

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL** held in the Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Thursday, 19 April 2012.

PRESENT

Cllr P Hollick (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs R B Gammons (Vice-Chairman)

Cllrs	P N Aldis	Cllrs	C C Gomm	Cllrs	B Saunders
	Mrs A Barker		Mrs S A Goodchild		J A G Saunders
	A R Bastable		Mrs D B Green		N J Sheppard
	R D Berry		Mrs C Hegley		I Shingler
	L Birt		J G Jamieson		M A Smith
	M C Blair		D Jones		Miss A Sparrow
	D Bowater		M R Jones		B J Spurr
	A D Brown		D J Lawrence		R C Stay
	Mrs C F Chapman MBE		Mrs J G Lawrence		A M Turner
	Mrs S Clark		I A MacKilligan		Mrs P E Turner MBE
	J A E Clarke		K C Matthews		M A G Versallion
	N B Costin		Ms C Maudlin		N Warren
	I Dalgarno		D McVicar		B Wells
	A L Dodwell		J Murray		P Williams
	Mrs R J Drinkwater		Mrs M Mustoe		J N Young
	P A Duckett		T Nicols		A Zerny
	Dr R Egan		R B Pepworth		

Apologies for Absence

Cllrs	Mrs D B Gurney	Cllrs	R W Johnstone	Cllrs	R D Wenham
	D J Hopkin		A Shadbolt		
	K Janes		P F Vickers		

Officers:	Mr J Atkinson	–	Head of Legal and Democratic Services
	Miss H Bell	–	Committee Services Officer
	Mr R Carr	–	Chief Executive
	Ms D Clarke	–	Interim Assistant Chief Executive (People & Organisation)
	Mr P Dudley	–	Assistant Director Children's Services (Learning & Strategic Commissioning)
	Mr A Fleming	–	Project Director - Business Services
	Mrs S Hobbs	–	Committee Services Officer
	Mr T Keaveney	–	Assistant Director Housing Services
	Ms M Peaston	–	Committee Services Manager
	Mr C Warboys	–	Chief Finance Officer & Section 151 Officer

Prayers

Prayers were taken by Reverend Martin Hathaway.

C/12/1 **Election of Chairman (only if the current Chairman and Vice-Chairman are absent)**

As the Chairman of the Council was present, this item was withdrawn.

C/12/2 **Election of Chairman 2012/13**

The Chairman invited nominations for the office of Chairman of the Council for the municipal year 2012/13. Councillor Mrs A Barker was duly proposed and seconded. There were no other nominations.

RESOLVED

that Councillor Mrs A Barker be elected to the office of Chairman of the Council for the municipal year 2012/13.

Councillor Mrs A Barker then read out and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Thereafter the newly-elected Chairman thanked Members for their support for electing her as Chairman.

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED

to place on record the Council's sincere thanks for the services rendered by Councillor P Hollick, the out-going Chairman, in the discharge of the important and exacting duties of the office over the period from 22 April 2010 to 19 April 2012 and to thank Councillor Miss Sparrow for her invaluable support to Councillor P Hollick during this period.

Councillor P Hollick was then presented with a certificate and thereafter thanked Members for their support. During his term of office he had raised in the region of £10,000 for distribution to local organisations. Councillor Hollick placed on record his thanks to the Chairman's Personal Assistant, Councillor Miss Sparrow and the out-going Vice-Chairman, Councillor Mrs R Gammons.

C/12/3 **Election of Vice-Chairman 2012/13**

The Chairman invited nominations for the office of Vice-Chairman of the Council for the municipal year 2012/13. Councillor Ms C Maudlin was duly proposed and seconded. There were no other nominations.

RESOLVED

that Councillor Ms C Maudlin be elected to the office of Vice-Chairman of the Council for the municipal year 2012/13.

Councillor Ms C Maudlin then read out and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Thereafter the outgoing Vice-Chairman thanked Members for their support and congratulated the incoming Vice-Chairman.

C/12/4 **Minutes**

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2012 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

C/12/5 **Members' Interests**

(a) **Personal Interests:-**

None.

(b) **Personal and Prejudicial Interests:-**

None.

C/12/6 **Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

The Chairman explained that it would be an honour to represent Central Bedfordshire Council during 2012/13, especially with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations closely followed by the Olympics. She also expressed her best wishes to those employees taking part in the London Marathon.

The Chairman announced that her nominated charity would be the East Anglian Air Ambulance. She was looking forward to meeting residents, organisations and businesses in Central Bedfordshire.

The Chairman reported on the continuing success of the Council in delivering much-needed affordable housing for local people in Central Bedfordshire. Working closely with partners the Council had helped to deliver some 373 new affordable homes within 2011/12 which was considerably above the Council's target for the year. She thanked the Planning and Housing teams and the Executive Members responsible for those areas for helping make this happen.

The Chairman also announced that on 2 and 3 May 2012, Central Bedfordshire Council would be hosting a zoo training seminar at Cranfield University. The seminar would enable other local authorities to learn from Central Bedfordshire's experience.

C/12/7 Leader of the Council's Announcements and Communications

The Leader congratulated Councillors Mrs A Barker and Ms C Maudlin on their election to the roles of Chairman and Vice-Chairman. He also thanked the outgoing Chairman, Councillor P Hollick and Vice Chairman, Councillor Mrs R Gammons for their hard work.

C/12/8 Questions, Statements or Deputations

There were none.

C/12/9 Recommendations from the Executive

The Council considered the recommendations from the meeting of the Executive held on 27 March 2012. The Leader moved the recommendations for the following items en bloc and these were duly seconded:

- (a) New School Places Programme 2012/13 – 2016/17;
- (b) Central Bedfordshire University Technical College – Premises Procurement; and
- (c) Community Safety Partnership Plan 2012 – 2013.

RESOLVED

(a) New School Places Programme 2012/13 – 2016/17

that the rolling Capital Programme for New School Places as set out in the Executive report be approved, noting the required amendments to the Council's approved Capital Programme 2012/13 to 2015/16.

(b) Central Bedfordshire University Technical College – Premises Procurement

that the addition of the Central Bedfordshire University Technical College premises scheme within the Capital Programme be approved and the commencement of expenditure be authorised.

(c) Community Safety Partnership Priorities and the Community Safety Partnership Plan for 2012 – 2013

that the adoption of the Community Safety Partnership Plan 2012 – 2013, as attached at Appendix A to the Executive report, be approved.

C/12/10

Recommendations from the Constitution Advisory Group

i) Filming, Blogging, Tweeting and Recording by the Public at Meetings

The Council considered a recommendation from the meeting of the Constitution Advisory Group held on 27 January 2012, seeking the approval of the draft protocol on audio/visual recording and photography at Council meetings and amendment of the Council's constitution to make reference to these.

RESOLVED

- 1. that the draft protocol on audio/visual recording and photography at Council meetings, a copy of which was attached at Appendix A to the report, be approved and adopted as the Council's formal guidance on the matter; and**
- 2. that the Constitution be amended to refer to the availability of the protocol within the Access to Information Procedure Rule at paragraph 3 of Part G2 of the Constitution, as set out in Appendix B to the report.**

ii) Biggleswade Joint Committee

The Council considered a recommendation from the meeting of the Constitution Advisory Group held on 27 January 2012, seeking the approval of terms of reference for a Biggleswade Joint Committee.

RESOLVED

that section J2 of the Constitution be amended by the addition of the provision for a Biggleswade Joint Committee with the terms of reference as set out in Appendix A to the report.

iii) Amendments to the Ethical Handbook – Site Visit Requests by Members

The Council considered a recommendation from the meeting of the Constitution Advisory Group held on 27 January 2012, to amend the Ethical Handbook in relation to Member requests for site visits on planning applications being considered by the Development Management Committee.

RESOLVED

that paragraph 10.2.3 of Part 2 of the Ethical Handbook, relating to site visits by Members, be amended as set out in Appendix A to the report.

iv) Reports of Executive Members and Order of Business at Ordinary Meetings of the Council

The Council considered a recommendation from the meeting of the Constitution Advisory Group held on 27 January 2012, seeking to amend the Constitution:

- to include Executive Member reports as part of the business at ordinary meetings of the Council
- to introduce a provision to allow questions on the reports or minutes of the Executive or Committees
- restricting the time allocation for open questions at each ordinary meeting of the Council from 45 minutes to 30 minutes.

RESOLVED

- 1. that Rule 4.2 of Part B5 of the Constitution, relating to the order of business at every ordinary meeting of the Council, be amended as set out in Appendix A to the report;**
- 2. that Rule 13.1 of Part B5 of the Constitution, relating to questions by Members on reports or minutes of the Executive or Committee, be amended as set out in Appendix B to the report; and**
- 3. that Rule 13.7.1 of Part B5 of the Constitution, relating to open questions and procedures, be amended as set out in Appendix C to the report.**

v) Governance Arrangements

The Council considered a recommendation from the meeting of the Constitution Advisory Group held on 23 March 2012, proposing revised governance arrangements. The proposals were in part a response to the provisions relating to ethical standards contained in the Localism Act 2011, but would also streamline the Council's committee structure.

RESOLVED

- 1.(a) that the terms of reference of the General Purposes Committee be extended to include the following additional functions:
 - (i) exercising the Council's functions under Chapter 7 (sections 26 to 37) of the Localism Act 2011; and
 - (ii) oversight of the Council's Constitution, including approving any changes that may be required on the advice of the Monitoring Officer.
- 1.(b) that the membership of the General Purposes Committee be expanded to 12 members, of which 3 would be Executive Members;
- 1.(c) that the General Purposes Committee be scheduled to meet during each committee cycle;
2. that the following responsibilities be delegated to the Chief Executive:
 - (i) determining the award of any discretionary payments to employees under the Local Government Pension Scheme or the Council's severance policy; and
 - (ii) designating an officer to be the Council's Scrutiny Officer in accordance with section 9FB of the Local Government Act 2000, after consultation with the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Panel.

C/12/11

Recommendations from General Purposes Committee

The Council considered a recommendation from the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 11 April 2012 seeking approval of the draft Code of Conduct and the arrangements for dealing with any complaints that Members had failed to comply with the Code.

RESOLVED

1. that the draft Code of Conduct, as set out at Appendix A to the report, be adopted with effect from 1 July 2012;
2. that the Monitoring Officer contact the clerks to the town and parish councils in Central Bedfordshire and invite them to consider recommending the Code of Conduct for adoption by their own council; and

3. **that the General Purposes Committee be authorised to take any decisions necessary to implement the provisions contained in Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011, so that arrangements are in place when the relevant provisions take effect on 1 July 2012.**

C/12/12

Appointment of Members, Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen to Committees and Other Council Bodies 2012/13

The Council considered a report from the Leader of the Council outlining the requirements for Member appointments to committees and other Council bodies, including taking account of political proportionality.

As a supplement to the report, Members noted the proposal to rename the Customer and Central Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to become the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Members also received the nominations for membership of Committees and for Chairmanships and Vice-Chairmanships of Committees for 2012/13 from the Group Leaders. These were proposed en bloc and were duly seconded, subject to:

- Councillor T Brown replacing Councillor K Matthews on the Houghton Regis Town Centre Management Committee; and
- Councillor Mrs P Turner MBE becoming a substitute on the Biggleswade Joint Committee.

A query was raised about the number of substitutes on the Appeals Panel which would be clarified separately.

RESOLVED

1. **that the Council confirms for the municipal year 2012/13:**
 - (a) **the structure, size and terms of reference of the committees, sub-committees and joint committees set out in sections D1, E2 and J2 of the Council's Constitution, subject to the name of the Customer and Central Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee being changed to Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and**
 - (b) **the allocation of seats and substitutes to these and other bodies, as listed in Appendix A to the report, in accordance with the political balance rules where they apply.**
2. **that the appointment of individual Members and substitutes to committees and other bodies be approved in accordance with nominations, as set out in Appendix B to the report;**
3. **that the appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of committees for the municipal year 2012/13 be approved in accordance with nominations as set out in Appendix C to the report;**

4. to note that the following persons had been appointed to the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee as co-opted members with voting rights on education matters for the period June 2011 to the AGM in May 2015:

- (a) Mrs Frances Image, Roman Catholic Diocesan representative
- (b) Mr Jon Reynolds, Church of England Diocesan representative
- (c) Sara Beattie, School Parent Governor representative
- (d) Heather Copley, School Parent Governor representative
- (e) Douglas Landman, School Parent Governor representative

[Note: A comprehensive list of appointments is attached at Appendix A to these Minutes.]

C/12/13 **Scheme of Delegation**

Council received a report from the Monitoring Officer which requested Members to note that the Constitution had been amended during the course of 2011/12 and had been updated and published on the Council's website.

RESOLVED

that the Council notes that the scheme of delegation contained within Part H3 of the Constitution is up to date and published on the Council's website.

C/12/14 **Composition of the Executive and Scheme of Delegation of Executive Functions**

The Council received a report from the Leader of the Council setting out the composition of the Executive for the coming year, including the names of the Councillors appointed to the Executive.

The Leader advised Members of the following changes to the Executive:

- Councillor N Young would replace Councillor K Matthews as the Executive Member for Sustainable Communities – Strategic Planning and Economic Development;
- Councillors A Dodwell and Mrs S Clark would replace Councillors Mrs A Barker and T Brown as the Deputy Executive Members for Children's Services; and
- Councillor T Brown would replace Councillor N Young as the Deputy Executive Member for Sustainable Communities – Strategic Planning and Economic Development.

Members took the opportunity to thank Councillors K Matthews, Mrs A Barker and T Brown for their hard work during their time on or supporting the Executive.

RESOLVED

that the Council notes:

1. the composition of the Executive and allocation of portfolios, as set out in the revised Appendix A to the report;
2. the scheme of delegation of Executive functions, set out at Part C3 of the Constitution;
3. that Councillor M Versallion would continue to be the Lead Member for Children's Services.

[Note: A list of details of the portfolios and the names of the Executive Members are set out at Appendix B]

C/12/15

Appointments to the Joint Selection Committee (for Bedfordshire Police Authority) and the Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority 2012

The Council considered a report from the Monitoring Officer outlining the requirements for reaffirming the Member appointments to Bedfordshire Police Authority, the Joint Selection Committee (for Bedfordshire Police Authority) and the Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority.

RESOLVED

1. that the Council:
 - (a) re-affirms the appointment of five Members i.e. Councillors Mrs F Chapman MBE, Mrs D Gurney, P Hollick, R Johnstone and I Mackilligan to serve on the Joint Selection Committee, as agreed at the meeting on 19 May 2011, which was responsible for appointing Members of the Bedfordshire Police Authority; and
 - (b) re-affirms the nomination of four Members i.e. Councillors Mrs F Chapman MBE, Mrs D Gurney, P Hollick and I Mackilligan, as agreed at the meeting on 19 May 2011, to continue to serve as Members of the Bedfordshire Police Authority for the period until the proposed Police and Crime Commissioner takes office, reflecting the requirement so far as practicable for political balance across all three constituent Councils as a whole (Central Bedfordshire, Bedford Borough and Luton Borough).
2. that the Council re-affirms the appointment of five Members, Councillors Mrs R Drinkwater, D McVicar, J Saunders, A Shadbolt and P Williams, as agreed at the meeting on 19 May 2011, to continue to serve on the Bedfordshire and Luton Combined Fire Authority in 2012/13, reflecting the political balance within Central Bedfordshire Council.

C/12/16 **Leader of the Council's Annual Report**

The Leader presented his annual report outlining policy priorities for the forthcoming year. A copy of the report is attached at Appendix C to the minutes.

Members of the Council raised questions on the report to which the Leader responded.

RESOLVED

that the annual report of the Leader outlining policy priorities for the forthcoming year be noted.

C/12/17 **Audit Committee Activity - Annual Report**

The Council received an annual report from the Chairman of the Audit Committee on the Audit Committee's activity during 2011/12.

RESOLVED

that the work activity of the Audit Committee during 2011/12 be noted.

C/12/18 **Independent Remuneration Panel: Membership**

The Council considered a report from the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources recommending the appointment of Dr R Tipping to the Independent Remuneration Panel for the period to 31 March 2016.

RESOLVED

that Dr R Tipping of Blunham be appointed as the fourth member of the Independent Remuneration Panel for the period ending 31 March 2016.

(Note: The meeting commenced at 6.30 p.m. and concluded at 8.00 p.m.)

Chairman

Dated

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Appendix A

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**Membership of Committees including Chairmen, Deputy- and Vice-Chairmen
2012/13****Council**

Chairman: Cllr Mrs A Barker
 Vice-Chairman: Cllr Ms C Maudlin

**Executive
(8 Members)**

Leader of the Council and Chairman of the Executive: Cllr J Jamieson

Members:

Corporate Resources:

Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources Cllr M R Jones

Deputy Executive Members for Corporate Resources Cllrs D Hopkin and R Wenham

Children's Services:

Executive Member for Children's Services Cllr M Versallion

Deputy Executive Members for Children's Services Cllrs Mrs S Clark and A Dodwell

Social Care, Health and Housing:

Executive Member for Social Care, Health and Housing Cllr Mrs C Hegley

Deputy Executive Member for Social Care, Health and Housing Cllr A Turner

Sustainable Communities – Strategic Planning and Economic Development:

Executive Member for Sustainable Communities – Strategic Planning and Economic Development Cllr N Young

Deputy Executive Member for Sustainable Communities – Strategic Planning and Economic Development Cllr T Brown

Sustainable Communities – Services

Executive Member for Sustainable Communities – Services Cllr B Spurr

Deputy Executive Members for Sustainable Communities – Services Cllrs I Dalgarno and B Wells

Partnerships

Executive Member for Partnerships Cllr Mrs P Turner, MBE

External Affairs

Executive Member for External Affairs Cllr R Stay

Committees of the Executive

The Rookery South (Resource Recovery Facility) Committee (3 Members) Cllr Mrs C Hegley
Cllr R Stay
Cllr N Young

The BEaR Project Committee (5 Members) Cllr J Jamieson
Cllr M Jones
Cllr B Spurr
Cllr Mrs P Turner MBE
Cllr M Versallion

**Children' Services Overview & Scrutiny
(10 Members)**

Chairman: Cllr Mrs D Gurney
Vice-Chairman: Cllr N Costin

Members: Cllr Mrs A Barker
Cllr R Berry
Cllr D Bowater
Cllr P Hollick
Cllr K Janes
Cllr D Jones
Cllr I Mackilligan
Cllr R Pepworth

Substitutes:
Conservative: Cllrs Mrs R Drinkwater, B Saunders, A Shadbolt,
and N Sheppard
Liberal Democrat: Cllr Mrs S Goodchild

Co-Opted Members (June 2011 to the AGM in May 2015)
Mrs Frances Image Roman Catholic Diocesan
Jon Reynolds Church of England Diocesan
Sara Beattie School Parent Governor
Heather Copley School Parent Governor
Douglas Landman School Parent Governor

**Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny
(9 Members)**

Chairman: Cllr P Duckett
Vice-Chairman: Cllr Miss A Sparrow

Members: Cllr L Birt
Cllr J Clarke
Cllr Mrs R Drinkwater
Cllr Dr R Egan
Cllr R Johnstone
Cllr Mrs M Mustoe
Cllr I Shingler

Substitutes:
Conservative: Cllrs Mrs F Chapman MBE, C Gomm,
I Mackilligan and B Saunders
Liberal Democrat: Cllr D Jones
Independent: Cllr M Smith

**Social Care, Health & Housing Overview & Scrutiny
(9 Members)**

Chairman: Cllr Mrs R Drinkwater

Vice-Chairman: Cllr N Sheppard

Members: Cllr D Bowater
Cllr P Duckett
Cllr Mrs R Gammons
Cllr Mrs S Goodchild
Cllr P Hollick
Cllr K Janes
Cllr M Smith

Substitutes:

Conservative: Cllrs C Gomm, Mrs D Gurney, R Johnstone and
I Mackilligan

Liberal Democrat: Cllr N Aldis

Independent: Cllr J Murray

**Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny
(9 Members)**

Chairman: Cllr D McVicar
Vice-Chairman: Cllr A R Bastable

Members: Cllr Mrs F Chapman MBE
Cllr Mrs R Gammons
Cllr K Matthews
Cllr Ms C Maudlin
Cllr J Murray
Cllr B Saunders
Cllr P Williams

Substitutes:
Conservative: Cllrs D Bowater, R Johnstone, T Nicols and
A Shadbolt
Liberal Democrat: Cllr Dr R Egan
Independent: Cllr I Shingler

**Audit Committee
(7 Members)**

Chairman: Cllr D Bowater
Vice-Chairman: Cllr M Blair

Members: Cllr Mrs D Green
Cllr A Shadbolt
Cllr D Lawrence
Cllr P Vickers
Cllr A Zerny

Substitutes:
Conservative: Cllrs R Berry, N Costin and N Warren
Independent: Cllr I Shingler

**Development Management Committee
(18 Members)**

Chairman: Cllr A Shadbolt
Vice-Chairman: Cllr K Matthews

Members: Cllr N Aldis
Cllr A Bastable
Cllr R Berry
Cllr M Blair
Cllr D Bowater
Cllr Mrs F Chapman MBE
Cllr Mrs S Clark
Cllr I Dalgarno
Cllr Mrs R Drinkwater
Cllr Mrs R Gammons
Cllr D Jones
Cllr Ms C Maudlin
Cllr T Nicols
Cllr I Shingler
Cllr P Vickers
Cllr N Young

Substitutes:
Conservative: Cllrs L Birt, T Brown, P Duckett, C Gomm,
Mrs D Gurney, R Johnstone, B Spurr and
N Warren
Liberal Democrat: Cllr P Williams
Independent: Cllr J Murray

**General Purposes Committee
(12 Members)**

Chairman: Cllr P Hollick
Vice-Chairman: Cllr R Stay

Members: Cllr N Aldis
Cllr J Clarke
Cllr J Jamieson
Cllr M Jones
Cllr D Lawrence
Cllr Mrs J Lawrence
Cllr K Matthews
Cllr J Murray
Cllr B Saunders
Cllr N Warren

Substitutes:
Conservative: Cllrs D Bowater, Mrs Fiona Chapman MBE,
R Johnstone, A Shadbolt and N Young
Liberal Democrat: Cllr D Jones
Independent: Cllr M Smith

**Licensing Committee
(12 Members & 6 Substitutes)**

Chairman: Cllr L Birt
Vice-Chairman: Cllr K Janes

Members: Cllr R Berry
Cllr D Bowater
Cllr I Dalgarno
Cllr Mrs D Green
Cllr C Gomm
Cllr I MacKilligan
Cllr Mrs M Mustoe
Cllr R Pepworth
Cllr P Vickers
Cllr N Warren

Substitutes:
Conservative: Cllrs Mrs A Barker, Mrs J Lawrence,
Ms C Maudlin, D McVicar, J Saunders and
A Shadbolt

**Licensing Sub Committee
(3 Members)**

Members: Any member of the Licensing Committee

**Appeals Panel
(9 Members)**

Members: Cllr Mrs F Chapman MBE
Cllr I Dalgarno
Cllr Mrs R Drinkwater
Cllr Dr R Egan
Cllr P Hollick
Cllr K Janes
Cllr K C Matthews
Cllr J Murray
Cllr N Young

Substitutes:
Conservative: Cllr Mrs A Barker, L Birt, R Johnstone and
B Spurr
Liberal Democrat: Cllr N Aldis

**Corporate Parenting Panel
(8 Members)**

Members: Cllr M Versallion
Cllr Mrs A Barker
Cllr N Costin
Cllr A Dodwell
Cllr Mrs S Goodchild
Cllr Mrs D Gurney
Cllr N Sheppard
Cllr B Wells

Substitutes:
Conservative: Cllrs D Bowater, I Mackilligan, B Spurr and
A Turner
Liberal Democrat: Cllr N Aldis

**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)
(5 Members)**

Members: Cllr Mrs A Barker
Cllr C Gomm
Cllr Mrs D Gurney
Cllr D Jones
Cllr B Wells

Substitutes:
Conservative: Cllrs A Dodwell and M Versallion
Liberal Democrat: Cllr Mrs S Goodchild

**Wixams Joint Development Control
(9 Members)**

Members: Cllr N Aldis
Cllr Mrs A Barker
Cllr A Bastable
Cllr P Duckett
Cllr J Jamieson
Cllr K Matthews
Cllr T Nicols
Cllr M Smith
Cllr A Turner

Substitutes:
Conservative: Cllrs L Birt, M Blair and Mrs F Chapman MBE
Liberal Democrat: Cllr D Jones
Independent: Cllr A Zerny

**Standards Committee
(5 Members)**

Chairman:	To be elected at meeting
Deputy Chairmen (Ind):	To be elected at meeting
Deputy Chairman (Elected):	To be elected at meeting
Members:	Cllr L Birt Cllr Mrs J Lawrence Cllr N Warren Cllr P Williams
Independent Persons:	Mr J Dann Mr K Frazer Mr M Jones Mr K Ford Miss D Maggs
Town & Parish Members:	Mr B Collier Dr J Eilbeck Mrs J Hughes Mr J H Lewis Mr A B Saunders

**Biggleswade Joint Committee
(4 Members)**

Members:	Cllr M Jones Cllr D Lawrence Cllr Mrs J Lawrence Cllr P Vickers
Substitutes:	Cllrs J Jamieson and Mrs P Turner MBE

**Dunstable Joint Committee
(5 Members)**

Members:	Cllr Mrs C Hegley Cllr P Hollick Cllr D McVicar Cllr Miss A Sparrow Cllr N Young
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**Houghton Regis Town Centre Management Committee
(4 Members)**

Members: Cllr T Brown
Cllr Dr R Egan
Cllr Mrs S Goodchild
Cllr P Williams

**Leighton-Linslade Partnership Committee
(5 Members)**

Members: Cllr D Bowater
Cllr D Hopkin
Cllr R Johnstone
Cllr A Shadbolt
Cllr B Spurr

**Member Development Champions
(4 Members)**

Members: Cllr N Aldis
Cllr Mrs P Turner MBE
Cllr M Jones
Cllr A Turner

**Joint Adoption Panel
(1 Member)**

Cllr Mrs D Gurney

**Fostering Panel
(1 Member)**

Cllr A Dodwell

**Fostering Permanence Panel
(1 Member)**

Cllr A Dodwell

Members of the Executive	Deputies to Members of the Executive	Corporate Priority	Responsibility	Director
<p>Leader</p> <p><i>Cllr James Jamieson</i></p>		All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision & Strategy • LSP • National, Regional and Sub Regional Partnerships • Overview and Scrutiny policy • Communications and Corporate Reputation • Consultation & Engagement • Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Planning 	<p>RCC</p> <p>GA</p>
<p>Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources</p> <p><i>Cllr Maurice Jones</i></p>	<p>Cllr David Hopkin</p> <p>Cllr Richard Wenham</p>	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Performance Management • Diversity & Social Cohesion • Customer Relations • Efficiencies Programme • Medium Term Financial Plan • Annual Revenue Budgets • Capital Investment • Treasury Management • Budget Monitoring & Financial Performance • Financial Control • Revenues and Benefits • Human Resources, Learning and Development • Legal, Committee Services, Electoral Services, Members' Services & Local Land Charges • Corporate Procurement • Audit • ICT • Customer Service • Coroners and Registrars • Property and Asset Management 	RCC

<p>Children's Services</p> <p><i>Cllr Mark Versallion</i></p>	<p>Cllr Amanda Dodwell</p> <p>Cllr Sue Clark</p>	<p>Educating, protecting and providing opportunities for children and young people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory Lead Member for Children's Services • Child Protection/Children in Need • Adoption & Fostering • Early Years & Child Care • Children and Young People's Engagement • Looked-After Children & Young People Leaving Care • Schools support • Educational Standards & Achievement • Children's Health • Integrated Youth Services • Family Support 	<p>EG</p>
<p>Social Care and Health and Housing</p> <p><i>Cllr Mrs Carole Hegley</i></p>	<p>Cllr Andrew Turner</p>	<p>Supporting and caring for an ageing population Promoting healthier lifestyles</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Social Care Services • Independent Living & Direct Payments • Carers' Support • Adult Protection • Older People's Champion • Adult Health Improvement & NHS Liaison • Drug & Alcohol Services • Strategic Housing Services and Operational Policies including Housing Needs Assessment • Homelessness • Supporting People, Special Needs Housing • Housing Stock Management 	<p>JO</p>

<p>Sustainable Communities – Strategic Planning and Economic Development</p> <p><i>Cllr Nigel Young</i></p>	<p>Cllr Tony Brown</p>	<p>Managing growth effectively</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and Development Strategy • Housing Strategy • Transport Strategy • Climate Change • Development Management • Economic Development and Physical Regeneration • Community Regeneration and Adult Skills • Business Growth, Inward Investment and Employment 	<p>GA</p>
<p>Sustainable Communities - Services</p> <p><i>Cllr Brian Spurr</i></p>	<p>Cllr Budge Wells</p> <p>Cllr Ian Dalgarno</p>	<p>Creating safer communities Promoting healthier lifestyles</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Safety and Public Protection • Waste Management • Highways & Transportation • Leisure, Sport and Recreation • Libraries, Museums and Culture • Countryside Access and Archives • Building Control 	<p>GA</p>
<p><i>Cllr Mrs Tricia Turner, MBE</i></p>		<p>All</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnerships 	
<p><i>Cllr Richard Stay</i></p>		<p>All</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External Affairs 	
<p>Committees of the Executive 2012/13</p>				
<p>The Rookery South (Resource Recovery Facility) Committee</p>	<p>Cllrs Nigel Young, Mrs Carole Hegley and Richard Stay.</p>			
<p>The BEaR Project Committee</p>	<p>Cllrs James Jamieson, Maurice Jones, Brian Spurr, Mrs Tricia Turner and Mark Versallion.</p>			

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Appendix C

As we enter into the new Council year I would like to reflect both on our progress so far and also our plans for the future.

Last July I set out a vision, based on three main aims:

- Value for Money
- Central Bedfordshire as a Great Place to Live
- Culture Change – can do attitude.

I am pleased to say we have made considerable progress in a number of areas.

- We have set a zero council tax rise, in fact taking into account harmonisation, it was a 0.8% reduction.
- We will have achieved in excess of £19m of savings this year and met our budget.

But it is not all about saving money. One of our critical duties is to protect the vulnerable. Hence it is with great satisfaction that I can report on the considerable progress made in both our Children's Services and Adult Social Care. When we started as a Council three years ago we inherited these two critical services with poor performance. This is no longer the case.

In Children's Services we have had positive feedback from OFSTED Inspectors on our Adoption Service and our Safeguarding of Children.

And I am particularly pleased to report on the improvement in Social Care, Health and Housing, where the Towards Excellence in Adult Social Care Board has acknowledged the significant progress that has been made and Central Bedfordshire's improved status in this area.

I would like to thank officers for their good work in these areas. There are also many other successes to report, for example:-

We have seen an improvement of 5% last year in GCSE results with 59% of children achieving five or more A*-C inc. English and Maths. In Sustainable Communities we have started a programme of enhanced road resurfacing that will see a more holistic approach to maintenance and an additional £16m invested in our roads by 2016, £3m of which brought forward so we are already seeing improvements.

We have made huge progress in saving money through efficiencies by moving into fewer offices, working innovatively with other organisations like Job Centre Plus to enhance our customer offering and renegotiating contracts to get the best procurement deals. But also by working differently such as:-

- In our four Extra Care Courts, successful outsourcing at lower cost of care support, while maintaining service levels which received national recognition with 1st prize award for customer engagement in the Procurex National GO Award.
- Believe the way we have re-looked at Houghton Regis Leisure Centre is symptomatic of what we are trying to do. Providing a better gym facility which will increase income and allow us to keep the dry side open.

On the broader front we are also seeing progress:-

- Center Parcs will open in spring 2014 and we will work with them to seek local jobs and local sourcing of good and services.

- We are also making progress on key infrastructure projects – the Guided Busway linking Luton and Dunstable will be opening in November and with the Public Inquiry for the M1-A5 link road now complete and awaiting the Inspectors decision this summer, we can make real progress unlocking Dunstable’s potential. Elsewhere there are other major projects such as the M1 widening, Thameslink and the Biggleswade South roundabout and feeder roads.

I would like to thank, my colleagues in Cabinet, fellow Councillors and officers for the progress we have made. However we cannot rest on our laurels. We now need to look to the future.

To achieve our aims we recognise we cannot continue as we are. We are all too familiar with the difficult economic circumstances we face. In particular the legacy of Toxic Debt and out of control public expenditure left by the last Labour Government. With an annual Budget Deficit approaching £200bn and Total National Debt of around £900bn, times of increasing Government largess are a thing of the past. We have seen a 28% cut in our grant for the period 2011-2015, and anticipate further pressures in the future. On top of this we are also seeing other cuts that impact us, such as Council Tax Credit and Transport Subsidies. This is a reality and we will have to contend with it.

In addition to this we face demographic pressures, increasing the demands on our services from a greater number of older people, the tough economy and also safeguarding of Children.

We have clearly stated our intention not to burden our residents with higher Council Tax. We also do not intend to cut service outcomes. Thus we will need to find more efficient ways of working. But not everything is about cost, we also want to enhance our services to residents.

We have just produced our plan for the next four years – Delivering Your Priorities. This outlines our priorities and how we will measure whether we have achieved them over the next four years. The priorities are:-

- Value For Money
- Enhance Central Bedfordshire as a Place
- Improved Infrastructure
- Quality Universal Services
- Improve Health and Wellbeing and protect the vulnerable
- Improved Educational attainment.

This is not just about Central Bedfordshire Council but also our partners, the Health Service, Police, Fire, Schools and the Voluntary Sector. Not to mention Town and Parish Councils.

We have set ourselves very ambitious targets such as not raising Council Tax and improving GCSE results. They are not all within our control but many can only be delivered by partnership working. However, we firmly believe that we need to stretch ourselves. I would rather narrowly miss an ambitious target than achieve a comfortable one.

If we are to achieve our aim of enhancing Central Bedfordshire as a great place to live and work we must strive to achieve these.

So in practical terms what does this mean?

We are developing a large number of work streams to achieve our aims such as the Library Strategy which will both enhance our service offering and reduce costs through a one-off investment of £850,000 over the next two years. To create libraries that are fit for the future along with new self service technology, a better online offering, updated buildings and library access points in rural areas.

Core Strategy – this is the “local Plan”, how do we manage sustainable growth while also developing infrastructure, providing jobs and protecting green space? This is a very important project that I would again urge all Councillors and residents to involve themselves with. But it is not just about allocating sites, it is also about design quality, infrastructure and right mix of developments.

We continue to work to de-institutionalise care of the vulnerable. This is not just about personalisation but also innovative schemes such as the recently opened 8-bed Step Up Step Down Rehabilitation Unit in Dunstable, preventing hospital admissions and accepting discharged patients to help them gain independence before returning home.

These are just three but there are many others – in Education, Social Care, Waste, and so on.

There are also internal work streams, Organisational Development to improve our skills base and how we work as an organisation, office rationalisation and a Customer First programme that will transform our interactions with residents to provide more efficient, customer-focussed services.

We are also investing more in infrastructure to improve our area's connections and facilities - road resurfacing, extending superfast Broadband to 90 per cent of homes by 2016 and developing a Leisure strategy to determine future facilities (invest to save).

We will see major changes in our housing service. In particular, the recent self- financing of our Council Housing stock at a cost of £165m. While this is a large financial burden it also provides opportunities to develop our offering further.

In the health arena we are also seeing major changes. The formation of a Shadow Health & Wellbeing Board, bringing together all senior partners from the health organisations and Council to drive the future direction, performance and delivery of health and care services. In addition we are taking on responsibility for Public Health from April 2013.

We are also seeking to develop the economy for more jobs, a "yes" rather than "no" attitude. Seeking to work with businesses to maximise opportunities for local employment. And through working with schools and colleges and the Adult Skills Strategy ensuring we have suitably skilled residents.

In summary we have made substantial progress in the last year and despite the difficult economic circumstances, we are excited about the future, what we, working together can achieve for the benefit of our community.

So, whilst there is no cause for complacency there is room for optimism. We have clear ambitions and targets, a plan for their delivery and a proven track record that demonstrates what we can achieve.