

## CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Thursday, 26 February 2015.

### PRESENT

Cllr Ms C Maudlin (Chairman)  
Cllr D Bowater (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		Ms A M W Graham		I Shingler
	R D Berry		Mrs D B Gurney		M A Smith
	M C Blair		C Hegley		Miss A Sparrow
	A D Brown		P Hollick		B J Spurr
	Mrs C F Chapman MBE		D J Hopkin		R C Stay
	Mrs S Clark		J G Jamieson		A M Turner
	Mrs G Clarke		K Janes		Mrs P E Turner MBE
	Mrs B Coleman		R W Johnstone		M A G Versallion
	K M Collins		D Jones		N Warren
	N B Costin		M R Jones		B Wells
	I Dalgarno		D McVicar		R D Wenham
	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	L Birt	Cllrs	K C Matthews	Cllrs	T Woodward
	D J Lawrence		A Shadbolt		
	Mrs J G Lawrence		N J Sheppard		

Officers:	Miss H Bell	–	Committee Services Officer
	Mr R Carr	–	Chief Executive
	Mrs D Broadbent-Clarke	–	Director of Improvement and Corporate Services
	Mr M Coiffait	–	Community Services Director
	Miss L McShane	–	Legal Services Manager -Commercial
	Mrs J Ogley	–	Director of Social Care, Health and Housing
	Ms M Peaston	–	Committee Services Manager
	Mr C Warboys	–	Chief Finance Officer

C/14/75. **Minutes**

### RESOLVED

**that the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2015 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.**

**C/14/76. Members' Interests**

Councillor Dr R Egan declared an interest in agenda item 7 (c) Budget Report for the Housing Revenue Account (Landlord Business Plan), as a Council tenant, - and withdrew from the meeting when the specifics of the proposed rent increase were discussed.

**C/14/77. Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

1. The Chairman explained that in accordance with Local Authorities (Standing Order) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 there would be a recorded vote for agenda items 7 (a), (b), (c) and (e).
2. The Chairman advised that the order of business would be varied. Item 7(e) would be considered prior to 7 (d).
3. The Chairman announced that there were no exempt items of business and therefore items 9 & 10 had been withdrawn from the agenda.
4. The Chairman reminded Members that she would be hosting an event at the Grove Theatre Dunstable on 10 May 2015 called 'Lets hear it for the Boys', The West End's Leading Men, live at The Grove Theatre, Dunstable.
5. The Chairman along with the Leader and Deputy Leader had attended a ceremony to mark the laying of a foundation stone at Priory View, Dunstable.

**C/14/78. Leader of the Council's Announcements and Communications**

The Leader made the following announcements:

- the construction of the Priory View, independent living scheme in Dunstable was progressing
- progress was being made on major projects throughout Central Bedfordshire including the redevelopment of Flitwick Leisure Centre
- the commitment to build and deliver 100 Council homes in Central Bedfordshire every year, which would be the first Council houses built in 30 years
- work being undertaken to deliver the Better Design Guide.

**C/14/79. Questions, Statements and Deputations**

A member of the public made a statement under the Public Participation Provisions set out at Annex 1 of Part A4 of the Constitution.

Mrs Walsh asked about the costs associated with the Development Strategy and the Gypsy & Traveller Plan and also Luton Borough Council's application for Judicial Review on the HRN1 development.

The Executive Member for Regeneration thanked the speaker and responded to concerns about the issues raised, with an indication of the associated costs.

C/14/80. **Recommendations from the Executive**

The Council considered recommendations from the meeting of the Executive held on 10 February 2015 seeking approval of the proposed Medium Term Financial Plan and Revenue Budget for 2015/16.

In his introduction, the Deputy Leader drew attention to external factors which influenced the proposed budget and the financial challenges faced by local authorities. He referred to the significant social and economic drivers of change within Central Bedfordshire across the medium term and beyond. He commented that the budget had to be sustainable, affordable and support the Council's priorities. He was pleased to confirm that the proposed budget entailed no increase in the Council's element of the Council Tax. He also commented that the financial position of the Housing Revenue Account was positive and would enable the Council to achieve the ambitions contained in its Housing Management Strategy.

The Deputy Leader referred to the proposed Capital Programme 2015/16 to 2018/19, which included significant projects across all services, including new school places, constructing dual carriageways on the A421 between junction 13 of the M1 and Magna Park, Milton Keynes and the Woodside Link.

The Leaders of the Independent and the Liberal Democrat Groups commented on the proposed budget.

Councillor Dr Egan proposed an amendment to recommendation 1 as follows:

"That the Revenue Budget for 2015/16 and the Medium Financial Plan for 2015/16 to 2018/19 be approved, subject to the addition of a provision to take £5000 out of reserves to fund the removal of the concrete play area in Kirton Way, Houghton Regis."

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was lost.

**RESOLVED**

- 1. that the Revenue Budget for 2015/16 and the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2015/16 to 2018/19 be approved;**
- 2. that the Fees and Charges relating to the Care Act Deferred Payment Scheme, as detailed at paragraphs 90-92 in the Executive report, be approved; and**

3. that a Band D Council Tax (CBC element) of £1,308.33 for residents of Central Bedfordshire, representing a 0% increase on the charge for 2014/2015 be approved.

In accordance with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England)(Amendment) Regulations 2014, a recorded vote was taken.

Those in favour of the resolutions were:

Councillors Aldis, Barker, Bastable, Berry, Blair, Bowater, Brown, Chapman, Clark, Clarke, Coleman, Collins, Costin, Dalgarno, Dodwell, Drinkwater, Duckett, Gomm, Goodchild, Graham, Gurney, Hegley, Hollick, Hopkin, Jamieson, Janes, M Jones, Maudlin, McVicar, Mustoe, Pepworth, B Saunders, Sparrow, Spurr, Stay, A Turner, P Turner, Versallion, Warren, Wells, Wenham, Williams and Young.

Those against the Resolutions were:

Councillors D Jones, Egan, Murray, Smith and Zerny

Those who abstained from voting were:

Councillor Shingler.

(Councillors Johnstone and Nicols left the meeting prior to the vote being taken)

#### **(b) Capital Programme 2015/16 to 2018/19**

The Council considered the recommendations from a meeting of the Executive held on 10 February 2015 in respect of the proposed Capital Programme for 2015/16 to 2018/19.

#### **RESOLVED**

that the Capital Programme for 2015/16 to 2018/19 be approved.

In accordance with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England)(Amendment) Regulations 2014, a recorded vote was taken.

Those in favour of the resolution were:

Councillors Aldis, Barker, Bastable, Berry, Blair, Bowater, Brown, Chapman, Clark, Clarke, Coleman, Collins, Costin, Dalgarno, Dodwell, Drinkwater, Duckett,, Egan Gomm, Goodchild, Graham, Gurney, Hegley, Hollick, Hopkin, Jamieson, Janes, D Jones, M Jones, Maudlin, McVicar, Murray, Mustoe, Pepworth, B Saunders, Shingler, Smith Sparrow, Spurr, Stay, A Turner, P Turner, Versallion, Warren, Wells, Wenham, Williams,Young and Zerny.

**No Councillors voted against the resolutions.**

**No Councillors abstained from voting.**

**(c) Budget for the Housing Revenue Account (Landlord Business Plan)**

**Councillor Dr Egan left the meeting prior to the detailed debate on this item, in view of her declaration of interest recorded at minute C/14/76.**

The Council considered the recommendations from the meeting of the Executive held on 10 February 2015 in respect of the Housing Revenue Account (Landlord Business Plan).

Councillor Murray proposed an amendment to recommendation 7 as follows:

“that the average rent increase of 2.20% for 2015/16 in line with the national rental increase as per Government guidance be approved with the exception of sheltered housing or mini group self funding tenants who are over 65 and paying above 60% of market”

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was lost.

**RESOLVED**

- 1. that the HRA’s debt portfolio and interest payments due in 2014/2015 be noted;**
- 2. that the intention to commence principal debt repayments from 2017/18, as approved previously by Council in February 2014, be noted;**
- 3. that the Landlord Business Investment Plan, which proposes HRA investment throughout the Council area, be approved;**
- 4. that the development of the Independent Living Scheme in Houghton Regis, to enable the creation of a high quality, mixed tenure development that will incorporate approximately 170 homes for older people, as well as strengthening the retail and community offer for the Town Centre, be approved;**
- 5. that the HRA Revenue Budget for 2015/16 and the Landlord Business Plan summary at Appendix A and B be approved;**
- 6. that the 2015/16 to 2018/19 HRA Capital Programme set out at Appendix C to the Executive report be approved; and**
- 7. that the average rent increase of 2.20% for 2015/16 in line with the national rental increase as per Government guidance be approved.**

**In accordance with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England)(Amendment) Regulations 2014, a recorded vote was taken.**

**Those in favour of the resolutions were:**

**Councillors Aldis, Barker, Bastable, Berry, Blair, Bowater, Brown, Chapman, Clark, Clarke, Collins, Costin, Dalgarno, Dodwell, Drinkwater, Duckett, Gomm, Goodchild, Graham, Gurney, Hegley, Hollick, Hopkin, Jamieson, Janes, D Jones, M Jones, Maudlin, Mc Vicar, Murray, Mustoe, Pepworth,, B Saunders, Shingler, Smith, Sparrow, Spurr, Stay, A Turner, P Turner, Versallion, Warren, Wells, Wenham, Williams, Young and Zerney.**

**No Councillors voted against the resolution.**

**Councillor Coleman abstained from voting.**

**(d) Treasury Management Strategy and Treasury policy**

The Council then considered the recommendation from the meeting of the Executive held on 10 March 2015 in respect of the Treasury Management Strategy and Treasury Policy.

**RESOLVED**

**that the Treasury Management Policy, Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Prudential Indicators for 2015/16 be approved.**

**(e) Council Tax Resolution**

The Council considered the recommendation in respect of the Council Tax Resolution as set out at Appendix A to the report now submitted.

**RESOLVED**

- 1. to approve the Council Tax Resolution set out in Appendix A (i).**
- 2. to approve the substitute Council Tax Resolution set out in Appendix A (ii), in the event of a NO vote by the local electorate in the Council Tax Referendum on 7 May 2015, in respect of the Police and Crime Commissioner's precept.**

**In accordance with The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England)(Amendment) Regulations 2014, a recorded vote was taken.**

**Those in favour of the resolutions were:**

**Councillors Aldis, Barker, Bastable, Berry, Blair, Bowater, Brown, Chapman, Clark, Clarke, Coleman, Collins, Costin, Dalgarno, Dodwell, Drinkwater, Duckett, Gomm, Goodchild, Graham, Gurney, Hegley, Hollick, Hopkin, Jamieson, Janes, M Jones, Maudlin, McVicar, Murray, Mustoe, Pepworth, B Saunders, Shingler, Smith, Sparrow, Spurr, Stay, A Turner, P Turner, Versallion, Warren, wells, Wenham, Williams, Young and Zerny.**

**Councillor Dr Egan voted against the resolution.**

**Councillor D Jones abstained from voting.**

C/14/81. **Development Strategy - Consideration of Judicial Review Proceedings**

The Council considered a report of the Executive Member for Regeneration about the conclusion reached by the Planning Inspector that Central Bedfordshire had not discharged its Duty to Co-operate over its Development Strategy.

The Council was now invited to consider whether a judicial challenge should be lodged against the secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in respect of this conclusion.

Council noted that the advice of Counsel had been sought which had indicated that a case could be made that the Planning Inspector's conclusion was flawed.

**RESOLVED**

- 1. That the Planning Inspectorate be notified that Central Bedfordshire Council does not intend to withdraw its Development Strategy and that the Planning Inspector should not issue his final report as the Council intends to challenge his decision.**
- 2. That Judicial Review proceedings be instigated against the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government against the Inspector's decision.**

(Note: The meeting commenced at 6.30 p.m. and concluded at 9.41 p.m.)

Chairman .....

Dated .....