

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **EXECUTIVE** held in the Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Tuesday, 20 June 2017.

PRESENT

Cllr J G Jamieson (Chairman)
Cllr R D Wenham (Vice-Chairman)

Executive Members:	Cllrs	I Dalgarno Cllr S Dixon Cllr Mrs C Hegley	Cllrs	B J Spurr J N Young
Deputy Executive Members:	Cllrs	A D Brown Mrs S Clark K M Collins (for part of the meeting only and specifically after the Local Plan)	Cllrs	Mrs A L Dodwell Ms C Maudlin Mrs T Stock B Wells
Apologies for Absence:	Deputy Executive Members	Cllrs	E Ghent G Tubb	
Members in Attendance:	Cllrs	R D Berry M C Blair P Downing K Ferguson F Firth C C Gomm	Cllrs	Ms A M W Graham P Hollick K C Matthews D McVicar D Shelvey I Shingler
Officers in Attendance	Mr R Carr Mr M Coiffait Ms M Damigos Mrs S Hobbs Mrs C Jagusz Mr J Longhurst Mrs J Ogley Mrs C Shohet Mr C Warboys	Chief Executive Director of Community Services Corporate Lawyer Senior Committee Services Officer Committee Services Administrator Director of Regeneration and Business Director of Social Care, Health and Housing Assistant Director of Public Health Director of Resources		

E/17/1 **Minutes**

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting held on 4 April 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

E/17/2 **Members' Interests**

Councillors Dixon and Mrs Clark declared a non pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 8 'Central Bedfordshire Local Plan' as they owned land in Central Bedfordshire. They were present during this item.

E/17/3 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman expressed his sympathies for all those affected by the terrible terrorist attacks in London and Manchester and the tragic fire in London. A one minute silence was held.

The Chairman congratulated those members of the community that had been recognised in the Queens Birthday honours. Ken Harvey, Head of Children with Disabilities and Children's Health, was congratulated for being awarded the British Empire Medal for his services to children and young people.

E/17/4 **Petitions**

In accordance with the Scheme of Public Participation set out in Annex 2 of Part 4 of the Constitution, the Executive received the following petition:-

1. CCTV for Public Safety in Sandhills, Leighton Buzzard

Councillor Mrs Dodwell presented an e-petition, containing 120 signatures requesting the Council to install CCTV on the streets of Sandhills Estate in Leighton Buzzard as a measure of public safety.

The Executive Member for Community Safety explained that a review of anti-social behaviour, property trespass and theft on the Sandhills Estate had been carried out. The Town Council operated a CCTV system which was adjacent to Astral Park, but which only provided limited coverage in the central area. The Council had to give due regard to the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 and the rights of privacy. A number of redeployable cameras could be used in hot spot areas subject to a need and privacy assessment, but there was an issue in Sandhills as only 3 of the roads had been adopted to date by the Council. The Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team was working with partners and the Sandhills Estate community to continue to improve safety in this area.

E/17/5 **Public Participation**

No members of the public had registered to speak.

E/17/6 **Forward Plan of Key Decisions**

RESOLVED

that the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 be noted.

E/17/7 **Central Bedfordshire Local Plan**

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Regeneration that presented the consultation draft of the Central Bedfordshire Local Plan. The report sought approval to release the draft Local Plan for public consultation for a period of 8 weeks commencing 4 July 2017.

In response to questions, the Executive Member for Regeneration confirmed that in producing the draft Plan and releasing it for consultation, the Council had complied with Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and followed the National Planning Policy Framework. The draft Plan was flexible in order to respond to any changes the Government might make to the calculation of future housing need. The draft Plan emphasised the importance of critical infrastructure being in place ahead of development. The Highways Agency was exploring options to improve the A1 and the Government were promoting an East West Rail link.

The number of additional homes provided for in the draft Plan of between 20,000 to 30,000, covered a 20 year period. A number of options for growth locations had been included so that these could be considered further following the public consultation and any technical evidence provided in order to identify the best locations once precise housing numbers had been determined. The Shaping Central Bedfordshire consultation in 2016 and the subsequent Community Planning events had contributed to the proposed draft Local Plan. Full public consultation would be carried out and there was a specific event for town and parish councils.

Reason for decision: To ensure that the Council had an up to date plan in place to guide development and plan for infrastructure, homes and jobs for Central Bedfordshire residents. Failure to have an up to date plan would risk Government intervention and loss of control over development.

RESOLVED

- 1. that the draft Local Plan, attached at Appendix B to the report, be approved for the purpose of public consultation; and**

- 2. to authorise the Director of Regeneration and Business, in consultation with the Executive Member for Regeneration, to make any necessary minor amendments to the Draft Plan prior to public consultation.**

E/17/8

Review of the 2011 Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Community Services that set out the review of the 2011 Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment. The criteria set by the Environment Agency to determine Flood Risk Areas had been lowered for the second planning cycle. Due to flooding in June 2016, Dunstable had been identified as a Flood Risk Area. The Council had identified a number of local flood incidents and would continue to address these through alternative processes.

Reason for decision: To ensure that the Council had met its statutory requirements under regulation 14(3) of the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 and that the assessment and review of Flood Risk Areas previously identified in 2011 were appropriate.

RESOLVED

that the main findings of the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment review be approved and submitted to the Environment Agency by the statutory deadline, 22 June 2017.

E/17/9

Planning Enforcement (Recommendations of Overview and Scrutiny Enquiry)

The Executive considered a report from the Chairman of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee that presented the outcomes of the scrutiny enquiry into planning enforcement. The review focused on a number of areas and contained recommendations relating to the following:-

- resources and demand management;
- communication, timescales and prioritisation; and
- enforcing planning conditions.

Reason for decision: To enable the Executive to review the recommendations emerging from the enquiry before determining its response.

RESOLVED

- 1. that the report and recommendations of the enquiry, set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be noted; and**
- 2. that a response to the report be submitted to the Executive for consideration within two months indicating what action, if any, it proposed to take and if it decided to take no action, the reasons for that decision.**

E/17/10

The Integration of Health and Social Care in Central Bedfordshire (Recommendations of Overview and Scrutiny Enquiry)

The Executive considered a report from the Chairman of the Social Care, Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee that presented the outcome of the scrutiny enquiry into the integration of health and social care in Central Bedfordshire. The enquiry sought to understand the national strategic drives, barriers, risks and to receive evidence, advice and information from sector experts to help develop an approach to redesigning access to health and care services.

The Leader requested that the Chairman of the Social Care, Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee to continue task force work to look at other examples of good practice in relation to integrated health and social care.

Reason for decision: To enable the Executive to review the recommendations emerging from the enquiry before determining its response.

RESOLVED

- 1. that the report and recommendations of the enquiry, set out at Appendices A and B to the report, be noted; and**
- 2. that a response to the report be submitted to the Executive for consideration within two months indicating what action, if any, it proposed to take and if it decided to take no action, the reasons for that decision.**

E/17/11

Executive Response to Overview and Scrutiny Enquiry on School Parking

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Community Services that proposed a response to the outcomes of a scrutiny enquiry into School Parking. Many of the recommendations proposed by the enquiry were already being pursued. Those that were not, fell into two broad categories:-

- improving communication with and between the Council and schools, particularly in relation to developing sustainable school travel plans; and
- improving enforcement of inappropriate parking outside of schools.

The Executive Member for Community Services commented on the following two recommendations:-

- reference 3 – the production of a school's parking leaflet similar to that of a neighbouring authority with distribution electronically where possible to schools, parents and via the Council's website and social media outlets – this should be accepted; and

- reference 7 – that visible signage be displayed outside all schools where deemed necessary, prohibiting parking and waiting between the hours of approximately 8.00-9.00 a.m. and 3.00-4.00 p.m., acknowledging that individual schools may have differing opening times, taking into account the impact of any restrictions upon residents within the area and existing budget constraints – this should be partially accepted.

In response to questions, the Executive Member confirmed that Parking Services would be liaising with Bedfordshire Police. A policy would need to be developed to bring forward the 20 mph speed limit outside of new schools.

Reason for decision: To enable the recommendations, where applicable, to be implemented.

RESOLVED

that the response, set out at Appendix A to the report as amended, be approved including the proposed actions to be taken in light of the recommendations of the enquiry.

E/17/12

Executive Response to Overview and Scrutiny Enquiry on Council Responsiveness

The Executive considered a report from the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources that proposed a response to the outcomes of a scrutiny enquiry into council responsiveness. Many of the recommendations proposed by the enquiry were being pursued. The remaining recommendations fell into three broad categories for which action was proposed:-

- focusing on customer experience to enhance intelligence and tailor services accordingly;
- enhancing the accessibility of the Council's decision making process in addition to creating a focal point with town and parish councils; and
- focusing on community engagement, consultation and co-production.

Reason for decision: To enable the recommendations, where applicable, to be implemented.

RESOLVED

that the response, set out at Appendix A to the report, be approved including the proposed actions to be taken in light of the recommendations of the enquiry.

E/17/13 Revenue Budget Monitoring Provisional Outturn March 2017 (subject to audit)

The Executive considered a report from the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources that set out the provisional outturn financial position for 2016/17 as at the end of March 2017.

Reason for decision: To facilitate effective financial management and planning.

RESOLVED

- 1. that the provisional revenue outturn position for 2016/17, which was an underspend against budget of £0.052M, be noted;**
- 2. to note that the provisional outturn position and new proposed earmarked reserves were approved by the Leader, Deputy Leader, Chief Executive and Director of Resources under a delegated approval granted by the Executive on 4 April 2017;**
- 3. to note that the budget included £2.1M of contingency costs, which were not used; and**
- 4. that the proposed new earmarked reserves, as listed in Table 2 in the report, be noted.**

E/17/14 March 2017 Capital Budget Monitoring Provisional Outturn Report (subject to audit)

The Executive considered a report from the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources that set out the provisional capital outturn for 2016/17 as at the end of March 2017.

Reason for decision: To facilitate effective financial management and planning.

RESOLVED

- 1. that the capital gross provisional outturn position, which was a spend of £98.7M (£94.2M in 2016/17) be noted, demonstrating the continued significant capital investment made by Central Bedfordshire to support its community;**
- 2. that the net overspends between £150K and £500K be approved. Only two schemes were over budget by this amount – a) New Highways Contract Mobilisation in Community Services £0.219M (see paragraph 59 in Appendix A to the report) and b) Information Assets £0.329M (see paragraph 96 in Appendix A to the report);**

3. that the proposed gross deferred spend of £41.6M (£22.6M net) from 2016/17 to 2017/18, as detailed at Appendix B to the report, be noted. This was approved by the Leader, Deputy Leader, Chief Executive Officer and Director of Resources under a delegated authority given by the Executive on 4 April 2017 due to the accelerated timescale for the accounts closure.

RECOMMENDED to Council

that the net overspend on the following items be approved:

- *Woodside Link £8.01M (see paragraph 55 in Appendix A to the report);*
- *New Schools Places £2.32M (see paragraph 21 in Appendix A to the report); and*
- *Stratton Park Infrastructure Works £0.70M (see paragraph 37 in Appendix A to the report).*

E/17/15

2016/17 Housing Revenue Account Budget Management Provisional Outturn Report (subject to audit)

The Executive considered a report from the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources and the Executive Member for Social Care and Housing that presented the 2016/17 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) provisional outturn financial position as at the end of March 2017.

Reason for decision: To facilitate effective financial management and planning.

RESOLVED

1. that the provisional Revenue outturn position to achieve a balanced budget with a contribution to HRA Reserves of £7.190M be approved, thus strengthening the Council's ability to invest and improve its stock of Council Houses;
2. that the provisional Capital outturn, which was £5.813M lower than budget be approved. It was proposed that works to the value of £4.009M be deferred to 2017/18. These works relate to Future Investment (£3.706M) and Stock Protection (£0.303M);
3. to note that Right to Buy (RtB) sales were at a similar level to the previous financial year, with retained receipts of £2.583M. In addition sales of shared ownership properties generated £4.253M, resulting in a year end balance, after funding of the Capital programme, of unapplied capital receipts of £6.473M;
4. to note that there was a contribution of £1.296M from the Independent Living Development Reserve to fund spend at Priory View (£1.005M) and Houghton Regis Central (£0.291M). A further contribution of £1.575M had been made from the Strategic Reserve, to fund the transfer of assets from the General Fund; and

5. **that the net increase in reserves, which was £4.319m, be noted. At the year end, the HRA would have £23.771M of reserves available, of which £2.0M was identified as a minimum level of HRA Balances.**

E/17/16

Revised Policies for Travel Assistance for Children and Pupils Attending School and Post 16 Students

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Education and Skills and the Executive Member for Community Services that sought approval of the proposed revised Travel Assistance Policies for public consultation.

The Executive Member for Community Services amended the commencement date of the twelve week public consultation to following the Executive meeting and not 12 June 2017 as set out in the report.

In response to questions, the Executive Member for Community Services explained that where the Council placed a child outside of Central Bedfordshire the Council would be responsible for the associated cost, but where a parent chose to send their child to a school outside Central Bedfordshire it would be the parent's responsibility to pay for the child's transport.

In the absence of any existing public or school contract transport to a pick up point, a fuel allowance of 17p per mile for a child over the age of 16 could be considered, providing the journey was over 3 miles. An allowance of 36p a mile was being suggested for children under 16 where a mobility vehicle had been provided to the family of the child and specialist school transport was also being provided.

Reason for decision: To ensure that the Council meets its statutory obligations and adopts a fair, equitable and transparent policy to support all pupils and their families.

RESOLVED

1. **to authorise the Director of Children's Services to commence a public consultation regarding the proposed changes to the Council's policies relating to School Travel Assistance and Travel Assistance for Post 16 pupils, as set out in Appendices A and B to the report;**
2. **that the key changes in the proposals be set out clearly in the consultation documents;**
3. **that all parents and carers of children and young adults currently receiving school travel assistance were directly consulted; and**
4. **that a report be submitted to a future Executive meeting on the findings of the consultation.**

E/17/17 **Proposed Temporary Expansion of Henlow Church of England Academy**

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Education and Skills that sought approval for the proposed temporary expansion by Henlow Church of England Academy (middle school), Arlesey to expand by up to 65 middle school places by September 2017 and up to 70 middle school places by September 2018.

In response to a question, the Executive Member for Education and Skills explained that the proposals in Agenda item 12 'Executive Response to Overview and Scrutiny Enquiry on School Parking' had been discussed with the Headteacher of Henlow Academy. The Executive Members for Education and Skills and Community Services would be working with the school to manage the traffic in the vicinity and improve the Academy's travel plan. School transport was being provided from Fairfield Park to Henlow Academy and it was hoped that this would mitigate additional vehicles travelling to the Academy.

Reason for decision: The forecast for middle school places in the Samuel Whitbread planning area showed a deficit of school places to meet the basic need in the area. Without the additional places local children would not be able to access a local school.

RESOLVED

that the commencement of capital expenditure as set out in the report, be approved subject to the granting of planning permissions under Part 3 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

E/17/18 **Homes & Communities Agency Grant: 2016-21 Shared Ownership and Affordable Homes Programme**

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Social Care and Housing that sought approval to enter into a contract with the Homes & Communities Agency (HCA) for the provision of £5,610,000 to Central Bedfordshire Council to deliver 187 homes under the Shared Ownership and Affordable Homes Programme 2016 to 2021. The grant would be used to help deliver the Independent Living schemes of Houghton Regis Central and Crescent Court, Toddington.

In response to a question, the Director of Social Care, Health and Housing explained that this bid was for the specific scheme of affordable housing of mixed tenure. Mixed tenure could include outright sales and this was part of the plan for Houghton Regis Central. Other registered providers could apply for grants from the HCA.

Reason for decision: To enable the Council to enter into a contract with the HCA to receiving the funding.

RESOLVED

that the Council enter into a contract with the Homes & Communities Agency for the provision of £5,610,000 funding to Central Bedfordshire Council to deliver 187 homes under the Shared Ownership and Affordable Homes Programme 2016 to 2021.

E/17/19 Shared Lives Scheme Management Service for Adults with Learning Disabilities

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Social Care and Housing that sought approval to award a new Shared Lives Scheme Management Service contract for Adults with Learning Disabilities for a period of 3 years, plus up to 2 years' extension.

Reason for decision: To expand and develop the current scheme and to provide an alternative option for a greater number of adults with learning disabilities, including young people aged 16 to 17.

RESOLVED

that the award of a new Shared Lives Scheme Management Service contract for Adults with Learning Disabilities for a period of 3 years, plus up to 2 years extension be approved.

E/17/20 Award of the new Adults Homecare Service, Extra Care and Children's Care Support Services Contract

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Social Care and Housing that provided an update on the retendering of the current Adult Homecare and Extra Care contracts and Children's Care Support Services and sought approval to award contracts to the recommended providers.

Reason for decision: To deliver more robust contract arrangements that would result in improved quality to vulnerable customers.

RESOLVED

that the providers who have been recommended to join the new Framework Agreement for the Adult Homecare, the Children's Support Services contracts and the Adult Extra Care contract be approved.

E/17/21 Award of Contract - Development of Biggleswade South Gypsy and Traveller Site

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Social Care and Housing that set out the tender evaluation information for approval of the construction of a new Gypsy and Traveller Site at Biggleswade South.

Approval was also being sought for additional budget provision as the overall project cost would now exceed the original budget.

Reason for decision: To meet the accommodation needs of the Gypsy and Traveller population in Central Bedfordshire.

RESOLVED

- 1. that the award of the most economically and qualitative advantageous tender be approved to Contractor D in the sum of £1,690,081;**
- 2. that an additional £50,000 client contingency and £30,000 for Design Development be approved; and**
- 3. that the total recommended budget of £1,770,081 be approved, being an increase in the approved budget for this project of £195,081.**

E/17/22

2016/17 Quarter 4 Performance Report

The Executive considered a report from the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources that set out the Quarter 4 2016/17 performance for Central Bedfordshire Council's Medium Term Plan indicator set.

Reason for decision: To ensure a rigorous approach to performance management across Central Bedfordshire Council.

RESOLVED

- 1. that performance against the indicators currently being used to help support the monitoring of progress against the Medium Term Plan priorities be noted; and**
- 2. that officers be requested to further investigate and resolve underperforming indicators as appropriate.**

E/17/23

Award of the Adults Homecare Service, Extra Care and Children's Care Support Services Contract

See minute E/17/20 for further details.

E/17/24

Award of Contract - Development of Biggleswade South Gypsy and Traveller Site

See minute E/17/21 for further details.

(Note: The meeting commenced at 9.30 a.m. and concluded at 11.20 a.m.)

Chairman

Dated