

## CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in Committee Room 2, the Council Offices, High Street North, Dunstable on Thursday, 25 May 2017.

### PRESENT

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

Cllrs D Bowater  
P Downing  
Ms A M W Graham  
J Kane

Cllrs Cllr M Liddiard  
K C Matthews  
R Morris

Members in Attendance:	Cllrs	A D Brown	Deputy Executive Member for Regeneration
		I Dalgarno	Executive Member for Community Services
		G Perham Mrs T Stock	Deputy Executive Member for Health
		B Wells	Deputy Executive Member for Community Services
		J N Young	Executive Member for Regeneration

Officers in Attendance:	Ms A Bishop	– Senior Engineer
	Mr M Coiffait	– Director of Community Services
	Ms S Holder	– Building Control Team Leader
	Mrs J Jones	– Project Manager
	Mrs R Preen	– Scrutiny Policy Adviser

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### SCOSC/17/1 **Members' Interests**

None.

### SCOSC/17/2 **Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

The Chairman announced that there would be a minute's silence held at 11am in memory of the victims of the Manchester Arena bombing and that the Committee would be scrutinising the recent Bedfordshire Police PEEL HMIC (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary) report at a special meeting on 5 July 2017.

SCOSC/17/3 **Minutes**

**RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 16 March 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.**

SCOSC/17/4 **Petitions**

None.

SCOSC/17/5 **Questions, Statements or Deputations**

None.

SCOSC/17/6 **Call-In**

None.

SCOSC/17/7 **Requested Items**

None.

SCOSC/17/8 **Executive Members Updates**

The Executive Member for Community Services provided details with regards to the closure and refurbishment of Dunstable Leisure Centre, the recent upgrade to leisure facilities in Houghton Regis. It was also confirmed that the Library strategy would be added to the committee work programme later in the year.

The Executive Member for Regeneration advised that the backlog of work in relation to HGV signage across the region was being addressed and that the Committee would receive an update in relation to a directorate restructure in due course. Measures were being considered to strengthen the Planning Enforcement service and the Committee would again be asked to assess any proposals.

The Deputy Executive Member for Community Services provided an update with regards to the opening of the Thorn Turn depot which would be completed on 10 July 2017 with the official opening in September. The directorate were considering the introduction of a commercial cost element to be included at some Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC's) confirming that there was no correlation between offering a commercial service and fly tipping, with separate plans in place to address this issue.

SCOSC/17/9 **Highways Asset Management Plan**

The Team Leader for Highways Business Support delivered a report which set out changes to central government funding of the highways network and the need for the Council to demonstrate compliance in order to secure 'Band 3' grading which would enable the bid for additional funds.

In light of the report Members discussed concerns regarding customer responsiveness, to which it was confirmed that measures were being taken to improve the service delivered.

Members expressed frustration at the lack of a mobile application to log defects and potholes and that tracking a reported complaint was very difficult.

**RECOMMENDED:-**

- 1. That the Highways Service utilises the principles set out in the Draft Highways Asset Management Policy to develop a Highways Asset Management Strategy, Communications Strategy, undertake a Service Review and develop any other supporting documents relevant to the Incentive Fund Bid.**
- 2. That the Executive adopts the updated Network Maintenance Management Plan and approves the Resilient Network for public consultation.**
- 3. That the Council, as Highways Authority, adopts Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) that are situated within the highway boundary and which only receive highway run off and agrees the criteria as set out in Appendix B.**
- 4. That a review of the contractor, Ringway Jacobs be included within the Committee Work Programme.**

**SCOSC/17/10 Review of the 2011 Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA)**

The Executive Member for Community Services delivered a report which set out a refresh to the 2011 Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA), explaining the screening exercise which involved collecting information on historic and potential future floods in order to identify areas with an increased risk of flooding and to manage and mitigate the associated risks.

In light of the report Members discussed the following in summary:-

- The national policy implications at a local level and how each area was categorised.
- That additional funds be made available to map and clear gullies.
- That the Council had a coordinating role in order to identify those responsible for drainage systems.
- The importance of considering climate change and sharing data with strategic partners.

**RECOMMENDED that the Executive support the 2017 review and submit the report to the Environment Agency by the statutory deadline of 22 June 2017.**

**SCOSC/17/11 Work Programme 2017/18 and Executive Forward Plan**

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

- **HMIC PEEL (Police) Report – 5 July 2017**

- **Partnership Working with Anglian Water to include Flood Risk Management and Drainage Maintenance – 14 September 2017**
- **Review of Highways Contract Performance – 14 September 2014**
- **Library Strategy – TBC**

(Note: The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. and concluded at 11.10 a.m.)