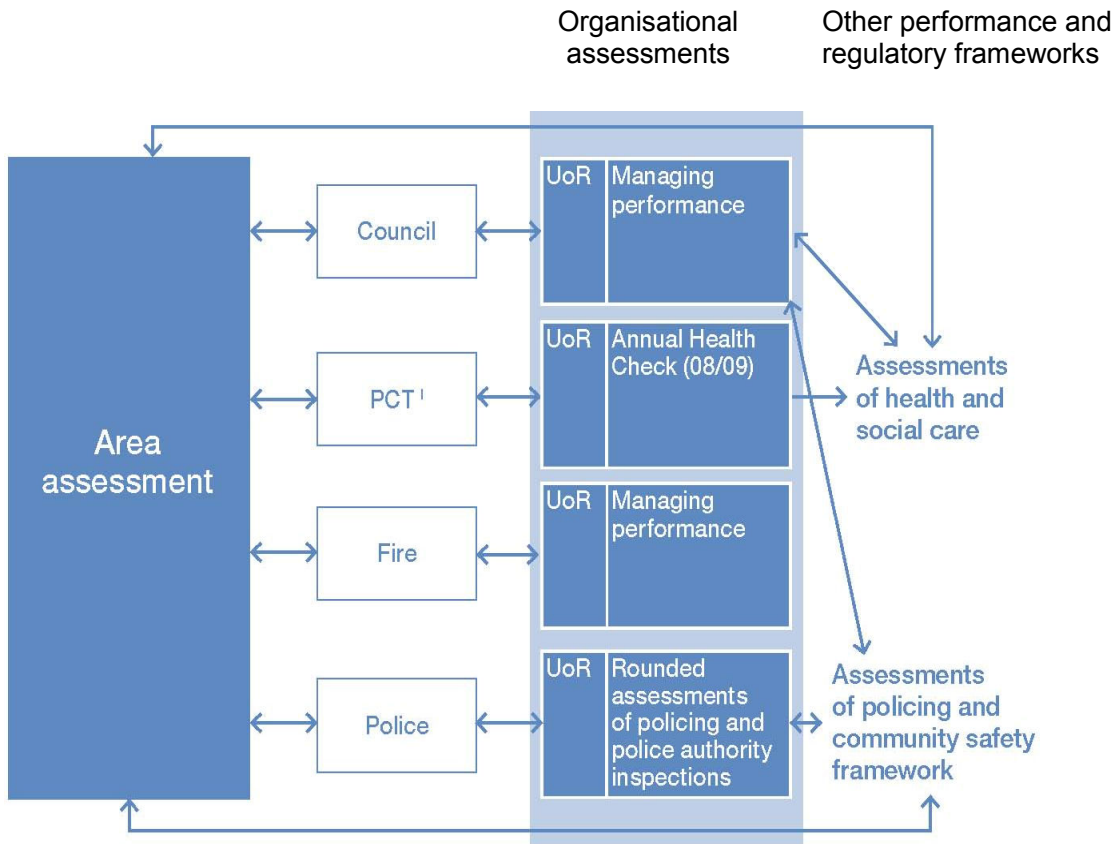
8.1 This is a fantastic opportunity and great timing for Central Bedfordshire to build its approach to delivery around the new CAA framework.

8.2 We will continue to build on our good relationship with Nigel Smith to ensure a collaborative approach between CBC, partners and the inspectorates to demonstrate the successes within Central Bedfordshire and that it will become a flagship area.

Iain Melville
Head of Performance
Central Bedfordshire Council
14 April 2009

Appendix 1

How CAA will align to other performance frameworks



Other local organisations such as housing associations and probation boards and trusts are also subject to inspection and assessment but do not receive use of resources assessments.

Appendix 2

10 Thematic Questions

- How **safe** is the area?
- How **healthy** and well supported are people?
- How **well kept** is the area?
- How **environmentally sustainable** is the area?
- How strong is the **local economy**?
- How strong and **cohesive** are local communities?
- How well is **inequality** being addressed?
- How well is **housing** need met?
- How well are **families supported**?
- How good is the **well-being of children and young people**?

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Agenda Item 6 ~ for discussion

Meeting date: 22nd April 2009

TITLE: Luton and South Bedfordshire Core Strategy Preferred Options

Summary: Identification of the key issues that will inform the LSP's response to the consultation draft on the *Luton and South Bedfordshire Core Strategy Preferred Options* so that a detailed joint response with the Luton Forum can be made and thus influence the Core Strategy in its final form to ensure it closely relates to the Sustainable Community Strategies for the area.

Recommendations:

1. That the LSP consider and agree the key issues that will form the LSP's response to the consultation draft on the *Luton and South Bedfordshire Core Strategy Preferred Options*, as set out in this paper.
2. That the Head of Partnerships and Community Engagement and the Chairperson of the LSP Growth Committee, in consultation with the relevant officers from the Luton Forum, formulate and submit a detailed joint response to the consultation draft on the *Luton and South Bedfordshire Core Strategy Preferred Options*, based on the key issues set out in this paper and discussion at the LSP Board meeting.

Reason for the Recommendations:

To allow the LSP to formulate and submit a detailed joint response, with Luton Forum, to the consultation draft on the *Luton and South Bedfordshire Core Strategy Preferred Options* in order to influence the Core Strategy in its final form and ensure it closely relates to the Sustainable Community Strategies for the area.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Luton and South Bedfordshire Joint Committee is developing a Core Strategy for the area, which is one of the growth areas in the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy and the East of England Plan. The strategy allocates significant growth to this area: 26,300 new homes and 23,000 new jobs by 2021 (and a further 15,400 homes by 2031). The East of England Plan allocates a further 1,000 new homes to be delivered by 2021 (and a further 500 homes by 2031) in rural settlements outside of the main growth area. A total 43,200 new homes by 2031.
- 1.2 The Joint Committee, at its meeting on the 20 March 2009, agreed that the paper setting out its preferred options for growth; including the Vision, Strategic Objectives and Policies; should be subject to a six week consultation period. The consultation document and the evidence base is expected to be published sometime prior to the 20 April 2009. The LSPs for Central Bedfordshire and Luton jointly appoint a member to represent their interests on the Joint Committee; as Local Strategic Partnerships, we have an important contribution to make towards the development of the Core Strategy.
- 1.3 The two LSPs each have a Growth Committee and this usually meets in joint session to consider matters relating to the Joint Committee. It has recently met to

consider the draft Core Strategy Preferred Options paper (90 pages); has identified a view on the draft paper (as presented to the Joint Committee) and formulated comments on the main components of the Preferred Options. These are set out below for consideration by the LSP. A similar paper is being presented to the Luton Forum for consideration shortly and, dependant upon the outcome of these two discussions, we will need to formulate a joint response to the Joint Committee as this will carry more weight than single response.

- 1.4 Rather than present a detailed technical response to the LSP, we are recommending that the LSP consider the key issues set out in this paper and leave the formulation of the response to the Head of Partnerships and Community Engagement and the Chairperson of the LSP Growth Committee in consultation with the relevant officers from the Luton Forum. If there are matters that concern specific issues on which only one LSP wishes to comment, a separate and additional response may be made; but this is not currently envisaged.

2. Planning Policy Statement 12

- 2.1 The Government's Planning Policy Statement 12 (PPS12) states that the core strategy *vision should be in general conformity with the RSS and it should **closely relate to any Sustainable Community Strategy for the area*** (my emphasis). Statutory Guidance (for LSPs) states that *local authorities should as far as possible align the Core Strategy with the SCS*. It goes on to state that the SCS and LDF should incorporate consideration of social and economic effects in addition to matters outlined in the Strategic Environment Assessment directive.
- 2.2 PPS12 goes on to state that *the strategic objectives form the link between the high level vision and the detailed strategy. They should expand the vision into key specific issues for the area which need to be addressed, and how that will be achieved within the timescale of the core strategy*.

3. Relationship of the Core Strategy to the Sustainable Community Strategies

- 3.1 The LSP therefore needs to take a view on whether the Core Strategy Preferred Options meet these requirements. To do so, it must have regard to the Sustainable Community Strategies (SCS) for the area, namely the 'saved' Strategies for the former areas of Bedfordshire and South Bedfordshire and the Luton SCS. A comparison of the key issues set out in the South Bedfordshire SCS with the Core Strategy is set out in Appendix 1. Extracts from the Core Strategy Preferred Options, namely the Vision, the Strategic Objectives and each of the 17 Policies are set out in Appendix 2.
- 3.2 The Core Strategy Preferred Options paper includes the following statement relating to the LSPs:

“The Joint Committee have worked closely with the Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) for Bedfordshire, Luton and South Bedfordshire in preparing their vision and the Strategic Objectives. They both reflect the visions and the strategic objectives in the Sustainable Community Strategies prepared by the LSPs and have also been informed by the consultation responses to the Shape Your Future Leaflet and the Core Strategy: Issues and Options Paper.”
- 3.3 Previous concerns of the South Bedfordshire LSP have been that earlier forms of the Core Strategy (including the vision and strategic objectives) were not ambitious

enough and did not reflect the ambitions set out in the SCS for the area. These were essentially around the following:

- integrated public transport and the provision of Safe cycling and walking routes
- high quality green infrastructure providing spaces for wildlife and biodiversity
- diverse communities having a range of social opportunities that help build strong and safe communities
- exemplar sites and multi-purpose shared facilities for education, learning and health
- opportunities for everyone to achieve their full potential with a strong sense of pride in their communities
- healthy lifestyles and health inequalities
- sustainable design and reducing our impact on the environment
- cutting edge learning opportunities to address skills issues and economy, including centres of excellence for construction and sustainable design

3.4 The current iteration of the Core Strategy Preferred Options paper (although not the Core Strategy itself) has improved considerably and now seeks to address many of these issues directly, through the Vision, the Strategic Objectives and/or the relevant policy. However, there is a default position or pre-occupation within much of the document that focuses on spatial issues and the physical infrastructure needed for growth. This is at the expense of addressing the social, environmental impact, health and 'people' issues associated with growth. While it is for the LSPs and their partners to primarily address these issues, it is nevertheless important that they are included in the core strategy so that the requisite infrastructure can be put in place (for example through planning obligations) and to ensure that the core strategy *closely relate to any Sustainable Community Strategy for the area.*

4. Core Strategy Vision and Strategic Objectives

4.1 The vision and strategic objectives still lack specific references to healthy lifestyles and social infrastructure. It is recommended that the relevant phrase in the vision be amended to read (additional text shown in bold and text to be deleted shown as struck through):

*The new and rejuvenated communities will be connected by an integrated public transport system and will have access to local jobs, services, leisure and cultural facilities, **and social activities, as well as** ~~together with access to~~ a web of well managed green infrastructure ~~as well as~~ **and** the surrounding countryside, **providing healthy lifestyles for all.***

4.2 Furthermore, it is recommended that SO5 be amended to read (additional text shown in bold and text to be deleted shown as struck through):

*To ensure that existing communities and new development are supported by a range of cost effective and well supported community **and social infrastructure** ~~facilities and spaces~~ in step with changing needs.*

4.3 With these amendments incorporated, it is recommended that the LSP support the proposed vision and strategic objectives (as amended).

5. Spatial Development Principles

5.1 The Spatial Development Principles define where the growth is to take place. This is designed to:

- maximise the potential of existing urban areas to accommodate new development, with priority given to the main conurbation before Leighton Buzzard
- provide for two strategic urban extensions to the north of the main conurbation (Luton, Dunstable and Houghton Regis)
- provide for one strategic urban extension to the east of Leighton-Linslade
- seek a further urban extension to the east of Luton, mainly in North Hertfordshire
- deliver growth in rural settlements (Caddington, Toddington, Hockliffe, Barton-le-Clay and Eaton Bray) of a scale appropriate to their existing form and character
- limit development outside of these locations and protect the countryside.

5.2 South Bedfordshire LSP has not previously taken a view on where the development should take place, except to recognise Leighton-Linslade Town Council's aspirations for growth and new infrastructure, and to recognise that growth in rural settlements should help to sustain viable rural communities.

5.3 The LSP may wish to take a view on whether to overtly support the preferred options for the direction of growth.

6. Preferred Option CS 1 – Spatial Development Strategy

6.1 This sets out the main spatial and infrastructure considerations of the proposed development. It addresses the key issues highlighted in the SCS and it is recommended that the LSP supports Preferred Option CS 1.

7. Preferred Option CS 2 – Developer Contributions and the Delivery of Supporting Infrastructure

7.1 This sets out a commitment to secure the developer contributions needed to support development. It addresses the key issues highlighted in the SCS and it is recommended that the LSP supports Preferred Option CS 2.

8. Preferred Option CS 3 – Strategic Public Transport Infrastructure and Preferred Option CS 4 – Strategic Highway Transport Infrastructure and Preferred Option CS 5 – Maximising Opportunities for Sustainable Travel

8.1 These set out the key commitments to delivering strategic public and highway transport improvements, including extensions of the Luton-Dunstable Busway to the proposed urban extensions to the north of the main conurbation, and improved provision for walking and cycling.

8.2 They address all but three of the key issues highlighted in the SCS. The LSP should remind the Joint Committee of the SCS ambition to extend the guided busway to Leighton Buzzard and Milton Keynes. It should also seek specific commitments to reduce air pollution in Dunstable Town Centre and enable public transport to create viable rural communities.

8.3 With these amendments, it is recommended that the LSP supports Preferred Options CS 3, CS 4 and CS 5.

9. Preferred Option CS 6 – Meeting the Housing Targets

9.1 The Preferred Options paper notes 6,400 housing completions to date and sets out the additional allocation of dwellings needed to meet the housing targets, as follows

- 11,900 dwellings in the existing urban areas to 2021 and a further 6,100 to 2031;
- 2,500 dwellings in the urban extension to the east of Leighton-Linslade
- 7,000 dwellings in the urban extension to the north of Houghton Regis
- 4,000 dwellings in the urban extension to the north of Luton
- 5,500, dwellings in the urban extension to the east of Luton (in North Hertfordshire)
- Sufficient sites for [5,900] dwellings within the rural settlements of Caddington, Toddington, Hockliffe, Barton-le-Clay and Eaton Bray.

9.2 South Bedfordshire LSP has not previously taken a view on what the level of development should be, except to recognise Leighton-Linslade Town Council's aspirations for growth and new infrastructure, and to recognise that growth in rural settlements should help to sustain viable rural communities.

9.3 The LSP may wish to take a view on whether to overtly support the preferred options for meeting the housing targets.

10. Preferred Option CS 7 – Delivering a Constant Supply of Housing Land

10.1 This sets out a commitment to work with the LDV, landowners, developers and stakeholders to maintain a constant rolling five year supply of suitable and deliverable housing sites. It addresses the key issues highlighted in the SCS and it is recommended that the LSP supports Preferred Option CS 7.

11. Preferred Option CS 8 – Providing Housing for all Needs

11.1 This sets out a commitment to the provision of affordable housing at a minimum of 35%, extra care homes and 'lifetime' homes. It addresses all but two of the key issues highlighted in the SCS, this being housing affordability and sufficiency in villages, to help to sustain viable rural communities.

11.2 With this amendment incorporated, it is recommended that the LSP supports Preferred Option CS 8.

12. Preferred Option CS 9 – Providing a Supportive Framework

12.1 This extensive preferred option relates to meeting the economic and employment needs of the growth area, including reducing the level of out commuting, supporting measures to achieve an increase in skills and entrepreneurial activity and developing new job opportunities in retail, cultural and leisure facilities, and tourism.

12.2 The policy addresses some of the key issues highlighted in the SCS but fails to recognise the LSP's ambitions to develop centres of excellence for construction and sustainable design, to develop mass renewables markets and to promote the sourcing of renewable and manufactured materials locally, so creating local employment and sustainable procurement.

12.3 With these amendments incorporated, it is recommended that the LSP supports Preferred Option CS 9.

13. Preferred Option CS 10 – Providing Social and Community Infrastructure

13.1 The *Building Communities* chapter summarises the key issues around building strong communities, in terms of both the 'hard' and 'soft' infrastructure needed. However, the policy itself focuses, in the main, on the hard physical infrastructure needed. It refers to the Integrated Development Programme, which seeks to

provide capital funding for social and community infrastructure, to exploring community trusts, identifying suitable sites, requiring the provision of interim community facilities, upgrading existing community facilities and maximising opportunities for co-located multi purpose facilities; all issues that the LSP has highlighted in the SCS.

- 13.2 There needs to be, within the policy, a specific commitment to meeting the social infrastructure needs of new and exiting communities. Additionally, within the section on Delivery and Monitoring, there should be a commitment to providing continued funding and support to external groups to implement measures that meet the social infrastructure needs of new and exiting communities, in the same way that Chapter 12 does for groups implementing measures to protect and enhance the countryside.
- 13.3 there also needs to be a commitment to ensure that everyone has access to community infrastructure such as health, education, life long learning, leisure and culture within a 15 minutes journey.
- 13.4 With these amendments incorporated, it is recommended that the LSP supports Preferred Option CS 10.

14. Preferred Option CS 11 – Improving Town Centres

- 14.1 This sets out the hierarchy of towns, promotes the regeneration of Luton, Dunstable and Houghton Regis, and the enhancement of Leighton Buzzard, and describes the specific measures that need to be taken in respect of each of these locations. It is noted that additional retail floor space is specified for Luton but not the other towns. The policy is broadly consistent with the SCS but does not reflect some of the wording used within the SCS, on which the Town Councils may wish to comment.
- 14.2 Subject to any comments the Town Councils may wish to make to the LSP, it is recommended that the LSP supports Preferred Option CS 11.

15. Preferred Option CS 12 – Resource Efficiency

- 15.1 This sets out the measures that will be taken to deliver 'The Green Growth Area' in terms of adapting to and mitigating climate change. The SCS clearly states that developers should be expected to meet Level 4 of the Code for Sustainable Homes by 2012 and Level 6 by 2014. The chapter dealing with this policy includes two paragraphs that water down this commitment in terms of the Core Strategy, namely:

However, the consultation responses supported the advice emerging from evidence undertaken regionally that whilst it is desirable to reach the highest standards of resource efficiency, there is a need to consider the feasibility and viability of exceeding national or regional targets, particularly with regards to the implementation of the some of the standards in the code for Sustainable Homes.

The Joint Committee support the aspiration to be known as the 'Green Growth Area', and will work with partners and stakeholders to consider whether it is suitable, viable and achievable to develop local joint targets and measures which exceed established national and regional targets. These will include targets relating to the Code for Sustainable Homes as well as on and off site targets for water efficiency and renewable energy generation.

- 15.2 The policy itself states: *ensuring that all new developments contribute to and comply with the national and regional targets for resource efficiency as a minimum.*
- 15.3 Other aspects of the SCS that are not insufficiently reflected in the policy include:
- making South Bedfordshire a national leader in both renewable energy and efficiency (60% by 2025);
 - increasing recycling, including commercial waste and plastics with biodegradable waste being composted or used for anaerobic digestion, exceeding the national targets to reduce the amount of household waste not re-used, recycled or composted by 45% by 2020;
 - exceeding the national targets for recycling and composting household waste – of at least 40% by 2010, 45% by 2015 and 50% by 2020
 - improving the environmental performance of existing housing stock through schemes with energy suppliers, not just *exploring the potential* (as stated in the Core Strategy Preferred Options);
 - exceeding the EU target of 20% of all energy from renewable energy sources by 2020 with the remaining fossil fuel energy provided by combined heat and power plants.
- 15.3 This policy is not aspirational enough and does not meet the commitments set out in the SCS. It is recommended that the LSP DOES NOT SUPPORT Preferred Option CS 12, unless significant amendments are made to the supporting chapter and the policy itself.
- 16. Preferred Option CS 13 – Mitigating Flood Risk**
- 16.1 This sets out the measures mitigating flood risk and at the time of writing we are awaiting Officers' advice on whether this policy meets the current advice issued by the Environment Agency. If this is found to be the case, it is recommended that the LSP supports Preferred Option CS 13.
- 17. Preferred Option CS 14 – Green Infrastructure and Green Space, and Preferred Option CS 15 – Countryside and Landscape, and Preferred Option CS 16 – Heritage and Townscape, and Preferred Option CS 17 – Biodiversity and Geology**
- 17.1 These set out further measures that will be taken to deliver 'The Green Growth Area' in terms of green infrastructure etc. They address all but one of the key issues highlighted in the SCS, this being the growing of wood fuel as an important renewable fuel, combined with enhanced biodiversity and amenity use.
- 17.2 With this addition included, it is recommended that the LSP supports Preferred Options CS 14, CS 15, CS 16, and CS 17.
- 18. Community Safety**
- 18.1 The issue of community safety is virtually missing from the Core Strategy Preferred Options (apart from a reference to safe town centres) and while the LSP Growth Committee accepts that planners will not intentionally plan for unsafe communities, it believes there could be some specific references to community safety, including the 'secure by design' standards, incorporated into policies CS1, CS 8 and CS 10.

19. Conclusions

19.1 The key issues for consideration are:

- does the core strategy vision closely relate to the Sustainable Community Strategies for the area;
- do the strategic objectives form the link between the high level vision and the detailed strategy;
- is the Core Strategy aligned with the SCS
- does the Core Strategy give due consideration of social and economic effects;
- are the key specific issues for the area adequately expanded within the core strategy?

19.2 With the amendments (set out above) incorporated into the vision, strategic objectives and policies the Joint Growth Committees believe the Core Strategy Preferred Options (as amended) will meet the criteria (set out in 18.1), as required by Planning Policy Statement 12.

Key Documents for Reference:

A copy of the Officer's Report on, and each chapter of, the Core Strategy Preferred Options paper (as submitted to Joint Committee) can be found through the following link:
http://www.southbeds.gov.uk/council_democracy/committees/cmt_09/Luton_and_South_Beds_Joint_Committee_20_March_2009.aspx

South Bedfordshire's Sustainable Community Strategy can be found through the following link:
<http://www.shapeyourfuture.org.uk/documents/SouthBedsSustainableCommunityStrategy.pdf>

John Gelder
Chairperson LSP Growth Committee
14th April 2009

Comparison key issues set out in the South Bedfordshire SCS with the Core Strategy

Key issues set out in the South Bedfordshire SCS	Extent to which the Core Strategy is aligned with the SCS
Infrastructure	
The LSP would expect that significant developer contributions will contribute towards funding this priority	Sufficiently aligned (see CS 2)
To create sustainable communities by ensuring economic, environmental, social and cultural infrastructure needs are met in step with growth	Sufficiently aligned (see Vision, SO5 and various polices)
Jobs and Skills	
Delivering 23,000 additional jobs by 2021 and a workforce that is appropriately skilled, motivated and entrepreneurial	Sufficiently aligned (see CS 9)
Develop centres of excellence in construction and mass market renewables	NOT INCLUDED in Core Strategy
Sourcing renewable and manufactured materials locally, so creating local employment and considering sustainable procurement	NOT INCLUDED in Core Strategy
Delivering strategic employment land and premises at key strategic transport locations in particular at junction 11A	Sufficiently aligned (see CS 9)
Thriving Town Centres	
Delivering a strong and safe evening economy for the market town of Dunstable based on its leisure and cultural quarter	Sufficiently aligned (see Vision, SO6 and CS 9)
New developments to extend the centre of the market town of Leighton Buzzard, providing a range of modern retail units, accommodation for business and a large venue for community meetings	Sufficiently aligned (see Vision, SO6 and CS 9)
Regenerating Houghton Regis as a hub, accessible for the new growth villages that will develop to the north including a number of exemplar sites where public agencies are sharing resources and offering multi-purpose education, learning, health and support services	Sufficiently aligned (see Vision, SO6, CS 9 and CS 10)
Making the most of growth to regenerate and ensure the town centres are thriving	Sufficiently aligned (see Vision, SO6 and CS 9)
Integrated Transport	
To relieve congestion, achieve modal shift and reduce the need to travel locally by private vehicle	Sufficiently aligned (see Vision, SO4, CS 1 and CS 3)
Extend key public transport infrastructure to ensure the growth areas of Luton, Houghton Regis and Leighton Buzzard are linked.	Sufficiently aligned (see Vision, SO4, CS 1 and CS 3)
A guided busway with extensions into Leighton Buzzard and Milton Keynes	NOT INCLUDED in Core Strategy

Key issues set out in the South Bedfordshire SCS	Extent to which the Core Strategy is aligned with the SCS
Build flexibility into our transport network so that it can accommodate multi-modal corridors	Sufficiently aligned (see Vision, SO4, CS 1, CS 3, CS 4 and CS 5)
Significant additional investment in public transport	Sufficiently aligned (see Vision, SO4, CS 3 and CS 5)
Reduce air pollution in Dunstable town centre	NOT INCLUDED in Core Strategy
Green Infrastructure	
Develop high quality parks, green public spaces and open spaces to establish accessible green networks in urban and rural areas that are a ten minute walk from where people live and work	Sufficiently aligned (see Vision, SO7, CS 14, CS 15 and CS 17)
Protect existing biodiversity and create new habitats in order to increase biodiversity	Sufficiently aligned (see SO7, CS 14 and CS 17)
Protect our habitats of key importance to local communities and wildlife, in particular The Chilterns, our Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Sufficiently aligned (see SO7, CS 14, CS 15 and CS 17)
Promote the growing of wood fuel as an important renewable fuel and combine it with enhanced biodiversity and amenity use	NOT INCLUDED in Core Strategy
Manage our green space in a more coherent way so that it is revenue generating and so that it contributes to our sustainability (e.g. coppicing for wood fuel) and tourism ambitions	Sufficiently aligned (see SO7, CS 14, CS 15 and CS 17)
Climate Change and Sustainable Communities	
Reduce CO2 emissions in line with latest scientific advice and make South Bedfordshire a national leader in both renewable energy and efficiency (60% by 2025)	Insufficiently aligned in CS 12
Increase recycling, including commercial waste and plastics with biodegradable waste being composted or used for anaerobic digestion, exceeding the national targets to reduce the amount of household waste not re-used, recycled or composted by 45% by 2020	Insufficiently aligned in CS 12
Exceed the national targets for recycling and composting household waste – of at least 40% by 2010, 45% by 2015 and 50% by 2020	Insufficiently aligned in CS 12
Improve the environmental performance of existing housing stock through schemes with energy suppliers (local landlord refurbishments to eco homes standard)	Insufficiently aligned in CS 12
New developments to be built to carbon neutral standards or minimum code level 4 by 2012 and code level 6 by 2014	Insufficiently aligned in CS 12
Exceed the EU target of 20% of all energy from renewable energy sources by 2020 with the remaining fossil fuel energy provided by combined heat and power plants	Insufficiently aligned in CS 12

Key issues set out in the South Bedfordshire SCS	Extent to which the Core Strategy is aligned with the SCS
Central Bedfordshire, Bedfordshire PCT, Bedfordshire Police, Town Councils and other local agencies to support the local economy and sustainability outcomes by implementing local procurement strategies	Not a matter for the Core Strategy
A large percentage of food, especially vegetables, will be locally and organically produced becoming a key feature of local markets	Not a matter for the Core Strategy
Strong Communities	
Ensure that social infrastructure is in place to enable people and organisations to create, run and sustain the voluntary and community groups, volunteering programmes, social networks and cultural activities required for existing and new communities	Insufficiently aligned in Vision, SO5 and CS 10
Ensure that everyone has access to community infrastructure such as health, education, life long learning, leisure and culture within a 15 minutes journey	Insufficiently aligned in CS 10
Ensure that new neighbourhoods developed to the north of Houghton Regis bring social, environmental and economic benefits and opportunities to the priority neighbourhoods of Parkside and Tithe Farm	Sufficiently aligned (see Vision, SO5 and CS 1)
Ensure that communities that are mixed in terms of tenure and income and that we have an adequate supply of affordable housing	Sufficiently aligned (see SO2 and CS 8)
Ensure that new communities are supported and integrated with existing communities in the urban extensions	Sufficiently aligned (see Vision, SO5, CS 1 and CS 10)
Enhance service provision to meet local needs and housing affordability in villages	Insufficiently aligned in CS 8
Protect the identify of villages and allow organic growth of a limited number of villages in order to increase their size and to provide sufficient housing and public transport to create viable communities	Insufficiently aligned in CS 3, CS 6 and CS 8
Ensure that we build communities that are cohesive, strong and safe and built to 'secured by design' standards.	Insufficiently aligned in CS 1, CS 8, and CS 10

Extracts from the Core Strategy Preferred Options: Vision, Strategic Objectives and**The Joint Committee's Vision**

Luton and southern Bedfordshire will be known as the 'Green Growth Area' – a truly Sustainable Community. The principal conurbation of Luton, Dunstable and Houghton Regis will have a strong identity based on a number of interconnected communities. All this will be supported by an enhanced and reinvigorated economy benefiting from reduced congestion and improved accessibility. The town centres will be a source of vibrancy and pride providing a range of activities enjoyed by the diverse community.. The new and rejuvenated communities will be connected by an integrated public transport system and will have access to local jobs, services, leisure and cultural facilities, together with access to a web of well managed green infrastructure as well as the surrounding countryside.

Luton will continue to develop as the sub-regional shopping and service centre of choice with excellent public transport links, a well-trained workforce and a thriving business sector. It will be a prosperous centre of innovation and enterprise. Its positive image, locally and beyond, will be enhanced by extensive regeneration and development of its dynamic employment, retail and leisure facilities. It will be a town where diverse communities are a source of cultural and economic vitality.

Dunstable will have a much greener environment which is safer for pedestrians since through traffic has been diverted onto the new strategic highway routes around the conurbation and the ongoing programme of regeneration will have created new gateways and high quality designed buildings and spaces. It will also have strong evening economy based on its leisure and cultural quarter developed around the highly successful Grove Theatre.

Leighton Buzzard will have expanded to meet the needs of the community but retained its compact market town feel and will be noted for the continuing success of its high quality independent and specialist stores. New developments within and adjacent to the town centre will broaden the range of accommodation for retailers, businesses and the community. The River Ouzel, Clipstone Brook and Grand Union Canal will be important corridors reaching right in to the centre of the town, providing spokes in a green wheel of attractive and publicly accessible open spaces.

Houghton Regis, will be regenerated and have a centre for the new growth areas that have developed to its north. There will be new facilities for education, learning and health. There will be strong links with the new employment business parks developed close to junction 11A of the M1 motorway .

The area will also be a place that is recognised for its attractive surrounding rural villages, whose identities have been safeguarded where practical, as well as its protected and enhanced natural environment, notably the Chilterns.

The Joint Committee's Strategic Objectives

- SO1 To use growth to help deliver sustainable and integrated communities.
- SO2 To deliver a consistent supply and range of housing types and tenures to help ensure greater affordability and choice.
- SO3 To increase job opportunities in the area through an improvement to its image, skills base, connectivity and quality of employment premises.
- SO4 To improve strategic and local connectivity through delivery of major transport infrastructure, efficient integrated public transport and sustainable transport opportunities and solutions.
- SO5 To ensure that existing communities and new development are supported by a range of cost effective and well supported community facilities and spaces in step with changing needs.
- SO6 To revitalise and enable vibrant, dynamic, distinctive, safe and popular town centres
- SO7 To deliver growth which offers the highest level of protection for and access to the natural environment to enable greater enjoyment of this resource
- SO8 To use growth to help minimise the area's carbon footprint and to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Spatial Development Principles

Development up to 2031 will be directed in accordance with the following Spatial Development Principles:

- Maximise the potential of existing urban areas to accommodate new development with priority given to the main conurbation before Leighton Buzzard and Linslade, especially in the period up to 2012;
- Provide for the provision of two strategic urban extensions to the north of the main conurbation comprising Luton, Dunstable and Houghton Regis;
- Provide one further strategic urban extension to the subsidiary urban area comprising Leighton Buzzard and Linslade;
- Seek a further strategic urban extension to the east of Luton, mainly in North Hertfordshire District, to be planned for through the North Hertfordshire Local Development Framework
- Deliver growth in rural settlements identified on the Key Diagram of a scale appropriate to their existing form and character;
- Limit development outside these locations and protect the countryside ;

Preferred Option CS 1 – Spatial Development Strategy

The Joint Committee's preferred option is to:

Plan for the continued delivery of housing and employment together with associated supporting infrastructure throughout the plan period to 2031 in order to deliver the regeneration of the southern Bedfordshire Growth Area in accordance with the MKSMSRS and the East of England Plan RSS. The following sub – sections of this preferred option outline how it is proposed that this is to be delivered.

Background – The Building Blocks of the Spatial Strategy

This will be achieved through the allocation of a balanced portfolio of suitably located land comprising an appropriate mix of:

- Land in existing urban areas;
- Strategic urban extensions; and
- Sites in rural settlements excluded from the Green Belt of a scale appropriate to the settlement concerned.

This portfolio will meet the needs of both existing and new communities and contribute to the sustainability of the area. It will include large scale mixed use developments and will be served by major new transport schemes.

New development will be distributed so as to strengthen the established network of settlements. New development in open countryside outside of proposed urban extensions will be strictly controlled in accordance with nationally defined principles controlling development in the green belt.

Distribution of New Development

Initially new development will be primarily focused within existing urban areas, with priority given to the main conurbation in the east of the Growth Area. Development opportunities for high density, high – trip generating uses, including office, retail and leisure developments will be encouraged, primarily in Luton Town Centre. Smaller development of this type will be supported in Dunstable, Houghton Regis and Leighton Buzzard town centres. They will also be supported around key transport routes and nodal points.

This package will be supported by the allocation of three large scale mixed-use strategic urban extensions, two to the north of the main conurbation and one smaller one to the east of Leighton Buzzard as shown on the key diagram.

Development of the urban extensions will be phased to ensure their incremental release in-parallel with the delivery of supporting infrastructure between 2012/13 and the end of the plan period in 2031.

A fourth strategic urban extension is preferred to the east of Luton which will be allocated through the North Hertfordshire District Core Strategy. This is also shown on the key diagram.

Implementing the Urban Extensions

In planning for the implementation of these urban extensions the emphasis will be on:

- Providing a range of residential development opportunities to serve all sectors of the existing and new communities up to 2031;
- Increasing and diversifying employment opportunities, particularly associated with the new strategic employment sites proposed around M1 Junction 11a and London Luton Airport;
- Maximising opportunities to extend the Guided Busway to connect the town centres of the main conurbation and other key destinations such as London Luton Airport with the urban extensions;
- Contributing to the regeneration of Houghton Regis, Marsh Farm and other parts of the existing urban areas identified as being in regenerative need; and
- Ensuring the delivery of the appropriate levels of supporting social, community, leisure, cultural and green infrastructure, both to serve the urban extensions and the wider growth area.

The preferred strategic urban extension to the east of the main conurbation will also be planned for in a similar way by North Hertfordshire District Council.

In planning for the implementation of the urban extension to the East of Leighton Buzzard, the emphasis will be on:

- Providing a range of residential development opportunities to meet the majority of the new housing needs of Leighton Buzzard and Linslade to 2031;
- Increasing the employment opportunities and providing additional new community facilities which cannot be provided in the existing urban area of the towns;
- Complementing and safeguarding the character and viability of Leighton Buzzard town centre;
- Providing appropriate public and private transport options to reduce congestion without harming the townscape and landscape; and
- Providing further high quality open space and green linkages to the countryside.

Other Strategic Spatial Matters relating to the Urban Areas

Preference will be given to locations that are accessible by a choice of means of travel, particularly town centres. Area Action Plans will be prepared to enable the town centres of Luton, Dunstable, Houghton Regis and Leighton Buzzard, shown on the accompanying key diagram, to accommodate significant new development.

Development in Rural Settlements

A limited scale of development will be allocated or supported in rural areas. This will be in and/or on the edge of the rural settlements that are currently excluded from the Green Belt. Such development will be sympathetic to the scale and character of the settlement concerned. Small scale reviews of the Green Belt boundary on the edge of these rural settlements may be required to enable such development to proceed. Subsequent development plan documents (DPDs) will specifically identify opportunities for such development on the edge of such rural settlements across the Growth Area.

Preferred Options CS 2 - Developer Contributions & the Delivery of Supporting Infrastructure

The Joint Committee's preferred option is to:

Develop a comprehensive approach to securing developer contributions across the Plan Area to help provide strategic and local infrastructure needed to support development. This will be based on discussions with the Local Delivery Vehicle (LDV) and emerging legislation and regulations. The overall approach will be in two complementary forms. These will:

- Set out a 'tariff' based approach to securing developer contributions for the provision of strategic infrastructure, whether or not in the form of the emerging Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL); and
- Set out the approach to securing developer contributions via the *section 106* Planning Obligations.

This comprehensive approach to securing developer contributions will ensure consistency across the Plan Area.

Preferred Option CS 3 - Strategic Public Transport Infrastructure

The Joint Committee's preferred option is to:

Work in partnership with the Hertfordshire authorities to deliver strategic public transport improvements targeted at reducing congestion and increasing modal shift away from the use of the private car including;

- Implementing the Luton-Dunstable Busway between London Luton Airport and Houghton Regis to provide a rapid and efficient public transport service through the main conurbation;
- Ensuring extensions of the Busway are delivered in time to serve the proposed urban extensions to the north of the main conurbation;
- Recommend that the North Hertfordshire District LDF and associated LTPs include proposals to bring forward timely extensions of the Busway to serve development associated with the preferred direction of Growth to the East of Luton, lying mainly in North Hertfordshire District;
- Providing strategic Park and Ride facilities at the following key interchanges/locations on the following routes:
 - i) the A5/A505 to the north of Dunstable;
 - ii) the M1 at proposed junction 11a; and
 - iii) the A6 north of Luton,
- Recommend that the North Hertfordshire LDF and associated LTPs include proposals to bring forward a further Park and Ride site on the A505 east of Luton within North Hertfordshire District;
- Securing strategic on-road bus priority measures in the main conurbation as follows:

- a) 'in-bound' along the A6 in the northern part of the main conurbation;
- b) 'in' and 'out-bound' along the A505, Hitchin Road, in the eastern part of the main conurbation; and
- c) 'in-bound' along the A505, Vauxhall Way, in the eastern part of the main conurbation.

- Encouraging the timely implementation of railway station improvements and improvements to rail capacity through the Thameslink 2000 programme;
- Ensuring the *Luton Town Centre Transport Scheme* and associated improvements to Luton Central railway station are commenced by 2010/11 to help regenerate Luton Town Centre and encourage further inward investment and delivery of associated development across Luton Town Centre; and
- Pursuing the potential for the delivery a new parkway type railway station in the vicinity of proposed M1 Junction 11a to further enhance the sustainability and accessibility of the preferred urban extensions and strategic employment sites to the north of the main conurbation.

Preferred Option CS 4 - Strategic Highway Transport Infrastructure

The Joint Committee's preferred option is to:

Work in Partnership with the Hertfordshire authorities to:

1. Support the implementation of the A5-M1 Link Road and the M1 motorway capacity improvements proposed by the Highways Agency, and lobby the Government to ensure the delivery or, at least, commencement of these schemes by 2011/12.
2. Secure further European Union, National, Regional and developer funding to enable the delivery of:
 - the Luton Northern Bypass between the M1 and the A505 as far as its route lies within Central Bedfordshire;
 - M1 Junction 10a improvements; and
 - The Woodside Connection
 - i) Recommend that the North Hertfordshire LDF and associated LTP(s) include proposals to bring forward the stretch of the Luton Northern Bypass between the M1 and A505 that lies within North Hertfordshire District; and
 - ii) Recommend that the North Hertfordshire LDF and associated LTP(s) include proposals to bring forward the stretch of the Luton Eastern Bypass between the A505 and Airport Way that lies within North Hertfordshire District.
3. Ensure that the layout and design of the sustainable urban extension to the east of Leighton Buzzard, along with road junction improvements, help limit and reduce congestion in key parts of the existing urban area of Leighton Buzzard and Linslade.

Preferred Option CS 5 - Maximising Opportunities for Sustainable Travel

The Joint Committee's preferred option is to:

Work in partnership with the Hertfordshire authorities to focus the spatial distribution of development in the most sustainable places, which by their location and access to local facilities, lessen the need to travel by private car. Where travel is necessary, users should be provided with the choice so they make their journeys by a variety of modes of transport.

When allocating land for development, priority will be given to development proposals that:

- make best use of the existing public transport services and provide opportunities for improving, increasing and sustaining those services;
- promote the use of "real-time" information in new residential and commercial developments especially at bus stops;
- ensure easy and convenient access to local facilities, including employment, by cycling and walking and link this with the wider delivery of the Joint Committee's overall approach to increasing opportunities to cycle and walk across Luton and southern Bedfordshire;
- plan the amount and location of residential, public and work place parking spaces to help maximise non-car travel, wherever possible; and
- make use of information and communications technology to reduce the need to travel.

The Joint Committee will also work with its partners to implement schemes and initiatives set out in Local Transport Plan Implementation Plans that relate to Luton and southern Bedfordshire together with those that relate to North Hertfordshire District through the North Hertfordshire LDF to:

- retain or increase current public transport provision, particularly between rural settlements and urban areas, including the development of innovative approaches to rural public transport provision, such as '*Dial-a-Ride*' services;
- promote the integration of public transport through improvements to interchanges and through integrated bus-rail ticketing; and
- improve existing provision for walking and cycling within the urban areas and rural settlements to enable local journeys to be undertaken using these modes, with a particular emphasis on enabling journeys of up to 2km to be undertaken by walking and those of up to 5km by cycling.

Preferred Option CS 6 - Meeting the Housing Targets

The Joint Committee's preferred option is to:

- Plan for the delivery of approximately:
 - 11,900 dwellings in the urban areas to 2021 and a further 6,100 between 2021 and 2031;
 - 13,500 dwellings in the 3 preferred strategic urban extensions in Luton and Southern Bedfordshire to 2031 based on an indicative figure of:
 - 2,500 dwellings in the urban extension to the East of Leighton Buzzard
 - 7,000 dwellings in the urban extension to the north of Houghton Regis
 - 4,000 dwellings in the urban extension to the north of Luton
- Refine and confirm these figures through the allocation of sites in the urban area and through detailed master planning for the urban extensions to north of Luton, Houghton Regis and East of Leighton Buzzard;
- Work with North Hertfordshire District Council to deliver housing in the preferred location to the East of Luton to ensure the delivery of 19,000 dwellings from urban extensions in total;
- Identify and allocate sufficient sites to meet the housing requirements for the Rest of South Bedfordshire with development focused primarily on the following larger villages:
 - Caddington
 - Toddington
 - Hockcliffe
 - Barton Le Clay
 - Eaton Bray

Preferred Option CS 7 - Delivering a Constant Supply of Housing Land

The Joint Committee's preferred option is to:

- work in partnership with the LDV, landowners, developers and stakeholders to maintain a constant, rolling 5 year supply of suitable and deliverable housing sites, including strategic urban extensions through:
 - Close and regular monitoring of the 5 year land supply and deliverability of all sites in the SHLAA and housing trajectory;
 - Ensuring early delivery of major transport infrastructure improvements (see Transport Chapter);
 - Use of forward funding mechanisms to enable a flexible approach to the timing of developer contributions for infrastructure (see Building Communities);
 - A flexible approach to affordable housing contributions and use of grant funding;
 - Ensuring the timely development of the urban extensions with the first urban extension to be commenced no later than 2012/13;
 - Ensuring a suitable and appropriate rate of delivery for each urban extension taking account of infrastructure constraints and the potential market demand; and
 - Revision of the commencement and rate of delivery of the urban extensions to resolve any delays in the delivery of other sites or strategic urban extensions.
- Identify a threshold of housing completions below the housing targets which would trigger the need for measures to support housing delivery to compensate for this shortfall.

Preferred Option CS 8 - Providing Housing For All Needs

The Joint Committee's preferred option is to:

- Specify:
 - a set of appropriate and viable targets and thresholds for affordable housing for different areas within the Luton and southern Bedfordshire Area with 35% affordable housing used as the starting point;
 - the requirement for different affordable housing tenures within these different areas; and
 - the proportion of new dwellings that shall be suitable or easily adaptable for occupation by the elderly, infirm or disabled
- Consider a financial contribution towards off-site affordable housing provision on sites below the thresholds identified or where on site provision would prejudice other planning objectives to be met from the development of the site.
- Require individual site viability analysis to be submitted with planning applications where the departure from the relevant affordable housing target is sought.
- Support the provision of extra care homes and other care facilities for the increasing older population
- Encourage all housing developments to take-up 'lifetime homes' standards that permit those with special needs to remain independent in their own homes.
- Allocate gypsy and traveller accommodation sites

Preferred Option CS 9 - Providing a Supportive Framework

The Joint Committee's preferred option is to:

- 1) Work with partners to enable the delivery of the additional 23,000 jobs to 2021 and a further 12,000 jobs between 2021 to 2031 sought in the East of England Plan by providing a supportive and holistic framework that:
 - facilitates the continued transition of the local economy to service sectors and high tech manufacturing as well as providing a range of job opportunities for the new and existing communities in accessible locations to reduce the level of existing out commuting;
 - safeguards, enhances and improves the quantity and quality of existing employment land and premises to attract new businesses and enable existing firms to grow and develop;
 - monitors the quantity and quality of existing employment sites and allocations in light of job creation and their suitability for modern business needs; and
 - adopts a flexible sequential approach to the redevelopment of employment sites and takes account of changing business needs.
- 2) Plan for the delivery of an additional 114ha to 119ha of new employment land to 2021 and a further 44ha of new employment land between 2021 and 2031 including the delivery of strategic employment sites with a mixture of employment uses on:
 - Land in and around Butterfield and London Luton Airport including land in the preferred urban extension to the East of Luton in North Hertfordshire District;
 - Land within and adjoining the preferred sustainable urban extensions around the proposed M1 Junction 11a; and
 - Land at Sundon Quarry subject to suitable road and rail access and appropriate mitigation of the neighbouring SSSI.
- 3) Seek the early delivery of major transport infrastructure to improve the accessibility of existing sites and to enable the early delivery of new potential strategic employment sites, notably Junction 11a and the Woodside connection.
- 4) Plan for a scale of employment in and around Leighton Linlade to help meet the jobs needs associated with the new housing development and reduce out commuting.
- 5) Safeguard existing sites and identify new sites for premises appropriate for start-up and small businesses, research and technology developments, and innovation centres.
- 6) Support new employment proposals of an appropriate scale in the main villages and rural areas, including the conversion of existing buildings, where this accords with Green Belt and design principles.
- 7) Support and work with relevant partners to support measures to achieve an increase in skills and entrepreneurial activity in the area, particularly in Luton.
- 8) Consider favourably proposals which provide new job opportunities in retail, cultural and leisure facilities, tourism and other employment generating activities, particularly in town centres, where it accords with and compliments other aspirations and does not adversely impact on the environment

Preferred Option CS 10 - Providing Social and Community Infrastructure

The Joint Committee's preferred option is to:

- Work closely with service providers and other stakeholders including neighbouring authorities to:
 - complete the IDP and agree priorities for social and community infrastructure provision in the immediate 5 years and in subsequent 5 year periods up to 2031;
 - inform the priorities and means of implementing the rolling social and community facilities fund in the IDP to enable the early delivery of social and community infrastructure; and
 - explore opportunities to establish community trusts and similar models to forward fund, manage and maintain new and existing social and community infrastructure.
- Identify sites for new and existing facilities in accessible locations within the existing urban areas and the preferred strategic urban extensions to meet the needs of the new and existing community in step with housing growth;
- Require the provision of interim community facilities as part of major new housing developments until permanent community facilities are available;
- Maximise the opportunities for co located multi purpose facilities where appropriate and suitable to provide greater community cohesion and maximise resources,
- Improve or replace existing facilities which have been identified as being of sub standard quality using grants as well as developer contributions from new developments;
- Continue to safeguard land for a new football stadium for Luton Town Football Club near Junction 10a subject to the requirements contained within the Luton local plan; and
- Deliver a 50 metre swimming pool at the Regional Sports Centre in Luton.

Preferred Option CS 11 - Improving Town Centres

The Joint Committee's preferred option is to:

- Consolidate the existing hierarchy of towns by promoting the majority of new development within Luton town centre as the principal centre with an appropriate scale in the other town centres in accordance with their roles as major and minor centres;
- Facilitate the regeneration of the centres of Luton, Dunstable and Houghton Regis, and the enhancement of Leighton Buzzard, through new developments and measures to safeguard and improve their appeal; and
- Work with stakeholders and partners to identify other changes which will support the vitality and viability of the town centres.

In Luton, the emphasis will be on achieving the town centre's principal role through the redevelopment of large sites, like Power Court, and implementation of the Luton Development Framework, including measures to:

- deliver approximately 75,000 sq.m of additional comparison retail floorspace and 2,500 sq.m convenience retail floorspace by 2021;
- improve and increase pedestrian movement and linkages to and within the town centre, notably between the town centre and the station and Power Court;
- improve public and private transport access including the Luton Dunstable busway; and
- provide new and improved public spaces to support the revamped St. George's Square.

In Dunstable, the emphasis will be on consolidating the town's role as a major district centre and maximising the benefits that the A5-M1 link will have on reducing congestion and enabling the potential to create a more attractive town centre environment. In particular, the emphasis will be on identifying key development sites within and adjacent to the centre along with other measures to:

- encourage the appropriate level of additional comparison retail floorspace needed to 2021 in accordance with its status in the retail hierarchy;
- further increase the leisure and cultural provision; and
- improve the public realm and overall image and perception of Dunstable town centre as a major shopping, cultural and entertainment destination in the growth area and beyond.

In Leighton Buzzard, the priority will be on protecting and enhancing its market town character and appeal through the identification of key development sites and through the implementation of measures which:

- encourage the appropriate level of additional comparison retail floorspace, particularly niche shopping, to 2021 in accordance with its status in the retail hierarchy;
- increases the office, community and leisure facilities in and around the town centre; and
- eases congestion and increases accessibility within and to the town centre, particularly from the train station in Linslade

For Houghton Regis, the appeal will be enhanced through the refurbishment of the Square, the development of high quality mixed-use developments with strong frontages to extend the High Street and through other improvements to the public realm in accordance with the Master Plan.

Preferred Option CS 12 - Resource Efficiency

The Joint Committee's preferred option is to:

Help deliver the 'Green Growth Area' by:

- ensuring that all new developments contribute and comply with the national and regional targets for resource efficiency as a minimum
- identifying flexible local area or site specific targets for resource efficiency in new developments which are suitable, viable and achievable and which specify the type and size of development to which the target will be applied.
- developing policies and guidance which requires new developments to be designed to minimize resource consumption and to withstand the longer term impacts of climate change
- maximising and encouraging other measures to increase resource efficiency including:
 - exploring the potential for a carbon offset fund to help implement the 'retro-fitting' of energy and water efficiency measures within existing development; and
 - encouraging developers to include information packs in new developments which advise new occupants how to minimise their use of water and energy.

Preferred Option CS 13 - Mitigating Flood Risk

The Joint Committee's preferred option is to:

- Work closely with stakeholders to develop and instigate initiatives to reduce flood risk and ensure that all flood risk concerns and issues are dealt with appropriately;
- Apply the Sequential Test in the identification of sites for development with preference given to sites in Flood Zone 1;
- Safeguard areas identified by the Environment Agency as possible locations for flood management measures for future flood defence works;
- Safeguard floodplains from development where possible and ensure that appropriate capacity is retained to attenuate flood water;
- Seek contributions for the creation and maintenance of flood defences, particularly in the Upper Lea Catchments and along the Upper Lea and Clipstone Brook;
- Develop waste water and foul network solutions which minimize impact of flood risk;
- Prepare Surface Water Management Plans for the area if identified to be necessary; and
- Develop policies to ensure that measures to minimise flood risk are incorporated into development schemes in line with the recommendations of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Water Cycle Study.

Preferred Option CS 14 - Green Infrastructure and Green Space

The Joint Committee's preferred option is to:

Maintain, enhance and deliver new green infrastructure, including green open space at appropriate scales throughout the Growth Area through:

- Seeking a net gain in Green Infrastructure and Green Space through the protection and enhancement of existing and the provision of new green infrastructure assets as set out in the GI Plans and Green Space Strategy across the Growth Area in particular Dunstable, Leighton Linlade and in the preferred emerging sustainable urban extensions;
- Taking forward the priority areas identified in the Bedfordshire and Luton Strategic GI Plan for the enhancement and provision of green infrastructure in the Ouzel River Corridor, Chalk Arc Corridor, Leighton Linlade to Dunstable Corridor and Upper Lea River Valley Corridor; and
- Requiring new development, in particular the preferred emerging sustainable urban extensions, to contribute towards the delivery of new green infrastructure and the management of a connected network of new and enhanced open spaces and corridors in accordance with the Green Space Strategy standards.

Preferred Option CS 15 - Countryside and Landscape

The Joint Committee's preferred option is to:

- protect, conserve and enhance the quality and character of the countryside and landscape of the Growth Area in accordance with the findings of the South Bedfordshire Landscape Assessment 2007 and Environmental Sensitivity Assessment 2008;
- ensure that development includes appropriate mitigation measures to reduce its impact on the countryside in accordance with the findings of the South Bedfordshire Landscape Character Assessment 2007 and the Environmental Sensitivity Assessment 2008; and
- protect, conserve and enhance the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Preferred Option CS 16 – Heritage and Townscape

The Joint Committee's preferred option is to:

Continue to promote, preserve and enhance the Growth Area's rich historic environment, principally through:

- the development and implementation of planning policies and conservation area appraisals to guide future development in the Development Management DPD; and
- the implementation of the mitigation measures emanating from the findings of the Environmental Sensitivity Assessment December 2008 to minimise the impact of development on the Growth Areas rich historic environment.

Preferred Option CS 17 - Biodiversity and Geology

The Joint Committee's preferred option is to:

Protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity and geological resources through:

- supporting the designation, management and protection of biodiversity and geology of the nationally and locally important sites and species as well as those priority habitats and species identified in the Local Biodiversity Action Plans;
- ensuring the enhancement of biodiversity and the mitigation of impact in the new urban extensions by working in partnership with wildlife organisations and stakeholders; and
- maximising the creation of green infrastructure to provide wildlife corridors in new development, particularly in the preferred sustainable urban extensions.

TITLE: THE FUTURE AMBITION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE LSP

SUMMARY

The LSP will take the lead role in realising its long-term vision and ambition for Central Bedfordshire. The many challenges that lay ahead will only be achieved if LSP partners develop new and innovative ways to work together. This includes taking full responsibility for area-wide strategies, plans and priorities, joining-up services wherever possible, ensuring individual and collective accountability for the delivery of agreed outcomes, and pooling resources to drive greater efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of customer-focussed services.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- To form a task and finish group to develop proposals on how the LSP can be enhanced and supported to achieve its ambitions, which are set out in the terms of reference.
- That the task and finish group should comprise the Chairs of the Thematic Partnerships and representatives of each of the key statutory organisations: Local Authority; Police; Fire; Health; and the voluntary and community sector.
- That a report with recommendations be brought back to the next meeting on 30th June 2009.

1. PURPOSE

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to provide a brief overview of the development of the LSP and stimulate discussion amongst LSP Board members about their ambitions for the future development of the Partnership.

2. National Context

2.1 LSPs are non-statutory bodies that bring local organisations together to voluntarily work in partnership. National guidance (*Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities, July 2008*) summarises the roles of the local authority with its LSP partners as:

- Exercising a **leadership and governing role** through identifying and articulating the needs and aspirations of local communities and reconciling or arbitrating between competing interests.
- Having **oversight of and coordinating community consultation and engagement** activities of individual partners and where appropriate combine them.

- Producing a **Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS)** based on data and evidence from the local area and its population, to establish a shared local vision and priorities for action.
- Producing a **Local Area Agreement (LAA)**, based on the priorities identified in the area's Sustainable Community Strategy.
- Having **oversight of the planning and alignment of resources** in the locality (where relevant to delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy and LAA) in order to achieve more effective and efficient commissioning and ultimately better outcomes. Although, each partner will remain accountable for its decisions taken in relation to funding streams allocated to it.
- **Reviewing and performance managing progress** against the priorities and targets agreed in the LAA and ensuring delivery arrangements are in place.

2.2 The statutory duty to develop a SCS and LAA rests with Central Bedfordshire Council as the upper tier authority in the area; described as the 'Accountable Body'. The duties require the Council to work in partnership with other statutory agencies, businesses and the voluntary and community sector.

3. Local Context

3.1 At its meeting on 28th October 2008, Central Bedfordshire's Shadow Executive agreed to discharge its statutory responsibilities relating to the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to the LSP, including:

- a statutory duty to develop a SCS;
- a statutory duty to produce a LAA;
- a statutory duty to involve residents, stakeholders and communities (from April 2009);
- financial management of the Area Based Grant (ABG) and the LAA;
- performance management, including ensuring there is clear leadership and accountability for each target; and
- ensuring that outcomes and targets reflect the needs of disadvantaged neighbourhoods and communities.

But (as a non-statutory body) the LSP is not the ultimate decision-maker on such plans. All target-setting, and consequent financial, commissioning, or contractual commitments proposed by the LSP, must be formalised through the Council, or through one of the other LSP partners.

4 What has been achieved so far?

4.1 A shadow LSP was established and two meetings held - on 11th November 2008 and 6th January 2009. At its inaugural meeting the LSP Board agreed the Terms of Reference for the Board (attached as Appendix 1), the Strategic Implementation Group (SIG) and the Thematic Partnerships. Other actions included:

- agreeing the partnership structure, including each of the five Thematic Partnerships and their Theme Leads, the Growth Sub Group, and LSP representation on the SIG, IIC Board, Luton and South Beds Joint Committee, and Bedford Renaissance;
- adopting the SCSs for Mid Bedfordshire and South Bedfordshire and the draft neighbourhood plan for Tithe Farm and Parkside;
- adopting the Bedfordshire and Luton Voluntary Sector Compact “Getting it Right Together”;
- overseeing the refresh of Central Bedfordshire’s LAA; and
- agreeing a forward plan of meeting dates until March 2010.

5. Ambitions for the future

5.1 Future actions to be undertaken by the LSP include:

- driving the development of a new SCS for Central Bedfordshire that includes a shared vision and the long-term high-level priorities for the area that meet the needs of communities, and is supported by a robust evidence base;
- delivering and refreshing the LAA;
- coordinating and managing the CAA, including carrying out the area assessment self evaluation;
- managing the spend of ABG, ensuring it is allocated towards priorities in the SCS and LAA;
- developing and implementing the Economic Participation Plan;
- determining the need for and scope of any Multi Area Agreements (MAA);
- overseeing the production of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), the economic assessment, housing assessment, Children’s Plan, and community safety strategic assessment;
- responsibility for developing a joined-up community engagement model that ensures public sector agencies listen and respond to the needs of our communities;
- implementing the Greensand Ridge Local Development Strategy (LDS) 2008-13; and
- responding to consultations e.g. Luton & South Bedfordshire Joint Committee Local Development Framework Core Strategy.

6.1 Other responsibilities of the LSP are detailed in the Terms of Reference in Appendix 1.

6. LSP support

6.1 It is important that the LSP has the capacity and support to carry out its role. This section examines the type of support available.

6.2 At a national level, two of the Beacon councils – Leeds CC and South Tyneside MBC – are offering tailored programmes of peer support to councils that want to test out their arrangements for developing strong LSP arrangements.

6.3 At a regional level, there are several support arrangements in place, including:

- Improvement East operates a regional network for LAA/LSP/MAA arrangements.
- ‘Aspire to Perform’ has been developed as a diagnostic tool for LSPs to assess their effectiveness. This project is also aiming to develop a regional capacity building and support programme for LSPs.
- Four Local Improvement Advisors (LIAs) have been appointed to visit all LAA areas in the region to pull together an overview of support needs. This will feed into a regional programme that will be rolled out from April 2009.
- The Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (RIEP) has developed an action plan to support LSPs in the delivery of five ‘difficult’ LAA targets: worklessness; climate change; business growth; housing growth; and civic participation.
- The Regional Empowerment Partnership has recently been formed to share best practice and provide support to LSPs on community engagement and empowerment.

Peter Fraser
Head of Partnerships & Community Engagement
14th April 2009

TERMS OF REFERENCE & WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

Central Bedfordshire Local Strategic Partnership Board

1. PURPOSE

1.1. Provide the vision and strategic leadership and to improve the quality of life for existing and future residents of Central Bedfordshire, by bringing together and encouraging greater partnership working at a local level and with the different parts of the public, private, community and voluntary sectors; allowing different initiatives and services to support one another so that they can work together more effectively. To ensure that the Sustainable Community Strategy is delivered and that each partner makes an effective contribution to that delivery

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

2.1. The Board will:

- meet a minimum of four times a year (dates/months TBA)
- elect a Chair and Vice Chair from amongst its membership for a minimum period of one year. A quorum for decision-making will be set at 50% of the Board's membership plus one
- be responsible for developing a long term strategic vision, direction and ambition for Central Bedfordshire expressed by and delivered through the Sustainable Community Strategy
- be responsible for commissioning, refreshing and playing a major role in the practical delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement
- encouraging and promoting greater partnership working
- be responsible for signing off the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA)
- oversee the implementation and monitor progress of the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement
- ensure that the Sustainable Community Strategies drives spatial planning via the Local Development Frameworks
- ensure greater alignment between partner's corporate and business plans and the Sustainable Community Strategy
- authorise the allocation of 'funding' streams attributed to the LSP or LAA to the relevant thematic groups or others as appropriate
- comment and agree action to respond to significant changes in national, regional, sub-regional and local policies of significance to Central Bedfordshire
- drive the development of other area wide strategies, plans and priorities
- Appoint representatives to sit on other bodies and strategic working groups including the SIG as appropriate eg. Local Delivery

Vehicles, Investing in Communities Partnership Committee, Growth Sub Committee

- receive quarterly performance reports relating to each key theme in the Strategy
- review its Terms of Reference on an annual basis
- report on an annual basis to the residents, stakeholders and partners of Central Bedfordshire through public meetings and a written annual report that reviews progress against objectives
- set strategic direction for consultation with residents, stakeholders, partners and statutory bodies

3. PRINCIPLES

3.1. Partners will agree to work together within a framework based on the following principles:

- Commitment to be engaged and a driving force to help shape Central Bedfordshire and achieve the LSP vision (to be included here)
- Developing an understanding of common objectives with each partner organisation
- Develop and maintain agreement on what is important
- Sharing data and information, as and when appropriate, within the partnership and with other bodies and the public
- Overcome barriers to action within organisations
- Avoiding duplication in both consultation and implementation

4. VALUES

4.1. The LSP shall:

- Look outwards to the community and ensure community involvement in shaping priorities and actions of the partnership
- Be focussed on the key priorities, purpose and outcomes towards delivering targets of the Sustainable Community Strategy
- Be flexible to deal and respond to priority issues as they arise
- Build the principle of sustainability into all actions
- Build equality and diversity into activities and be guided by the principles of equal opportunity

5. BOUNDARIES

5.1. The partnership operates on behalf of those who live, work and visit Central Bedfordshire. Neighbouring areas may share a number of issues as those for Central Bedfordshire. To ensure economies of scale and wide spread effectiveness in addressing issues, the partnership will include, where possible and applicable, working with organisations from other area.

6. MEMBERS

6.1. The LSP Board shall include a senior officer (director level or above) representative from each of the following organisations:

- The Leader - Central Bedfordshire Council
- Chief Executive - Central Bedfordshire Council
- 1 representative for Town Councils
- 1 representative for Parish Councils
- Bedfordshire Police or Police Authority
- Beds & Luton Fire and Rescue Service
- Bedfordshire PCT
- Director of Public Health
- 1 Voluntary and Community Sector representative
- 1 Rural communities representative
- 1 frontline voluntary and community sector organisation with strategic remit
- The Chamber
- HEFE (Higher Education and Further Education) representative
- 1 x local business with strategic remit

7. CRITERION FOR MEMBERSHIP

7.1. Representatives will:

- have the skills and resources which will contribute to the purpose and development of the Local Strategic Partnership
- be committed to partnership arrangements
- be involved in strategic issues and developments in their own organisation and /or those they represent
- be able to contribute to decisions on behalf of their own organisation and /or those they represent
- be able to gather, represent and feedback views to other in their organisation and/or those they represent
- are committed to the Vision and priorities included in the Sustainable Community Strategy

8. DECISION-MAKING ARRANGEMENTS

8.1. The Partnership will take decisions at Board meetings. Decision will be taken by consensus whenever possible. However, if no consensus can be reached, a majority vote, based on one vote per member, will carry the decision with the Chair having the casting vote if the vote is equal.

8.2. The Partnership will have the power to delegate operational decision-making to smaller working groups. Strategic decisions will be reported back to the Partnership at Board meetings.

9. ACCOUNTABILITY

- 9.1. Meetings of the local strategic partnership board will be open to guest speakers and visitors including members of the public. A formal invitation will be extended to Go-East for a representative to act as an official observer to the Board. Notification of meetings will be publicised via its website, newsletter and other circulars. Minutes of meetings will also be made publicly available via the website and distributed to partners and stakeholders.
- 9.2. A communication plan will be developed and implemented to keep all members, stakeholders and the community aware of developments and local initiatives.
- 9.3. An annual review of the partnership, its working arrangements, performance against priorities in the Sustainable Community Strategy and LAA will be produced and reported at the annual Central Bedfordshire Partnership Conference.