

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

**This meeting  
may be filmed.\***



**Central  
Bedfordshire**

**please ask for** Rebecca Preen  
**direct line** 0300 300 4193  
**date** 30 October 2014

## **NOTICE OF MEETING**

### **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Date & Time

**Thursday, 13 November 2014 10.00 a.m.**

Venue at

**Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford**

Richard Carr  
**Chief Executive**

To: The Chairman and Members of the SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

Cllrs D McVicar (Chairman), A R Bastable (Vice-Chairman), D Bowater, C C Gomm, Ms A M W Graham, K C Matthews, B Saunders, A Shadbolt and P Williams

[Named Substitutes:

Mrs C F Chapman MBE, K M Collins, P Hollick, R W Johnstone, D Jones and J Murray]

All other Members of the Council - on request

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

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# AGENDA

## 1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence and notification of substitute members

## 2. **Members' Interests**

To receive from Members any declarations of interest and of any political whip in relation to any agenda item.

## 3. **Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

To receive any announcements from the Chairman and any matters of communication.

## 4. **Minutes**

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 18 September 2014 and to note actions taken since that meeting.

Also attached for information purposes are the Minutes of the co-convened OSC meeting on 23 September 2014 at which Members discussed the proposed fees and charges schedule.

## 5. **Petitions**

To receive petitions from members of the public in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in Annex 2 of Part A4 of the Constitution.

## 6. **Questions, Statements or Deputations**

To receive any questions, statements or 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.

7. **Call-In**

To consider any decision of the Executive referred to this Committee for review in accordance with Procedure Rule 10.10 of Part D2.

8. **Requested Items**

To consider any items referred to the Committee at the request of a Member under Procedure Rule 3.1 of Part D2 of the Constitution.

<b>REPORTS</b>
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<b>Item</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Page Nos.</b>
9	<b>Executive Members Updates</b>  To receive a brief verbal update from the Executive Member for Community Services and the Executive Member for Regeneration.	*Verbal
10	<b>Superfast Broadband</b>  To consider the progress of the Broadband project to date and comment upon the continued investment in delivering Superfast Broadband.	* 17 - 30
11	<b>Allocations Local Plan Scoping Report</b>  To consider the scope and call for sites criteria.	* 31 - 40
12	<b>Q1 Performance Report</b>  To receive a presentation on the relevant quarterly performance information.	* 41 - 58
13	<b>Work Programme 2014/15 and Executive Forward Plan</b>  The report provides Members with details of the currently drafted Committee work programme and the latest Executive Forward Plan.	* 59 - 62

**CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**

At a meeting of the **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Thursday, 18 September 2014.

**PRESENT**

Cllr D McVicar (Chairman)  
Cllr A R Bastable (Vice-Chairman)

Cllrs	D Bowater	Cllrs	B Saunders
	C C Gomm		A Shadbolt
	Ms A M W Graham		B J Spurr
	K C Matthews		P Williams

Members in Attendance:	Cllrs	P N Aldis	
		I Dalgarno	Deputy Executive Members for Community Services
		M A G Versallion	Executive Member for Children's Services
		B Wells	Deputy Executive Member for Community Services

Officers in Attendance:	Mr L Baldry	–	Deputy Head of Service
	Mr P Mason	–	Head of Highways
	Mr S Mooring	–	Environmental Policy Manager
	Mrs R Preen	–	Scrutiny Policy Advisor
	Ms J Taylor	–	Project Manager
	Ms S Templeman	–	Senior Finance Manager

Public 0

**SCOSC/14/29. Members' Interests**

None.

**SCOSC/14/30. Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

The Chairman announced that the Sustainable Communities OSC meeting scheduled for 11 December had been cancelled and the meeting scheduled for 12 March 2015 had been rearranged to 20 March 2015.

Members were reminded that a co-convened meeting of all OSC's would be held after 1pm on Tuesday 23 September 2014 to discuss Fees and Charges. A briefing on the Review of Healthcare Services in Bedfordshire and Milton

Keynes had also been scheduled for Monday 20 October at 2pm in the Council Chamber.

The Chairman explained that due to Cllr Maudlin having to attend another meeting, item 7 (Call In) would be moved to the end of the agenda to allow time for her to arrive.

SCOSC/14/31. **Minutes**

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 19 June 2014 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.**

SCOSC/14/32. **Petitions**

None.

SCOSC/14/33. **Questions, Statements or Deputations**

None.

SCOSC/14/34. **Call-In**

The Committee received a call-in relating to Barford Road, the hill and High Street, Blunham in order to consider objections to traffic calming measures and waiting restrictions.

Cllr Maudlin addressed the Committee and explained that the Call In was necessary to ensure that the voices of the residents were heard appropriately. Blunham Parish Council had not wanted the consideration of the objections to traffic calming measures and waiting restrictions to be omitted as they were happy with this proposal as it made the path wider and supported the Safer Route to School Strategy along with slowing traffic where necessary.

Cllr Aldis acknowledged the concerns raised by residents but said that it was important for this item to be reinstated. Cllr Spurr also declared that he was willing to accept the Call In and for the decision to be looked at again by the Executive.

**RECOMMENDED to refer the Call In back to the Executive Member to reconsider the objections to traffic calming measures and waiting restrictions.**

SCOSC/14/35. **Requested Items**

None.

## SCOSC/14/36. Executive Members Updates

Cllr Dalgarno provided an update in relation to the following aspects of Leisure Facilities:-

- Flitwick Leisure Centre was due to open additional Football pitches for participants to play on.
- There would be a leisure event in Tiddenfoot in October.
- Houghton Regis pool had been opened in time for the summer holidays and the remainder of the facility would be open in October 2015, the feedback from the public had been very positive.

The financial position of several leisure centres located within Central Bedfordshire.

In response to a Member query Cllr Dalgarno explained that it was difficult to provide the Committee with an update regarding Sandy athletics track at this time as the application for Academy status was still to be resolved. £180k had been allocated within the budget to resurface the athletics track at Sandy Leisure Centre but this could only be spent if it remained a community facility.

Cllr Wells provided an update in relation the following:-

- £500k had been allocated in the budget to pressure wash town centres, provide additional weed spraying and increase road sweeping.
- The responsibility for maintaining sponsored roundabouts. Rural weed spraying had increased and there would now be full width rural grass cutting four times per year.
- Measures to smarten up signage around Central Bedfordshire would be implemented.

Cllr Young confirmed to the Committee that an update on the Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan had been circulated to all Members in response to a recent press release. The Government intended to produce guidance on how Local Authorities should assess the Gypsy and Traveller community's need, which was likely to have an impact on how the Council allocated pitches and where possible settlement envelopes were identified. It was confirmed that a consultation would conclude in November 2014.

## SCOSC/14/37. Highways Contract Renewal Project: Authorisation to Proceed

The Assistant Director for Highways and Transport delivered a presentation which proposed to change the current model from a Managing Agent Contract (MAC) provider to a Term Maintenance Contract (TMC) approach. The presentation highlighted that this new approach would provide significant savings and give the Council more control over every aspect of Highways maintenance and management.

The Chairman clarified that the Committee was agreeing a new type of contract, not the detail of the report in the Appendices but whether the Council

should retain the current method of contract delivery. The Chairman reiterated there may be a financial gain to the Council if it was agreed to change the type of contract. Public perception regarding who was responsible for road maintenance was very important as he felt that the public liked to see that the Council was accountable and not a contractor. The Chairman stated that the Council was doing well on the Asset Management Plan and so agreeing a new method of working for Highways could work very well.

Cllr Bowater queried whether enough information could be obtained under the proposed TMC approach to answer public queries. The Executive Member for Community Services explained that under the TMC proposals the Area Stewards would come in house and work directly for the Council, therefore making them more accessible than at present. The MAC contract had worked well for the Council as the roads in Central Bedfordshire were of a high standard and the new contract would further enhance this by providing better innovation with regards to scheduled and future works.

The Committee commented that the performance of Amey had been of a high standard to date. Reassurances were sought that these standards would not deteriorate under a new contract. The Assistant Director for Highways and Transport confirmed that the department would continue to manage quality and standards so as to ensure continuing positive standards and relationships.

Cllr Williams highlighted specific cases where utility companies had undertaken works and upon completion they were not to a standard acceptable to the Council. The Assistant Director for Highways and Transport explained that Amey currently worked hard with the utility companies to ensure their work was of a high standard. In the future the department would consider alternative arrangements to improve this aspect further.

Cllr Graham stated that on occasion Amey had not rectified mistakes leading to the Council being blamed for poor quality. The Assistant Director for Highways and Transport explained that the bringing the inspection function back in house would help to address this challenge.

**RECOMMENDED that the Sustainable Communities OSC support the proposal to proceed with a new Highways Contract Renewal Project.**

#### SCOSC/14/38. **Climate Change Strategy**

The Environmental Policy Manager delivered a presentation regarding the Climate Change Strategy and outlined progress so far which included significant cost savings to the Council and schools along with overall reductions in carbon emissions from Council offices and the schools estate. It was highlighted that there were challenges ahead in reaching the target of a 35% reduction in emissions by 2015 and the Council may have to cut usage at a faster pace.

The Chairman commented that without schools in the scope of the Councils emissions, the Authority was no longer liable for the annual 'carbon tax' of approximately £144K and did not have to cover the other associated costs



needed for participation as the Council no longer had a statutory requirement to reduce emissions. It was queried whether the Authority needed a strategy at all and if so whether it needed to move forward in a different direction to provide quantifiable benefits.

In light of the report the Committee discussed the following:-

- Concerns regarding the implications of removing schools from the scope of the strategy In response the Environmental Policy Manager explained there was a financial incentive for large organisations to make changes and improve their emissions output, schools were still an important part of this and the Council was working closely with them to help achieve greater results.
- Concerns that the strategy had not addressed the issue of possible water shortages by 2020 other than acknowledging it might be a challenge. In response the Environmental Policy Manager explained it had been determined that Greywater systems were not viable and the Housing Standards Review stated it was possible only to have a certain amount of water allocation per person.
- Responsibility for deciding who received high priority for water allocation (for example businesses or rural landowners), which it was confirmed was the water board .
- Performance statistics with regards to emissions, which was shared with other Councils to assess comparable progress.

**RECOMMENDED that the Strategy be endorsed however in light of the change in the Council's statutory responsibility, the Committee sought reassurances that in the future any Strategy only be implemented if it would lead to substantial cost savings.**

#### SCOSC/14/39. Q1 Budget Report June 2014

The Senior Finance Manager delivered a presentation regarding the Q1 Budget Report which highlighted several overspends, however these were mitigated by forecast underspends thus balancing the finances overall.

The Chairman highlighted that any underspend would go back into the Corporate Budget and not necessarily spent within department.

**NOTED the Report**

#### SCOSC/14/40. Provisional Work Programme 2014/15 and Executive Forward Plan

The Committee considered its current Work Programme and the latest Executive Forward Plan.

**RECOMMENDED that the Sustainable Communities OSC Work Programme be agreed.**

(Note: The meeting commenced at 10.00a.m. and concluded at 11.50a.m.)

**CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**

At a meeting of the **CO-CONVENED OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in Council Chamber, Priory House on Tuesday, 23 September 2014.

**PRESENT**

**Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

Cllrs: Barker (Chairman), Duckett and McVicar

Also Present: Mr Chapman (PGR co-optee), Mr Court (PGR co-optee) and Ms F Image (Diocesan representative)

Substitutes: Cllrs Berry (substitute for Cllr Costin) and B Saunders (substitute for Cllr G Clarke)

**Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

Cllrs: Duckett (Chairman), Sparrow (Vice-Chairman), Chapman and Coleman

Substitutes Cllr B Saunders (substitute for Cllr Johnstone)

**Social Care, Health & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

Cllrs: Drinkwater (Chairman), Berry, Duckett and Goodchild

Substitutes Cllrs McVicar (substitute for Cllr Gomm) and Sparrow (substitute for Cllr Sheppard)

**Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

Cllrs: McVicar (Chairman), Bowater, Matthews, B Saunders, Shadbolt and Williams

Substitutes Cllr Chapman (substitute for Cllr Gomm)

Apologies for Absence: Cllrs A R Bastable  
Mrs G Clarke  
N B Costin  
Dr R Egan  
C C Gomm  
Ms A M W Graham  
Mrs D B Gurney  
Mr T Hodey  
P Hollick  
R W Johnstone  
D Jones  
Mr D Morton  
Mrs M Mustoe  
R B Pepworth  
N J Sheppard  
M A Smith  
N Warren  
T Woodward

Members in Attendance:	Cllrs	C Hegley	Executive Member for Social Care, Health & Housing
		D J Hopkin	Deputy Executive Member for Corporate Resources
		M R Jones	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources
		B J Spurr	Executive Member for Community Services
		M A G Versallion	Executive Member for Children's Services
		J N Young	Executive Member for Regeneration

Officers in Attendance:	Mr D Galvin	– Head of Financial Performance
	Mr I Melville	– Head of Business Systems
	Mr J Partridge Ritchie	– Corporate Policy Manager
		– Head of Registration & Coroner Service
	Ms S Templeman	– Senior Finance Manager

Others in Attendance Public 0

**OSC/14/1. Members' Interests**

Cllr Bowater declared an interest in the business as a Member of the Audit Committee.

**OSC/14/2. Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

Cllr McVicar welcomed the co-opted Members of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and advised Members of the procedure for the meeting including the manner in which the discussion would be recorded. Whilst the meeting was a co-convened meeting of four separate Overview and Scrutiny Committees it was noted that any recommendations would be referred to the relevant committee for referral to the Executive.

**OSC/14/3. Petitions**

None.

**OSC/14/4. Questions, statements and deputations**

None.

**OSC/14/5. Fees and Charges**

Cllr M Jones introduced a report that proposed the revised fees and charges for 2015/16 and identified those charges where increases were significantly

different from the 2% advisory increase as per the 2015/16 Budget Strategy. In addition it was highlighted that charges would take effect either from 01 January 2015 or 01 April 2015.

In addition to discussing the specific fees and charges Members commented that the report did not clearly demonstrate which of these were statutory and where there was flexibility to amend proposals. It was suggested that future reports identify the level of service use as a means of providing context for these charges, for example in relation to waste collection it was proposed to increase the charge by £1.00 but it was not clear the extent of the impact of this change. Additionally it was suggested that a more consistent approach to setting the fees and charges was required, for example some directorates provided a 2014/15 comparison and others did not. Members also commented that in the future it was necessary to have appropriate officers in attendance at OSC meetings to discuss the proposed charges and to be able to respond to queries on the nature of specific charges.

In light of the report the Committee discussed the detailed proposed fees and charges and commented as follows:-

- Social Care, Health & Housing (Appendix A1)

Clarity was sought in relation to proposed fees and charges for telecare monitoring services for those who met eligibility criteria and whether VAT had been applied appropriately to these charges. Members also queried whether costs relating to domiciliary care were per hour for each carer.

Members also queried fees and charges for guest rooms and whether it would be appropriate to increase the proposed charge in light of the comparative costs of rooms elsewhere. The Social Care, Health and Housing OSC considered a recommendation to increase the proposed charge but it was considered inappropriate to amend the proposed fee at the current time. It was however agreed that it be reviewed for 2016/17 following a review of the standard of these facilities.

Members queried the nature of immigration survey requests and what these entailed. In light of responsibilities being added to the role of the Council it was proposed and agreed by the Social Care, Health and Housing OSC that this charge be reviewed with a view to the Executive considering whether the proposed charge was sufficient.

Members also queried whether it was necessary to refer to a 'renewal' of a blue badge and whether the weekly price per care home bed for other local authorities was high enough in comparison to our own prices.

**RECOMMENDED by the Social Care Health and Housing OSC to Executive that the comments detailed above be considered and that whilst the Committee supports the proposed fees and charges in Appendix A1 in light of the additional responsibilities on the Council relating to immigration surveys the associated charge be reviewed to ensure they were set at an appropriate level for 2015/16.**

- Children's Services (Appendix A2)

Members noted the charges relating to schools transport and in addition sought clarity in relation to the charges for the music service and the means by which schools could use the pupil premium to fund music lessons. Members also sought clarity in relation to the charges for out of county and non-LEA schools, specifically why there was not a 40 minute lesson for out of county schools and why costs were not increasing for 2015.

**RECOMMENDED by the Children's Services OSC to Executive that the proposed charges in Appendix A2 be supported subject to further clarity being provided in relation to music service charges for out of county and non-LEA schools to ensure that these charges were set at an appropriate level for 2015/16.**

- Community Services (Appendix A3)

Members sought clarity in relation to the purpose of 'definitive statements'. Members also queried why the charges for granting a sex shop/cinema license were the same and whether the fee for granting of a sexual entertainment venue was sufficient. In relation to charges for the Licensing Act 2003 Members queried in general terms whether these fees were high enough.

Members queried the proposed weekly rate for off-street parking in Flitwick and whether it would be appropriate to provide a discount. In response the Executive Member commented this charge was presently being reviewed and further information would be provided at the Executive meeting.

Members queried the proposed charges for Hackney Cabs and Private Hire Licences and sought clarity as to why these fees had not increased. It was agreed that further clarity would be provided at the Executive meeting.

Members also queried whether it was necessary to agree a charge in relation to licensing mobile food vans. The Executive Member agreed to review this charge and whether it was necessary to include a charge, following a consistent approach to the recommendation of a charge for sex shop licences. The Executive Member was also asked to consider whether the charge for collecting fridges and freezers from domestic premises should be reduced or remain at the 2014/15 rate in order to deter fly tipping.

**RECOMMENDED by the Sustainable Communities OSC to Executive that the proposed charges in Appendix A3 be supported but that further clarity be provided in light of the comments detailed above at the relevant Executive meeting.**

- Regeneration & Business Support (Appendix A4)

Members queried why the proposed charges for 2015/16 had been held at 2014/rates. The Executive Member agreed to review the charges prior to the Executive meeting to consider whether it was appropriate to apply a 2% increase.

**RECOMMENDED by the Sustainable Communities OSC to Executive that the proposed fees and charges in Appendix A4 be reviewed to determine whether it was appropriate to apply a 2% increase for 2015/16.**

- Corporate Resources (including registration) (Appendix A5)

The Committee received an update in relation to the proposed fees and charges for the registration service in light of Bedford Borough Council's decision to apply an uplift of 3-3.5%. In light of this increase Members agreed it would be appropriate for Central Bedfordshire Council to negotiate these charges with a view to agreeing a similar uplift to Bedford Borough Council.

In addition Members queried the rationale for not increasing charges in relation to land charges, which it was confirmed was due to the Council not being permitted to make a profit in relation to this service. Members also sought clarity in relation to the charges associated to Freedom of Information requests and the time taken to compile a request.

**RECOMMENDED by the Corporate Resources OSC to Executive that the proposed fees and charges in Appendix A5 be supported subject to a review of the proposed fees and charges for the registration service to bring them in line with the proposed charge for Bedford Borough Council.**

- Building Control (Appendix A6)

**RECOMMENDED by the Sustainable Communities OSC to Executive that the proposed fees and charges in Appendix A6 be reviewed to determine whether it was appropriate to apply a 2% increase for 2015/16.**

- Planning Services (Appendix A7)

**RECOMMENDED by the Sustainable Communities OSC to Executive that the proposed fees and charges in Appendix A7 be reviewed to determine whether it was appropriate to apply a 2% increase for 2015/16.**

- Minerals & Waste (Appendix A8)

**RECOMMENDED by the Sustainable Communities OSC to Executive that the proposed fees and charges in Appendix A8 be reviewed to determine whether it was appropriate to apply a 2% increase for 2015/16.**

- Photocopying (Appendix A9)

**RECOMMENDED by the Corporate Resource OSC to Executive that the proposed fees and charges in Appendix A9 be supported.**

- Marriage fees (Appendix A10)

NOTED the statutory fees and charges proposed in Appendix A10.

- Charges to Schools and Academies (Appendix C)

Members sought further clarity on the process for making schools aware of the proposed charges in relation to statutory and traded services to schools and academies. Members also sought clarity in relation to the process by which these proposed charges were scrutinised before they were implemented. It was also requested that the proposed charges for the following academic year be provided to schools in a timely way so they were aware of charges prior to setting their budget for the following year.

In addition Members queried the costs of psychologists and requested that these be reviewed to determine whether the charges were appropriate. It was also commented that the charges in relation to the music service did not appear to correspond with those included in Appendix A2. Further clarity was also required in relation to the charges for the schools secure network costs.

**RECOMMENDED that further clarity be sought from the Director for Children’s Services and the Executive Members to ascertain the process for scrutinising these proposed charges before they were implemented.**

(Note: The meeting commenced at 13.10pm and concluded at 15.35pm)

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**Meeting:** Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** 13.11.2014

**Subject:** Superfast Broadband

**Report of:** Cllr Richard Wenham, Deputy Executive Member for Corporate Resources

**Summary:** The report provides an overview of the Councils existing activities in improving broadband services and proposes ongoing support for the Council's engagement in the Broadband Delivery UK Phase 2 project.

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**Advising Officer:** Jason Longhurst, Director of Regeneration and Business

**Contact Officer:** James Cushing, head of Investment

**Public/Exempt:** Public

**Wards Affected:** All

**Function of:** Council

## **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Council Priorities:**

1. The delivery of superfast broadband directly addresses the Council's priority of Better Infrastructure – improved roads, broadband reach and transport and the delivery of the Council's Joint Broadband Plan. Additionally, the provision of superfast broadband also contributes to a range of wider Council objectives including Enhancing Central Bedfordshire – particularly creating jobs and enabling businesses to grow, Delivering Great Services and Value for Money - through supporting the accessing of services online and on demand.

### **Financial:**

2. The Council has invested in the initial Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) broadband project and has agreed to invest further resources in the Phase 2 extension project. Public sector external funding is made up from £200k and £250k secured from Central Bedfordshire Together for the respective phases and £1,285 and £2,040 secured from BDUK.

	<b>Gross Expenditure</b>	<b>External Funding</b>	<b>Net Expenditure</b>
	<b>£ 000</b>	<b>£ 000</b>	<b>£ 000</b>
BDUK Phase 1	2,485	1,485	1,000
BDUK Phase 2	4,140	2,290	1,850
Total	6,625	3,775	2,850

3. The project utilises a GAP funding model to secure private sector investment from the selected delivery partner. For phase 1, over the wider Central Superfast area the delivery partner BTs will contribute £3.9m capital plus £5.7m operating costs over the 15 years bidder timeline, representing a leverage ratio of 151% on public funding. Due to the bidding process it is not possible to break this investment down to a Local Authority Area. The second phase of the project will also use the GAP funded model with private sector leverage, being a minimum of 11% in line with the state aid and BDUK framework requirements. The contract with BT also contains clauses that any savings in the project delivery, or super profits generated by higher than expected take up of services (the contract assumes 20% take up of services) are reinvested in the project, further extending coverage.
4. Central Bedfordshire Council is the accountable body for a wider partnership, Central Superfast, covering Bedford Borough and Milton Keynes Councils for the Phase 1 project and in addition to these authorities, Luton Borough Council has been included in Phase 2.

**Legal:**

5. The Council has the power to support broadband deployment under Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000. There are no statutory requirements for the Council to undertake improved broadband works. The Council is able to secure a private sector partner and undertake delivery activities utilising a national BDUK State Aid notification and a procurement framework which is compliant with European Union (EU) requirements. Council legal, financial and procurement rules will also be adhered to throughout delivery of the plan. The Council's Audit team have been an active partner in the project to ensure compliance from a Council perspective.
6. A binding collaboration agreement between the Council and other Local Authorities has been developed to ensure that funding is directed according to each local authority's requirements and in line with BDUK contractual requirements, ensuring a proportionate bearing of risk. This will be updated inline with project requirements.

**Risk Management:**

7. The project is subject to procurement and state aid risks. The compliance with and use of the BDUK procurement and state aid frameworks mitigates these, with BDUK acting as a national competency centre and undertaking assurance/ checkpoint assessments of the project.
8. The project has developed an officer lead project team, and utilises formal project management techniques, including a project risk register, which is reviewed as a standing agenda item at member lead programme board meetings.

- 9 There will be a number of risks associated with the detailed delivery of the project, from a delivery partner perspective. These include for example, planning, highways, way leaves and day to day project delivery. These are mitigated through weekly supplier/ project team meetings, and internal BT project and risk management plans and processes, with appropriate risk ownership clauses, where failure to deliver results in non payment.

**Staffing (including Trades Unions):**

10. Existing Council resources have been utilised to manage Council inputs- i.e. financial legal, planning, highways and communications.
11. The Council contributes to joint project management costs, including any necessary specialist consultancy and a joint project manager role (the Council acts as the employing body). This is based on a formula of, taking into account a 50% equal split of costs between partners and a 50% proportional split of costs based on total public sector. The Council Contributions to this have come from existing Regeneration and Business Budgets and a future approval from the Council for £50k towards future project costs.

**Equalities/Human Rights:**

12. Public authorities have a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and to foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
13. In developing the Local Broadband Plan and undertaking the procurement processes, consideration of the need to improve access for all has been a core principle, evidenced in the Council's priority to maximise coverage. Analysis of options for intervention, while meeting state aid guidelines, has mapped access to areas of deprivation and found very little correlation. Utilising the BDUK procurement process ensured the Council was compliant with national procurement requirements to ensure potential suppliers complied with necessary legislation. Likewise through the deployment process the Council works with the main supplier to ensure that broadband services are available to the maximum number of people and that access is not discriminated against in anyway:

**Public Health**

14. Increasing accessibility to broadband can allow for increased tele-health opportunities and access to online information, albeit that services will need to be independently provided and is not within scope of the project. .

**Community Safety:**

15. The availability of a superfast infrastructure network will support the deployment of real time monitoring and security systems, for community organisations, business and residents. This will ultimately open up new opportunities and technologies to support enhanced community safety.

**Sustainability:**

16. Delivery of the extended coverage of superfast broadband will positively impact on a number of sustainability considerations, including reducing the need to travel (by increasing access to online services and opportunities for home working) and resulting emission reductions. Further to this, the provision of superfast broadband will also support the delivery of jobs growth aspirations for the area, by supporting growth in existing businesses productivity, ensuring the area remains attractive to new inward investment and supporting new business to start up, through taking advantage of new technologies and market opportunities.

**Procurement:**

17. The National BDUK procurement framework, which has been out to Official Journal of the European Union competitive tender, was used for phase 1 and will be used for phase 2 to competitively select a private sector partner. A mini competition process will be used to call off providers to deliver infrastructure locally.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):****The Committee is asked to:-**

1. **Note the progress of the broadband project to date**
2. **Support the continued investment in delivering superfast broadband through investment in the phase 2 broadband project**

**Superfast Broadband Phase 1**

18. The rollout of superfast broadband is a priority in the Council's Medium term Plan, such that the necessary infrastructure is in place, to ensure that the area remains competitive and attractive to current and new investors and residents.
19. Locally, the Council has launched a Demand Registration facility allowing residents and business to register their demand for improved broadband and to register their support for the project. To date there are almost 3,900 responses, with 96% supporting the Council's plans to improve broadband speeds.

20. The lack of superfast broadband (Speeds Greater than 24 Megabits per second, Mbps) services is a recognised barrier to new business formation, job creation and self-employment and hampers competitiveness. Recent evidence from the Department for Culture Media and Sport (November 2013) highlights that enhancing the availability and take-up of faster broadband speeds will add about £17 billion to the UK's annual Gross Value Added (GVA) by 2024. Likewise when considering wider global evidence, it has been shown that a doubling of broadband speeds can be expected to result in a 0.3% increase in Gross Domestic product. Superfast broadband will also have a number of environmental impacts, including reduced commuting, due to teleworking and improved efficiency. This would account for about 1.6 million tonnes of CO2 savings nationally per annum, by 2024.

21.

Furthermore, the Council undertook an analysis of the expected benefits of investing in superfast broadband. These identified that an expected return to the local economy of £98 million over a 15 year period from implementation. This means that for the Council's initial investment of £1 million and taken into account external funding secured there would be an expected return of almost £110-1. The main benefits of supplying superfast broadband are considered to be:

- **Jobs growth through Improving business productivity and efficiency** - through supporting business growth, attracting new high value activity investment into the area and supporting business and labour market skill development.
- **Supporting business start up and growth** – through access to new markets and opportunities and enabling improved access to customers and available support resources- ie Business Link is now delivered on line and promotion through online networks such as Linked In.
- **Strengthening the rural economy** - Information from our business survey highlights a number of potential barriers to rural businesses, including lower level of access to high speed broadband and limited commercial viability for rolling out NGA broadband. Improved broadband services to the rural area will help solve the problem of digital exclusion
- **Helping the transformation of public services** – allowing access to national online services, i.e. DVLA licencing and the Council's own online service channels, ultimately driving efficiency in service delivery.
- **Contributing towards greener environment** As a result of broadband connectivity, remote and flexible working opportunities will arise and enable workspaces to be used more efficiently. Faster broadband will also enable the development of environmental technology for the reduction of carbon emissions, such as real time monitoring of traffic flows.
- **Education and Training** – allowing access to new training and learning opportunities, such as online Moodle courses.
- **Tele-health-** superfast broadband is an essential in facilitating emerging tele -health technologies, including real time consultations and real time monitoring of conditions that may ultimately allow residents to remain in their own homes for longer.
- **Supporting equality for all** – With an increasing amount of services delivered digitally, it is critical to ensure access for all, for example new Universal Credits and job search requirements are requiring more residents to both have and be able to use broadband connectivity.

22. The Government identified approximately £500 million nationally to rollout superfast broadband to 90% of premises, defined as speeds of at least 24 megabits per second (Mbps), and ensure all had access to at least 2Mbps. As part of this the Government set up Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) as its delivery arm. BDUK made initial allocations to local areas, based on a modelled need, and also required projects to form partnerships of minimum sizes, to ensure projects were attractive to the private sector delivery partners. The Council has invested £1million in the project, and secured external public funding of £1.4 million, this included successfully negotiating a further £600,000 from BDUK.
23. As part of the approval process for funding, BDUK also required areas to develop a Local Broadband plan, setting out the ambitions for the area and current broadband provision. The Council has entered into a formal collaboration agreement with Bedford Borough and Milton Keynes Councils and formed a joint Broadband Partnership (under the project title Central Superfast) to deliver the Joint Local Broadband Plan (endorsed by full Council at its meeting on the 14 February 2012), which set out plans to deliver access to superfast broadband (defined as being at least 24Mbps) to 90% of all premises with the aim to ensure that all premises in Central Bedfordshire have access to infrastructure able to provide at least 2Mbps.
23. The Joint Broadband Partnership consists of a decision making member led board, with Cllr Richard Wenham representing the Council, and an officer led board with James Cushing, Head of Policy attending. There are various task and finish sub groups for the project, including joint communications and planning and highways groups. A joint project manager role (with the Council acts as the employing body) has also been put in place, to meet the BDUK requirement for sufficient project management capacity.
24. The Council and its partners utilised the national BDUK procurement framework and state aid approval, on the grounds that this was considered to be the lowest risk and most efficient means of securing private sector partners. BDUK undertook a full Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) procurement process. While initially there were a number of providers taking part in the procurement process, ultimately only BT and Fujitsu were on the final framework. Furthermore, Fujitsu made the commercial decision not to bid for the majority of BDUK projects. A key requirement of the project is that public funds are not used to compete with or over build existing or planned private sector provision. As such all premises supported under the programme would not have received a superfast service without intervention.
25. After successfully passing the various BDUK state aid approval processes and completing the procurement process, BT were selected as a partner to deliver necessary infrastructure. In addition to the public investment, BT are contributing £3.9m capital plus £5.7m operating costs over the 15 years bidder timeline, representing a leverage ratio of 151% against public investment. The contract was awarded to BT in August 2013.

26. Under the contract BT is delivering superfast services to almost 15,500 premises in Central Bedfordshire, with deployment complete in Q1 2016. Of the 9,152 premises not estimated to received speeds of at least 2 Mbps, 3854 are expected to be passed with fibre and benefit from speeds greater than 2 Mbps, 546 premises are now deemed by BT to already receive 2 Mbps, and 4,752 premises will be covered by infill technologies under the current plan, ensuring 100% 2 Mbps broadband coverage.
27. The Phase 1 project is making good progress. The first telecommunication cabinet went live in Stanford in June 2014. To date the project has delivered Superfast Broadband infrastructure to 3,544 premises, and is currently above target for delivery. Cabinets have been upgraded in Ampthill, Cranfield, Sandy, Shefford and Silsoe, with new the rate of delivery of new cabinets increasing.
27. As part of maximising transparency and public understanding of the project, the partners have published a draft deployment map online and developed a post code look up facility. This and wider background to the project is available at [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/broadband](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/broadband). In addition to the deployment maps, expected cabinets to be upgraded in the next stage of the project are also published in advance of activity. The Council was one of the first authorities nationally to introduce the postcode checker and is recognised as strongly performing by BDUK for the extent that project information and progress is made publically available.
28. The contract with BT contains clauses that any savings in the project delivery, or super profits generated by higher than expected take up of services (the contract assumes 20% take up of services) are reinvested in the project and extending coverage even further.

## **Phase 2**

29. In the June 2013 Spending Round the Government announced a further £250m of funding to increase the availability of superfast broadband to 95% of premises in the UK by 2017, phase 2. Central Bedfordshire was indicatively allocated £1.74 Million as part of this. The total allocation to the Central Superfast Area and Luton was £3.18 million. Following negotiations with BDUK the Council was able to secure an additional £300k for Central Bedfordshire (as part of securing £800k for the wider area). The 19.08.14 Executive approved the Council's contribution of a total of £1.85 million additional funding to match BDUK resources. This will bring the Council's total investment in Superfast Broadband to £2.85 million over both phases.



30. Participating in the SEP is likely to result in supporting at least an additional 7,100 premises to receive superfast broadband services. These premises are not currently being served through commercial plans or the existing Central Superfast Project and there is very little chance of these premises being supported through other means. Through a competitive process, the Council will again select a private partner to put in place necessary broadband infrastructure and seek to maximize coverage as far as possible above the 95% target.

31. Following the agreed principles of the Phase 1 project, the Council has considered and agreed (at the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014 and 12<sup>th</sup> June 2014 Council meetings) to continue with the existing priorities to roll out superfast broadband services:

- Maximising overall superfast broadband coverage
- Ensuring all have a minimum access to infrastructure able to deliver 2 Mbps services
- Subject to maximising superfast, seek a balance between residential and business premise coverage and
- Subject to maximising superfast coverage, achieve a reasonable geographic spread, taking into account local demand, demonstrated through responses to the Broadband survey and response to consultation

These reflect the fact that evidence from the phase 1 project nationally highlights that deployment is based on the most cost effective solution for the provider, in terms of planning and resource deployment/ phasing. Specifying locations, such as business parks or particular settlements has shown that this can reduce total coverage, due to both increased costs in resource deployment and actual delivery costs. Likewise, the BDUK framework has a spending limit per premises of £1800, to ensure value for money from the use of public resources.

32. The major costs of deploying broadband relate to either the equipment required, network organisation or distance from existing fibre sources. Superfast broadband can be delivered through predominantly either Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) or Fibre to the Premise (FTTP). FTTC is based on providing fibre from national networks to a local exchange and then to a local cabinet. Existing copper infrastructure is utilised to connect the cabinet to the premise. This technology is the most widely used in the UK, and represents the lower cost deployment option, though currently speeds are limited to around 100 Mbps. This is ultimately due to the physical properties of copper and speeds drop away drastically when premises are over 1 km from the cabinet. FTTP provides a fibre line directly to the premise. This offers speeds currently limited to around 300 Mbps, but has the potential for higher. This is the higher cost option and also requires additional work and disruption to connect to individual premises. The Council project is almost exclusively utilising FTTC to provide superfast broadband services. The differing cost of providing services ultimately drives deployment, in line with the Council's requirement to maximise coverage for all. The highest value for money areas have been determined, based on a factor of total number premises supported and cost to achieve this. Some areas may have higher deployment costs due to being further from existing fibre connections, based on Exchange only Lines, where regulation requires new cabinets and networks to be deployed, and ultimately whether upgrading cabinets will improve services to speeds of at least 24 Mbps, a requirement of the BDUK framework. For example, where a premise is much more than 1km from the nearest cabinet, even upgrading that cabinet to fibre will not mean it will necessarily be able to receive superfast services, due to the long copper line and associated drop off in speeds.
33. BDUK have extended the national procurement and state aid frameworks, the Council will again utilise these in selecting a private sector bidder. Necessary pre procurement and state aid requirements, including undertaking an Open Market Review in August and launching a State Aid Public Consultation on eligible intervention areas has been launched. These are both requirements of the state aid process and determine the existing and future roll out plans of commercial telecom infrastructure providers. These do not determine where final investment will take place, only where is eligible under state aid rules. Depending on BDUK approvals and timescales, it is expected that a tender will be published in November 2014, with a private partner selected in February 2015. Detailed planning will then be undertaken, and the Council would propose undertake a similar public mapping and postcode look up facility to allow residents to know our plans. Final delivery would be by March 2018. It is likely that the award of the Phase 2 contract will positively impact phase 1, with the possibility for accelerated delivery and use of new technologies, such as Fibre to the Remote Node, where the technology in cabinets is effectively placed on existing telephone poles. This has the potential to dramatically reduce costs to support our most remote communities.

## **Additional Activities**

34. In addition to the BDUK projects to tackle existing premises, the Council's emerging Development Strategy and any new Council led masterplans highlight the requirement for new developments to consider putting in place superfast broadband infrastructure, to ensure that new premises are planned for from the outset and so not creating future need for public sector intervention.
35. The Council is also required to promote the take up of broadband services. To do this a range of demand stimulation activities are being undertaken, including IT demonstration within Library services, provision of IT courses through our Adult Skills programmes, use of IT to access Advice and Guidance and employment opportunities through the Work Clubs run by the Council.
36. Furthermore, the Council on behalf of the Central Superfast project was successful in securing £75,000 from the Department of Communities and Local Government to support the Women Business and start ups make better use of broadband. This programme will support at least 150 female entrepreneurs, 20 new businesses and 25 new jobs.
37. The Council has also been leading in ensuring that The South East Midlands Local enterprise Partnership European Structure and Investment Fund (ESIF) plan includes support to improve digital skills and take up of the opportunities of superfast broadband.
38. The Council also continues to utilise the demand registration data and engage with the wider telecoms market, to seek to attract new providers to the area and ensure existing providers continue to invest in the area. Likewise the Council has been working with a number of Parish Councils to explore options to improve broadband provision locally. For example at Kingsreach, Biggleswade, where continual Council engagement has led to a private funded solution between BT and developers to provide superfast services to this major housing development.

## Conclusion and Next Steps

40. The Council is actively working to extend the coverage of superfast broadband infrastructure and ensure all have access to infrastructure that can support at least speeds of 2 Mbps.
- Responding to strong local demand for improved broadband services, 96% support the need for better broadband
  - BT has been selected to provide superfast broadband services to an additional 15,500 premises (bring superfast coverage to 90%) and minimum speeds of 2 Mbps for all.
  - The Council has invested £1 million and secured £11.05 million, in the Phase one broadband project
  - Currently the project is on track, delivering services to 3,544 premises by the end of September 2014.
  - Deployment of phase 1 is expected to be complete in early 2016.
  - BT contract contains provisions for payback to be reinvested in extending coverage.
41. The Council is currently progressing with a Phase 2 broadband project, in partnership with Milton Keynes, Bedford and Luton Councils, to increase coverage to at least 95%.
- The Council is investing £1.85 million in this phase, having already secured £2.29 million of external funding.
  - Supporting an additional 7,100 premises.
  - Progress is well underway, with a State Aid Publication launched to determine eligible investment areas.
  - A tender will be published in November 2014, with a private partner selected in February 2015.
  - Final delivery of would be by March 2018.
42. A series of demand stimulation activities are underway, such as the Women Business in Broadband project, to support the take up and wider benefits of improved broadband access.
43. Projects to further extend coverage and increase take up are being investigated. Likewise planning policies have been put in place to require new developments to have superfast broadband infrastructure in place.

### Appendices:

Appendix A – Broadband Phase 1 Deployment Map

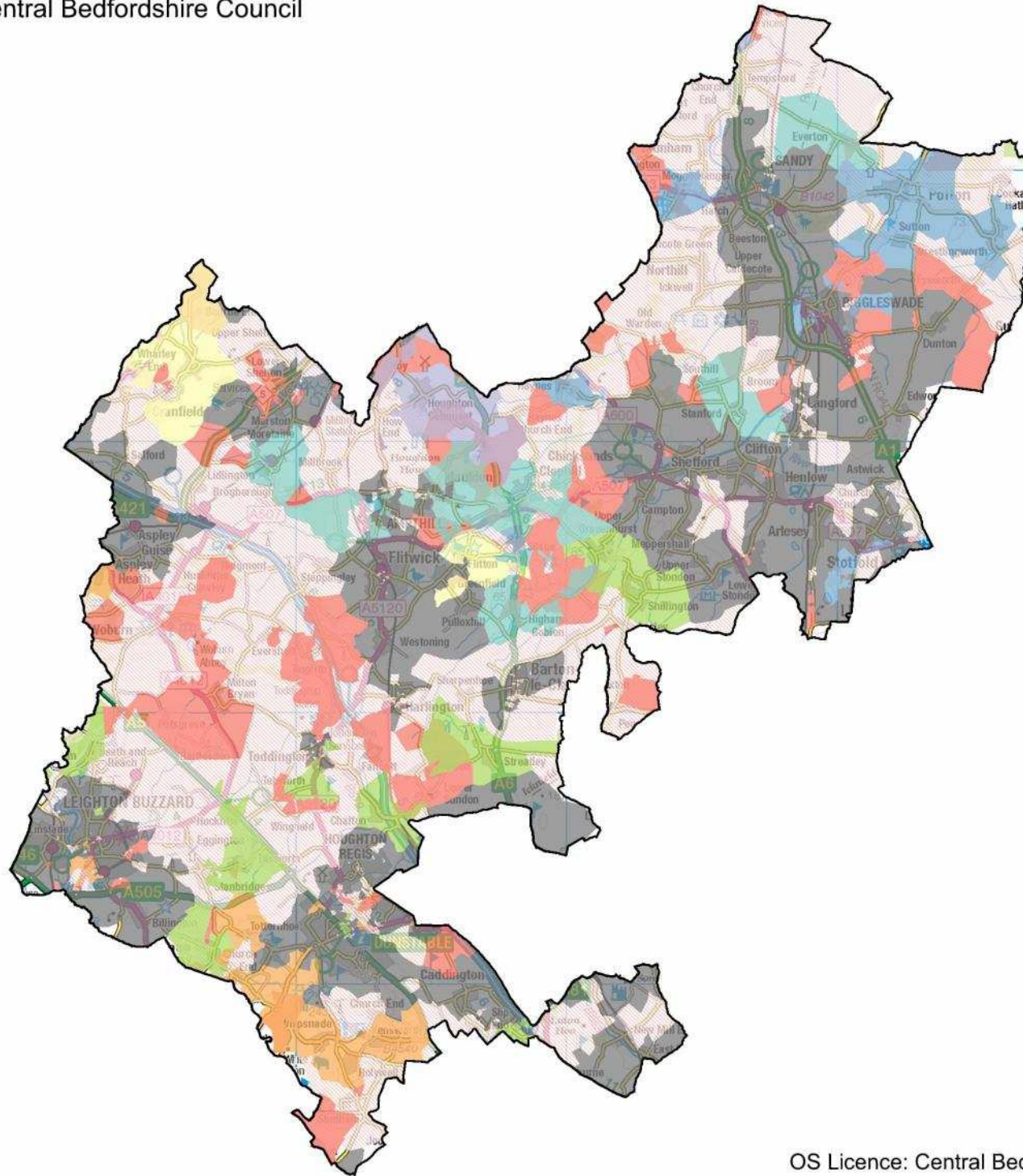
### Background papers and their location: (open to public inspection)

Joint Local Broadband Plan.

[http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/Images/Joint%20Local%20Broadband%20Plan\\_tcm6-41719.pdf#False](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/Images/Joint%20Local%20Broadband%20Plan_tcm6-41719.pdf#False)

State Aid Public Consultation. <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/local-business/broadband/broadband-plans.aspx>

Central Superfast Broadband Project - Indicative Phasing (as at December 2013)  
 Central Bedfordshire Council



Legend



Project Area



Superfast Broadband already available or in suppliers' commercial deployment plans NB There are known gaps in this indicated coverage. Gaps may be addressed by other project work or in a Superfast Extension Project for 2017/18.



Phase 1 - Superfast anticipated to be available between July 2014 and December 2014



Phase 2 - Superfast anticipated to be available between October 2014 and March 2015



Phase 3 - Superfast anticipated to be available between January 2015 and June 2015



Phase 4 - Superfast anticipated to be available between April 2015 and September 2015



Phase 5 - Superfast anticipated to be available between July 2015 and December 2015



Phase 6 - Superfast anticipated to be available between October 2015 and March 2016



Phase 7 - Superfast anticipated to be available between January 2016 and June 2016



Phase 8 - Provision of basic infrastructure in 2016 to deliver a minimum of 2Mbps. Possible Superfast Extension Project area (2017/18)



A basic service (minimum 2Mbit/s) is already available. Possible Superfast Extension Project area (2017/18)

NB Phasing may change as survey work and implementation progresses and areas may be brought forward or pushed back as circumstances determine within the overall aim of delivering the maximum superfast coverage with the resources available.





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**Meeting:** Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
**Date:** 13 November 2014  
**Subject:** Allocations Local Plan – Scoping Report  
**Report of:** Cllr Nigel Young, Executive Member for Regeneration  
**Summary:** The report outlines the proposed scope of the Allocations Local Plan as set out in the Plan-making Programme and the Development Strategy. The content of the forthcoming “call for sites” exercise is outlined for Members’ consideration.

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**Advising Officer:** Jason Longhurst, Director of Regeneration and Business  
**Contact Officer:** Richard Fox, Head of Development Planning and Housing Strategy  
**Public/Exempt:** Public  
**Wards Affected:** All  
**Function of:** Council

#### **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

##### **Council Priorities:**

1. The Allocations Local Plan will form part of the Council’s suite of planning policy documents and will sit alongside the Development Strategy. Together these documents work towards the Council priority of “*Enhancing Central Bedfordshire – creating jobs, managing growth, protecting our countryside and enabling businesses to grow*”. In doing so, there is also a contribution towards the priority of “*Promoting health and wellbeing*” (the Development Strategy acknowledges the link between planning and health and wellbeing) and “*Better infrastructure*” (the Development Strategy aims to ensure development is accompanied by the right infrastructure and that developers makes appropriate funding contributions).

##### **Financial:**

2. The financial implications of undertaking an Allocations Local Plan were considered by this committee on 12 May 2014 and by Executive on 27 May 2014 in the context of the Plan-making Programme, which agreed the principle of the Allocations Local Plan. Budgetary provision for this Local Plan has been made within the existing Development Planning and Housing Strategy budget.
3. The scale of the Council’s investment in the Allocations Local Plan should be seen in the context of the scale of new investment in Central Bedfordshire that it will enable.

**Legal:**

4. Planning is a statutory function under various Acts including the Planning and Compensation Act 2004 and Localism Act 2011. Once adopted the Allocations Local Plan will form part of the statutory Development Plan and will be the basis for consideration of planning applications. Until this happens the existing adopted documents will continue to set the planning framework.

**Risk Management:**

5. The process of producing an Allocations Local Plan is potentially long and complex and high quality project management and risk management skills will be required. Project teams are in place to oversee the work and risk management is part of the process of management. A risk assessment, along with mitigating actions is contained within the Plan Making Programme. Failing to produce a sound Allocations Local Plan could lead to a failure to deliver the required levels of housing, jobs and infrastructure proposed for growth and regeneration in the area in a planned way.

**Staffing (including Trades Unions):**

6. Staff resources to undertake this project are largely in place. Any resource required can be accommodated within the existing staff structures and budgets.

**Equalities/Human Rights:**

7. Central Bedfordshire Council has a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
8. The Allocations Local Plan will be subject to a specific Equality Impact Assessment.

**Public Health**

9. The link between planning and public health is specifically discussed in the Development Strategy, and this provides the strategic context for this Allocations Local Plan. The specific impact on health infrastructure arising from development sites proposed in the Allocations Local Plan will be subject to detailed assessment as the process moves forward.

**Community Safety:**

10. The Council has a statutory duty to do all that it reasonably can to address community safety across all of its functions. Plan-making has an indirect influence on community safety, setting out policy to deliver appropriate provision of community infrastructure and to ensure that individual development proposals take account of community safety issues.

**Sustainability:**

11. Sustainable development is at the heart of plan-making. All Local Plans are subject to a specific Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) in order to comply with the relevant regulatory requirements.

**Procurement:**

12. Not applicable.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

**The Committee is asked to:-**

1. **Consider the suggested areas for inclusion and agree the broad parameters for the scope and content of the Allocations Local Plan.**
2. **Support the proposed “call for sites” in November/December 2014.**

**Background**

13. This report follows the report to this committee on 12 May 2014, where the Plan-making Programme was considered and agreed. The Plan-making Programme includes provision for an Allocations Local Plan and sets out briefly its initial scope as *“To review boundaries such as Green Belt, Settlement Envelopes etc., allocate non-strategic sites for development across a range of uses for the period up to 2031 and to provide standards for development.”*
14. The Allocations Local Plan is also needed in order to deliver sufficient housing to meet the requirements of the emerging Development Strategy. Policy 29 of the emerging Development Strategy explains the overall housing provision to be delivered within the plan period (by 2031): *“...New strategic sites are identified in this Development Strategy to deliver around 11,500 new homes. The Council is also planning for an additional 1,000 homes to come forward through the Market Led Sustainable development policy. In addition a further 2,000 homes will be planned for through an Allocations Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans.”*
15. In essence the Allocations Local Plan will identify specific non-strategic sites to deliver at least 2,000 new dwellings. In addition to this, the Plan provides the opportunity to make and review other designations. The potential scope of the document is set out below in the following sections:
  - Housing provision
  - Boundary reviews
  - Green Infrastructure designations
  - Area profiles
  - Employment sites



## Housing provision

16. The Housing Background Paper (June 2014) published to support the Development Strategy sets out a number of possible sources of supply for the 2,000 homes to be allocated. The Development Strategy has considered strategic sites whereas the Allocations Local Plan will consider non-strategic sites. Possible sources are:
  - Sites around settlements in the Green Belt – although, current and recent policy has been largely restrictive to new development here, the Development Strategy enables some limited development to come forward through the Allocations Local Plan. This process can help to deliver sites emerging through Neighbourhood Plans.
  - Sites outside the Green Belt – given the extent of previous allocations the Housing Background Paper considered the scope for additional sites here might be more limited. However, there may be particular opportunities for development, especially where these are locally supported, where they address specific infrastructure issues or where they offer significant community benefit.
17. 2,000 homes is the figure set out in the Development Strategy. It may be that a small additional amount is needed by way of contingency to ensure the 2,000 can be delivered. This issue can be considered further in due course. There is also the potential that changes to the Development Strategy may impact on the Allocations Local Plan, including changes to delivery rates from the strategic sites. It is partly for this reason that substantive progress on the Allocations Local Plan is scheduled to take place after the Public Examination of the Development Strategy.
18. The Development Strategy gives particular emphasis to the issue of accommodation for older people. Within the 2,000 homes to be planned for through the Allocations Local Plan, the Council would expect a significant proportion to be specifically designed for older people. It is suggested that site promoters be asked to consider how their site could help meet the accommodation needs of older people. In addition, specific site submissions should be invited for “extra care” facilities and residential care homes.

19.

Call for Sites

It is anticipated that a 'call for sites' will be issued in November/December 2014 whereby landowners, developers and other interested parties are invited to put forward sites for consideration. Sites submitted on Council-owned land would also be considered as part of this process. The following information should be requested for all sites submitted:

- Location plan
- Site area
- Estimated site capacity
- Existing constraints
- Type and tenure of residential development proposed, including provision for older people and specific needs groups.
- Ownership details (single ownership or multiple)
  - Do all land owners intend to develop the site?
- Information to prove that development of the site will be viable, given the package of S106 likely to be required
- Details on delivery
- Infrastructure package to accompany proposals

20.

Site size threshold

Past experience suggests that a large number of sites are likely to be submitted, many of which are for small sites delivering relatively few dwellings. Using a site size threshold is a useful way of focusing attention on those sites that can make a meaningful contribution to meeting housing need, without diverting extensive resources to smaller sites. The level at which this threshold is set can be discussed in due course but it is suggested that potential site promoters are made aware of the likelihood of site size threshold.

21.

Site Assessment Criteria

Once submitted, the sites will undergo a rigorous site assessment process. The proposed site assessment criteria will be considered by Members of this committee at a later date and will also need to be subject to public consultation. At this stage the criteria is likely to include questions/scoring on the following:

- Sustainability criteria
  - Is the site suitable? / is it sustainably located?
  - Will the site offer benefits to the local community?
  - Does it represent the best possible location/option in comparison with other available sites?
- Availability
  - Is the site available?
  - Are there any land ownership issues which may delay/prevent development?
- Achievability
  - Is the site viable?

22.

The "Market-Led Sustainable Development" policy contained in the Development Strategy contains a list of criteria that apply to schemes coming forward under that policy. As criteria, these could form a useful starting point for the Allocations Local Plan, given their emphasis on high quality and well-located development. This will be considered further in due course.

## Boundary reviews

23. While the housing provision set out above is a required element of the Allocations Local Plan there are other potential issues that could be included within the scope of the plan. The Allocations Local Plan presents an opportunity to review the detailed designations on the adopted Policies Map, two such examples – Settlement Envelopes and Green Belt infill boundaries – are set out below.
24. Settlement Envelope review  
Settlement Envelopes are an important element of local planning policy. They define the main part of each settlement; help to focus development in the best located areas while preventing most forms of development in the open countryside (the area beyond the Settlement Envelope). It is important that the Settlement Envelopes as defined on the Policies Maps are robust in order to maintain their credibility. Settlement Envelopes were last fully reviewed and updated 15 years ago.
25. The Allocations Local Plan presents an opportunity to revisit and refresh the Envelopes – essentially to check the lines on the map are still in the right position. This review would require a desk-top and site survey exercise of Settlement Envelopes across Central Bedfordshire. This work could potentially be time consuming, although modern technology should help this process to be undertaken more quickly than on previous occasions.
26. It is recommended that the Council invites submissions for changes through the Call for Sites process. The purpose of this exercise would not be to allocate land for development, merely to update and correct the Settlement Envelopes.
27. Review of Green Belt Infill boundaries  
The Allocations Local Plan presents an opportunity to review the Green Belt Infill boundaries which were drawn up by the legacy authorities. Green Belt infill boundaries exist in some Green Belt settlements as a way of allowing small-scale infill development within defined parts of the village. Such a review would ensure there is consistency in approach across all of Central Bedfordshire. Existing boundaries can be amended where appropriate and new boundaries created where needed.
28. It is recommended that a comprehensive desk-top and site survey exercise of all Green Belt Infill boundaries be undertaken, including inviting submissions for change and possible new designations. As with the Settlement Envelope Review, the purpose of this exercise would not be to allocate land for development, merely to update and correct the Green Belt Infill Only boundaries. It is recommended that the Council invites submissions for change through the 'call for sites' process.

29. The now-revoked East of England Plan included reference to the potential for compensatory additions to the Green Belt in recognition of the removal of land from the Green Belt around Dunstable and Houghton Regis. This issue was not considered in the Development Strategy but arguably should form part of the scope of the Allocations Local Plan. It is suggested that specific site submissions for extensions to the Green Belt be invited to aid consideration of this issue.

### **Green Infrastructure designations**

30. Designation of Local Green Space  
Local Green Space is provided for by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and once designated is afforded the same strong development restrictions as Green Belt. The Development Strategy identifies a specific area of Local Green Space around Aspley Guise, although the Strategy does provide for other areas to be subsequently identified.
31. It is recommended that work be undertaken with Town and Parish Councils to identify and allocate green space which is 'demonstrably special' to the local community. These sites should not include land which is in the Green Belt. Prior to the commencement of this work, it would be necessary to assess what work has already been undertaken to inform the Leisure Strategy to avoid duplication of tasks across the Council.
32. Open Space Review  
There are current disparities between the treatment and designation of open space in the north of Central Bedfordshire and in the South. A review would provide an opportunity to address the two policy approaches and provided a blanket approach to all of Central Bedfordshire.
33. Work on auditing open space across the authority area has already been undertaken by the Leisure team as part of work on the Leisure Strategy. To avoid duplication it is recommended that this be used to form the basis of this review. A combined mapping exercise with Leisure would provide opportunities for efficiencies across the two directorates.
34. An examination of the scope of the Leisure Strategy will need to be carried out in order to assess how well the existing work supports the requirements of the emerging Development Strategy. Depending on the outcome of this, a consultation exercise with Town and Parish Councils may need to be undertaken in order to identify other potential areas of Important Open Space which may not have fallen within the scope of the Leisure Strategy.
35. This review should be aligned with the proposed Settlement Envelope Review as only land within the Settlement Envelope can carry the Important Open Space designation.

## Area profiles

36. There is currently information in chapter 3 of the adopted Core Strategy and Development Management Policies document (CSDM) setting out a spatial description for places – known as “area profiles”. This place-based information has proved useful for a number of spatial planning purposes. However, the Development Strategy will supersede the CSDM and therefore on adoption of the Development Strategy the area profiles will be lost. The area profiles are in need of updating and the Allocations Local Plan provides an opportunity to revisit and update these area profiles in the context of new allocations being made. This aspect does not relate to the call for sites exercise but it is important that it is not lost in the overall scope of the Allocations Local Plan.

## Employment sites

37. The Allocations Local Plan presents an opportunity to allocate non-strategic sites for employment generating uses, to complement those identified in the Development Strategy. However, the Development Strategy makes sufficient provision for employment land and provides flexible policies relating to new development coming forward. It is not considered necessary to make further employment land available through the Allocations Local Plan.
38. Given the new employment allocations made by the Development Strategy, if there are existing employment sites that would be better put to alternative uses then the Allocations Local Plan would be the opportunity to do this.
39. There is also potential for the Allocations Local Plan to reflect the current emphasis on a sector-based approach to commercial development. The Allocations Local Plan could set out a spatial expression of the current clusters of commercial development and their needs in terms of infrastructure etc.

## Summary

40. As discussed above, the scope of the Allocations Local Plan will go beyond the allocation of dwellings. It is therefore recommended that the ‘call for sites’ advertise for the following:
- Sites to accommodate the 2,000 dwellings required by the Development Strategy, including sites identified in Neighbourhood Plans;
  - Changes to Settlement Envelopes, where the existing boundary is not reflective of current land use;
  - Changes to Green Belt Infill Boundary, where the existing boundary is not reflective of current land use;
  - Local Green Space and changes to Important Open Space;
41. Publicity for the ‘call for sites’ will include press releases, advertisements, and letters to be sent to all on the consultation database. Individual letters will be sent to town and parish councils in relation to the Settlement Envelope Review, Green Belt Infill Only Review, Neighbourhood Plan sites and Local Green Space designations.

**Conclusion and Next Steps**

42. Subject to the Committee's views on the above, the call for sites is anticipated to begin later in November and will run for around 6 weeks. The site submissions would then be considered before public consultation begins. This is currently scheduled for October 2015.
43. Members are invited to provide comments on the initial scope of the Allocations Local Plan set out above.

**Appendices:**

None

**Background papers and their location:** (open to public inspection)

None

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**Meeting:** Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
**Date:** 13 November 2014  
**Subject:** Quarter 1 Performance Report  
**Report of:** Cllr Nigel Young , Executive Member for Sustainable Communities – Strategic Planning and Economic Development and  
 Cllr Brian Spurr, Executive Member for Sustainable Communities – Services  
**Summary:** The report highlights the Quarter 1 performance from Community Services and Regeneration and Business

**Advising Officer:** Marcel Coffait, Director of Community Services  
 Jason Longhurst, Director of Regeneration and Business  
**Contact Officer:** Sally Wileman – Service Development Officer  
**Public/Exempt:** Public  
**Wards Affected:** All  
**Function of:** Council

<b>CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b>Council Priorities:</b>	
1.	The quarterly Medium Term Plan performance report underpins the delivery of all Council priorities.
<b>Financial:</b>	
2.	The indicator set monitors a wide range of indicators, which help to provide an understanding of the Council's effective use of resources.
<b>Legal:</b>	
3.	None.
<b>Risk Management:</b>	
4.	Any areas of ongoing underperformance would be a risk to both service delivery and the reputation of the Council.
<b>Staffing (including Trades Unions):</b>	
5.	None.



**Equalities/Human Rights:**

6. This report highlights performance in respect of how the Council and its services impact across all communities within Central Bedfordshire, so the specific areas of underperformance can be highlighted for further analysis/drilling down as necessary.

**Public Health:**

7. Active recreation is included in the indicator set.

**Community Safety:**

8. The levels of Serious Acquisitive Crime and anti-social behaviour are included in the indicator set.

**Sustainability:**

9. Included in the indicator set are a broad range of indicators relating to sustainability including those covering employment, access to broadband, library usage, active recreation and waste.

**Procurement:**

10. None.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

**The Committee is asked to acknowledge the continuing overall strong performance in Quarter 1 for the indicators being used to help support monitoring of progress against the Medium Term Plan priorities and to recommend officers to further investigate and resolve underperforming indicators as appropriate.**

**Background**

11. This report focuses on a set of indicators that support the monitoring of progress against the priorities in the Medium Term Plan (MTP).
12. The Directors' Summaries for Quarter 1 are set out below. Appendix A provides the detailed performance data.
13. **Community Services**  
Quarter 1 saw an increase in the rates of serious acquisitive crime and anti-social behaviour incidents than were recorded in the same quarter in 2012/13. Whilst there were only slight increases in the number of robbery and domestic burglary offences and anti social behaviour increased by 8.5%, theft of motor vehicles (TOMV) increased significantly with 78% more offences this quarter compared to the same time period last year. This was due to a long term TOMV series seen across Bedfordshire and following targeted action by Bedfordshire Police, offence levels are now decreasing.

14. The Spring 14 Residents' Tracker Survey results indicated that satisfaction with Highways continues to be an issue for our residents and there is now an agreement with the service provider that public satisfaction is a key performance indicator, with a financial penalty should we not achieve our target for satisfaction with roads and pavement maintenance.
15. The latest provisional data showed a drop in the percentage of waste being sent for recycling, reuse or composting, the cumulative performance for the 2013/14 year at 49.8% shows a small decline from 2013/14.
16. The latest Active People Survey data shows a small rise in the percentage of adults participating in sport or active recreation which at 24.2% is just below the national average.

17. **Regeneration**

Most recent employment data (March 14) shows the fifth successive quarterly increase in the employment rate. This latest data shows that at 77.4%, the Central Bedfordshire employment rate is now 5.5% above the national rate, 1.9% above the East of England and 1.7% above the SEMLEP average. The number of people in employment has grown by 3,500 (2.8%) in the last quarter and over 4,800 (3.9%) since March 2013, which shows positive signs of the continued economic recovery.

18. We will continue to build on this good performance in 2014/15, as we actively work to encourage the growth of suitable businesses in Central Bedfordshire; influencing this through effective use of our assets, sector development and a package of support from Central Bedfordshire Council.
19. A key factor in the development of new businesses and jobs is the need to have the right information technology in place. Good progress is being made in the roll out of both 2Mb and superfast broadband, with provisional outturn data for 2013/14 showing at 76.8% superfast broadband coverage has increased 6.5% since 2012/13 and the access to at least 2Mb broadband provisional outturn data shows a 91.4% coverage is available indicating a 0.8% increase since 2012/13.

**Conclusion and Next Steps**

20. Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes and considers this report.

**Appendices:**

Appendix A – (Quarter 1 Performance Indicators)

**Background papers and their location:** (open to public inspection)

Executive 14 October 2014

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## Appendix A - Quarterly Performance Report

### Medium Term Plan Indicators

#### Quarter 1 2014/15

Report comparison - Depends on the nature of the indicator		Performance Judgement			
		Direction of travel (DoT)		RAG score (Standard scoring rules unless the indicator specifies alternative scoring arrangements)	
<b>Seasonal</b>	Compared to the same time period in the previous year		Performance is reducing	<b>R</b>	RED - target missed / off target - Performance at least 10% below the required level of improvement
<b>Quarter on quarter</b>	Compared to the previous quarter		Performance remains unchanged	<b>A</b>	AMBER - target missed / off target - Performance less than 10% below the required level of improvement
<b>Annual</b>	Compared to one fixed point in the previous year	æ	Performance is improving	<b>G</b>	GREEN - Target achieved or performance on track to achieve target

## Overview of performance

Ref	Indicator	Performance will be reported:	Performance information being reported this quarter		
			Time period	Performance	
<b>Enhance your local community</b>					
<b>A 2 MTP</b>	Central Bedfordshire's Employment rate (People in employment aged 16 to 64)	Quarterly	Quarter 2 2014/15	æ	<b>G</b>
<b>A 3 MTP</b>	% of approved residential development applications of 10 or more units having CABE excellent design status	Quarterly	Quarter 1 2014/15		<b>G</b>
<b>A 4 MTP</b>	Number of Serious Acquisitive Crimes.	Quarterly	Quarter 1 2014/15	æ	<b>G</b>
<b>A 5 MTP</b>	Number of recorded Anti-social Behaviour incidents.	Quarterly	Quarter 1 2014/15		Monitor only
<b>Better infrastructure</b>					
<b>D1a MTP</b>	Percentage resident satisfaction with road maintenance	Quarter 1 & Quarter 2	Res Survey Spring 2014		<b>R</b>
<b>D1b MTP</b>	Percentage resident satisfaction with pavement maintenance	Quarter 1 & Quarter 2	Res Survey Spring 2014	æ	<b>A</b>
<b>D 2 MTP</b>	Percentage of Central Bedfordshire with access to superfast broadband	Annually in Quarter 4		æ	
<b>D 3 MTP</b>	Percentage of Central Bedfordshire with access to at least 2Mb broadband	Annually in Quarter 4			
<b>Great universal services</b>					
<b>E 1 MTP</b>	Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting	Quarterly	Outturn 2013/14		<b>R</b>
<b>E 2 MTP</b>	Percentage of adults in Central Bedfordshire taking part in sport or active recreation (Active People Survey)	Quarter 1 & Quarter 3	APS 8 Survey	æ	<b>A</b>
<b>E 3 MTP</b>	Satisfaction of adults with library services	Annually Quarter 1	2014 adult Plus Survey	æ	<b>G</b>
<b>E 4 MTP</b>	Number of visits to libraries	Annually in Quarter 1	Outturn 2013/14	æ	

## Enhance your local community

A2 MTP		The number of people in employment (Aged 16 to 64)												Latest comparator group average	Report comparison	Quarter on quarter	Performance Judgement	æ	G			
Unit	Good is	2011/12	2012/13	2012/13				2013/14				Target (Outturn)	Qu 1 DEC 13	Qu 2 MAR 14	Qu 3 JUN 14	Qu 4 SEP 14						
		Outturn (11 / 12)	Outturn (12 / 13)	Target (Outturn)	Qu 1 DEC 12	Qu 2 MAR 13	Qu 3 JUN 13	Qu 4 SEP 13														
Number	High	126,700 (7.2% above)		5% above National Average	122,600 (3.3% above)	123,500 (3.7% above)	124,800 (4.5% above)	(4.7% above)	5% above National Average	(3.7% above)	128,300 (5.5% above)											
<b>National Employment rate</b>					70.9%	71.1%	71.3%	71.4%		71.7%	71.9%											
<b>Central Bedfordshire Employment rate</b>					74.2%	74.8%	75.8%	76.1%		75.4%	77.4%											

**Comment: Current Performance Quarter 1 2014/15**

Current Performance: In March 2014 there were 128,300 people in employment in Central Bedfordshire of a total working age population (aged 16-64) of 165,700 - 77.4%. This rate is higher than all comparator areas - England 71.9%, East of England 75.5%, and SEMLEP 75.7% - and is in line with our corporate target of remaining more than 5 percentage points above the national rate, meeting the target for the first time since June 2012. The number of people in employment has grown by 3,500 (2.8%) in the last quarter

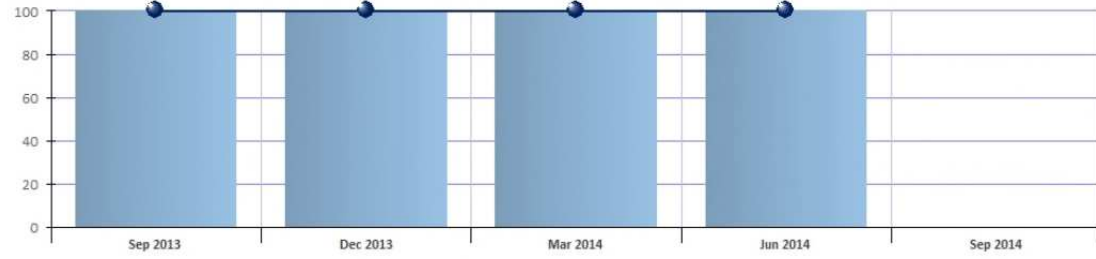
The number of people in work remains below pre-recession levels (134,400 in September 2008), but the growth since March 2013 shows positive signs of economic recovery. The number of people in employment has grown by 4,800, or 3.9%, since March 2013.

**Planned actions:**

- Delivery of European Social Fund programmes targeting the unemployed and economically inactive.
- Continued Work and Enterprise Clubs activity, Business Timebank, key business accounts programme and inward investment.
- Leading activity in new South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership European Structural and Investment Fund plan to steer funding to local needs over the EU plan period 2014-2020.
- Continue monitoring of employment rate for key groups.

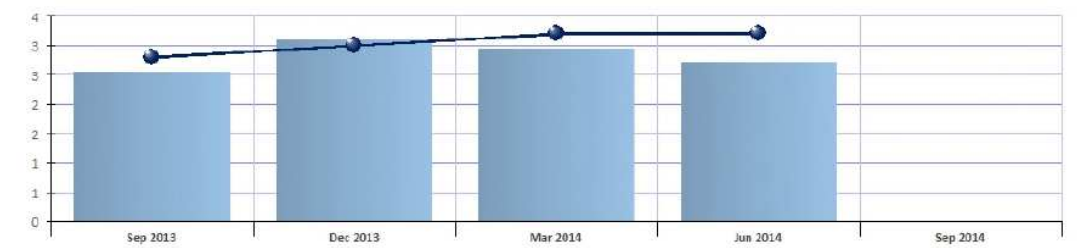
Quarter	Employment Rate (%)
Sep 2013	~4.7%
Dec 2013	~3.7%
Mar 2014	5.5%

A3 MTP	Percentage of approved applications for residential developments of ten or more units having CABE excellent design status																	
Unit	Good is	All data is cumulative for the financial year to the close of the quarter	2012/13	2013/14				2014/15				Latest comparator group average	N/A	Report comparison	Seasonal	Performance Judgement		
%	High		Outturn	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4 / Outturn	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4 / Outturn							G
Number of approved applications for residential developments of ten or more units			17	9	6	8	6 / Outturn 29	8										
Number of approved applications for residential developments of ten or more units having CABE excellent design status			17	9	6	8	6 / Outturn 29	8										
Percentage of approved applications with CABE excellent design status		Target	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100							
		Actual	100	100	100	100	100	100										
<p><b>Comment: Current Performance Quarter 1 (2014/15)</b> Performance remains at 100% in Quarter 1 of 2014/15.</p> <p><b>Planned actions:</b> Continue to provide Planning Performance Agreements and Pre-Application service to ensure early negotiation of residential development schemes occurs to achieve planning application submissions of excellent quality and continue with current processes to ensure that the 100% target is maintained.</p>																		
<p>This indicator assesses residential developments of ten units or more against the Building for Life 12 Design Quality Criteria which has been launched by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) in partnership with Home Builders Federation and Design for Homes. This covers the functionality, design and sustainability of buildings. It uses twelve questions to evaluate the quality of new housing developments, with planning proposals assessed against the following headings: Integrating into the neighbourhood; Creating a place and Street &amp; Home.</p> <p>The Building for Life 12 Design Quality Criteria reflects our vision of what new housing developments should be: attractive, functional and sustainable places. It is based on the new National Planning Policy Framework and the Government's commitment to build more homes, better homes and involve local communities in planning.</p> <p>Each planning application which falls within the criteria is assessed as part of the determination process.</p>																		



**A 4 MTP** **Number of serious acquisitive crimes –** (Serious acquisitive crime (SAC) includes domestic burglary, robbery, theft of motor vehicle and theft from motor vehicle)

Unit	Good is	Outturn		2013/14					2014/15					Latest comparator group average	Report comparison	Seasonal	Performance Judgement	
Number	Low	2011/12	2012/13	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn					
Target			13.3	2.8	2.8	3.0	3.2	11.8	3.2									
Rate per 1,000 population		10.6	9.7	2.6	2.5	3.1	2.9	11.1	2.7									
Number of SAC crimes			2465	671	650	792	751	2864	716									
Population figure			255.6	255.6	255.6	255.6	255.6	255.6	255.6									

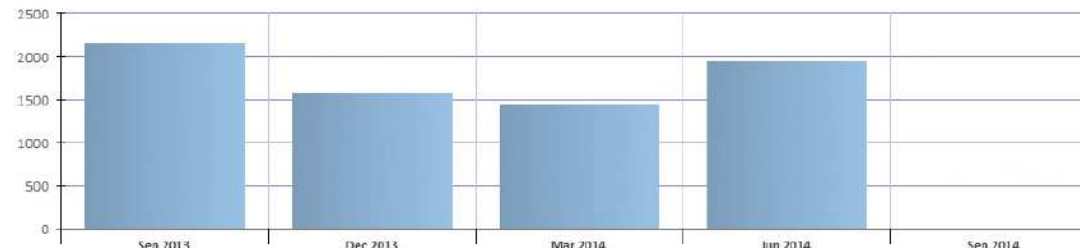


**Comment: Current Performance Quarter 1 2014/15.**

Between April 2014 - June 2014 there were 716 recorded SAC offences. This is 45 offences more than was seen in Q1 2013-14, a 7% increase. In Q1 2014-2015 slight increases were seen in both robbery and domestic burglary when compared to Q1 last year. Levels of theft of motor vehicle (TOMV) increased significantly with 78% more offences in Q1 2014-15 when compared to the same time period in the previous year. This increase has been due to a long term TOMV series which has been seen across Bedfordshire and being targeted by Bedfordshire Police. Offences have decreased from June 2014 and for the last two months have remained at level in line with numbers expected.

**A 5 MTP** **Number of recorded Anti-social Behaviour incidents**

Unit	Good is	Outturn			2013/14					2014/15					Latest comparator group average	Report comparison	Seasonal	Performance Judgement	Monitor only
Number	Low	2011/12	2012/13	2113/14	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn					
Target 10% reduction from 2011/12			10,452																
Actual number of recorded incidents		10,720	NA	6,944	1,805	2,145	1,558	1,436	6,944	1,946									



**Comment: Current Performance: Quarter 1 (2014/15).**

Between April 2014 - June 2014 there were 1946 incidents of ASB in Central Bedfordshire reported to Bedfordshire Police this is 153 more incidents than Quarter 1 last year, an increase of 8.5%.



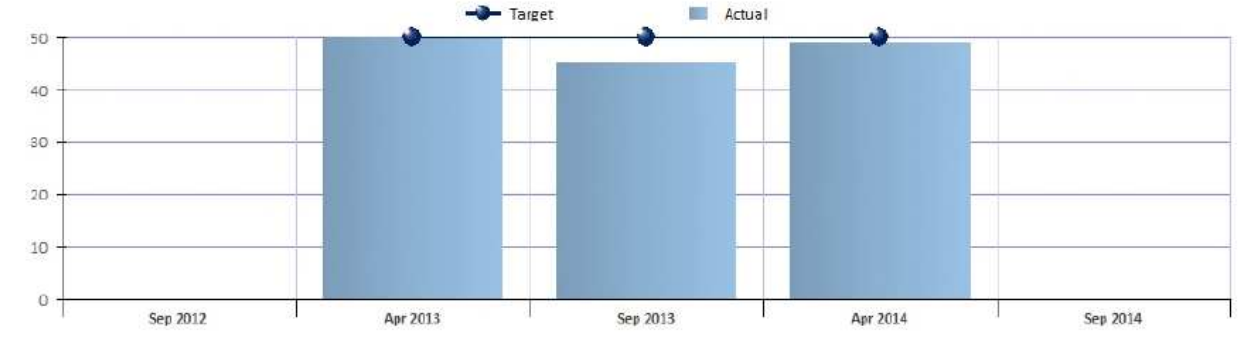
**Better infrastructure** - improved roads, broadband reach and transport

D 1a MTP Percentage resident satisfaction with road maintenance. (Data taken from Resident's Survey undertaken twice a year in April and September )																							
Unit	Good is		Baseline Spring 2013 Reported Quarter 1 2013/14	Actual Autumn 2013 Reported Quarter 2 2013/14	Actual Spring 2014 Reported Quarter 1 2014/15	Latest comparator group average	N/A	Report comparison	Seasonal April and September	Performance Judgement													
%	High										<b>R</b>												
Percentage resident satisfaction with road maintenance		Target	30%	30%	32%																		
		Actual	26%	33%	30%																		
<p>Current Performance: As highlighted in the Spring 14 Residents' Tracker Survey, satisfaction with Highways continues to be an issue for our residents. The condition of Central Bedfordshire's roads and pavements is comparatively good, but satisfaction levels for roads maintenance (30% against a local target of 36%) lags behind the national average (42%).</p> <p>Planned Actions: We have joined the National Highways &amp; Transport (NHT) survey in order to provide us with a comparative position to a large number of other Local Authorities. This will also provide information on whether the national average has moved either way.</p> <p>We have commenced the roll out of proactively providing information about the services we provide and the reasons behind what we do. We are providing information on our programmed works on the website and the provider is tasked with meeting or beating the timelines. We have been successful in winning additional maintenance funding and have utilised some of this to utilise the Velocity patcher to reduce the number of potential potholes.</p> <p>The service provider has agreed to make public satisfaction a key performance indicator with a financial penalty should we not achieve the target.</p>																							
						<table border="1"> <caption>Chart Data: Percentage resident satisfaction with road maintenance</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>Actual (%)</th> <th>Target (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Apr 2013</td> <td>26</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sep 2013</td> <td>33</td> <td>36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Apr 2014</td> <td>30</td> <td>36</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>						Date	Actual (%)	Target (%)	Apr 2013	26	30	Sep 2013	33	36	Apr 2014	30	36
Date	Actual (%)	Target (%)																					
Apr 2013	26	30																					
Sep 2013	33	36																					
Apr 2014	30	36																					

**D 1b MTP** Percentage resident satisfaction with pavement maintenance. (Data taken from Resident's Survey undertaken twice a year in April and September )

Unit	Good is		Actual Autumn 2013 Reported Quarter 2 2013/14	Actual Spring 2014 Reported Quarter 1 2014/15	Actual Autumn 2014 Reported Quarter 2 2014/15
%	High				
Percentage resident satisfaction with road maintenance	Target		50%	50%	50%
	Actual		45%	49%	

Latest comparator group average	N/A	Report comparison	Seasonal April and September	Performance Judgement	æ	A
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Current Performance: As highlighted in the Spring 14 Residents' Tracker Survey, satisfaction with Highways continues to be an issue for our residents. The condition of Central Bedfordshire's roads and pavements is comparatively good, satisfaction levels for pavement maintenance at 49% shows we have made progress in addressing the issues as the satisfaction level has moved to within 1% of the interim 50% target.

The national average is 54%.

Planned Actions: We have joined the National Highways & Transport (NHT) survey in order to provide us with a comparative position to a large number of other Local Authorities. This will also provide information on whether the national average has moved either way.

We have commenced the roll out of proactively providing information about the services we provide and the reasons behind what we do. We are providing information on our programmed works on the website and the provider is tasked with meeting or beating the timelines. We have been successful in winning additional maintenance funding and have utilised some of this to utilise the Velocity patcher to reduce the number of potential potholes.

The service provider has agreed to make public satisfaction a key performance indicator with a financial penalty should we not achieve the target.

Indicators D2 MTP and D3 MTP are both annual indicators reported in Quarter 4. The performance tables for both these indicators are shown this quarter as there are updates to the commentary supporting both these measures.

D 2 MTP Percentage of Central Bedfordshire with access to superfast broadband													
Unit	Good is	Estimated Roll Out		Performance reported in Quarter 4			Latest comparator group average	N/A	Report comparison	Seasonal	Performance Judgement	æ	Monitor only
%	High	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17							
Percentage of Central Bedfordshire with access to superfast broadband – estimated private sector roll out by 2015	Target					100% of CBC							
	Number			4,500	8,500	9500 <b>TOTAL</b> <b>22,500</b>							
	Denominator					Premises							
	Actual	75.5%	76.8%										
<p><b>Planned Actions:</b> The Council is seeking to participate in the Broadband Delivery UK phase 2 broadband rollout project, in order to deliver the necessary infrastructure to provide superfast broadband (speeds of at least 24 Megabits per second) to at least 95% of premises and at least 2 Megabits per second to all premises.</p> <p>The Council has approved additional funding to rollout out superfast, bring the total Council investment in phase £2 of broadband rollout. The Council was also successful in securing an additional £300,000 funding from BDUK, bringing BDUK funding for Central Bedfordshire to £2 million. It is expected that the combined £4 million funding will exceed the 95% coverage target.</p> <p>The initial Open Market Review is currently being undertaken as part of the state aid application and procurement process. It is expected that tenders will be submitted in November 2014 with contract award to a private sector provider in January/ February 2015.</p>													

**D 3 MTP Percentage of Central Bedfordshire with access to at least 2Mb broadband**

Unit	Good is	Outturn 2013/14 (Reported in Q4 report)	2014/15 (Reported in Q4 report)	2015/16 (Reported in Q4 report)	2016/17 (Reported in Q4 report)
%	High				
Percentage of Central Bedfordshire with access to at least 2Mb broadband – estimated private sector roll out by 2015	Target	NA	NA	NA	100%
	Number				
	Denominator				Premises
	Actual	91.4%			

Latest comparator group average	N/A	Report comparison	Seasonal	Performance Judgement	æ	Monitor only
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**Quarter 4 2013/14 commentary: Provisional outturn data for 2013/14.**

This indicator is sourced from the Ofcom UK fixed Broadband data series as this provides an on-going time series analysis of comparable coverage. This data will be superseded as reported data becomes available from the Council's Broadband Delivery UK Broadband project.

As such this provisional data is not directly comparable with our own data used for this indicator (so has not been included in the measure above) but does provide a good direction of travel:

- 2011/12 = 86.2% coverage
- 2012/13 = 89.6% coverage
- 2013/14 = 91.4% coverage

The Council in partnership with Milton Keynes and Bedford Councils has secured Broadband Delivery Funding along with state aid approval. As a result the Council has awarded BT (following a competitive procurement process ) a contract to deliver its vision to achieve 90% coverage of Next Generation Access (NGA - Speeds greater than 24 megabits per second) and ensure 100% access to infrastructure able to deliver speeds of 2 mega bits per second by 2016.

Planned Actions: The Council is seeking to participate in the Broadband Delivery UK phase 2 broadband rollout project, in order to deliver the necessary infrastructure to provide superfast broadband (speeds of at least 24 Megabits per second) to at least 95% of premises and at least 2 Megabits per second to all premises.

The Council has approved additional funding to rollout out superfast, bring the total Council investment in phase £2 of broadband rollout. The Council was also successful in securing an additional £300,000 funding from BDUK, bringing BDUK funding for Central Bedfordshire to £2 million. It is expected that the combined £4 million funding will exceed the 95% coverage target.

The initial Open Market Review is currently being undertaken as part of the state aid application and procurement process. It is expected that tenders will be submitted in November 2014 with contract award to a private sector provider in January/ February 2015.

Great universal services - Bins, leisure and libraries

E 1 MTP		Percentage of household waste sent for recycling																	
Unit	Good is								Latest comparator group average	47.8% PWC 2009/10	Report comparison	Seasonal	Performance Judgement					R	
%	High		2010/11	2011/12	2012/13				2013/14					2014/15					
			Outturn	Outturn	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn	Qu 1	Qu 2	Qu 3	Qu 4	Outturn
Household waste sent for recycling, reuse or composting					16,381 tonnes	16,988 tonnes	12,773 tonnes	10,752 tonnes	56,894 tonnes	16,431 tonnes	15,421 tonnes	12,827 tonnes	12,790 tonnes	57,469 tonnes					
Total Household waste collected (residual and recycling)					30,712 tonnes	30,988 tonnes	26,021 tonnes	24,566 tonnes	112,288 tonnes	31,382 tonnes	29,268 tonnes	26,621 tonnes	28,196 tonnes	115,467 tonnes					
Target				51					51					51					
Actual			51.6	51.1	53.3	54.8	49.1	43.8	50.7	52.4	52.7	48.2	45.4	49.8 Provisional					

Comment: Quarter 4 (2013/14)

Due to the external verification of data through the Waste Data Flow system the 13/14 Quarter 4 figures are provisional. Performance under this indicator has seen a small decline on 2012/13 figures. This mirrors what is being seen in many LA's across the UK and is likely to be a result of manufacturers 'downsizing' packaging materials and changes to buying behaviour such as online newspaper subscriptions rather than print.



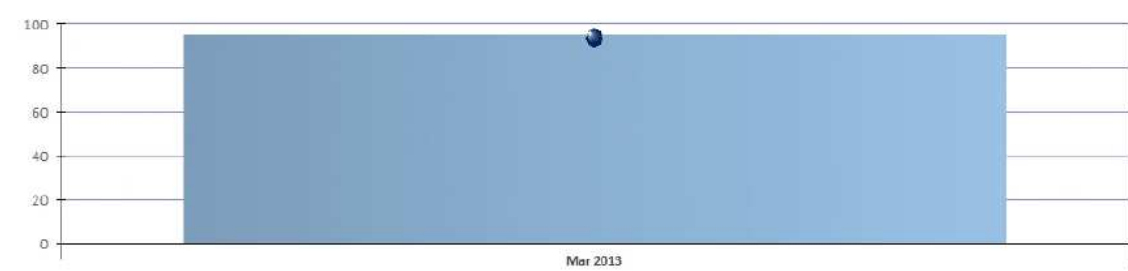
Planned Actions: Quarter 4 (2013/14)

The target in the MTP is to reach 60% by 2020 which is being delivered through improvements to existing collection schemes such as the recent launch of textile, waste electrical and battery collections; the redevelopment of 3 HWRC's and the development of a new HWRC for Dunstable and the roll out of food waste collection to the south of the area.



E 2 MTP		Percentage of adults in Central Bedfordshire taking part in sport or active recreation. (Data taken from the Active People's Survey )										
Unit	Good is		APS 5/6 Oct 2010 to Oct 2012	APS 7 Apr 2011 to Apr 2013	APS 6/7 Oct 2011 to Oct 2013	APS 8 Apr 2012 to Apr 2014	Latest comparator group average	Report comparison	Seasonal	Performance Judgement	æ	A
%	High											
Percentage of adults in Central Bedfordshire taking part in sport or active recreation			24.7%	23.4%	23.6%	24.1%						
All English authorities	Best performing	31.8%	31.6%	33.3%	NA							
	Average	22.6%	22.3%	24.8%	NA							
	Worst performing	14.3%	14.7%	16.0%	NA							
Target to remain above national average			2.1% above	1.1% above	1.2% below	0.2% below						
Tolerance			Green if equals to or above National average, red if below National average	Data Collection (ie Number / Denominator)	Percentage only							
<p><b>Comment: Quarter 1 - 2014/15</b></p> <p>Current Performance: Full Active People Survey 8 results (Apr 12 - Apr 14) recently published shows the percentage of Adults in Central Bedfordshire taking part is 24.1% a slight increase from previous results of 23.6 % Oct 11 - Oct 13 and 23.4% for Apr 11 - Apr 13).</p> <p>This means that CBC's performance against target currently stands at 0.2% below the national average.</p> <p><b>Planned Actions:</b></p> <p>Planned Actions: Chapter 4 of the Leisure Strategy has been approved - The Physical Activity Strategy with 5 key strategic themes to increase participation. The team has also applied for funding from Sport England - Community Sports Activation Fund. 3yr programme to increase participation 14yrs + specifically targeting groups with additional needs. Central Beds was successful with this application and will start to implement the programme from Sept 2014</p> <p>Chapters 1,2,3 have been finalised and will provide the infrastructure to increase participation amongst our residents. This will work closely with Chapter 4 to communicate to our residents the opportunities that are currently available to them with regards to staying active.</p> <p>A large amount of capital investment is currently being implemented within the Leisure facilities. This will improve our exercise referral programme (GP referral) and increase throughput generally.</p> <p>The new leisure management contract has been awarded which has more of a focus on increasing participation for all abilities and not just focusing on those who want to. This will also work closely with Chapter 4 to communicate and work with out residents to make them aware of the opportunities currently available, break down any barriers to participation and provide structured pathways for people to sustain an active lifestyle.</p>												

E 3 MTP		Satisfaction of adults with the Library Service.											
Unit	Good is		No Library Service Adult Plus Survey to be undertaken in 2012	Library Service's own Adult plus Survey 2013 (Restricted to library users)	Library Service's own Adult plus Survey 2014 (Restricted to library users)	Resident's Survey (If included in Survey it would include non-library users)	Latest comparator group average	N/A	Report comparison	Seasonal April and September	Performance Judgement	æ	G
%	High												
Percentage of adults satisfied with the Library Service.	Target			93	93								
	Actual			95	95	Would form a new baseline							
Number satisfied													
Total number surveyed				3509									
New Target required – when next survey programmed				93									



**Comment:**

The Library Service undertook the Adult Plus Survey in Quarter 1 2013/14. The survey found that satisfaction with library services has improved in all areas between 2009 and 2013. The MTP target to maintain customer satisfaction at 93% and has been exceeded, with the service having an overall satisfaction rate of 95%. We believe this result is due to the continued commitment of staff to the service and their customers throughout a period of considerable change, the investments made in our library buildings, along with the installation of self service and no reductions in opening hours all demonstrating a commitment to the future of the Library Service across Central Bedfordshire.

**Planned Actions March 2013:**

The Library service is currently developing a new set of service KPIs and framework for monitoring them. Using the Residents Survey as a way of capturing wider residents views on the Library Service forms part of this work. The Residents Survey in September 2014 will be used to indicate ongoing performance with the Library Service.

E 4 MTP		Library usage									
Unit	Good is	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Latest comparator group average	Report comparison	Seasonal	Performance Judgement	æ		
Number of visitors	High	Outturn	Outturn	Outturn							
Target			REVISED BASELINE & TARGETS 2010/11 +20% by Yr 2015/16 = 1,331,091 Previous target 2010/11 +20% by Yr 2015/16 = 1,351,246	<b>1,331,091</b>							
Actual	REVISED 1,086,002 (Previously 1,247,914)	<b>988,893</b>	<b>1,004,623</b>								
<p><b>Comment: Outturn 2013/14:</b> Library visit figures for 2013/14 are being reported for the first time and are 1,004,623, a slight increase of 16,730 from 2012/13.</p> <p>In 2013/14 the Library Service started to implement a performance framework working closely with Library Managers and Service Teams. The aim of the framework is to increase visitor numbers physically and virtually.</p> <p>The way in which people access Library Services is changing, for the first time in 2012/13 we were able to record the number of Central Bedfordshire residents visiting the Virtual Library to use the online information services (e-books, e-newspapers etc). These visitor figures demonstrate how people are choosing to access library services differently and can be regarded in the same way as physical library visits. There was an increase in usage of 3,913 visits between 2012/13 and 2013/14 (from 8,523 to 12,436).</p> <p>It is now possible to obtain figures for the number of item renewals undertaken by Central Bedfordshire residents on the Virtual Library. In the past, item renewals would have had to be undertaken by a physical visit to the library as it was not possible to do this on line. In 2012/13 there were 148,006 renewals and in 2013/14 there were 157,307 renewals. These cannot, however, be directly translated into physical visits as a library member may have more than one item.</p> <p>Following installation of a new people counter at Leighton Buzzard Centre it is now possible to record visits to the whole building as well as the library. The statistics will be gathered for the first time from April 2014.</p>											
<p><b>Planned Actions:</b></p> <p>As the way in which people access Library Services is changing, we have for the first time in 2012/13 been able to record the number of Central Bedfordshire residents visiting the Virtual library to use the online information services (e-books, e-newspapers etc). In 2012/13 there were 8,523 visits to these areas of the virtual library. Over the coming months we will also be able to report the number of Central Bedfordshire residents using the Virtual Library to access other services such as renewals, reservations and requests and we will begin to report this figures in due course.</p> <p>In addition to the footfall figures outlined above the Library Service supports customers at the Arlesey Resource access libraries services, in 2012/13 there were 10,801 visits.</p> <p>Agree revised Library Service 2010/11 baseline figures and revised 2015/ 16 target. The Library Service Level Agreement with Bedford Borough will be changed to include KPIs related to regular, accurate data recording. The KPIs are discussed and reviewed at quarterly meetings.</p> <p>Roll out of Library Service Performance Framework which will emphasis the importance of accurate, regular reporting of data and individuals roles and responsibilities in this area</p>											



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**Meeting:** Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** 13 November 2014

**Subject:** Work Programme 2014 – 2015 & Executive Forward Plan

**Report of:** Chief Executive

**Summary:** The report provides Members with details of the currently drafted Committee work programme and the latest Executive Forward Plan.

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**Contact Officer:** Rebecca Preen, Scrutiny Officer

**Public/Exempt:** Public

**Wards Affected:** All

**Function of:** Council

#### **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

##### **Council Priorities:**

The work programme of the Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee will contribute indirectly to all 5 Council priorities. Whilst there are no direct implications arising from this report the implications of proposals will be details in full in each report submitted to the Committee.

##### **RECOMMENDATION(S):**

1. that the Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee
  - (a) considers and approves the work programme attached, subject to any further amendments it may wish to make;
  - (b) considers the Executive Forward Plan; and
  - (c) considers whether it wishes to add any further items to the work programme and/or establish any Task Forces to assist it in reviewing specific items.

#### **Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme**

1. Attached is the currently drafted work programme for the Committee.
2. The Committee is now requested to consider the work programme attached and amend or add to it as necessary.

## Overview and Scrutiny Task Forces

3. In addition to consideration of the work programme, Members may also wish to consider how each item will be reviewed i.e. by the Committee itself (over one or a number of Committee meetings) or by establishing a Member Task Force to review an item in greater depth and report back its findings.

### Executive Forward Plan

4. Listed below are those items relating specifically to this Committee's terms of reference contained in the latest version of the Executive's Forward Plan to ensure Members are fully aware of the key issues Executive Members will be taking decisions upon in the coming months. The full Executive Forward Plan can be viewed on the Council's website at the link at the end of this report.

Ref	Issue	Indicative Exec Meeting date
1.	Central Bedfordshire Council Enforcement Policy	9 December 2014
2.	Dunstable Leisure Centre and Library Feasibility Study	9 December 2014
3.	Household Waste Recycling Centres Redevelopment	13 January 2015
4.	Construction of a Waste Park at Thorn Turn	13 January 2015
5.	Local Transport Plan	31 March 2015
<b>Non Key Decisions</b>		
6.	Community Safety Partnership Plan and Priorities for 2015-2016	31 March 2015

## Conclusion

- 5 Members are requested to consider and agree the attached work programme, subject to any further amendments/additions they may wish to make and highlight those items within it where they may wish to establish a Task Force to assist the Committee in its work. This will allow officers to plan accordingly but will not preclude further items being added during the course of the year if Members so wish and capacity exists.

**Appendix – Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme.**

## Background reports:

Executive Forward Plan (can be viewed at any time on the Council's website) at the following link:- <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/modgov/mqListPlans.aspx?RPId=577&RD=0>

OSC Date	Report Title	Description
11 December 2014	MEETING TO BE CANCELLED	
22 January 2015	Q2 Performance report	To receive a presentation on the relevant quarterly performance information
22 January 2015	Q2 Budget Report	To receive a presentation on the relevant quarterly budget information
22 January 2015	Draft Capital Programme (2015/16 to 2018/19)	To consider the relevant directorate budget information
22 January 2015	Draft Revenue Budget and MTFP (2015/16 to 2018/19)	To consider the relevant directorate budget information
22 January 2015	Woodside Link	To consider and comment on the proposed contractor for the construction of the Woodside Link
22 January 2015	North Luton Framework Plan	
22 January 2015	Local Transport Plan	To consider the 2015/16 Programme
22 January 2015	Dunstable Leisure Centre Feasibility Study	To consider the proposals for the refurbishment of Dunstable Leisure Centre
22 January 2015	Community Safety Plan and Priorities (2015/16)	To consider and comment on the Community Safety Plan and Priorities for 2015/16
12 March 2015	Q3 Budget Report	To receive a presentation on the relevant quarterly budget information
11 June 2015	Q3 Performance report	To receive a presentation on the relevant quarterly performance information
11 June 2015	South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership	To receive a presentation as previously requested by Members