

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

**This meeting
may be filmed.***



**Central
Bedfordshire**

please ask for Helen Bell
direct line 0300 300 4040
date 18 February 2015

NOTICE OF MEETING

COUNCIL

Date & Time

Thursday, 26 February 2015 6.30 p.m.

Venue at

Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford

Richard Carr
Chief Executive

To: The Chairman and Members of the COUNCIL

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

Note: Members are asked to retain their Budget papers from the 10 February 2015 meeting of the Executive and bring them to this meeting.

***Please note that phones and other equipment may be used to film, audio record, tweet or blog from this meeting. No part of the meeting room is exempt from public filming.**

The use of arising images or recordings is not under the Council's control.

AGENDA

Prayers

Father Richard Moroney, St Peter's Church Biggleswade will take prayers.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence to be received.

2. **Minutes**

To approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 29 January 2015.

(pages 5 - 10)

3. **Members' Interests**

To receive from Members any declarations of interest.

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

The Chairman to announce any matters of communication.

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

The Leader of the Council to announce any matters of communication.

6. **Questions, Statements and Deputations**

To receive any questions, statements and deputations from members of the public in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in Annex 1 of part A4 of the Constitution. This session will be held at the Chairman's discretion and will normally last no longer than 15 minutes.

7. Recommendations from the Executive

To consider recommendations from the meeting of the Executive held on 10 February 2015 and answer questions asked under Rule No. 13.1

(a) Budget 2015/16 and Medium Term Financial Plan. (pages 11-12)

(b) Capital Programme 2015/16 to 2018/19. (pages 13-14)

(c) Budget for the Housing Revenue Account (Landlord Business Plan) (pages 15-16)

(d) Treasury Management Strategy and Treasury Policy (pages 17-18)

and to present the Council Tax Resolution (to follow)
(this information will be provided following receipt of the Police Precept, which will be known on 19 February 2015.)

Note: The papers for (a) (b) (c) and (d) above may be seen at the following link:

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/modgov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=577&MId=4621&Ver=4>

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Thursday, 29 January 2015.

PRESENT

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

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

Apologies for Absence

Cllrs	Mrs A Barker	Cllrs	A L Dodwell	Cllrs	A Shadbolt
	R D Berry		P A Duckett		B Wells
	Mrs B Coleman		Mrs D B Gurney		Mrs M Clay
	N B Costin		Mrs M Mustoe		Mrs J Ogley

Officers:	Mr T Keaveney	–	Assistant Director Housing Services
	Mr R Carr	–	Chief Executive
	Mrs D Broadbent-Clarke	–	Director of Improvement and Corporate Services
	Mr M Coiffait	–	Community Services Director
	Mr J Longhurst	–	Director of Regeneration and Business
	Ms M Peaston	–	Committee Services Manager
	Miss H Bell	–	Committee Services Officer
	Mr A Emerton	–	Managing Solicitor Planning, Property, Highways & Transportation

C/14/61. **Prayers**

The Reverend Janet Humphries Assistant Priest for Northill with Caldecote and Old Warden took prayers.

C/14/62. **Minutes**

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2014 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

C/14/63. **Members' Interests**

None were declared.

C/14/64. **Questions, Statements and Deputations**

No questions, statements or deputations were received.

C/14/65. **Petitions**

No petitions were received.

C/14/66. **Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- The Chairman had undertaken the appropriate training to be a Dementia Champion. Members were invited to contact the Chairman if they wanted her to run an information session on becoming a Dementia Friend.
- The Chairman would be hosting an event at the Grove Theatre Dunstable on 10 May 2015 called 'Lets hear it for the Boys', The West Ends Leading Men, live at The Grove Theatre, Dunstable.

The Chairman asked members to join her for another incredible night of entertainment featuring some of the most successful leading men in Musical Theatre, direct from London's West End. This follows the success of Here Come The Girls last year. West End star Louise Dearman would also be hosting this event with all the proceeds going to the Alzheimer's Society.

C/14/67. **Leader of the Council's Announcements and Communications**

The Leader made the following announcements:

- the Heritage and Big Lottery Fund had awarded a grant to restore Houghton Hall Park, Houghton Regis
- funding had been secured through SEMLEP for various projects throughout Central Bedfordshire including support for Millbrook Park & Technology facilities, the A1/A5 Link Road and upgrading of the A1
- An event to recruit, celebrate and award the work undertaken by volunteers would be held at the Grove Theatre in June 2015.

C/14/68. **Executive Member Presentations**

Councillor Stay Executive Member for External Affairs reported on work within his portfolio including:

- progress made on the Supported Families Programme (Troubled Families) including identifying 305 families for entry onto the programme and already achieving measures of success for 245 of those families
- the expansion of the Supported Families Programme which would commence from 1 April 2015, which would include families with a broader range of problems.

Councillor Stay responded to questions

Councillor Mrs Turner, Executive Member for Economic Partnerships reported on work within her portfolio including an update of the Central Bedfordshire Together Board (CBT)

In response to the need for CBT meetings to become more streamlined a conference was held in September 2014.

The conference was successful in achieving consensus on the key challenges facing Central Bedfordshire and how they should be tackled. The need for improved partnership working and greater collaboration in the future was recognised. The need for a collective view on the way combine and use our resources to achieve our shared ambitions was achieved

The outcomes from the event will inform the ongoing work of our statutory and strategic partnerships for community safety, health and economic growth

Councillor Mrs Turner responded to questions.

C/14/69. **Recommendation from the Executive**

(i) Council Tax support Scheme

The Council considered a recommendation from a meeting of the Executive held on 9 December 2014, concerning the Council Tax Support Scheme.

RESOLVED

That the current Council Tax Support Scheme be extended for a further year (2015/16), subject to “uprating” as set out in the Executive report.

Councillor Murray requested that his name be recorded as having voted against the decision.

C/14/70. **Recommendation from the General Purposes Committee**

(i) Pay Policy Statement 2015/16

The Council considered recommendations from a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 15 January 2015 seeking approval of the draft Pay Policy Statement 2015/16 as set out at Appendix A to the submitted report.

RESOLVED

- 1. that the draft Pay Policy Statement 2015/16, as set out at Appendix A, be approved and adopted;**
- 2. that the Pay Policy Statement 2015/16 be published on the Council’s website.**

(ii) Councillor Code of Conduct Complaints

The Council considered a recommendation from a meeting of the General Purposes Committee held on 15 January 2015 seeking approval of amendments to Part F2 of the Constitution as set out at Appendix A(i), and to the Councillor Code of Conduct Complaints Procedure Flowchart, as set out at Appendix A(ii).

RESOLVED

that the proposed amendments to Part F2 of the Constitution, as set out at Appendix A(i), and to the Councillor Code of Conduct Complaints Procedure Flowchart, as set out at Appendix A(ii) of the submitted report, be approved and adopted.

C/14/71. **Calendar of Meetings**

The Council considered a report of the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources seeking approval of the proposed Calendar of Committee meetings for the municipal year 2015- 2016.

RESOLVED

that the draft Calendar of Council and Committee meetings for the period May 2015 to May 2016 as set out at Appendix A to the submitted report be approved.

C/14/72. Motions (if any)

No motions were received.

C/14/73. Written Questions

No written questions were received.

C/14/74. 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 asked a question about a 20 mph speed limit that had been introduced in Dunstable.

Councillor Murray asked a supplementary question about who was monitoring the driving speeds and the number of convictions since the implementation of the speed limit.

The Executive Member for Community Services indicated that he would look into this and provide a written answer.

2. Councillor Aldis asked a question about the Council Tax Support Grant.

The Deputy Leader, Executive Member for Corporate Resources outlined the challenges faced by the Council in setting a balance budget.

3. Councillor Murray asked a question about a public car park in Dunstable and the extent to which it was being used by staff.

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

4. Councillor Aldis asked a question about the procedure for reporting missed waste collections.

The Executive Member for Community Services indicated that he would look into this and provide a written answer.

(Note: The meeting commenced at 6.30 p.m. and concluded at 7.42 p.m.)

Chairman

Dated

COUNCIL MEETING – 26 February 2015

**Recommendation to Council from the Executive meeting
held on 10 February 2015**

E/14/110. Budget 2015/16 and Medium Term Financial Plan

The Executive considered a report from the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources that set out the proposed budget for 2015/16 and updated the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

The budget for 2015/16 set out the Council's finances and identified the efficiencies required in the light of the ongoing reduction of funding from Government and other pressures. £13.7m of efficiencies had been identified for 2015/16 and a further £28.4m of efficiencies was required over the subsequent three years to achieve the proposed MTFP.

The proposals took account of the requirement under the Care Act for councils to offer the option of a deferred payment scheme to individuals if they met certain criteria.

Reason for decision: To enable Council to approve the budget for 2015/16 and the Medium Term Financial Plan 2015-2019.

RESOLVED

- 1. that the response to the consultation with Overview and Scrutiny as set out in Appendix K to the Executive report and the response to consultation with the public and stakeholders, as set out in Appendix A to the Executive report, be noted;**
- 2. to note there are no adjustments to the draft budget, as described in paragraphs 29-33 of the Executive report;**
- 3. that the Council Tax Base, as set out in Appendix G to the Executive report, be noted;**
- 4. that certain efficiency proposals identified in Appendix I, to the Executive report, will be subject to formal consultation and Equality Impact Assessment in the coming months and the Corporate Management Team be instructed to propose alternative compensatory savings if it appears, following a review of the outcome of the consultation and Equality Impact Assessment, that any specific proposal cannot be delivered; and**

5. to continue to charge individuals when the Council arranges care and support to meet an individual's needs subject to the appropriate financial assessment taking place; any statutory exemptions; and having regard to the relevant statutory guidance (as set out in paragraphs 80-86 in the Executive report). This recommendation does not extend to situations where the Council arranges to meet a carer's support needs.

RECOMMENDED to Council

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.***

COUNCIL MEETING – 26 February 2015

**Recommendation to Council from the Executive meeting
held on 10 February 2015**

E/14/111. Capital Programme 2015/16 to 2018/19

The Executive considered a report from the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources that set out the proposed capital programme for the four years 2015/16 to 2018/19. The capital programme included a number of significant projects such as New School Places, Enhanced Waste Disposal Facilities, Flitwick Leisure Centre and the Woodside Link. The development of Dunstable Leisure Centre had also been added to the plan.

Reason for decision: To enable Council to approve the capital programme 2015/16 to 2018/19.

RECOMMENDED to Council

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

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COUNCIL MEETING – 26 February 2015

**Recommendation to Council from the Executive meeting
held on 10 February 2015**

E/14/112. Budget for the Housing Revenue Account (Landlord Business Plan)

The Executive considered a report from the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources and the Executive Member for Social Care, Health and Housing that set out the financial position of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and the budget for 2015/16.

In response to questions, the Executive Member for Social Care, Health and Housing explained that the proposed average rent increase of 2.20% for 2015/16 reflected Government guidance. The Right to Buy (RtB) sales were being monitored but the potential loss of income arising from an increased number of RtB sales would not adversely affect the Landlord Service Business Plan.

Reason for decision: To enable Council to approve the budget for the Housing Revenue Account (Landlord Business Plan).

RECOMMENDED to Council

To approve the HRA budget proposals for 2015/16, as follows:-

- 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.***

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COUNCIL MEETING – 26 February 2015

**Recommendation to Council from the Executive meeting
held on 10 February 2015**

E/14/113. Treasury Management Strategy and Treasury Policy

The Executive considered a report from the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources that set out the Treasury Management Policy, Treasury Management Strategy and the Prudential Indicators for 2015/16.

Reason for decision: To enable the Council to approve the Treasury Management Policy, Treasury Management Strategy Statement and the Prudential Indicators for 2015/16 to ensure an effective treasury management framework for the Council.

RECOMMENDED to Council

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

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