

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** 29 December 2016

## **NOTICE OF MEETING**

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

Date & Time

**Thursday, 12 January 2017 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), B Saunders (Vice-Chairman), Mrs A Barker, D Bowater, Ms A M W Graham, J Kane, K C Matthews, R Morris and G Perham

[Named Substitutes:

Mrs C F Chapman MBE, P Hollick, R W Johnstone, I Shingler and M A G Versallion]

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 24 November 2016 and to note actions taken since that meeting.

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.

## REPORTS

Item	Subject	Page Nos.
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>Draft Budget &amp; Medium Term Financial plan 2017/18 – 2020/21</b>  To consider the relevant aspects of the draft Budget and updated Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) pertaining to remit of this Committee only. Information relating to those aspects of the budget outside of the Committee's remit will be considered by the other relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Members are requested to review the report and provide their comments, observations and recommendations in respect of the Executive's proposals with particular reference to those aspects within the remit of the Committee, to the meeting of the Executive. To reduce printing papers copies of the Executive report on the draft Budget and updated MTFP the reports are available online at the following address:-  <a href="http://centralbeds.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=577&amp;MId=5232&amp;Ver=4">http://centralbeds.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=577&amp;MId=5232&amp;Ver=4</a>  Hard copies of these papers will only be provided on request in advance of the meeting.	* Link
11	<b>Draft Capital Programme 2017/18 – 2020/21</b>  To consider the relevant aspects of the Draft Capital Programme pertaining to remit of this Committee only. Information relating to those aspects outside of the Committee's remit will be considered by the other relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Members are requested to review the report and provide their comments, observations and recommendations in respect of the Executive's proposals with particular reference to those aspects within the remit of the Committee, to the meeting of the Executive. To reduce printing paper copies of the Executive report on the Draft Capital Programme, the reports are available online at the following address:-  <a href="http://centralbeds.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=577&amp;MId=5232&amp;Ver=4">http://centralbeds.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=577&amp;MId=5232&amp;Ver=4</a>  Hard copies of these papers will only be provided on request in advance of the meeting.	* Link

- 12      **Period 6 (Quarter 2) – 2016/17 Revenue Budget Monitoring**      \* Link
- To receive the relevant quarterly budget monitoring information.
- To reduce printing paper copies of the Executive report on the quarterly budget monitoring information, the full reports are available online at the following address:-
- <http://centralbeds.moderngov.co.uk/mgChooseDocPack.aspx?ID=5159>
- Hard copies of these papers will only be provided on request in advance of the meeting.
- 13      **Q2 Performance report**      \* Verbal
- To receive a presentation on the relevant quarterly performance report.
- The link to the full Executive report can be found below.
- <http://centralbeds.moderngov.co.uk/mgChooseDocPack.aspx?ID=5159>
- 14      **School Parking Task Force Enquiry**      \* To follow
- To receive the report and recommendations of the school's parking enquiry in order to endorse the recommendations and seek a response from the Executive as to their application.
- 15      **Work Programme 2016/17 and Executive Forward Plan**      \* 11 – 16
- Members of the Committee will receive information regarding the Work Programme 2016/17 and Executive Forward Plan.

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**CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**

At a meeting of the **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Thursday, 24 November 2016.

**PRESENT**

Cllr D McVicar (Chairman)  
Cllr B Saunders (Vice-Chairman)

Cllrs Mrs A Barker  
D Bowater  
J Kane

Cllrs K C Matthews  
R Morris  
G Perham

Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Ms A M W Graham

Members in Attendance: Cllrs I Dalgarno Deputy Executive  
Member for Community  
Services  
C C Gomm Executive Member for  
B J Spurr Community Services  
B Wells Deputy Executive  
Member for Community  
Services  
J N Young Executive Member for  
Regeneration

Officers in Attendance: Mr M Coiffait – Director of Community Services  
Mr P Keates – Head of Development and  
Regulation  
Mr J Longhurst – Director of Regeneration and  
Business  
Mr S Mooring – Environmental Policy Manager  
Mrs R Preen – Scrutiny Policy Advisor

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**SCOSC/16/38 Members' Interests**

None.

**SCOSC/16/39 Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

The Chairman informed the Committee that Councillor Barker would be replacing Councillor Maudlin as a Member of the Committee.

SCOSC/16/40 **Minutes**

**RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 26 September 2016 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to amending Councillor Barker's title, incorrectly listed as Chairman of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

SCOSC/16/41 **Petitions**

None.

SCOSC/16/42 **Questions, Statements or Deputations**

None.

SCOSC/16/43 **Call-In**

None.

SCOSC/16/44 **Requested Items**

The Environmental Policy Manager delivered a verbal update regarding the Council's future approach to water efficiency in Central Bedfordshire in light of growth in the area. The Committee were informed of a water cycle study for the region and that policies covering all aspects of water efficiency were currently being drafted and would form part of the Local Plan.

In light of the update Members discussed the following:-

- The need to encourage water saving initiatives both on small and larger scales and to work closely with strategic partners, specifically the Water Board to continue recent improvements in communication.
- The need for all three regional Water Boards to be included as statutory consultees on planning applications and whether a motion to Council to change the current policy would be appropriate.

**RECOMMENDED that a full report be brought at a later date.**

SCOSC/16/45 **Executive Members Updates**

The Executive Member for Community Services congratulated the emergency planning team regarding their response to a recent gas supply problem locally. A Gypsy and Traveler liaison officer had recently been appointed, tasked with tackling illegal encampments. The Committee were also informed the Woodside Link would be completed in January 2017.

The Deputy Executive Member for Community Services provided details of the calendar of works scheduled for the Household Waste Recycling Centers within Central Bedfordshire.

The Executive Member for Regeneration highlighted the benefits of speculative building works and the strong position in relation to local employment figures.



**SCOSC/16/46 Planning Enforcement**

The Head of Development and Regulation delivered a presentation which outlined progress regards changes to the Planning Enforcement Service, taking into account previous Committee recommendations, several of which had been implemented.

In light of the presentation Members discussed the following:-

- The benefits of a full time team leader position.
- Improvements in communication with Town and Parish Councils and Ward Members.
- The possible budget pressure resulting from the re-introduction of a dedicated out of hours service, due to the low volumes of reported breaches.
- Concerns that all reported cases were considered breaches until a full investigation had been carried out and that information was placed into the public domain immediately.
- That the Council should seek to take far more robust measures in relation to planning breaches and using injunctive measures where enforcement powers were not sufficiently rapid.

**RECOMMENDED that the changes identified within the updated Planning Enforcement Plan be agreed by the Executive, ensuring the appropriate input via the legal and finance departments and any noted recommendations from the sub group delegated to review the service be taken into consideration prior to an ultimate Executive decision.**

**SCOSC/16/47 Economic Insight (2016)**

The Economic Policy Manager delivered a presentation which outlined economic growth within Central Bedfordshire, highlighting the impact of the recent EU referendum, unemployment, the barriers to the labour market and those groups struggling to gain employment and the possible future impact of the introduction of Universal Credit. Concerns were raised with regards to the loss of business and revenue to areas outside of the region and figures were falling in relation to entrepreneurial business rates.

In light of the presentation Members discussed the following:-

- The need to ensure a strong work/life balance for residents and to maximise connectivity.
- The importance of effective Broadband connections for those business and individuals working within Central Bedfordshire.
- The link with the All Age Skills Strategy and the need for young people to be work ready including appropriate support for the growth of apprenticeships.
- That the visitor economy and leisure would grow in the near future with the current position for hotels and conferencing strong.
- The barriers for some business to do business with Central Bedfordshire, which were rents, rates, parking, public transport and connectivity.

**NOTED progress to date and the strong economic position of Central Bedfordshire.**

**SCOSC/16/48 Q1 Budget Monitoring Reports**

The Directors for Community Services and Regeneration outlined the financial position for their directorates at Quarter 1, detailing areas of underspend and overspend.

**NOTED the forecast revenue outturn position and recommend to the Executive that officers continue to look for compensatory savings in order to deliver a balanced budget.**

**SCOSC/16/49 Work Programme**

**RECOMMENDED that the Work Programme be agreed subject to the following amendments:-**

- **Schools Parking Task Force report – 12 January 2017**
- **Local Plan – 12 January 2017**

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

**Central Bedfordshire Council**

**Sustainable Communities OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**12 January 2016**

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**Work Programme & Executive Forward Plan**

Advising Officer: Rebecca Preen Scrutiny Policy Adviser  
rebecca.preen@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

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**Purpose of this report**

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

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is asked to:

1. Consider and approve the work programme attached, subject to any further amendments it may wish to make;
2. Consider the Executive Forward Plan; and
3. Consider whether it wishes to suggest any further items for the work programme and/or establish any enquiries to assist it in reviewing specific items.

**Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme**

1. Throughout June and July 2016 residents were encouraged to propose items to be considered by the Council's overview and scrutiny committees.
2. In addition a workshop took place in June 2016 at which Members and partners were invited to propose additional items and to indicate the priorities that they would like to consider throughout 2016/17.
3. Throughout this process Members have been encouraged to adopt several key principles relating to ways of working that were previously agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Panel, namely:-
  - Minimising duplication
  - Focusing on requested items
  - Focusing on outcomes and the 5-year plan

4. A long-list of items has been proposed, many of which have been included in the work programme of the relevant overview and scrutiny committee.
5. This work programme aims to provide a balance of those items on which the Executive would be grateful for a steer in addition to those items that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) wishes to proactively scrutinise.
6. The Committee is requested to consider the work programme and the indicated outcomes and to amend or add to it as necessary.

### **Overview and Scrutiny Task Forces**

7. 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**

8. Listed below are those items relating specifically to this Committee's terms of reference contained in the latest version of the Executive Forward Plan. The full Executive Forward Plan can be viewed on the Council's website at the link at the end of this report.

Item	Indicative Exec Meeting date
2016 Economic Insight	7 February 2017
Leisure Management Contract	7 February 2017
Parking Strategy	4 April 2017
CCTV Review	4 April 2017
Non Key Decisions	Indicative Exec Meeting date

### **Corporate Implications**

9. 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.

### **Conclusion and next Steps**

10. Members are requested to consider and agree the attached work programme, subject to any further amendment/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.

## **Appendices**

**Appendix A:** Sustainable Communities OSC work programme.

## **Background Papers**

Executive Forward Plan (can be viewed at any time on the Council's website) at the following link:-

<http://centralbeds.moderngov.co.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=577&RD=0>

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## Appendix A – SC OSC Work Programme 2016/17

OSC Date	Report Title	Outcomes we are seeking to achieve
16 March 2017	Local Plan	To receive an update on progress relating to the Local Plan and feedback on a recent public consultation, an update on community planning with a timetable and progress to date.
16 March 2017	Regeneration of Dunstable High Street	To consider the timetable of proposals in relation to the regeneration of Dunstable High Street

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