

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Thursday, 11 September 2014.

PRESENT

Cllr Ms C Maudlin (Chairman)
Cllr D Bowater (Vice-Chairman)

Cllrs	P N Aldis	Cllrs	C C Gomm	Cllrs	B Saunders
	A R Bastable		Mrs S A Goodchild		J A G Saunders
	L Birt		Ms A M W Graham		I Shingler
	M C Blair		C Hegley		M A Smith
	A D Brown		P Hollick		Miss A Sparrow
	Mrs C F Chapman MBE		J G Jamieson		B J Spurr
	Mrs S Clark		R W Johnstone		R C Stay
	Mrs G Clarke		M R Jones		A M Turner
	Mrs B Coleman		D J Lawrence		Mrs P E Turner MBE
	K M Collins		Mrs J G Lawrence		M A G Versallion
	N B Costin		K C Matthews		N Warren
	I Dalgarno		D McVicar		B Wells
	A L Dodwell		J Murray		R D Wenham
	Mrs R J Drinkwater		Mrs M Mustoe		J N Young
	P A Duckett		T Nicols		A Zerny

Apologies for Absence

Cllrs	Mrs A Barker	Cllrs	D J Hopkin	Cllrs	A Shadbolt
	R D Berry		K Janes		N J Sheppard
	Dr R Egan		D Jones		P Williams
	Mrs D B Gurney		R B Pepworth		T Woodward

Officers:	Miss H Bell	–	Committee Services Officer
	Mr R Carr	–	Chief Executive
	Mrs D Broadbent-Clarke	–	Director of Improvement and Corporate Services
	Mrs M Clay	–	Chief Legal and Democratic Services Officer
	Mr M Coiffait	–	Community Services Director
	Mrs E Grant	–	
	Mr J Longhurst	–	Director of Regeneration and Business
	Mrs J Ogle	–	Director of Social Care, Health and Housing
	Ms M Peaston	–	Committee Services Manager
	Mr R Gould	–	Head of Financial Control

C/14/28. Prayers

Prayers were taken by Michael Campbell, Senior Chaplain, Luton Town Centre Chaplaincy.

The Chairman explained that the meeting was being filmed by a member of the public in line with the newly published regulations.

C/14/29. **Minutes**

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 12 June 2014 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

C/14/30. **Members' Interests**

(a) **Personal Interests:-**

None.

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

None.

C/14/31. **Questions, Statements and Deputations**

Two members of the public made a statement under the Public Participation Provisions set out at Annex 1 of Part A4 of the Constitution in relation to the proposals to withdraw the Gypsy and Traveller Plan.

The Executive Member for Sustainable Communities Strategic Planning and Economic Development thanked the speakers and responded to their points.

C/14/32. **Petitions**

Restoration of Bus Shelter on Luton road, Dunstable outside Nos 165 and 167.

Mr Gresham the lead petitioner, presented a petition, which contained approximately 150 signatures.

Mr Gresham requested that the bus shelter on Luton Road Dunstable, outside numbers 165 and 167, be restored as soon as possible. Since it was destroyed by a motor vehicle some two years ago, local residents, some elderly and infirm, had had no shelter from inclement weather whilst waiting for a bus into Dunstable town centre. He asked that Central Bedfordshire Council accept the urgent need for this replacement and find the resources for its provision.

Council received the petition.

C/14/33. **Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- Central Bedfordshire staff attended a Memory walk in aid of the Alheimers Society on Saturday 6 September 2014
- Members were invited to attend a 'Memory Walk' to be held on Sunday 14 September at Willen Lake, Milton Keynes
- The Chairman's would be hosting the "Forget me not" Awards evening on 4 November 2014
- The next Civic Reception would be held on 8 March 2014.

C/14/34. **Leader of the Council's Announcements and Communications**

The Leader reported upon:

- The successful GCSE results across Central Bedfordshire. There had been an improvement in all subjects set against a national decline in GCSE grades
- Economic activity in Central Bedfordshire. Center Parcs had created 1500 jobs, with 95% of employees living within 15 miles of their workplace
- The Millbrook Low Carbon Conference and the preliminary works for the M1/A5 Link Road.

The Leader advised that this was Edwina Grant's, Director of Children's Services last Council meeting as she would be leaving Central Bedfordshire Council. He paid tribute to her contribution to the Council.

Councillors Versallion, as the Executive Member for Children's Services and Councillors, Murray and Aldis as the Minority Group Leaders paid their own tributes to Edwina Grant, thanked her for her services as Director of Children's Services and expressed best wishes on behalf of the Council.

The Chairman also added her thanks to Edwina Grant on behalf of the Council.

C/14/35. **Executive Member Presentations**

Councillor Hegley, Executive Member for Social Care, Health and Housing reported on work within her portfolio including:

- investments in housing including sheltered accommodation
- work on the Empty Homes Initiative
- regeneration of garage sites
- an Adult Social Care Workshop which encompassed presentations on dementia and reports from The Alzheimer Society. Central Bedfordshire staff were being invited to become a "dementia friend".

Councillor Hegley responded to questions.

Councillor Young, Executive Member for Regeneration reported on work within his portfolio including:

- the employment skills service
- examples of employment and skills
- examples of courses delivered to support people into work
- meeting the skills needs of employers- supporting local recruitment and business growth
- funding achievements over the past 6 months for employment, skills and business.

Councillor Young responded to questions.

C/14/36.

Recommendations from the Executive

(i) Superfast Broadband Extension Programme

The Council considered a recommendation from the meeting of the Executive held on 19 August 2014 which proposed that the Council funds an additional £350,000 capital, in addition to the £1.5 million already approved to further extend superfast broadband coverage as part of the Council's participation with the Broadband Delivery UK Superfast Extension Programme. This would be matched by £300,000 Broadband Delivery UK to allow approximately an additional 1,200 premises to be supported.

RESOLVED

that an additional £350,000 capital funding to secure additional external funding, and to extend coverage of superfast broadband infrastructure, be approved.

(ii) Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan

The Council considered a recommendation from the meeting of the Executive held on 19 August 2014 proposing the withdrawal of the Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan from the Examination process, in light of the matters raised by the Planning Inspector.

RESOLVED

that the Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan be withdrawn from the Examination process.

C/14/37.

Recommendations from the General Purposes Committee

(i) Constitution Update – Maintaining the Constitution

The Council considered a recommendation from the meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 17 July 2014 concerning maintenance of the Constitution.

RESOLVED

that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to make urgent amendments to the Constitution to give effect to any decision of Council or changes in the law, minor amendments such as to correct errors or to ensure that the Constitution is up to date, by amending the Constitution at Part A5, paragraph 2.3 through the deletion of the words “after consultation with the General Purposes Committee”

(ii) Constitution Update in respect of Capital Programme Management and Asset related Delegations

The Council considered a recommendation from the meeting of the General Purposes Committee seeking amendments to Parts I2 and H3 of the Constitution.

RESOLVED

that Parts I2 and H3 of the Constitution be amended, as set out at Appendices A and B to the submitted report.

C/14/38. Treasury Management Outturn Report

The Council received and considered a report from the Deputy Leader, Executive Member for Corporate Resources which provided a review of the Treasury Management activities for the year ended 31 March 2014.

An amended version of Appendix C was tabled at the meeting.

RESOLVED

that the Treasury Management and the Prudential Indicators performance for the year ended 31 March 2014 be noted.

C/14/39. Motions (if any)

No motions were received.

C/14/40. Written Questions

A written question had been submitted under Rule No 13.2 by Councillor Zerny as follows:

“What is the true financial cost to Central Bedfordshire Council to date, of preparing the Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan?”

The Executive Member for Regeneration responded to the question and summarised the costs of preparing the Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan.

C/14/41. **Webcasting**

The Council received and considered a report from the Deputy Leader, Executive Member for Corporate Resources proposing an approach for implementing webcasting in key Council meetings and new draft protocols on filming, recording and use of social media in meetings.

RESOLVED

1. **that the proposed approach for implementing webcasting as set out in the report be agreed;**
2. **that the provisions suggested to prepare Members and Officers for the implementation of webcasting be approved;**
3. **that the approach to the review the new system, to assess the extent to which the equipment, procedures and Officer support are meeting operational requirements be approved;**
4. **that the new draft protocol for webcasting, recording and using social media in council meetings be approved.**

C/14/42. **Independent Remuneration Panel: Membership**

The Council received and considered a report of the Deputy Leader, Executive Member for Corporate Resources seeking re- appointment of two existing members to the Independent Remuneration Panel.

RESOLVED

that Dr R Tipping and Mr C Bell be offered further appointments to the Independent Remuneration Panel for the periods ending 31 March 2019 and 31 March 2018 respectively.

C/14/43. **Open Questions**

The Chairman invited Minority Group Leaders to ask a question each prior to the consideration of questions that had been placed in the open questions receptacle.

1. Councillor Murray sought assurance about the Council's strategies for assisting residents who were in place for residents who were in arrears with their Council Tax.

The Deputy Leader, Executive Member for Corporate Resources explained the help in place in special circumstances.

2. Councillor Aldis asked a question about then impact of public consultation on the budget setting process.

The Deputy Leader, Executive Member for Corporate Resources advised that resident's views helped determine priorities in the budget setting process.

3. Councillor Matthews invited the Executive Member for Regeneration to comment on the success of the Luton Bus Way now that it had nearly been operational for nearly a year.

The Executive Member for Regeneration commented on the popularity and success of the Bus Way and advised that it was a welcome asset to businesses looking to locate to the area.

4. Councillor Murray asked the Deputy Leader, Executive Member for Corporate Resources to comment on the time taken to organise training for Licensing Committee Members.

The Deputy Leader, Executive Member for Corporate Resources undertook to look into this.

5. Councillor Aldis asked a question about the number of schools in Central Bedfordshire that had converted to academy status and if he was aware of the time taken for the completion of the associated asset transfer

The Executive Member for Children's Services advised of the number of children in Central Bedfordshire attending Academies and undertook to look into the issue of asset transfer.

6. Councillor Aldis asked about absence rates in schools and the fines imposed on parents who take their children out of school for holidays.

The Executive Member for Children's Services summarised the action taken when children were absent from school in these circumstances.

7. Councillor Zerny asked about promoting renewable energy in schools against the background of a procurement process.

The Executive Member for Children's Services explained why he felt the promotion had been appropriate.

8. Councillor Murray asked a question about why Central Bedfordshire staff were not being encouraged to use a newly refurbished car park located at Brewers Hill Road, Dunstable.

The Deputy Leader, Executive Member for Corporate Resources indicated that he would look into this issue.

(Note: The meeting commenced at 6.30 p.m. and concluded at 8.45 p.m.)

Chairman

Dated