

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



please ask for Sandra Hobbs
direct line 0300 300 5257
date 2 September 2010

NOTICE OF MEETING

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

Date & Time

Thursday, 16 September 2010 at 6.30 p.m.

Venue at

Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford, SG17 5TQ

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 John Harper, Rural Dean of Shefford will take prayers.

1. **Apologies**

The Chairman to ask for any apologies received in advance of the meeting.
The Chairman to ask the meeting if there are any other apologies to be recorded.

2. **Minutes**

To approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 24 June 2010.

(Attached pages 5 to 16)

3. **Members' Interests**

To receive from Members any declarations and the **nature** thereof 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 Procedure as set out in Annex 1 of part A4 of the Constitution.

7. Petitions

To receive and discuss petitions in accordance with the Petitions Scheme as set out at Annex 2 of part A4 of the Constitution and Appendix A, Public Participation Procedure, at Part A4 of the Constitution.

8. Recommendation from the Executive

To consider the recommendation from the meeting of the Executive and answer questions asked under Rule No. 12.1.

	Date of Meeting	Page No.
Executive Arrangements under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007	13 July 2010	17 - 18

9. Recommendations from the Constitution Advisory Group

To consider the recommendations from the meeting of the Constitution Advisory Group and answer questions asked under Rule No. 12.1.

	Date of Meeting	Page No.
1. Code of Conduct for Officers - Hospitality and Gifts	13 July 2010	19 - 22
2. Review of Consultation and Negotiation Arrangements with the Professional Associations	13 July 2010	23 - 28

10. Recommendation from the General Purposes Committee

To consider the recommendation from the meeting of the General Purposes Committee and answer questions asked under Rule No. 12.1.

	Date of Meeting	Page No.
Designation of Monitoring Officer	24 August 2010	29 - 30

11. 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 31 to 34)

12. **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 35 to 38)

13. **Written Questions (If Any)**

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

The following written question has been received from Councillor Blaine:

“How many prosecutions has Central Bedfordshire Council initiated for fly tipping since its inception and what other actions have been taken against offenders?”

If these numbers are small:

What action does the Council intend to take in future to discourage this offensive practice?”

14. **Oral Questions**

To answer oral questions asked by Members of the Council under Rule No. 12.7.

15. **Motions (If Any)**

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

16. **Establishment of a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

To appoint four members of the Social Care Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise a consultation on Mental Health services which is to be undertaken by NHS Bedfordshire for people in the Central Bedfordshire, Bedford Borough and Luton areas.

(Attached pages 39 to 42)

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Thursday, 24 June 2010.

PRESENT

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

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

Apologies for Absence

Cllrs	A Fahn	Cllrs	D J Hopkin	Cllrs	D McVicar
	Mrs D B Gurney		J G Jamieson		R C Stay

Officers in Attendance:	Mr G Alderson	–	Director of Sustainable Communities
	Mr J Atkinson	–	Head of Legal Services
	Mr M Bowmer	–	Assistant Director Financial Services
	Mr R Carr	–	Chief Executive
	Mr R Ellis	–	Director of Customer and Shared Services
	Mrs E Grant	–	Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Children's Services
	Mrs S Hobbs	–	Democratic Services Officer
	Mrs K John	–	Head of Democratic Services
	Mrs J Ogley	–	Director of Social Care, Health and Housing

Prayers

Prayers were taken by Reverend Richard Andrews of Priory Church, Dunstable.

C/10/17

Minutes

Two amendments to the minutes of the Annual meeting of the Council held on 22 April 2010 were proposed:-

- Minute no C/10/10 'Recommendation from the Regulation Committee' referred to Alcohol Designation Order to restrict anti-social drinking in public places in Arlesey and Stotfold, should read Arlesey and "Shefford"; and
- Appendix A - Councillor Wells to be included in the membership of the Corporate Parenting Panel.

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the Annual meeting of the Council held on 22 April 2010 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the above amendments.

C/10/18

Members' Interests

(a) Personal Interests:-

None.

(b) Personal and Prejudicial Interests:-

None.

C/10/19

Chairman's Announcements and Communications

The Chairman congratulated Sir Samuel Whitbread on his appointment as Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (KCVO) in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. He had written to Sir Samuel Whitbread to convey the Council's congratulations to him and to Lady Whitbread.

The Chairman announced that his consort for his term of office would be Councillor Miss Sparrow.

The Chairman thanked the Regeneration and Skills Team for the Training, Employment and Enterprise Project Providers exhibition and presentation before the meeting. The Chairman also congratulated Harlington Upper School for achieving third place in the final of the competition for the East of England Young Enterprise of the Year.

The Chairman had attended 15 events since taking office. In particular the Chairman highlighted the excellent performance at the Wider Opportunities Concert at the Grove Theatre, Dunstable which featured lower and middle school children who had been given an opportunity to learn how to play instruments.

The Chairman pointed out that this was Armed Forces Week and collection boxes were located in the Reception areas at Priory House, Shefford and the Council Offices, Dunstable.

The Chairman hoped to be able to host a festival of music at the Grove Theatre, Dunstable on 27 March 2011 when young people and local music groups would be involved. He hoped that Members would support this event. The Chairman advised that for his nominated charities he was still looking at ways of being able to support smaller, local groups within Central Bedfordshire.

The Chairman advised Members that the Forest of Marston Vale had made it through to the final ten of a nationwide search for Britain's best environmental projects. Voting would take place between 26 July to 13 August 2010 to decide the last three projects. The nation would then vote for a winner who would then receive a cash prize to spend on the project.

The Chairman requested that Members complete the agenda and minutes subscription form to help improve efficiency through e-links to agendas on the Council's website.

C/10/20

Leader of the Council's Announcements and Communications

The Leader referred to the importance of the public inquiry for the proposed A5-M1 Link Road. She had written to the Secretary of State for Transport to make clear that the Council would be prepared to enter into an agreement to underwrite the cost of reinstating the public inquiry into the scheme.

The Leader had attended the Town and Parish Council Forum and the Staff Roadshows. The Leader recorded her thanks to the Head of Democratic Services, Kathrin John, who would be leaving the Council on 20 July 2010 to work for the Royal National Institute of Blind People. The Leader made a presentation on behalf of the Council and thanked her for her service and guidance. Members wished Mrs John a successful future. The Chairman allowed Mrs John to respond.

C/10/21

Questions, Statements and Deputations

A question from Mr Havergill, Chairman of Sandy and Beeston Allotment and Leisure Gardens Association had been received under Annex 1 of Part A4 of the Constitution, suggesting that a contribution from Section 106 Agreements be utilised for allotments in Central Bedfordshire. The Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Development indicated that he would discuss the matter with Planning Officers.

C/10/22 **Petitions**

In accordance with the Scheme of Public Participation set out in Annex 2 of Part A4 of the Constitution, the Council received notification of two petitions.

The first petition was handed to the Chairman by Councillor Green with a request for a pedestrian crossing in Meadway, Dunstable.

The second petition was handed to the Chairman by Councillor A Turner with a request for traffic calming measures in The Ridgeway, Flitwick.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Green and Councillor A Turner and advised Members that the petitions would be referred to the next Traffic Management meeting and the lead petitioners would be advised of the outcome.

C/10/23 **Recommendations from the Executive**

Executive – 24 June 2010

(a) Climate Change Strategy

The Council considered a recommendation from the meeting of the Executive held on 24 June 2010 which sought approval of the Climate Change Strategy. The Carbon Management Plan was being audited by the Carbon Trust and would be presented to a future meeting of the Executive for approval.

Members were advised that the Council would develop plans to monitor the Climate Change Strategy.

RESOLVED

that the Climate Change Strategy, attached at Appendix A to the Executive report, be adopted.

(b) Central Bedfordshire Council's Draft Single Equality and Diversity Scheme

The Council considered a recommendation from the meeting of the Executive held on 24 June 2010 which sought approval of the Draft Single Equality and Diversity Scheme for Central Bedfordshire.

RESOLVED

that the Draft Single Equality and Diversity Scheme for Central Bedfordshire, as set out at Appendices B and C to the Executive report, be adopted.

Executive – 8 June 2010

(c) Sustainable Community Strategy

The Council considered a recommendation from the meeting of the Executive held on 8 June 2010 which sought approval of the Sustainable Community Strategy 2010 – 2031.

The Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Development advised Members that with the change in Government, whilst the full implications for the growth agenda were not known at this stage, the eight priorities set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy remained important.

RESOLVED

that the Sustainable Community Strategy 2010 – 2031, as set out at Appendix A to the Executive report, be adopted.

(d) Community Engagement Strategy

The Council considered a recommendation from the meeting of the Executive held on 8 June which sought approval of the Community Engagement Strategy 2010 – 2013 and its proposed delivery plan as amended by the Executive.

RESOLVED

- 1. that the Community Engagement Strategy 2010 – 2013 and its proposed delivery plan, as amended by the Executive and attached at Appendices A and B to the Executive report, be adopted; and**
- 2. that the Head of Partnerships and Community Engagement work with directorates and partners to implement the Strategy.**

C/10/24

Recommendation from the General Purposes Committee

Recommendations of the Boundary Committee for England on the Electoral Review of Central Bedfordshire

The Council considered a recommendation from the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 3 June 2010 which sought approval of the draft submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission's 'Draft Recommendations on the New Electoral Arrangements for Central Bedfordshire Council'. Since the publication of the agenda, a response had been received from Leighton Linlade Town Council about the number of members per ward in Leighton Linlade. The Town Council had not suggested an alternative arrangement.

The Chairman of the Council's Electoral Arrangements Review Working Group highlighted the recommendations from the Boundary Commission, in particular the recommendation relating to Sandy, which involved a proposed three Member ward to include Blunham. The Working Group had recommended that the Council should not support this recommendation as Blunham lacked any links to Sandy and was closer in this respect to Moggerhanger.

Members thanked the Officers for their help on the Electoral Arrangements Review.

RESOLVED

1. **that the response from Leighton Linlade Town Council be noted;**
2. **that the draft submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission's 'Draft Recommendations on the New Electoral Arrangements for Central Bedfordshire Council', now submitted, be approved; and**
3. **that the Director of Customer and Shared Services, in consultation with the Chairman of the Electoral Arrangements Review Working Group, be authorised to respond to any questions from the Local Government Boundary Commission raised in connection with the submission.**

C/10/25

Recommendations from the Constitution Advisory Group

(a) Consultation Strategy within the Council's Policy Framework

The Council considered a recommendation from the meeting of the Constitution Advisory Group held on 1 June 2010 which sought the amendment to the Constitution to remove the words "Consultation Strategy" from Part B2 section 1.1.3.8 of the Constitution, as there was no separate Consultation Strategy.

RESOLVED

that Part B2 section 1.1.3.8 of the Constitution be amended by the removal of the words "Consultation Strategy".

(b) Call-In of Planning Applications by Members to Development Management Committee

The Council considered a revised report and a recommendation from the meeting of the Constitution Advisory Group held on 1 June 2010 which sought amendment to the Constitution to require that planning reason(s) be provided when a ward councillor calls-in a planning application to Development Management Committee. Members were advised that Officers would be able to advise them on the appropriate reasons for call-in. Development Management training was also available to all Members.

RESOLVED

that Part H section 4.3.95.1 of the Constitution be amended by the insertion of the words “and supported by the planning reason(s)” after the words “on an agreed pro forma”.

(c) Adoption of the Council’s Petitions Scheme and Consequential Changes to the Constitution

The Council considered a recommendation from the meeting of the Constitution Advisory Group held on 1 June 2010 which sought the approval of a Petitions Schemes and consequential amendment of the Constitution to comply with the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

RESOLVED

- 1. that for the purposes of the Petitions Scheme, the Chief Executive and all the Directors be nominated as the senior officers who would be subject to the requirement to give evidence at a meeting of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee in response to a petition;**
- 2. that the Council’s e-petitions facility be introduced with effect from 1 October 2010, subject to satisfactory testing;**
- 3. that the Petitions Scheme, as set out at Appendix A to the report, be approved;**
- 4. that the consequential amendments to the Constitution set out in Appendices B and C to the report, be approved.**

C/10/26 Report of the Bedfordshire Police Authority

A report from the meeting of the Bedfordshire Police Authority held on 21 May 2010 was submitted.

Councillor Hollick, representative of the Police Authority, elaborated on some of the issues in the submitted report.

C/10/27 Report of the Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority

A report from the meeting of the Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority held on 5 February 2010 was submitted.

Councillor Street, representative of the Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority, elaborated on some of the issues in the submitted report. A query was raised about the recruitment of retained fire-fighters. Members were advised that due to changed lifestyles and training requirements it was difficult to recruit retained fire-fighters.

C/10/28

Written Questions

Councillor J Murray had submitted two sets of written questions. The first was about the Grove Theatre, Dunstable and the second question was about the Dunstable Office Refurbishment. The Assistant Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Healthier Lifestyles and the Portfolio Holder for Customers, Systems and Assets tabled written responses, as set out below:-

Grove Theatre

1. On how many days in 2009 were there performances open to the public?

The Leisure Connection contract stipulates the venue should have activity for 244 days per year – In 2009 there were 266 days of activity which is made up of theatre, cinema, education and conferences. Theatre performances totalled 182 days.

2. What was the total number of seats sold in 2009 and what percentage of full capacity (i.e. full houses for 365 days) does that represent?

101,558 seats were sold. Full capacity is 780 seats x 182 shows = 141,960 seats. 101,558 represents 71% capacity. (This is not calculated on 365 days because the contract doesn't stipulate the venue has to have activity for 365, it is calculated on the number of theatre performances i.e. 182 days).

3. What was the cash value of seats sold in 2009?

Average ticket price is £14 x 101,558 tickets equals £1.42m.

4. How much, in cash terms, was Central Bedfordshire Council's contribution to the running of the Grove Theatre?

CBC pays £278,000 for the contract fee, plus 3% RPI plus £33,000 for utilities. (For information, in addition, CBC pays £50,000 to Colliers for a service contract around the Grove for security / cleaning).

Dunstable Office Refurbishment

1. How much was spent on new furniture in the Dunstable office's refurbishment?

Current expenditure is forecast at £151,500 which is on budget for this element of the Dunstable refurbishment.

2. Is it considered satisfactory by those who use it?

Both formal feedback (through post-move surveys) and ad-hoc feedback (through discussions with colleagues in the offices) is that the new furniture is considered satisfactory. Some staff who are having to work from older desks have shared their disappointment at not having new desks.

3. What is to become of the furniture which is being stored in empty units owned by the Council?

Furniture that is currently in store will be assessed for re-use within council offices on grounds of suitability and condition before the end of July. Where it is not suitable or of a sufficient quality and cannot be economically repaired, consideration will be given to the method of disposal. Surplus equipment will be offered to other not for profit organisations that have expressed interest in any furniture that is no longer required by the council.

4. Is it still serviceable and usable?

About half of the furniture in store could be re-used if need be. Whether this happens will depend upon how much of the furniture taken from Melbourne House and Borough Hall is of a better condition or more suited to the office space that has been created. The other half is currently in storage awaiting managed disposal either to an appropriate recycling company or possibly to voluntary/ charitable groups that have lodged requests with the council.

5. What is the Council doing to let these premises and gain income whilst they are full of furniture and where would Council move the furniture to, should someone take on a lease of these premises?

The units being used for storage were only made available on the understanding that if we had a tenant for any of the occupied units they would be vacated in readiness for occupation on completion of the lease and therefore not used in any way as to deny the council any rental income. It is our clear intention not to use these units for this purpose beyond the end of August at the very latest. By using the unit in this way at this time we have not incurred additional revenue costs and also not denied the council rental income, since there have been no potential tenants of the units used for storage. If potential tenants emerge arrangements will be made to re-locate the re-usable furniture to another location, and to accelerate the process of disposing of the stock which is beyond use for the council.

C/10/29

Oral Questions

The Chairman presided over oral questions asked of the Leader, Deputy Leader, Portfolio Holders, the Chairman of a Committee or a Member representing the Bedfordshire Police Authority or the Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority under Council Procedure Rule 12.7.

- 1) Councillor Dr Egan asked a question about the condition of the road at Thorn Turn, Houghton Regis.

The Assistant Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Healthier Lifestyles advised Members that he would provide a written response.

- 2) Councillor Aldis asked a question about the percentage of waste being recycled in Central Bedfordshire.

The Assistant Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Healthier Lifestyles advised Members that the percentage of waste recycled during 2009/10 was 50.3%. It was hoped that the Council would be able to recycle 60% of waste in Central Bedfordshire by 2020.

Councillor Aldis asked a supplementary question about the provision of a kerb side collection for glass.

The Assistant Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Healthier Lifestyles explained that there were a number of bottle banks located around Central Bedfordshire that could be used for recycling glass.

- 3) Councillor Mrs Chapman asked a question about the procedure for seeking an extension of the green belt between Aspley Guise and Milton Keynes.

The Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Development advised Members that the green belt was in the Council's own core strategy. He believed that the housing delivery in this area would not be imminent. The Government was introducing the Decentralisation and Localism Bill to devolve greater powers to councils and neighbourhoods and give local communities control over housing and planning decisions. Once the Bill was enacted it would be appropriate for the Council to follow this up.

- 4) Councillor Murray asked a question about problems with Amey's Road Helpline randomly deleting reference numbers.

The Assistant Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Healthier Lifestyles was not aware of the problem and would look into it.

- 5) Councillor Murray asked a question about the quality of grammar and punctuation contained in reports.

The Leader responded in the absence of the Deputy Leader that she would feed this information back to the Deputy Leader and agreed that all publications should be accurate.

- 6) Councillor Aldis asked a question about the procedure for grass cutting and the spraying of weed killer.

The Assistant Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Healthier Lifestyles advised that the Highways and Transport Services Guide had been provided to all Members of the Council. The spraying of weed killer took place between May and June and again in September, if necessary.

- 7) Councillor Mrs Chapman asked a question about what plans there were for calling in and refreshing the Core Strategy to better reflect the democratic wishes of the elected representatives of the people of Central Bedfordshire who were never consulted before MK Partnership forced the unwanted houses on Aspley Guise, remembering that these houses were never included in the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) RSS and were not included by the Secretary of State in the South East England Regional assembly (SEERA) RSS figures and were disallowed by the Inspector in the Central Beds North Core Strategy.

The Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Development advised Members that due to the change in Government, the position on the growth agenda was unclear and the Council would need to know how much growth would be needed for the area. Further information would be known once the South and North of Central Bedfordshire housing needs study had been carried out. The local MPs were seeking further advice from the Government on the manner in which the needs study should be carried out.

- 8) Councillor Mrs Chapman asked a question about keeping the Memorandum of Understanding with Milton Keynes Council after that Council had passed a resolution on 8 June 2010 "to give a commitment to oppose the expansion by stealth of Milton Keynes beyond its existing boundaries".

The Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Development explained that the Memorandum of Understanding was a useful document and would be kept for the time being.

C/10/30 **Motions (If Any)**

No motions had been received from Members of the Council under Rule No. 16.

C/10/31 **Annual Report from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees**

The Council received the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2009/10 which presented a summary of the activities undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees during the municipal year 2009/10. Members thanked Councillor Gibson as Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel for 2009/10 and the Overview and Scrutiny Team for their hard work.

RESOLVED

to note the contents of the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for the municipal year 2009/10.

C/10/32 **Designation of Statutory Officers**

The Council considered a report of the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and People that requested the Council to designate posts to fulfil the statutory officer roles of the Chief Finance/Section 151 Officer, Monitoring Officer and Scrutiny Officer.

RESOLVED

1. **that the post of Assistant Director, Financial Services be designated as Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer);**
2. (a) **that the post of Assistant Director, Governance be designated as Monitoring Officer following recruitment to the post;**

(b) **that the principle of appointing an Interim Monitoring Officer from among the existing Deputy Monitoring Officers at the point that the position of Monitoring Officer becomes vacant, be approved;**

(c) **that the Director of Customer and Shared Services, after consultation with the Leader of the Council, accordingly be authorised to designate one of the existing Deputy Monitoring Officers as Interim Monitoring Officer, should this prove necessary;**
3. **that the post of Assistant Director, Strategy and Performance be designated as Scrutiny Officer; and**
4. **that the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Constitution Advisory Group, be authorised to make the necessary amendments to paragraph 2 of Part H1 of the Constitution to reflect the new statutory officer designations proposed above.**

(Note: The meeting commenced at 6.30 p.m. and concluded at 8.40 p.m.)

Chairman

Dated

COUNCIL MEETING – 16 SEPTEMBER 2010

Recommendation to Council from the Executive meeting held on 13 July 2010

**Minute No
E/10/40**

Executive Arrangements under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

The Leader introduced the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and People's report setting out the requirements of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 covering the Council's executive arrangements and the proposed response to those requirements.

(NOTE: A copy of the report had been circulated with the Executive agenda to all Councillors.)

The Executive noted that the majority of the requirements of the "new style" leader and cabinet executive were already in place and had been subject to wide consultation both with the public and key stakeholders as part of the case for unitary government in Central Bedfordshire. In view of this it was considered that it would be inappropriate and disproportionate to undertake a further round of extensive consultation on the Council's executive arrangements.

Members noted that should the authority decide to retain the leader and cabinet model, there would still be a statutory requirement to pass a formal Council resolution before 31 December 2010 to adopt the new style of leader and cabinet arrangements which would then come into effect 3 days after the local elections in May 2011. It was noted that the Constitution would also need to be amended to reflect the extension of the Leader's term of office to four years.

Reason for decision: To comply with the requirements of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to pass a resolution by 31 December 2010 to adopt the new style leader and cabinet executive arrangements.

RESOLVED

the Executive notes:-

- (a) the requirement for the full Council to pass a resolution by 31 December 2010 to adopt either a "new style" leader and cabinet executive or elected mayor and cabinet arrangements;**
- (b) that the Central Bedfordshire bid submission, which was subject to extensive public consultation, was based on the adoption of the "new style" leader and cabinet arrangements; and**

- (c) that the Constitution already contains all the required statutory provisions of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 relating to the “new style” leader and cabinet executive arrangements, save for the provision relating to the extension of the term of office of the Leader, as set out in paragraph 7 of the submitted report refers.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

that Council be recommended to resolve at its meeting on 16 September 2010, that it is minded, subject to consideration of views received, to pass a resolution at its meeting on 25 November 2010, to adopt the “new style” leader and cabinet executive arrangements for implementation on the third day after the elections in May 2011.

[Please note that a copy of the original report can be found on the Central Bedfordshire Council web site at the following link:

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/modgov/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=15718>

Recommendation to Council On (16 September 2010	From: Constitution Advisory Group	On 13 July 2010
	Code of Conduct for Officers - Hospitality and Gifts	
1.	Council is asked to approve the following recommendation:-	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That Part F3 section 5 of the Constitution be amended to show more stringent arrangements for the acceptance of gifts and hospitality by officers, as set out in the proposed wording shown at Appendix A. 	
2.	Background	
2.1	An audit was recently undertaken which identified a need for greater clarity to ensure that officers were aware of their responsibilities regarding gifts and hospitality.	
2.2	The Constitution Advisory Group considered that the Officer Code of Conduct should be amended to set out more stringent requirements for the officers on gifts and hospitality. It also asked that a Guidance Note be provided to officers, separate to the Constitution, regarding their responsibilities with regard to gifts and hospitality.	
3	Reason for Recommendations	
3.1	The Officer Code of Conduct set out in the Constitution should be amended to clearly show the requirements and responsibilities of officers for recording and accepting gifts and hospitality.	
3.2	The proposed changes to the Constitution are set out at Appendix A.	
Appendices	Appendix A	Sets out the section of the Constitution showing how it would change if Council approves the recommendations

[Please note that a copy of the original report can be found on the Central Bedfordshire Council web site at the following link:

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/modgov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=651&MId=3477&Ver=4>

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Appendix A

5. Hospitality and Gifts

5.1 In undertaking their duties officers may be offered gifts or hospitality from persons or organisations having, or proposing to have, a contractual or client relationship with the Council. Such offers could be made to gain an advantage over another person or organisation or could be construed as such and therefore must not be **accepted without prior approval from an appropriate Assistant Director.**

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5.2 If officers receive a gift of any description then this must be made known to their Assistant Director who will decide on the course of action to be taken. Likewise only hospitality for which prior approval has been given by your Assistant Director should be accepted from outside persons or organisations. **Small gifts, such as pens, calendars, diaries etc, provided they are not of material value, need not be declared.**

5.3 **The Gifts and Hospitality form must be completed and ANY** gifts or hospitality agreed and accepted will be recorded in writing in the register maintained by each Director for their service areas. The Chief Executive and all Directors should record the receipt of any gifts or hospitality they receive in the register maintained by the Monitoring Officer.

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<p>Recommendation to Council On 16 September 2010</p>	<p>From: Constitution Advisory Group</p>	<p>On 13 July 2010</p>
<p>Review of Consultation and Negotiation Arrangements with the Professional Associations</p>		
<p>1.</p>	<p>Council is asked to approve the following recommendations:-</p>	
	<p>(a)</p>	<p>to remove the Joint Consultative and Negotiating Committee for primary and secondary education (JCNC) from the constitution at sections E2 10 and E2 7 paragraph 7.1.5;</p>
	<p>(b)</p>	<p>to add a new paragraph 7.1.6 at Part E as follows:</p> <p>To consider and determine any matter relating to HR policies or terms or conditions of employment referred from the Joint Consulting and Negotiating Forum in circumstances where it has not been possible to reach agreement between staff and management sides on such matters.</p> <p><i>Note: The Joint Consultative and Negotiating Forum is an informal group comprising the Portfolio holder for Children’s Services, the Director of Children’s Services and representatives of 7 professional associations for primary and secondary education.</i></p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>Background</p>	
<p>2.1</p>	<p>In recent months discussions have been held to review the existing consultation and negotiation framework for schools (JCNC and working parties) with a view to streamlining and improving efficiency and effectiveness.</p>	
<p>2.2</p>	<p>When the terms of reference were first considered for the JCNC it was acknowledged that there would be a review after 12 months, when there would be a better understanding by Members, officers and the professional associations of the effectiveness and appropriateness of the Joint Consultative and Negotiating Committee.</p>	
<p>2.3</p>	<p>The Constitution Advisory Group at its meeting on 1 June 2010 noted the business case for moving to an alternative arrangement.</p>	
<p>2.4</p>	<p>In order to take into account the views of General Purposes Committee which had considered the matter at its meeting on 2 June 2010, the Constitution Advisory Group considered the matter further at its meeting on 13 July 2010 with the Chairman of General Purposes</p>	

	Committee present and participating in the discussion.	
3.	Reasons for the Recommendations	
3.1	The business case for replacing the JCNC with a Forum comprising the Portfolio holder for Children’s Services, the Director of Children’s Services and representatives from the Professional Associations was acknowledged by General Purposes Committee and the Constitution Advisory Group.	
3.2	To enable the Joint Consultative and Negotiating Committee to be disbanded and replaced by a Forum, which would provide a summary report to General Purposes Committee arising from each meeting, it is necessary to amend the Constitution as set out in the recommendations and shown at Appendix A .	
Appendices	Appendix A	Sets out the section of the Constitution showing how it would change if Council approves the recommendations

[Please note that a copy of the original report can be found on the Central Bedfordshire Council web site at the following link:

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/modgov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=651&MId=3477&Ver=4>

Appendix A

Review of Consultation and Negotiating Arrangements with the Professional Associations

Proposed amendments to the Constitution

- Remove section E2 page 10 Terms of Reference for the Joint Consultative Committee for Primary and Secondary Education.
- At E2 section 7 Terms of Reference for General Purposes Committee
 - (a) remove reference to the Joint Negotiating and Consultative Committee at paragraph 7.1.5 as shown;
 - (b) add a new paragraph and note at 7.1.6 and renumber the paragraphs which follow as shown.

7. The General Purposes Committee

Appointed by:	The Council under Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972
No of Members:	7 including at least one member of the Executive
Chairman and Vice-Chairman appointed by:	The Council
Quorum	At least 50% of the membership of the Committee
Frequency	Quarterly
Venue	As set out in the approved Calendar of Meetings ¹ 1 unless otherwise agreed by the Chairman, Monitoring Officer or Committee by resolution.
Co-opted members	None

7.1 Terms of Reference

- 7.1.1 To make arrangements for the appointment of the Head of Paid Service, Directors, Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer and the dismissal of the Head of Paid Service, via the Appointments Sub-Committee.
- 7.1.2 To determine strategic employee policies.
- 7.1.3 To determine terms and conditions of employment for employees.
- 7.1.4 To determine the award of any discretionary payments to employees under the Local Government Pension Scheme or the Council's Severance Policy
- 7.1.5 To consider any matter referred by the Employee Partnership Committee.

7.1.6 To consider and determine any matter relating to HR policies or terms or conditions of employment referred from the Joint Consulting and Negotiating Forum in circumstances where it has not been possible to reach agreement between staff and management sides on such matters.

Deleted: or the Joint Consultative and Negotiating Committee for Primary and Secondary Education

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Note: The Joint Consultative and Negotiating Forum is an informal group comprising the Portfolio holder for Children's Services, the Director of Children's Services and representatives of 7 professional associations for primary and secondary education.

7.1.7 To carry out all functions relating to elections, electoral registration, changing governance arrangements and community governance reviews (specified in column 1 of Schedule 1 to the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 as may be amended from time to time).

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7.1.8 To deal with matters relating to the civic and ceremonial activities of the Council.

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7.1.9 To consider all matters relating to the name and status of the area and individuals

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7.1.10 To deal with all other non-Executive functions which are not reserved to the full Council or are not otherwise delegated.

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7.2 Limitation of Powers

The Committee will have full delegated powers subject to the following exceptions which shall be recommended for full Council approval:-

7.2.1 The approval of any proposal to change the name of the Council or a Parish

7.2.2 The approval of any recommendations arising from the conduct of a community governance review under Section 86 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

7.2.3 The power to petition for a charter to confer borough status.

7.2.4 Proposals for submission to the Boundary Committee for England in respect of:-

7.2.4.1 Electoral arrangements for the District and those Parishes within Central Bedfordshire; and

7.2.4.2 Parliamentary Constituencies within Bedfordshire.

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COUNCIL MEETING – 16 SEPTEMBER 2010

Recommendation to Council from the General Purposes Committee held on 24 August 2010

Minute No Members considered a report regarding the appointment to the new post of Head of Legal and Democratic Services, and the designation of that post as Monitoring Officer to the Council. The report reminded Members that, at the Committee's meeting on 10 February 2010, consideration was given to proposals for the appointment of all posts below Director level to be the responsibility of Directors with the exception of the Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer. At that point the revised senior management structures were still being finalised. Members noted that subsequently, following the decision of the Appointments Sub-Committee on 13 May 2010 not to appoint to the post of Assistant Director (Governance)/Monitoring Officer, the Director of Customer and Shared Services had carried out a further structural review.

The meeting was advised that the review had concluded that the post of Assistant Director (Governance)/Monitoring Officer should be deleted and Head of Service roles in that area be reviewed and reconfigured. Further, it was now proposed that the Monitoring Officer role be carried out at Head of Service level in the form of a new post of Head of Legal and Democratic Services which would report directly to the Director of Customer and Shared Services.

Members noted that the appointment to the post of Head of Legal and Democratic Services would be made by the Appointment Sub-Committee but the designation of the post as Monitoring Officer, as a statutory post, would need to be agreed by full Council.

In response some concern was expressed that the Monitoring Officer role might be weakened by appointing at the Head of Service level as this could fail to reflect the significant level of responsibility exercised. In addition concern was expressed that, at Head of Service level, the officer could lack authority, especially when dealing with complaints against a Director. However, the Acting Assistant Director, People explained that the importance of the post was fully recognised which was why it would report directly to the Director of Customer and Shared Services. He added that the Appointments Sub-Committee would ensure that the applicant with the necessary skills, abilities and experience was appointed.

A Member reminded the Committee of the possible abolition of the Standards regime and the resulting emphasis on the role of the Monitoring Officer.

Following a suggestion by a Member the Acting Assistant Director, People undertook to discuss the possibility of emphasising the importance of the role played by the Monitoring Officer by placing the post of Head of Legal and Democratic Services directly alongside that of the Director of Customer and Shared Services on the Directorate's organisational chart.

RECOMMENDED to Council

that the post of Head of Legal and Democratic Services be designated as Monitoring Officer and report directly to the Director of Customer and Shared Services.

NOTED

that, as set out in paragraph 8.1 of Part E2 of the Council's Constitution, the appointment to the post of Head of Legal and Democratic Services will be made by the Appointments Sub-Committee.

[Please note that a copy of the report can be found on the Central Bedfordshire Council web site at the following link:

[http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/modgov/Published/C00000617/M00003542/AI00020434/\\$DesignationofMonitoringOfficerV2.docA.ps.pdf](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/modgov/Published/C00000617/M00003542/AI00020434/$DesignationofMonitoringOfficerV2.docA.ps.pdf)



CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

16TH September 2010

1. MEETING

The Authority last met on 16 July 2010

The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the options available for ensuring the delivery of an effective police service for Bedfordshire whilst facing severe budgets cuts. Also included in this report is an update on current performance.

2. OPTIONS FOR CHANGE

The Authority received a joint outline business case from the Chief Constables of Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire which identified and evaluated a range of options aimed at maintaining the quality of policing services. This report was presented at a time when public services are facing significant reductions in their budgets over the coming years.

The business case had highlighted that the projected combined budget gap for the two Forces between 2011/12 and 2014/15 was £40.6m (£15.1m from Bedfordshire and £25.5M from Hertfordshire). However, the current and planned cost saving projects would deliver annual savings of £17M across the two Forces leaving a gap of £23.6m (£9.5m from Bedfordshire and £14.1 from Hertfordshire). To address this gap the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Project team had considered 9 potential options and following an evaluation of these options put forward the following three options.

1. Independence with a Preferred Collaboration Partner plus a savings programme requiring major internal cuts
2. Extended collaboration (with Hertfordshire) plus a savings programme requiring significant cuts
3. Full and voluntary merger plus a savings programme requiring cuts.

The business case had identified option 3 as the preferred option for delivery of an effective police service in both Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. Legislation requires that the Authority consults with the public on the policing for its area and therefore at this stage Members were being asked to undertake a consultation exercise with the public and stakeholders.

The day before the Police Authority meeting Nick Herbert the Policing Minister submitted his views on the business case. The Minister had set out the Government's position on the approval of merger proposals. In the light of this he suggested that each Authority 'consider carefully' the scope for deeper and more extensive collaboration.

There was considerable discussion on the issue and by a small minority it was agreed to commence a programme of consultation to evaluate public opinion on the concept.

However, Hertfordshire Police Authority members, independently considering the same report, voted to defer taking a decision on their preferred option until further collaboration and joint working opportunities have been considered.

This means that consultation will not take place in either county and the proposals for a merger between the two forces will not be taken any further forward at this time.

Work will now begin with the joint collaboration team, plus other forces and partners in Bedfordshire, to explore opportunities to deliver significant savings whilst minimising the negative impact on the policing service provided to the residents of Bedfordshire.

3. PERFORMANCE

Members of the Performance and Planning Committee are pleased with the direction of travel for Force performance in the first quarter.

Confidence and satisfaction levels are improving and particularly pleasing for Members has been the reduction in the gap between white and BME satisfaction where considerable focus has been placed. Serious Acquisitive Crime levels, (burglary, robbery, theft of /theft from motor vehicles) whilst not yet on target for this year remain lower than the previous year. Successes this quarter have been seen in the area of theft of/theft from motor vehicles. A positive impact on the of Serious Acquisitive crime performance has been the partnership working on Integrated Offender Management which has helped the Force learn more about the offending behaviour. Members will receive an evaluation of the contribution to Serious Acquisitive crime performance at its next meeting. A key improvement area continues to be the reduction in the number of domestic burglaries which in the first quarter was 21% higher than the previous year.

Over recent months the performance around tackling serious violent crime has been an area of concern. Members have voiced their concern that the targets set by the Police Authority for the number of serious violence offences recorded and detected were being missed. Members have therefore welcomed the fact that a dedicated Serious Violence Strategy is being developed by the Force which would bring together all the strands of activity for dealing with most serious violence and violence against the person.

At the meeting the Committee examined in detail the initiatives that the Force had in place for tackling serious violent crime. Members particularly acknowledged that alcohol was often a factor in violent crime, Members were keen to understand the resource implications should the current licensing laws be changed. Members felt that if the plans to banish the late night opening hours and reinstate traditional pub and club opening hours are introduced, valuable police resources will be saved. These resources could then be effectively redeployed in other areas dependent on need.

Members also acknowledged that the demand for policing services due to the night time economy had been significantly helped by multi-agency initiatives. The SOS Bus in Luton, which is available in the Town Centre on Friday and Saturday nights, has helped to reduce the call on services for the Police and the Ambulance/Health services. In addition, Street Pastors in Dunstable, Leighton Buzzard and Bedford have provided a reassuring presence and helping hand for people needing assistance.

Significant investment has been made to reduce crime in these priority areas and therefore the Authority will continue to focus their attention on these areas at future meetings to ensure that there is a return on this investment for the communities of Bedfordshire.

Tackling serious sexual crimes such as rape had, with the introduction in 2009 of a dedicated Rape Investigation Unit, intended to improve the service provided to victims and ultimately increase the number of cases successfully brought to justice.

However Members were disappointed to hear from the Chief Constable that the detection rate for serious sexual offences over the first three months of this year was only 16.5% which was unacceptable against a stretching target set by the Police Authority for the year of 27%. The Chief Constable explained that the number of detections for this type of crime can fluctuate appreciably over a few months and pointed out that the number of offences successfully brought to justice was at 34.4%, above the 32% annual target and the Rape Investigation Unit had helped to achieve this.

Violence and fear of violence remains a key priority for improvement and will continue to be monitored by the Committee.

Despite the decision by the Coalition Government to discontinue the Policing Pledge the Committee was unanimous in their view that the principles of the Pledge, namely delivering a first class service to local residents and those who need the services of the police, should not be abandoned. However, they felt that many of the ten strands of the Pledge were in fact 'business as usual' and were already being met in different ways. The need to report against every separate aspect was questioned and it was agreed that the Authority's Community Engagement Committee would consider specific areas to be monitored with a view to reducing the current level of bureaucracy around reporting arrangements.

PETER HOLLICK
REPORT OF THE BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY

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BEDFORDSHIRE AND LUTON COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

REPORT OF THE BEDFORDSHIRE AND LUTON COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY FROM ITS MEETING ON 30 APRIL 2010 TO CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

MEETINGS

Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority (CFA) held its Annual General Meeting on 30 June 2010 at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters. The major issues discussed at the meeting are summarised below:

1. MEMBERSHIP

Councillor J Burnett was welcomed to her first meeting of the Combined Fire Authority.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor S Timoney was elected as Chair of the Fire Authority for the ensuing year.

3. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Councillor R Davies was elected as Vice Chair of the Fire Authority for the ensuing year.

4. CFA TREASURER

The Chair advised the meeting that this was to be the last meeting attended by Mr V Logan, who was about to retire as CFA Treasurer. Mr Logan had held the post of CFA Treasurer since the CFA was established in 1997.

5. STANDARDS REGIME

The Secretary/Monitoring Officer advised that the Government had announced in the Queen's Speech that the proposed Decentralisation and Localism Bill would include proposals to 'abolish the Standards Board regime'.

The precise scope of the proposals was currently not known and, until legislation had been enacted, the Standards Committee would continue to perform its statutory roles of promoting high standards of ethical conduct and dealing with complaints that the Code of Conduct had been breached.

6. DRAFT COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2010-13

Members considered a draft Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) for 2010-13 together with summaries of the associated public and staff consultations exercises.

It was agreed that Officers should consider how best to reflect and communicate any changes in the CRMP resulting from the consultation exercises, with any further changes to

the CRMP being agreed by the Combined Fire Authority at its next meeting on 9 September 2010.

7. TREASURY MANAGEMENT – ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2009/10

The Treasurer presented the Authority's Annual Report for Treasury Management for 2009/10, which noted the Borrowing/Investment Strategy, Interest Rate Movements, Investment/Borrowing Operations, and Prudential Indicators and Performance Measurement.

8. INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10 AND AUDIT PROGRAMME FOR 2010/11

Stephen Lake, Audit Manager of Tribal Business Assurance, the Authority's Internal Auditors, presented the 2009/10 Annual Report on the Authority's Internal Control Environment and the Audit Programme for 2010/11.

Of the eight areas reviewed, three had been assessed as providing substantial assurance and four areas were assessed as providing reasonable assurance.

One area, ICT – Back-up and Recovery, had been assessed as providing 'limited assurance' and recommendations had been made to further strengthen the control environment in these areas.

9. COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENT (CAA)

Members had earlier noted that CAA had been abolished and all work updating the Area and Organisation Assessments had ceased.

However, the Audit Commission was to continue to deliver the audit in line with the statutory Code of Audit under which they were required to give a value for money conclusion alongside their opinion on the financial statements. The Audit Commission was also to report any significant findings in the Annual Audit Letter but would not be reporting a score for the Use of Resources.

As the Audit Commission had not identified any risks from their data quality checks last year and the management arrangements review for data quality were found to be adequate, they had confirmed that they would not be conducting a data quality assessment for the Service this year.

In 2009/10 the Service's overall assessment was scored as performing adequately. The Service had improved substantially in this area of audit since the last assessment and had been expecting a score of 3 (Performing Well) for the Managing Performance Assessment. Whilst this matter would not now be verified by the Audit Commission, it was considered that this work would have achieved an overall assessment of 'Performing Well' in 2010/11 for the Authority.

10. PERFORMANCE REPORT 2009/10 QUARTER 4 AND YEAR END

Members noted a report detailing and comparing the Service's performance against its performance indicators for the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010 against the same period in 2008, as well as the progress on projects contained in the 2009-10 Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP).

11. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2009/10

Members adopted a Statement of Accounts for 2009/10, subject to audit.

The District Auditor was, before 30 September 2010, to carry out a formal audit of the accounts and issue an Audit Certificate. The Statement would then be made available for public inspection.

Members noted that the Auditor would be starting the formal audit on 12 July 2010.

12. REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING – 2010/11

On 5 February 2010 the Authority approved its 2010/11 Revenue Budget of £28,498,725. It had previously endorsed the proposal that a regular monitoring report should be submitted to each of its meetings, and Members received the first report for 2010/11.

13. REVENUE BUDGET STRATEGY

Members agreed a Strategy for formulating the 2011/12 Revenue Budget.

14. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY REPORT 2010

Members received a report on the Fire and Rescue Service's Equality and Diversity Report 2010 Questionnaire Submission covering 1 January to 31 December 2009 and the subsequent National Equality and Diversity Report 2010.

15. PUBLICATION OF EXPENDITURE AND OTHER INFORMATION

Communities and Local Government (CLG) had released a press notice urging all councils to publish details of all spending over £500 in full and online as part of wider scheme to improve openness and accountability.

In September 2010, draft Codes of Practice on payments over £500 and contracts / invitations to tender over £500 were to be published for formal consultation, with final codes of practice expected in November 2010 to enable authorities to publish in January 2011.

16. 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 Sandy expressed thanks to the crews from Woburn, Ampthill and Kempston Blue Watch following her involvement in a road traffic collision:

.....'On 23 January 2010 I was involved in a serious traffic accident near junction 13 of the M1 on the way to Milton Keynes. It was 8.30 am and I was taking my Mum out for the day shopping and was waiting at the lights when a car came off the slip road and struck me on the driver's door.

My Mum and I were trapped in the car and I am told that your crew helped cut us both free. I do not remember their names or faces just voices trying to keep us calm and help me breathe.

Will you please identify those people and pass on my sincere gratitude for their help which no doubt saved our lives.

My beloved Mum is almost 77 and was badly bruised, shocked and broke her elbow. I broke 5 ribs and badly damaged my right arm. After 6 days in intensive care and a further 10 days in the ward I am recovering at home and now almost 6 weeks after the event I am pleased to say we are both doing well.

Thank you so much, I really don't know what else to say.'.....

A member of the public sent a message of thanks via the Service website:

.....'This message is to the crews from Shefford and Stopsley Fire Stations that came out to the rescue of my horse ... on 12 March 2010. I would just like to say a huge thank you to everyone for the speedy response to my call and the efficient and caring way they dealt with my problem.'.....

A resident from Willington expressed thanks to Bedford Red Watch following a Home Fire Safety Check:

.....'I would like to say thank you for the service we received after our smoke alarm was faulty.

The service was very good from the first phone call to Watch Commander Tai and Firefighter Brewer's response.

Both were friendly and helpful. .

Thank you again.'.....

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

Meeting: Council

Date: 16 September 2010

Subject: Establishment of a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Report of: Cllr Carol Hegley, Portfolio Holder for Social Care and Health

Summary: This report invites the Council to appoint four members of the Social Care Health and Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise a consultation on Mental Health services which is to be undertaken by NHS Bedfordshire for people in the Central Bedfordshire, Bedford Borough and Luton areas.

Advising Officers: Ian Porter, Assistant Director Strategy and Performance

Contact Officer: Cheryl Powell, Overview and Scrutiny Officer

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

It is of great importance that members are mindful of the Council's priorities

Financial:

Any costs arising from the establishment and running of the Joint Committee can be met from existing Bedford Borough Council budgets.

Legal:

The Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny of Health Function) Regulations 2001 require that NHS bodies consult the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee where there is a proposed substantial variation or development of health services in the area. Overview and Scrutiny Committees are statutory consultees. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee can decide whether or not it wishes to respond to the consultation.

Under Section 7 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001, Social Services authorities are required to appoint an Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review health services within the local authority area. In Central Bedfordshire Council, this function is carried out by the Social Care, Health and Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Further to this, the Secretary of State issued a Direction in 2003 with regard to NHS consultations that cover several local authorities. Where this is the case, those authorities' Overview and Scrutiny committees that wish to be involved in the consultation must form a Joint Committee. Councils' Overview and Scrutiny Committees cannot choose to be consulted separately.

Under current legislation, a joint committee of this nature is required to be politically proportionate unless the Councils involved agree to waive that requirement. In the Eastern Region, Joint Health Scrutiny Committees usually waive the proportionality requirement. In this case, if the membership numbers are satisfactory, it is felt that Council would be able to appoint from across the political groups without the need for the committee to be formally proportionate.

Risk Management: None

Staffing (including Trades Unions): None

Equalities/Human Rights:

The aim of equality legislation is to ensure that resources invested in public services actually benefit all those they are aimed at or who need them.

When developing proposals and making decisions, the Council has a requirement to comply with its statutory equality duties by ensuring that decisions are made in such a way as to minimise unfairness, and that they do not have a disproportionately negative effect on people from different ethnic groups, disabled people, and men and women. The effect of any proposed variation of health service will be considered as part of the Equality Impact Assessments particularly in identified high risk areas.

Community Safety: None

Sustainability: None

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Council:

- 1. approve the establishment of a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee with Central Bedfordshire Council, Bedford Borough Council and Luton Borough Council to scrutinise the forthcoming consultation on Mental Health Services to be undertaken by NHS Bedfordshire.**
- 2. approve the nomination of four members to serve on the above Committee.**

Reason for Recommendation(s): To enable the Council to participate in this review.

Background

1. NHS Bedfordshire has informed the Council that, following the transfer of Mental Health Services to the South Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust, there will be a consultation on the development of services for people in Central Bedfordshire, Bedford Borough and Luton Borough Council localities. This consultation is planned to take place from September 2010, after which the NHS Bedfordshire Board will take a decision about services.
2. It is understood that this consultation on service transformation will cover three areas:
 - Reconfiguration of inpatient services for adults and older people
 - Reconfiguration of community services
 - Management of long term and continuing care
3. The scope of this consultation will qualify it as a 'substantial variation or development' of local services under the Health and Social Care Act 2001. Given that the services delivered cover more than one local authority area, those councils wishing to respond to the consultation are required to establish a joint health overview and scrutiny committee (JHOSC). If a JHOSC is established, it will include Central Bedfordshire Council, Bedford Borough Council and Luton Borough Council. The legislation recommends that JHOSCs are politically proportionate, unless the Councils taking part agree to waive that requirement.
4. In this case, with three councils, it is recommended that the JHOSC comprise four members from each council, on the basis that this Council's representation consists of three members from the Conservative Group and one member of the Liberal Democrat Group. The nominations from Central Bedfordshire are:

Councillor Susan Goodchild
Councillor John Kane
Councillor Andrew Turner
Councillor Ann Sparrow

Next Steps

5. The Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will agree its terms of reference at its first meeting at a date to be arranged.
6. It is anticipated that the Committee will be able to complete its work between *September 2010 and March 2011* although the schedule will depend on the start of the 12 week consultation period.

Appendices: None

Background Papers: None

Location of papers: N/A

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