

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



please ask for Helen Bell
direct line 0300 300 4040
date 31 March 2011

NOTICE OF MEETING

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

Date & Time

Thursday, 14 April 2011 at 6.30 p.m.

Venue at

Council Chamber, Priory House, Chicksands, Shefford

Richard Carr
Chief Executive

To: The Chairman and Members of the CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL:

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

AGENDA

Prayers

Reverend Cannon Michael Bradley from Flitwick will take prayers.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence to be received.

2. **Minutes**

To approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 24 February 2011.

(Attached pages 5 to 18)

3. **Members' Interests**

To receive from Members any declarations and their nature in relation to:-

(a) personal interests in any agenda item

(b) personal and prejudicial interests in any agenda item.

4. **Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

The Chairman to make any announcements or communications.

5. **Leader of the Council's Announcements and Communications**

The Leader of the Council to make any announcements or communications.

6. **Questions, Statements or Deputations**

To receive any questions, statements or deputations from members of the public in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in Annex 1 of part A4 of the Constitution.

7. **Petitions**

To receive and discuss petitions in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out at Annex 2 of part A4 of the Constitution.

8. **Recommendations from the Executive**

To consider the recommendations from the meetings of the Executive and answer questions asked under Rule No. 12.1.

	Date of Meeting	Page No.
Children and Young People's Plan	15.03.11	19
LDF (North) Site Allocations Development Plan Document	15.03.11	20 - 21
Community Safety Partnership Priorities and the Community Safety Partnership Plan for 2011/12	15.03.11	22

9. **Recommendations from the Constitution Advisory Group**

	Date of Meeting	Page No.
Co-optees on Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee	21.03.11	23 to 25
Replacement of Dunstable Town Centre Management Committee by Dunstable Joint Committee	21.03.11	27 to 31

10. **Report of the Bedfordshire Police Authority**

To receive and consider the report of the Bedfordshire Police Authority and answer questions asked under Rule No. 12.1.

(Attached pages 33 to 36)

11. **Reports of the Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority**

To receive and consider the reports of the Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority and answer questions asked under Rule No. 12.1.

(Attached pages 37 to 39)

12. **Written Questions (if any)**

To answer written questions from members of the Council under Rule No. 12.2.

13. **Open Questions**

To answer Open Questions asked by members of the Council under Rule No. 12.7.

14. **Motions (if any)**

To consider motions by members of the Council under Rule No. 16 in the order received.

15. **Membership of Standards Committee**

To consider the attached report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and People.

(attached pages 41 to 43)

16. **NHS Campus Closure Programme**

To consider the attached report of the Portfolio Holder for Social Care Health and Housing and the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and People.

(attached pages 45 to 47).

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Thursday, 24 February 2011.

PRESENT

Cllr P Hollick (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs C F Chapman MBE (Vice-Chairman)

Cllrs	P N Aldis	Cllrs	Mrs S A Goodchild	Cllrs	J Murray
	R A Baker		Ms A M W Graham		Mrs M Mustoe
	Mrs A Barker		T Green		Ms J Nunn
	A R Bastable		Mrs D B Gurney		P Rawcliffe
	R D Berry		Mrs C Hegley		J A G Saunders
	L Birt		D J Hopkin		A Shadbolt
	P A Blaine		K Janes		K Sharer
	D Bowater		R W Johnstone		P Snelling
	A D Brown		M R Jones		Miss A Sparrow
	J A E Clarke		J Kane		R C Stay
	I Dalgarno		D J Lawrence		J Street
	P A Duckett		Mrs J G Lawrence		A M Turner
	Dr R Egan		Mrs A M Lewis		Mrs C Turner
	A Fahn		H J Lockey		Mrs P E Turner MB
	Mrs J Freeman		S F Male		E
	P Freeman		K C Matthews		P F Vickers
	D J Gale		Ms C Maudlin		B Wells
	M Gibson		D McVicar		P Williams
					J N Young

Apologies for Absence

Cllrs	N B Costin	Cllrs	A Northwood	Cllrs	G Summerfield
	Mrs R B Gammons		A A J Rogers		
	J G Jamieson		B J Spurr		

Officers in Attendance:	Mr J Atkinson	–	Head of Legal and Democratic Services
	Mr R Carr	–	Chief Executive
	Mrs E Grant	–	Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services
	Mrs S Hobbs	–	Committee Services Officer
	Mrs J Ogley	–	Director of Social Care, Health and Housing
	Ms M Peaston	–	Committee Services Manager
	Mr R Ellis	–	Director of Customer and Shared Services
	Mr J Unsworth	–	Interim Assistant Director of Finance

PRAYERS

Prayers were taken by Reverend Martin Hathaway.

C/10/79 Minutes

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2011 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

C/10/80 Members' Interests

(a) Personal Interests:-

Cllr Murray declared a personal interest in the Revenue Budget as he had been lobbied about a number of proposals.

Cllr Bowater declared a personal interest in respect of the recommendation at item 9: Prohibiting the Consumption of Alcohol in Designated Area in view of his son-in-law being a Director of Better Regulation Local Office, which was currently working with the Council.

Cllr Hollick declared a personal interest by virtue of being a Patron of Bedfordshire Youth Music.

Note: Further declarations were made at minute C/10/85 (c).

(b) Personal and Prejudicial Interests:-

None.

C/10/81 Chairman's Announcements and Communications

The Chairman reported the death of Bob Firman, a previous member of a legacy authority.

The Chairman also commented on the success of various recent functions, including the Civic Service on 23 January and the Elizabeth Cross presentations, and on preparations for a forthcoming dinner at Stotfold Mill.

C/10/82 Leader of the Council's Announcements and Communications

The Leader commented on a presentation by the Chief Executives' Forum to Leaders and Board Members which she had attended recently, on the opportunities identified for cost savings through inter agency collaboration building on the Total Place initiative.

The Leader also reported on a card she had received thanking the Council for the steps taken to support school crossing patrols for a further year, to allow time for alternative arrangements to be made.

C/10/83

Questions, Statements or Deputations

The following questions and statements were put by members of the public under the Public Participation provisions at Annex 1 of Part A4 of the Constitution:-

1. Mr Clarke commented on item 16 of the Council agenda, Members' Allowances, where he felt the proposals were inappropriate in the current financial climate. He quoted figures for staff sickness absence and pension fund contributions and contended that the Council wasted money.
2. As already detailed at the meeting of the Executive on 15 February 2011, Mr Konstantinidis explained that he was concerned with the accuracy of the Council's financial information and the implications of this for budget setting.
3. Linda Jack, previously an employee of the Council responsible for various youth centres in the area, registered concern with the impact of the proposed changes to youth services. She sought assurance that impact and equality assessments had been carried out, and asked whether consultation had been carried out with young people.

C/10/84

Petitions

In accordance with the Public Participation Scheme set out in Annex 2 of Part A4 of the Constitution, the Council received the following petition:

Garden Waste collection method in the Spring Grove area of Sandy.

Councillor Aldis presented the petition which contained 13 signatures. He advised that currently biodegradable bags were used for garden waste collection in the particular area and that re-usable bags would be preferred by the petitioners.

The Assistant Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Healthier Lifestyles thanked Councillor Aldis and commented that plans were in place for a smaller vehicle to be used for the collection of green waste in this area of narrow roads with rear loading instead of side loading. He commented that when this was introduced, re-usable bags would be issued to the residents. He advised that Cllr Aldis would be kept informed about developments.

C/10/85

Recommendations from the Executive**(a) Treasury Management Strategy**

The Council considered the recommendation from the meeting of the Executive held on 15 February 2011 seeking approval of the proposed Treasury Management Policy and Treasury Management Strategy.

RESOLVED

that the Treasury Management Policy and Treasury Management Strategy, as attached to the report submitted to the Executive, be approved.

(b) Capital Programme 2011/12

The Council considered the recommendations from the meeting of the Executive held on 15 February 2011 in respect of the proposed Capital Programme for 2011/12.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the 2011/12 to 2014/15 Capital Programme, as attached to Appendix A to the report submitted to the Executive, be approved;**
- (ii) that the 2011/12 to 2014/15 Capital Programme – Housing Revenue Account, as attached at Appendix B to the report submitted to the Executive, be approved.**

(c) Draft Medium Term Financial Plan and Revenue Budget for 2011/12 and item 15 Council Tax Resolution

In advance of consideration of this matter, the Chairman advised that under Rule 5 of the Council Procedure Rules he would vary the order of business to enable item 15 on the agenda, Council Tax Resolution, to be taken in conjunction with this matter.

The Council considered recommendations from the meeting of the Executive on 15 February 2011 seeking approval of the proposed Medium Term Financial Plan and Revenue Budget for 2011/12 .

In his introduction, the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and People drew attention to the financial challenge facing the country as a whole and the Government's plan for responding to this. This included a significant reduction in financial support to local authorities, particularly in the early part of the four year term covered by the Comprehensive Spending Review.

The Portfolio Holder referred to the extensive consultation on the budget proposals which had been adjusted to take account of the comments and petitions. The proposals included additional investment in Children's Services and Adult Social Care, and a freezing of Council Tax.

The Leader of the Council added that approximately 300 posts had been deleted since 2009 with more yet to come, and that new ways of working with partners were being sought to find alternative methods of delivering some services.

The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group moved an amendment to the budget proposal which was duly seconded, as follows:-

<i>2. to vary the Revenue Budget for 2011/12 by the following:</i>	<i>£k</i>
<i>a) to delay the announced closure of Houghton Regis leisure centre and instruct officers to bring forward alternative funding to enable the centre to remain open</i>	<i>42</i>
<i>(b) to delay the closure of the Mobile Library service until the full review of the Library Service had been completed</i>	<i>55</i>
<i>(c) Partnership funding to be made available to help facilitate Youth Service providers</i>	<i>218</i>
<i>(d) reduce all councillors' basic allowance by 2%</i>	<i>-14</i>
<i>(e) reduce all Special Responsibility allowances by 10%</i>	<i>-35</i>
<i>(f) Remove all Special Responsibilities allowances for Vice-Chairman</i>	<i>-16</i>
<i>(g) reduce the contribution to balances</i>	<i>-200</i>
<i>(h) estimated improvements in investment interest receipts</i>	<i>-50</i>
<i>NET CHANGE</i>	<i>0</i>

To add the following paragraphs:

9. Commit the Council to join the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund, a secure AAA rated, UK based MM, which offers a better interest rate of return than banks, thus facilitating higher interest income from 2012/13.

10. Establish a trading company to allow more flexibility in charging policy from 2012/13.

Following debate, a vote by show of hands was taken on the amendment which was declared to be lost.

Additional debate took place on the original motion. During the course of debate, the following Councillors declared a personal interest by reason of being a Trustee of Ludun:

Councillors Birt, Egan, Hollick, Goodchild, Green, Rogers and Young.

In accordance with paragraph 20.5 of Part B5 of the Council Procedure Rules, ten members of the Council stood to request a recorded vote.

Those in favour of the motion were Councillors Baker, Mrs Barker, Bastable, Berry, Birt, Bowater, Brown, Mrs Chapman, Clarke, Dalgarno, Mrs Drinkwater, Duckett, Mrs Freeman, Freeman, Gibson, Green, Mrs Gurney, Mrs Hegley, Hollick, Hopkin, Janes, Johnstone, M Jones, Kane, Lawrence, Mrs Lawrence, Mrs Lewis, Lockey, Male, Matthews, Ms Maudlin, McVicar, Mrs Mustoe, Nicols, Rawcliffe, Rogers, Saunders, Shadbolt, Sharer, Miss Sparrow, Stay, Street, A Turner, Mrs C Turner, Mrs P Turner, Vickers, Wells and Young.

Those against the motion were Councillors Aldis, Blaine, Dr Egan, Fahn, Mrs Goodchild, Ms Graham, D Jones, Murray, Ms Nunn, Snelling and Williams.

RESOLVED:

1. **that the response to consultation with Overview & Scrutiny Committees and the public, set out in paragraphs 17 to 21 of the report submitted to the Executive, be noted;**
2. **that the Revenue Budget for 2011/12 and the Medium Term Financial Plan 2011/12 to 2014/15, as attached to the report submitted to the Executive, be approved;**
3. **that the following adjustments to the draft budget in response to comments and representations received throughout the scrutiny and consultation process, be noted:**
 - (a) **adjustments to the proposals covering Overview & Scrutiny offset by further reductions within the Democratic Services budget;**
 - (b) **no reduction in School Crossing Patrols from 1 April 2011, but that contributions be sought from communities and partners during the course of the year, with a view to securing the patrols beyond 2011/12;**
 - (c) **the creation of a fund to facilitate the transfer of services to partners and communities and that the costs of Public Conveniences be a first charge on this fund during 2011/12; and**
 - (d) **a reduction in the proposed increases in car parking charges;**

4. that the Council Tax Base, attached at Appendix G to the report submitted to the Executive, be noted;
5. to agree the Council Tax Resolution set out in Appendix A to the report attached to the agenda at item 15, Council Tax Resolution;
6. to note that this sets a Band D Council Tax of:
 - £1,308.33 for residents in the north of Central Bedfordshire
 - £1,344.15 for residents in the south of Central Bedfordshire
7. that the fees and charges set out in Appendix K to the report submitted to the Executive, be approved;
8. that the additional objective set out in paragraph 58 to the Treasury Management Strategy, be included;
9. that the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan set out in Appendix L to the report submitted to the Executive, with an average increase in rents of 7.02%, be approved.

(d) Local Transport Plan 3

The Council considered a recommendation from the meeting of the Executive on 15 February 2011 seeking approval of Local Transport Plan 3, and for authority to be delegated to the relevant Director, in consultation with the appropriate Portfolio Holder, to make any necessary minor changes to the document prior to final publication.

In the debate which ensued comments were made about the needs of people with disabilities and the impact of the Plan on access in rural communities.

The Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Development advised that appropriate consultation had taken place over a period of 6 weeks.

RESOLVED

1. that the Local Transport Plan for Central Bedfordshire be approved;
2. that the Director of Sustainable Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Development, be authorised to make any necessary minor drafting changes to the document prior to final publication.

C/10/86

Recommendations from Regulation Committee

(a) Adoption of Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982

The Council considered a recommendation from the Regulation Committee at its meeting on 16 February 2011 on the regulation of street trading.

It was noted that a notification process had been undertaken to comply with the legal requirements of adopting the Schedule to regulate street trading. No outstanding, negative or unresolved representations had been received.

RESOLVED

to adopt the relevant provisions of Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 to enable the regulation of street trading, as set out in the report to the Regulation Committee on 16 February 2011.

(b) Prohibition of the Consumption of Alcohol in designated public place – Sandy

The Council considered a recommendation from the Licensing Committee held on 16 February 2011 seeking approval of a Designation Order for the prohibition of the consumption of alcohol in a designated area.

It was noted that no objections had been received to the proposed restriction on alcohol consumption in response to an advertisement in a newspaper inviting comments.

The Designation Order was tabled at the meeting.

RESOLVED

- 1. to approve the Designation Order as detailed in the report to Licensing Committee on 16 February 2011 and tabled at the meeting;**
- 2. that the Designation Order come into force on 24 March 2011.**

C/10/87

Report of the Bedfordshire Police Authority

Councillor Hollick, as the Council's representative on the Bedfordshire Police Authority, gave an oral report on the proceedings of the Authority's meeting which had been held on 18 February 2011. His report included details of:-

- the Police Authority's budget
- performance in crime detection
- the risk assessment process for the issuing of Firearms Certificates
- policing of a recent public demonstration in Luton.

It was noted that the written report of Bedfordshire Police Authority's meeting would be brought to the next meeting.

Councillor Hollick responded to questions. He indicated that the proposal to merge aspects of traffic management between Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Police would achieve financial savings.

Additional comments were made on the new arrangements covering firearms licensing and information supplied by the police on these was requested.

RESOLVED

that the oral report of the meeting of Bedfordshire Police Authority's meeting on 18 February 2011 be noted.

C/10/88

Report of the Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority

A report from the meeting of the Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority held on 10 December 2010 was submitted.

RESOLVED

that the report of the Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority held on 10 December 2011 be noted.

C/10/89

Written Questions

A written question had been submitted under Rule 12.2 by Councillor Murray, as follows:-

- (a) How much in cash terms is being sliced from Central Bedfordshire Council's education resources for 2011/12, including funds from Government, to help the funding of Academies?
- (b) How much is that in percentage terms?

The following reply was received:

The current estimate for recoupment of Central Bedfordshire Council grants in relation to Academies in 2011/12 is £600,000 from Revenue Support Grant and £332,000 from Direct Support Grant, total £932,000.

This is based on six known Academies out of 136 schools across the Authority and will increase as more are confirmed. (Source: Schools Forum papers March 2011)

This represents 0.6% of the Direct Schools Grant, £152.0m and 6.0% of centrally retained funds, £15.6m.

C/10/90

Open Questions

The Chairman presided over Open Questions asked of Portfolio Holders and Assistant Portfolio Holders under Council Procedure Rule 12.7.

1. Councillor Mrs Chapman asked whether the relevant Government Minister should be advised of the Highways Agency's decision to cease consultation with Parish Councils and local people, contrary to the spirit of the "Localism" agenda.

The Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Healthier Lifestyles indicated that consultation was carried out through the Highways Agency website and that it was unlikely that wider consultation would be reinstated.

2. Councillor Fahn asked whether Section 215 Notices (requiring an owner to repair a property) could be issued to prompt improvements in Leighton Buzzard.

The Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Development undertook to look into this matter.

3. Councillor Aldis asked about progress with increasing the extent of recycling, including when a kerbside glass collection would be introduced in the rural south of the area.

The Assistant Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Healthier Lifestyles indicated that there were continuing improvements in recycling and that residents were disposing of less waste. He also advised that there were no current plans to introduce a kerbside glass collection service.

4. Councillor Duckett asked a question in relation to the recent Government announcement of additional funding to repair potholes following the adverse weather conditions in December 2010, and whether any of the funding could be used to reinstate certain yellow lines in Ampthill.

The Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Healthier Lifestyles advised that Central Bedfordshire Council expected to receive some of the £100m which the Government was making available to local authorities. The same amount had been made available last year and Central Bedfordshire Council had received £300,000. He would check on the position with the reinstatement of yellow lines.

5. Councillor Green asked why access to circle seats at the Grove Theatre was restricted for many shows.

The Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Healthier Lifestyles advised that the hirer of the Grove Theatre could dictate the terms on which tickets were sold, and that circle seats were sometimes available.

6. Councillor Blaine asked a question about the necessity for a survey of streetlighting in Sandy being undertaken by Amey given that Sandy Town Council had recently undertaken its own survey.

The Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Healthier Lifestyles indicated that he would look into the matter and respond directly to Councillor Blaine.

7. Councillor Dr Egan asked a question about whether funding would be made available to enable LuDun employees to undertake training to assist them in the job market.

The Portfolio Holder for Social Care and Health was unaware whether there was dedicated funding for this purpose but indicated that the issues relating to LuDun were being appropriately addressed.

8. Councillor Ms Graham asked how many Special Educational Needs pupils within Central Bedfordshire, who were subject to phase transfer in this year, had received their final statements, and how many had not.

The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services indicated that she would provide Councillor Ms Graham with a written reply.

9. Councillor Dr Egan asked a question about the availability of NHS dental care in Dunstable and Leighton Buzzard.

The Portfolio Holder for Social Care and Health indicated that this had already been considered at an Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting, and that the change related to people with special dental care needs.

10. Councillor Brown asked whether the food waste bin liners used in the recycling of food waste, for which the Council had received plaudits, would continue to be available.

The Assistant Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Healthier Lifestyles replied that the bags would continue to be available in 2011/12 but that in the future the Bedfordshire Energy and Recycling (BEaR) project would address the treatment of food waste.

11. Councillor Bowater asked whether there were plans to relax the Road Closure Order rules in view of the forthcoming royal wedding and the possibility of street parties.

The Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Healthier Lifestyles advised that residents proposing to hold a street party would be assisted to make the necessary arrangements and also commented that the closure of major routes had considerable implications.

12. Councillor Fahn asked whether resources could be used to address estate roads and pavements now that major highways in Central Bedfordshire were in a fit state.

The Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Healthier Lifestyles replied that resources would be used to improve B-roads for a period of a year, but after that period resources would be used to ensure that standards were maintained on the main highways.

13. Councillor Dr Egan asked when planned works would start on Bedford Hill to reinstate yellow lines leading to the intersection with Bedford Road.

The Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Healthier Lifestyles advised that works to reinstate the yellow lines would begin in the near future.

C/10/91

Motions

Notice had been received from Councillor Nicols of a Motion under Procedure Rule 16 as follows:

“The Council notes, with indignation, that whilst Central Bedfordshire is facing a massive reduction in its financial settlement in 2011/12, the UK’s contribution to the European Union (EU) is set to rise by 60% over two years.

This Council notes that, despite the opposition of some MPs and MEPs, it is likely that the Government will agree to a further 2.9% increase in the overall EU budget.

This Council believes the EU should be treated the same as other tiers of government and in these austere times should share responsibility, along with central and local government, for public spending reductions. Sharing the burden would result in less severe cuts for local authorities, and give more assistance to councils to protect front line services.

This Council therefore urges our three MPs not to support an increase in the EU budget.”

The motion was moved by Councillor Nicols and seconded by Councillor Stay.

RESOLVED

to approve the motion set out above.

C/10/92 Council Tax 2011/12

This matter was resolved earlier in the meeting (minute C/10/85 (c) above refers).

C/10/93 Members' Allowances

The Council considered a report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and People and noted a change to the recommendations by the Portfolio Holder, tabled at the meeting.

The recommendations set out in the report were replaced by recommendations as follows:-

1. that, subject to paragraphs 2 and 3 below, the Members' Allowances Scheme attached as Appendix A to the report be adopted by the Council for the financial year 2011/12;
2. that the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances contained in paragraph 3 and Schedule 1 to the Scheme be reduced by 2%;
3. that the mileage rate payable to Councillors who use their own vehicles on Council business be set at the HMRC rate (currently 40p per mile) and that Schedule 3 of the Scheme be amended accordingly;
4. that in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, the Independent Remuneration Panel be consulted about this proposed amendment to the Scheme and that the proposed reductions be implemented with effect from 1 April 2011, unless the Independent Remuneration Panel recommends otherwise;
5. that a meeting of the Independent Remuneration Panel be convened in the summer of 2011 to review the Scheme and submit a report to Council.

The recommendations were moved by Councillor M Jones and seconded by Councillor Stay.

Clarification was provided that the proposed review by the Independent Remuneration Panel in the summer of 2011 would be to prepare for the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2012/13. Consultation would be undertaken with the Panel immediately regarding the proposed 2% reduction in Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances.

Councillor Graham moved an amendment to the motion, which was duly seconded. The amendment was:

- *at recommendation 2 set out above, add after "2%" the words "and Special Responsibility Allowances by 10%";*

- *at recommendation 5 set out above delete the words "in the summer of 2011 to review the Scheme and submit a report to the Council" with "as soon as possible to review the Scheme."*

A vote on the amendment was taken by show of hands, which was declared to be lost.

RESOLVED

- 1. that, subject to paragraphs 2 and 3 below, the Members' Allowances Scheme attached as Appendix A to the report be adopted for the financial year 2011/12;**
- 2. that the Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances contained in paragraph 3 and Schedule 1 to the Scheme be reduced by 2%;**
- 3. that the mileage rate payable to Councillors who use their own vehicles on Council business be set at the HMRC rate (currently 40p per mile) and that Schedule 3 of the Scheme be amended accordingly;**
- 4. that in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, the Independent Remuneration Panel be consulted about this proposed amendment to the Scheme and that the proposed reductions be implemented with effect from 1 April 2011, unless the Independent Remuneration Panel recommends otherwise;**
- 5. that a meeting of the Independent Remuneration Panel be convened in the summer of 2011 to review the Scheme and submit a report to Council.**

(Note: The meeting commenced at 6.30 p.m. and concluded at 10.46 p.m.)

Chairman

Dated

COUNCIL MEETING – 14 APRIL 2011

Recommendations to Council from the Executive meeting held on 14 April 2011

E/10/143 Children and Young People's Plan

The Executive considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services that presented the Central Bedfordshire Children and Young People's Plan (2011-2014). Members noted that partner organisations had indicated their support for the ongoing development of partnership working within the framework for the Children's Trust and for a Children and Young People's Plan. The Plan had been refreshed following consultation with over 4,000 children, young people, parents, carers and stakeholders.

Reason for decision: To ensure that Central Bedfordshire Council meets its statutory duty as set out in the Children Act 2004 to make arrangements to promote co-operation with partners to improve the well-being of children in the authority's area.

RESOLVED

that the Central Bedfordshire Children and Young People's Plan be endorsed.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

that the Central Bedfordshire Children and Young People's Plan (2011-2014) be approved.

E/10/146

LDF (North): Site Allocations Development Plan Document

The Executive considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Development that set out the LDF (North): Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD). The DPD had recently been through public examination and the Inspector's report had found the DPD to be 'sound'.

In accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in paragraph 2 of Annex 1 of Part A4 of the Constitution, the Chairman invited the members of the public who had registered to speak on this item to address the Committee:

- Mr Zerny was concerned that the proposed development in the DPD would blight the Georgian market town of Potton. He contended that the Potton Town Council and residents were opposed to the developments.
- Mr Belcher commented on the lack of support from Potton Town Council and residents for the proposed development for Potton and expressed his doubts about the provision of community facilities.

The Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Development explained that the DPD would provide an appropriate basis for the planning of the area over the next 15 years and would enable the Council to exercise appropriate control over development. He acknowledged the work of the Development Management Task Force and the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee and pointed out that a full consultation process had been undertaken including with members of the public.

The Portfolio Holder moved the following revised recommendations, which were duly seconded:

- “1. that the Inspector's conclusions that the Site Allocations Development Plan Document is sound be endorsed; and
2. that the Executive endorses the Inspector's conclusions that the Site Allocations Development Plan Document is sound and recommends the plan to Council.”

Reason for decision: To ensure the Council complies with the statutory requirement to produce a Development Plan through the production of the Local Development Framework (North).

RESOLVED

that the Inspector's conclusions that the Site Allocations Development Plan Document is sound be endorsed.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

That in view of the Executive's endorsement of the Inspector's conclusion that the Site Allocations Development Plan Document is sound, the plan be endorsed.

E/10/152

Community Safety Partnership Priorities and the Community Safety Partnership Plan for 2011 - 2012

The Executive considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Healthier Lifestyles that set out the proposed Community Safety Partnership Plan for endorsement by the Executive and adoption by Council. Members acknowledged that the Plan had been endorsed by Central Bedfordshire Together Board, the Community Safety Partnership and the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The three priorities identified for Central Bedfordshire for 2011-2012 were:

- anti-social behaviour
- reduce reoffending
- domestic abuse.

The Chairman of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee confirmed that a letter had been sent to the Secretary of State for Justice requesting that offenders be released on Mondays rather than Fridays as this would support the priority of reducing reoffending.

The Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Healthier Lifestyles clarified that the Safety Advisory Group did not have a statutory responsibility for the Plan.

Reason for decision: Central Bedfordshire Council was a Responsible Authority of the Community Safety Partnership under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The Act placed a statutory duty on the local authority to work with other responsible authorities to develop and implement a strategy for reducing crime and disorder. The Strategy must cover a district, borough or unitary area.

RESOLVED

that the Strategic Assessment of the Community Safety Partnership Priorities be endorsed.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

that the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2011-2012 be adopted.

Recommendation to Council on 14 April 2011	From: Constitution Advisory Group	21 March 2011
	Co-optees on the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
1.	Council is asked to approve the following recommendations:-	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that Part D1 of the Constitution relating to Membership, Substitutes and Quorum of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee be amended as set out in Appendix A to this report. 	
	Background	
2.	The Constitution Advisory Group at its meeting on 21 March 2011 considered a report by the Committee Services Manager which proposed amendments to the Constitution with regard to the parent governor co-optees on the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	
3.	<p>The meeting noted that the term of office for existing parent governor co-optees expired in May 2013 but that, in view of the forthcoming Council elections, it was felt timely to examine various issues relating to the co-optees' membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the starting time and length of the term of office • the eligibility of parent governor co-optees to serve for more than one consecutive four year period • the possible representation of Academies by a specific parent governor co-optee • the strengthening of the requirement to attend Committee meetings. 	
4.	Following consideration Members were of the opinion that the term of office for parent governor co-optees should run for a four year period concurrently with that of Members of the Council. The Group was aware that if a new four year term of office was not introduced in May 2011 it would require action to be taken in 2013, when the current term of office expired. However, the parent governor co-optees could then only be appointed for a two year period before the next Council elections took place in 2015. Members were of the opinion that the matter should not be delayed and the opportunity should be taken to introduce a new four year term of office from May 2011.	
5.	The Group acknowledged that preventing an individual's eligibility to serve as a parent governor co-optee for not more than one	

	consecutive period of four years would encourage a regular influx of fresh views and opinions. However, concern was also expressed that the knowledge and experience accrued by the co-optees would all be lost at the same time. The Group was therefore of the opinion that existing co-optees should be allowed to stand for re-election and re-appointment again should they wish.	
6.	Members noted the evolving relationship between the Council and schools and were of the opinion that, given these circumstances, it would be better to retain flexibility of representation rather than formally appoint a parent governor co-optee to solely represent Academies.	
7.	The Group acknowledged that it would not be possible to amend the requirement to attend Committee meetings beyond that expected of Members of the Council. It was also felt that, if necessary, non-attendance at meetings could be raised with the relevant parent governor co-optee by the Chairman of the Committee.	
Appendices	Appendix A	Sets out the section of the Constitution showing how it would change if Council approves the recommendations

Appendix A

Part D1 Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements and Terms of Reference

4. Membership, Substitutes and Quorum

4.1 The membership and quorum of each of the overview and scrutiny committees shall be:

4.1.1 Customer and Central Services: 9 councillors and substitutes (quorum 3);

4.1.2 Children’s Services: 10 councillors and substitutes, plus 5 co-opted members being 3 parent governors and 2 diocesan representatives of the Church of England and Roman Catholic churches.

The quorum shall be 4 councillors and 2 co-opted members (either parent governors or diocesan representatives) whenever considering education matters, and 3 councillors at all other times.

The co-opted members shall have a vote on education matters but not on other matters, although they may stay in the meeting and speak on any matter.

A parent governor co-opted member shall:

- serve a 4-year term of office starting from May 2011 (unless he/she ceases to be a parent governor co-opted member in which case a replacement parent governor shall be elected to serve out the remainder of the term)
- be able to serve on the Committee for more than one consecutive 4-year period subject to re-election.
- cease to be qualified to hold office as a parent governor co-opted member if he/she fails to attend meetings of the Committee for a continuous period of 6 months starting with the date of a meeting.

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<#>attend a minimum of 4 meetings out of every 8, in addition to meeting the attendance requirements of the relevant Regulation¶¶
<#>serve for not more than one consecutive 4-year term.¶¶

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Recommendation to Council on 14 April 2011	From: Constitution Advisory Group	21 March 2011
	Replacement of Dunstable Town Centre Management Committee by Dunstable Joint Committee	
1.	Council is asked to approve the following recommendations:-	
	(a) that the Dunstable Town Centre Management Committee be abolished and replaced by the Dunstable Joint Committee;	
	(b) that section J2 of the Constitution relating to Dunstable Town Centre Management Committee be amended with new terms of reference as set out at Appendix A to this report.	
	Background	
2.	The Constitution Advisory Group at its meeting on 21 March 2011 considered a proposal by the Head of Business Investment and Marketing to abolish the Dunstable Town Centre Management Committee and replace it by the Dunstable Joint Committee. The Group noted that the proposed terms of reference for the new body had been drafted following a request by Councillor Nigel Young, the Chairman of the Management Committee, and that the Management Committee had considered and approved them at a meeting on 10 March 2011.	
3.	The Group also noted that the Management Committee had referred to the Dunstable Town Centre Masterplan, the Luton/Dunstable Busway, Local Transport Plan 3, the Core Strategy and the A5-M1 Link Road as reasons for the Committee to expand its remit and change its name. It was intended that new terms of reference would create a partnership forum for all those involved in initiatives impacting on Dunstable thus allowing consultation and co-ordination.	
4.	The meeting was advised that the Management Committee had recommended within the proposed terms of reference that the five Central Bedfordshire Council Member representatives be drawn only from Dunstable wards. The reason given in support of this was that such local Members were best placed to understand and engage with the town's specific issues. A Member commented that when the Management Committee had originally been formed it had been the intention to restrict the then District Council Member representation to those Members from the Dunstable wards.	
5.	The Group was aware that there were no financial implications for Central Bedfordshire Council as the Council did not directly fund the Management Committee. Instead a sum of approximately £10,000 had been identified under the Section 106 agreement made when	

	Asda was given planning permission for its store in Dunstable and Central Bedfordshire had delegated the monies to the Management Committee. This delegation would continue to the Joint Committee.	
6.	The Group indicated its support for the proposal.	
Appendices	Appendix A	Sets out the section of the Constitution showing how it would change if Council approves the recommendations

J2 JOINT ARRANGEMENTS - EXTRACT

<p>Dunstable <u>Joint Committee</u></p>	<p>1. To serve as a partnership forum for all those involved in town centre initiatives to consult with each other and co-ordinate their activities so as to realise their aspirations for the town centre.</p> <p>2. To set the broad direction of the partnership taking into account the needs of the town centre's customers, employees, residents, visitors, traders, property owners and developers. This to include devising and updating a recommended <u>Joint Committee Action Plan</u>. <u>The Committee will consider issues relating to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The economic, social and environmental well being of the town</u> • <u>Transport issues</u> • <u>Community safety issues</u> • <u>Leisure and recreational issues</u> • <u>The development and implementation of the Dunstable Town Centre Master Plan</u> <p><u>All such issues will be considered in the context of the development and ongoing review of the Joint Committee Action Plan.</u></p>	<p>Deleted: Town Centre Management Committee</p> <p>Deleted: Partnership</p> <p>Formatted: Font: Arial</p> <p>Formatted: Indent: Left: 0 cm, First line: 0 cm</p> <p>Deleted:</p> <p>Formatted: Font: Arial</p> <p>Deleted: Town Centre Strategy for approval by executive/council</p> <p>Formatted: Font: 12 pt</p> <p>Formatted: Indent: Left: 0 cm</p>
	<p>3. ▼</p> <p>4. ▼</p> <p>5. ▼</p> <p>6. ▼</p>	<p>Deleted: To inform and advise the relevant committees of the local authority/authorities on all aspects of their responsibilities for the town centre and its environs.¶</p> <p>Deleted: To co-ordinate the activities of the various town centre service providers and those responsible for meeting the needs of the town centre.¶</p> <p>Deleted: To undertake and co-ordinate marketing and promotional work for the town centre.¶</p> <p>Deleted: To seek funding opportunities for the furtherance of town centre initiatives and to agree a detailed action plan for the town centre in accordance with the approved Town Centre Strategy and other approved local authority policies.¶</p>

APPENDIX A

7. Membership:

- 5 named Councillors from Central Bedfordshire Council ~~✓~~ All named Councillors must be elected representatives of wards in Dunstable ~~✓~~ 5 Dunstable Town Council appointed Councillors
- Named substitutes from each Council will be permitted to attend meetings as full Committee representatives.

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8. Quorum:

At least 3 Members from each Council will have to be in attendance for the meeting to be quorate. ~~✓~~

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9. Notes:

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9.1 This group has the power to invite representatives of local interest groups to attend its meetings.

9.2 A Councillor appointed by Central Bedfordshire Council will take on the role of Chairman and a Councillor appointed by the Town Council will take on the role of Vice-Chairman.

9.3 Dunstable Town Council administers the committee which is governed by the Town Council's Standing Orders.

APPENDIX A

9.4 Only members of the committee can vote-

9.5. The Committee is not a replacement for any decision making structures regarding planning applications and will not duplicate the work of the Planning Authority.

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9.6 In an attempt to engage with local town centre stakeholders, the DJC will co-opt up to fifteen additional Committee Members from local town centre representative groups. Representative groups could be from the retail, banking, property, transport or any other relevant sectors. However, any co-opted Member must be able to demonstrate how they can add value to the work of the Committee. **Each co-opted Member will be able to engage fully in all discussions but will not have any voting rights.** Co-opted Members will serve a term on the Committee equivalent to the electoral term of elected Council Members

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CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

14th April 2011

1. MEETING

The Bedfordshire Police Authority met on 18 February 2011.

The main purpose of the meeting was to consider the 2011/12 Revenue Budget but included are other areas which will be of interest.

2. REVENUE BUDGET 2011/12

The revenue budget for 2011/12 has been set at £103.115 million. The Authority agreed to freeze the level of Council Tax which means that the Authority now qualifies for a Government grant equivalent to a 2.5% council tax increase. Residents will therefore pay £144.77 per annum (which works out at 40p a day) in 2011/12 for a Band D property, which is the same rate as last year.

This year's budget leaves a funding gap of £6.170M and the areas of policing where this will be met from have been derived through the series of change initiatives that the Force and the Authority had been considering over the past year which comprise;

- collaboration, deriving further savings from existing collaborations and extending the collaboration programme to include Cambridgeshire,
- Budget challenges, including reductions in overtime payment
- a review of support services and
- the implementation of a new policing model (referred to as Programme 2011).

The overall reductions result in a reduction in the police officer establishment of 56 officers, reducing the overall establishment to 1,187 by 30th September 2011. To achieve this reduction the Force would need to utilise A19 (a method of releasing officers who had over 30 years service). In addition the support staff establishment would reduce by a net 29 staff to 992 with the potential of some 35 redundancies, although all efforts would be taken to redeploy these staff into other areas of the organisation where vacant posts exist.

These changes to internal processes and structures seek out less expensive and more effective ways of working that do not devalue performance or threaten the services that matter most to our communities. Our public consultation provides broad support for measures being taken to

meet the financial challenge with;

- 91% not concerned with how the police were structured if they were there when required
- 83% felt resources should focus more on places where crime and ASB were worse
- 87% did not mind who within the police dealt with them as long as they had the right skills.

The continuation of the Neighbourhood Policing grant for 2011/12 and 2012/13 was confirmed and has assisted with the Authority and Force's commitment to delivering local policing that communities value.

This level of budget will deliver a quality service assuming that Bedfordshire does not have a series of exceptional policing events, such as further protest by the English Defence League. You will recall that the March in February was the largest ever policing operation for Bedfordshire and was been a resource intensive operation. The Authority is seeking a grant towards the cost of the event to minimise the implications for the Bedfordshire taxpayers. The outcome is still awaited.

3. PERFORMANCE

Performance data for the third quarter of the year revealed that detection rates for all categories of crime had seen a major improvement between October and December last year, following a decline in performance from October 2009 to September 2010.

Detection rates for all Crime rose 2.5% in the last three months of 2010 however the biggest improvements were in Robbery, Serious Acquisitive Crime, Domestic Burglary and Serious Sexual Offences, which saw increases of 14.7%, 8.7%, 8.7% and 8.5% respectively.

The progress means the force is edging closer to its full-year targets for detection and has improved its rankings both nationally and among its Most Similar Force (MSF) grouping.

Members are pleased with the improvements made over the past three months but called for further work and analysis to be undertaken to ensure this performance is sustained. Members have asked senior officers to draw up a detailed analysis of the return seen from investments in training and specialist detection units. They also sought reassurances that the current shortfall in investigation skills across the force was being addressed as a matter of priority.

The performance figures do show that more work needs to be done to improve confidence and satisfaction levels among our communities, and solving more crimes and bringing offenders to justice are the most obvious ways we can do that.

The Authority has been assured the force will enforce robust plans over the next few months to target all levels of crime to improve the quality of life of our communities irrespective of the economic climate we find ourselves in.

**4 BEDFORDSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND HERTFORDSHIRE
STRATEGIC POLICING PARTNERSHIP**

A three Force strategic policing partnership was formally announced in December 13 between Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire which will enable the development of a range of business support and protective services functions. All three Police Authorities and Forces are committed to preserving local frontline police services and keeping communities safe from the threat of serious harm.

Local policing will not be delivered through collaboration. This aspect of policing will be delivered by each county's Force with local partners.

The three Forces and Police Authorities are already working together to develop a joint procurement function. This more formal three-county collaborative venture will build on the existing Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Joint Collaboration Programme which has, over recent years, seen the development of a wide range of joint functions including a Major Crime Unit, Firearms Support Unit Dog Unit and ICT.

The Authority at its meeting in February has given approval for a further Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire collaborative venture in respect of Roads Policing The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Roads Policing Unit will deliver a joint resource across six areas of service provision: Strategic Roads Policing Management, traffic patrol, ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) Collisions Investigation, Traffic Management and Vehicle Recovery. The new unit will be operational from 1st April 2011 and will deliver ongoing efficiencies of £697,000, fully realised from 2013/14, and first full year efficiency circa £654,000.

The Authority has also approved the establishment of a joint Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Graphic Design and Print Unit from the 1st April which will bring around £109K of ongoing annual savings.

Regular updates on the collaboration programme are available on the Authority's website.

**5 2011/15 STRATEGIC PLAN INCORPORATING THE 2011/12 ANNUAL
POLICING PLAN**

The 2011-15 Strategic Plan has been approved by the Authority .

The Plan set out changes toward more flexible, responsive and local policing whilst managing significant financial challenges. The plan has a clear purpose 'To fight crime and Protect the Public' and focused on the delivery of four protection outcomes namely;

- protection of life,
- protection from violence,
- protection from property and
- protection from disorder.

Our public consultation activities have indicated support for the focus of the plan.

This year the Strategic Plan incorporates the 2011/12 Annual Policing Plan

outlining specific actions for the year ahead.

All of documents referred to in the report can be found on the Authority's website.

PETER HOLLICK
REPRESENTATIVE ON THE BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY



BEDFORDSHIRE AND LUTON COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

REPORT OF THE BEDFORDSHIRE AND LUTON COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY FROM ITS MEETING ON 10 FEBRUARY 2011 TO CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

MEETINGS

Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority (CFA) held a meeting on 10 February 2011 at Dunstable Community Fire Station. The major issues discussed at the meeting are summarised below:

1. COMMUNICATIONS

Assistant Chief Fire Officer Robert Hull

The Chair paid tribute to ACFO Hull at his final Combined Fire Authority meeting before he retired later in the month.

2. FIRECONTROL PROJECT AND FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS

On 20 December 2010 the Fire Minister, Bob Neil MP, had made a written statement to Parliament announcing that the main FiReControl contract had been terminated and the project would close down with immediate effect.

DCLG had published a consultation document 'The Future of Fire and Rescue Control Services in England', with a twelve week consultation period running from 13 January until 8 April 2011, inviting views from the fire and rescue sector on whether resilience, technology and efficiency were the right priorities to shape control services in the future, and asking what lessons could be learnt from FiReControl.

In 2010 officers had undertaken a thorough impact assessment of the implications of a delay in the FiReControl and, at its meeting on 9 September 2010, the Fire Authority had authorised the procurement and installation of an interim mobilising solution. The project was now underway and the current assessment by officers was that the existing system would remain operational and serviceable pending its replacement.

3. AUDIT COMMITTEE

Members noted the draft Minutes of the Audit Committee held on 8 February 2011 and agreed an amendment to its Terms of Reference to oversee the production of, and approve, the Authority's Annual Governance Statement on Internal Control and the Fire Authority's Statement of Accounts.

4. CORPORATE SERVICES POLICY AND CHALLENGE GROUP

Members noted the draft Minutes of the Group held on 8 February 2011 agreed a suite of Corporate Services performance indicators and targets for 2011/12.

The Government had issued new investment guidance on changes to the capital finance system and, to facilitate this, the Authority considered documents relating to the Treasury Management Strategy, Financial Regulations, Treasury Policy Statement and Treasury Management Practices.

5. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2011/12

Members agreed a calendar of meetings for 2011/12.

6. REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2011/12

Members' Budget Workshops held on 10 December 2010 and 12 January 2011 had considered the detail of the proposed Budget.

The agreed 2011/12 Revenue Budget was £28.357M with Council Tax remaining at the 2010/11 level of £82.44 per Band D equivalent property.

7. INFORMATION BULLETIN

The Combined Fire Authority received a Bulletin containing information on various matters relating to the Fire and Rescue Service, including incidents of note and compliments.

Amongst the items reported were:

A resident from Bedford expressed thanks:

At approximately 2 pm on 14 November 2010 I was locked in my flat and called for help. Within minutes (the) crew arrived and assisted me in getting my door open with no damage to the property.

My accolades to them are because of their speed of response, extreme courtesy and skill they exercised in what you may consider a non event. To me it was a difficult time as I was trapped with a terrible feeling of helplessness until they arrived.'.....

A resident from Stevington sent thanks to the Service:

.....'I would like to thank everyone concerned in replacing my faulty electric blanket, which was handed back to me as safe to use with a passed sticker on the plug on the last day of the Fire Service checking electrical goods in Bedford town centre.

From my telephone conversation I was treated with courtesy and the replacement blanket was delivered to my home within hours. Again a big thank you.'.....

A member of the public expressed their thanks to the Service via the website:

.....'Can I just say a very big thank you – yours was a very helpful and useful website. I am trying to set up fire risk assessments for a community centre and your site has been so useful. Thank you again.'.....

A resident from Baldock expressed thanks following a road traffic collision:

.....'It is a year since my son had a serious car accident This has brought back lots of horrible memories and has prompted me to write to you, which should have been done at the time, but these things are put to the back of your mind.

My son had many injuries and was in hospital for 8 weeks, a wheelchair for 4 weeks and then crutches until he was strong enough to walk alone. We were told by the consultant at Addenbrookes Hospital where he was airlifted to that he was very lucky and if it wasn't for

the knowledge that both yourselves and the ambulance crew have his accident could have been fatal.

His accident happened on my late Nan's birthday and I believe she was his guardian angel that day, but your crew were also his guardian angels and we cannot thank you enough for that day.

People really don't realise the hard and dangerous work you do until they have to use your services and without you that day our lives could have been so different and sad.

I would like to wish you all and your families a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year.'.....

soLUTiONs, Luton Borough Council, wrote following a public event attended by the Service:

.....'Just a note of thanks to you all for organising the exhibition stands at the Summit on Monday. They all looked really professional and added an extra dimension to the event. They definitely contributed to the success of the evening, I am sure that attendees found them informative and interesting. Also thank you all for clearing away everything so efficiently afterwards.'.....

The Headteacher, Church End Lower School, Marston Moretaine wrote:

.....'On behalf of all at the school I would like to express my sincere thanks for your assistance on Monday when the school had to be evacuated due to an electrical problem. I was very pleased with how smoothly the evacuation went and very grateful for everyone's help on what was an exceedingly cold day.'.....

**COUNCILLOR JOHN STREET
EXECUTIVE MEMBER OF THE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY**

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Meeting: Council
Date: 14 April 2011
Subject: Membership of the Standards Committee
Report of: Cllr Maurice Jones, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and People
Summary: The report proposes that the terms of office of the existing Independent Members and Town and Parish Council representatives on the Standards Committee be extended indefinitely to ensure that the Council can comply with its statutory obligations until the Localism Bill is enacted.

Contact Officer: John Atkinson, Head of Legal & Democratic Services
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The maintenance of high ethical standards through the work of the Standards Committee is an important element of the Council's corporate governance framework.

Financial:

There are none.

Legal:

The Local Government Act 2000 provides that the Council must establish a Standards Committee including at least one independent member. The functions of the Council's Standards Committee include responsibility for Town and Parish Councils and, when exercising that responsibility, the Standards Committee must also include at least one representative of the Town and Parish Councils in the area.

Risk Management:

The Council must ensure that it is in position to undertake its statutory responsibilities in relation to standards until the Localism Bill is enacted and comes into force.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

There are none.

Equalities/Human Rights:

None arise from this report.

Community Safety:

There are none.

Sustainability:

There are none.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **That the terms of office of the existing Independent Members and Town and Parish Council representatives on the Council's Standards Committee be extended indefinitely.**
2. **That the period of extension be subject to review when the Council has determined what local arrangements it intends to adopt to replace the current statutory regime.**

Membership of the Standards Committee

1. The Council is required to appoint a Standards Committee including at least one Independent Member and, when the Committee exercises its responsibilities in respect of Town and Parish Councils, at least one member representing Town and Parish Councils in the area. The Council's Constitution provides for the Standards Committee to include:

Five elected members

Five Independent members

Five members of Town and Parish Councils in the District.

2. In February 2009 the Council appointed people to serve as Independent Members and representatives of the Town and Parish Councils until the elections to be held in May 2011.

3. The persons listed below are those who are currently serving on the Standards Committee and their terms of office will expire when the elections take place in May 2011.

Independent Members:

Kenneth Frazer
Keith Ford
Jeremy Dann
Deborah Maggs
Mike Jones

Town and Parish Council Representatives: Brian Collier
John Eilbeck
Julie Hughes
John Lewis
Brian Saunders

The Localism Bill

4. The Localism Bill contains provisions which will repeal the current statutory regime. This regime requires the Council to adopt a Code of Conduct for Members, to appoint a Standards Committee, and prescribes a framework for the assessment, investigation and determination of complaints about alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct.
5. It is anticipated that the Localism Bill will receive Royal assent in the autumn of 2011 and that the current Standards regime will therefore come to an end by April 2012. Thereafter, the Council will have a continuing duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct, but it is likely that the Council will have discretion to determine precisely what arrangements it wishes to make to replace the current statutory Code of Conduct and complaints process.

Proposed Extension of the Term of Office of Co-opted Members

6. Until such time as the Localism Bill receives Royal assent and comes into force, the Council must maintain a Standards Committee including Independent Members and Town and Parish Council representatives. The Council will also need to continue to handle complaints as and when they arise and for this purpose will need to retain a number of Independent Members and Town and Parish Council representatives to serve on Assessment, Review and Hearing Sub-Committees.
7. Accordingly, it is proposed that the terms of office of the existing Independent members and Town and Parish Council representatives be extended indefinitely, but that the period of extension will be subject to review when the Council has determined what local arrangements it intends to adopt to replace the current statutory regime.

Background Papers: (open to public inspection)
None

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Meeting: Council
Date: 14 April 2011
Subject: NHS Campus Closure Programme.
Report of: Portfolio Holder for Social Care Health and Housing and the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and People
Summary: The report proposes that the Council approves the increase in the NHS Campus Closure Programme budget from £10.031m to £11.308m

Contact Officer: Julie Ogley, Director of Social Care, Health and Housing
John Unsworth, Assistant Director, Financial Services
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

Priority 1 -Supporting and caring for an ageing population
Priority 5 - Promoting Healthier Lifestyles

Financial:

The total budget has increased from £10.031m to £11.308m and the programme will now run into 2011/12 and 2012/13. There are no direct capital financial implications associated with this proposal merely administration of National Health Service (NHS) Capital Grant.

Legal:

The authority has received capital grant under section 256 of the National Health Service Act 2006 in order to fund housing for a group of people moving from NHS Campuses. The Unitary Authorities have the statutory duty for housing as the Local Housing Authority where service users as individuals are eligible..

Risk Management:

There is a risk that not granting the monies will mean that current accommodation becomes unsuitable for the service users and renders them homeless.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

There are no Central Bedfordshire staff employed in the project.

Equalities/Human Rights:

The new housing will enable people with learning disabilities to have more choice and independence, enabling them to live within the broader community and bringing greater diversity to the area.

Community Safety:

The new properties will incorporate safety and security systems relevant to the service user group.

Sustainability:

The new properties will incorporate sustainable features where possible

RECOMMENDATION:

that the Council approves the Campus Closure Programme budget of £11.308m, noting that this is fully funded by capital grants from the NHS.

Re-provision of Learning Disability Housing

1. The NHS Campus Closure Programme is a Government initiative backed with NHS Capital funding in operation since 2007, to provide up to date and future proofed accommodation for people with severe learning disabilities who are currently living in a group of substandard care homes previously managed by the NHS. Central Bedfordshire Council manages the capital allocation on behalf of Bedford Borough and Luton Borough Councils as well as managing a large capital grant for the homes in Central Bedfordshire. The grant may only be used for the purpose of re-providing the accommodation for people with learning disabilities, with priority given to those in the existing care homes.
2. Approval was received from the Executive on 15 September 2009 for the programme. Individual projects have been approved by the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and People and the Portfolio Holder for Social Care and Health under delegated powers since 2009/10.

Use of the capital

3. As the detail of the care homes residents' need have been identified they are matched with their new accommodation adaptations to the building specifications and further equipment that will enable better and more cost effective care to be delivered. The additional capital grant will be spent on additional items necessary to accommodate this very disabled group of people and will include special baths, wheelchair accessible showers, mobility equipment such as lifts or hoists and assistive technology.

Increases in capital availability

4. Two former Bedford care homes belonging to BPHA but fully funded by NHS capital have been sold since 2009, and recycled capital of £820,000 has been added into the programme on behalf of Bedford Borough Council.
5. Three further homes, two in Central Bedfordshire and one in Luton, will provide further recycled NHS capital as the existing care homes are re-provided and can be sold.
6. Approval was given on a total programme budget of £10.031m in 2009 but this has increased to £11.308m following the inclusion of £1.2m in received and expected recycled capital receipts in the capital transfer agreements made by NHS Bedfordshire under the 2010/11, s256 of the National Health Service Act 2006.
7. This programme is within the total Council capital programme of £68.3m for 2011-12 and £26.7m for 2012-13, before grants, which was approved by Council on 24 February 2011. This programme will accordingly increase by £1.277m gross.

Conclusion

8. There is no impact on Central Bedfordshire Council capital resources as a result of this change. The programme will now run for a further two years in order to allow the completion of a number of projects that are reliant on the sequential refurbishments and resident moves.

Background Papers:

Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands

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