

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **EXECUTIVE** held in the Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Tuesday, 10 October 2017.

PRESENT

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

Executive Members:	Cllrs	I Dalgarno Cllr S Dixon Mrs C Hegley	Cllrs	B J Spurr J N Young
Deputy Executive Members:	Cllrs	A D Brown Mrs S Clark K M Collins Mrs A L Dodwell	Cllrs	E Ghent Mrs T Stock B Wells
Apologies for Absence:	Cllr	Ms C Maudlin		
Members in Attendance:	Cllrs	Mrs A Barker R D Berry D Bowater P A Duckett K Ferguson	Cllrs	C C Gomm Mrs S A Goodchild D McVicar B Saunders A Zerny
Officers in Attendance		Mr R Carr Mr M Coiffait Ms M Damigos Ms C Frost-Bryant Mrs S Harrison Mr K Harvey Mrs S Hobbs Mrs C Jagusz Mr T Keaveney Mr J Longhurst Mr V Wan Mr C Warboys		Chief Executive Director of Community Services Corporate Lawyer Head of Strategic Growth Director of Children's Services Head of Services for Disabled Children Senior Committee Services Officer Committee Services Administrator Assistant Director Housing Services Director of Regeneration and Business Senior Education Officer (Planning) Director of Resources

E/17/46 **Minutes**

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 August 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

E/17/47 **Members' Interests**

None were declared.

E/17/48 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman agreed to admit consideration of two urgent items of business, namely 'Central Bedfordshire Local Plan' and 'Commissioning New School Places in the ward of Arlesey through the Temporary Expansion of Henlow Church of England Academy', in accordance with Rule No.16 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules and with Section 100(b)(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Consideration of the Central Bedfordshire Local Plan could not be delayed until the next scheduled meeting of the Executive as a revised timetable was required to enable the draft Local Plan to be submitted to the Secretary of State by 31 March 2018.

Consideration of the Commissioning New School Places in the ward of Arlesey through the Temporary Expansion of Henlow Church of England Academy was required to approve the funding to allow for a contract to be awarded.

E/17/49 **Petitions**

No petitions were received.

E/17/50 **Public Participation**

Two members of the public had registered to speak on item 8 'Transforming Short Breaks Provision to Disabled Children'. See minute E/17/52 for further details.

E/17/51 **Forward Plan of Key Decisions**

RESOLVED

that the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 1 November 2017 to 31 October 2018 be noted.

The decision was unanimous.

E/17/52 **Transforming Short Breaks Provision to Disabled Children**

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Social Care and Housing that summarised the feedback from the consultation on the transformation of short break services and sought approval of a revised model of provision.

The Council had a legal obligation to provide or commission short breaks for children with a disability and produce a Short Breaks Statement setting out a range of services provided, any eligibility criteria and how services were designed to meet the needs of local carers.

The Chairman invited the public speakers to make their statements in accordance with the Public Participation Scheme.

Ms Higgins spoke on behalf of Families United Network and highlighted their concerns that the proposed changes would place additional burden on families with disabled children. Families found that having their children cared for at home was very beneficial. The voluntary sector were a great support and there should be additional funding provided to this sector.

The Executive Member for Social Care and Housing explained that the new model would empower families and children to have a more personalised approach to short breaks improving quality, choice and availability. The proposed changes would be delivered over a 3 year period ensuring a smooth transition for families, consolidation of the new commissioning framework and the universal services offer. She welcomed the support provided by the voluntary sector.

The Deputy Executive Member for Social Care and Housing explained that universal services would be made more accessible and families would be sign posted to specialist services where appropriate and that staff would be provided with appropriate training.

Ms Green spoke on behalf of Special Needs and Parents Charity (SNAP) and was pleased that SNAP had a good working relationship with the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group. The charity had commissioned a short break survey and Ms Green highlighted some of the results from their survey. She expressed concern about the impact of the proposals on families with disabled children and requested that if the proposals were approved that they be introduced gradually.

The Executive Member for Social Care and Housing clarified the intent behind the proposals and confirmed that the Council would work closely with those organisations involved.

In response to questions, the Executive Member for Social Care and Housing explained that this was the first phase of the transformation of services in this area. Work was being carried out with universal providers to improve access to those services.

Reason for decision: To enable the Council to respond to the recent changes in legislation and guidance, and support children remaining with their own families.

RESOLVED

- 1. that the proposed model of delivery for short break provision be approved;**

2. that the revised threshold criteria be approved; and
3. that the timescale for the delivery of the model be approved.

The decision was unanimous.

E/17/53

Central Bedfordshire Empty Homes Strategy

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Social Care and Housing that presented the refreshed Empty Homes Strategy 2017 and the associated consultation outcomes. The 2010 Strategy had been successful and the 2017 refreshed Strategy sought to build on this by seeking to bring homes above shops and offices back into use.

In response to a question, the Executive Member for Social Care and Housing explained that action could only be taken if no one was accessing the property and not paying Council Tax. 65 empty properties were brought back into residential use in 2016/17.

Reason for decision: To continue the momentum and build upon the 2010 Strategy through a refreshed Strategy and Action Plan.

RESOLVED

that the refreshed Central Bedfordshire Empty Homes Strategy be approved.

The decision was unanimous.

E/17/54

Parking Strategy

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Community Services that set out the proposal to develop a Parking Strategy for Central Bedfordshire using a phased approach. The first phase would be to produce a Parking Management Strategy that would focus on the 'here and now' issues in response to residents' concerns. The second phase would be to develop a broader Parking Strategy that would align with the Local Plan and revised Planning Design Guide.

Reason for decision: To deliver an interim Parking Management Strategy to allow time for the wider strategic documents and plans to be completed.

RESOLVED

that the proposal to develop a Parking Strategy for Central Bedfordshire be approved using a phased approach:

- **Phase One: Develop and agree a three year Parking Management Strategy (2018-2021); and**

- **Phase Two: Develop and agree a broader Central Bedfordshire Parking Strategy (2021-2035) aligned to the Local Plan and revised Planning Design Guide.**

The decision was unanimous.

E/17/55

Fees and Charges 2018

The Executive considered a report from the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources that sought approval of the revised Central Bedfordshire Council Charging Policy and the proposed Fees and Charges pricing schedule for January 2018.

The Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources moved 2 additional recommendations which were duly seconded:

- “4. That an inflationary increase as at September of each year be applied to fees and charges and therefore the inflationary increase for 2018 be set at 2.9%.
5. That recommendations 1-3 be subject to recommendation 4.”

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

- 1. that the revised Central Bedfordshire Council Charging Policy, as set out in Appendix A to the Executive report, be approved;**
- 2. that the pricing schedule for January 2018 Fees & Charges, as set out in Appendices B – J to the Executive report, be approved;**
- 3. that the new Fees and Charges that are proposed to be introduced for 2018, as set out in Appendix K, be approved;**
- 4. that an inflationary increase as at September of each year be applied to fees and charges and therefore the inflationary increase for 2018 be set at 2.9%; and**
- 5. that recommendations 1-3 be subject to recommendation 4.**

The decision was unanimous.

E/17/56

Consultation on the Council's Admission Arrangements for the Academic Year 2019/20

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Education and Skills that sought approval for the commencement of the Council's consultation on admission arrangements.

The proposed changes to the admission arrangements were to:-

- include children of staff as a priority to Leighton Middle School's oversubscription criteria;
- include the following lower schools as named feeder schools to Edward Peake Middle School's oversubscription criteria; Dunton VC Lower, Northill VA Lower, Sutton VA Lower and Wrestlingworth VC Lower;
- remove catchment areas for admission to lower schools in Leighton Buzzard; and
- amend the catchment area boundary for Lawnside Lower and St. Andrew's Lower School (East).

The Executive Member for Education and Skills proposed an amendment to recommendation 2 and this was duly seconded:

"That the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Executive Member for Education and Skills, be authorised to determine the Council's Admission Arrangements for the academic year 2019/20 in response to the outcome of the consultation, noting that the Council's admission arrangements must be determined by 28 February 2018 as required by legislation."

In response to a question, the Executive Member for Education and Skills explained that the request to include children of staff as a priority in the oversubscription criteria needed to be made by the school and consulted upon before being approved. He would investigate whether such requests needed to be considered by the Executive on each occasion or whether delegated authority could be granted to consider such requests as and when they were received from a school.

Reason for decision: To enable the Council to consult on the changes to its admission arrangements within the statutory timescales as set out in the School Admissions Code.

RESOLVED

1. that the commencement of consultation for the proposed changes to the Council's admission arrangements for the academic year 2019/20 be approved; and
2. that the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Executive Member for Education and Skills, be authorised to determine the Council's Admission Arrangements for the academic year 2019/20 in response to the outcome of the consultation, noting that the Council's admission arrangements must be determined by 28 February 2018 as required by legislation.

The decision was unanimous.

E/17/57

National Non Domestic Rates - Discretionary Rate Relief Policy

The Executive considered a report from the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources that set out the proposed updated National Non Domestic Rate Discretionary Relief Policy, taking into consideration the Government's announcement that funding would be available to assist businesses affected by the revaluation. The Council was responsible for administering the process and not setting the Rateable Values.

The Deputy Leader and Executive Member proposed an additional recommendation which was duly seconded:

"To authorise the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources, to decide how best to distribute the available funds in 2020/21 and to amend the scheme to that end."

Reason for decision: To enable the Council to update its Discretionary Rate Relief Policy to reflect the new reliefs announced in the Government's Spring Budget.

RESOLVED

- 1. that the update to the National Non Domestic Rate Discretionary Relief Policy be approved; and**
- 2. to authorise the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources, to decide how best to distribute the available funds in 2020/21 and to amend the scheme to that end.**

The decision was unanimous.

E/17/58

Corporate Peer Challenge - Feedback Report

The Executive considered a report from the Leader of the Council that set out the report from the Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge.

In response to a question, the Leader confirmed that the action plan would be monitored appropriately.

Reason for decision: To enable the Council to develop an action plan in response to the recommendations of the Peer Challenge Team to deliver the next phase of its improvement journey.

RESOLVED

- 1. that the findings of the recent LGA Corporate Peer Challenge be welcomed, including the recognition of the significant progress made by Central Bedfordshire Council since its creation in challenging circumstances, which was a tribute to the hard work of Members and staff across the Council underpinned by effective leadership; and**
- 2. that an action plan be commissioned to be in place by the Autumn, in response to the recommendations of the Peer Challenge Team.**

The decision was unanimous.

E/17/59

Adult Social Care Community Health Services

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Social Care and Housing that sought delegated authority to award the adult social care element of the Community Health Services contract and the inclusion of additional adult social care services to the extent permitted as deemed appropriate.

Reason for decision: To enable the award of the adult social care element of the Community Health Services contract.

RESOLVED

- 1. that the Director of Social Care, Health and Housing, in consultation with the Executive Member for Social Care and Housing, be authorised to award the adult social care element of the Community Health Services contract, that was currently managed through a Section 75 Agreement with Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, to the winning bidder of the joint procurement currently being carried out with the Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Bedford Borough Council; and**
- 2. that the Director of Social Care, Health and Housing, in consultation with the Executive Member for Social Care and Housing, be authorised to incorporate additional adult social care services to the extent permitted and as deemed appropriate into the new Community Health Services contract during the lifetime of that contract.**

The decision was unanimous.

E/17/60

Dunstable Leisure Centre Redevelopment - Approval to Enter into a Lottery Funding Agreement with Sport England

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Community Services that set out the terms of the Lottery Funding Agreement for a capital grant in respect of Dunstable Leisure Centre.

Reason for decision: By accepting the conditions, the Council would be awarded the grant to support the redevelopment of Dunstable Leisure Centre and Library.

RESOLVED

that the terms of the Lottery Funding Agreement to secure the Sport England capital grant award of £1,000,000, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be accepted.

The decision was unanimous.

E/17/61

Award of Contract for the A421 (Dualling) M1/J13 – Milton Keynes, Magna Park Project

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Members for Community Services and Regeneration that sought approval to award a contract for the A421 Dualling, M1/J13 to Milton Keynes, Magna Park.

In response to a question, the Director of Community Services explained that the waterway route would be protected, but that the works did not include the construction of the culvert.

Reason for decision: To enable the award of the construction contract.

RESOLVED

- 1. to note that this project was dependent on the submission and approval by Department for Transport (DfT) of the Full Transport Business Case, which in terms of the Economic Case was reliant on the agreed tendered price;**
- 2. subject to securing grant funding from the DfT, the award of a contract to deliver the A421 Dualling Scheme be approved; and**
- 3. that the Director of Community Services, in consultation with the Executive Member for Community Services, be authorised to take the steps necessary to deliver the scheme.**

The decision was unanimous.

E/17/62

Urgent Item of Business - Central Bedfordshire Local Plan

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Regeneration that proposed the next phase of public engagement on the Central Bedfordshire Local Plan and the programme to achieve submission of the Plan to the Secretary of State by 31 March 2018.

In response to a question, the Head of Strategic Growth explained that the Government had published its consultation on the methodology for determining the level of housing need. The housing need figure for Central Bedfordshire was 2553 homes per annum based on the proposed methodology, representing a 60% increase on the Council's current objectively assessed need (ONA) of 1600 homes per annum.

In response to a question, the Executive Member for Regeneration explained that if the Council did not have a Local Plan developers could apply for planning permission on small developments. These small developments would not produce the financial contribution required to fund major infrastructure.

Reason for decision: The revised timetable would accelerate the process for submitting the Local Plan to provide a firm foundation for sustainable growth in Central Bedfordshire.

RESOLVED

that the revised timetable, as set out in Appendix A to the report, for the development of the Central Bedfordshire Local Plan be endorsed.

The decision was unanimous.

E/17/63

Revenue Budget Monitoring Provisional Forecast Outturn June 2017 (Quarter 1)

The Executive considered a report from the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources that set out the forecast outturn financial position for Quarter 1 in 2017/18. The forecast position was an underspend of £0.2m.

Reason for decision: To maintain rigour and transparency through the Executive's regular public monitoring of the revenue budget.

RESOLVED

- 1. that the revenue forecast outturn position which was currently an underspend of £0.2M (over budget by £1.9M in June 2016), be noted; and**
- 2. to note that the budget includes £2.1M of contingency costs against which no call has yet been made. If this contingency was released then this results in an underspend of £2.3M.**

The decision was unanimous.

E/17/64

June 2017 Quarter 1 Capital Budget Monitoring Forecast Outturn Report

The Executive considered a report from the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources that set out the capital forecast outturn for quarter 1 in 2017/18.

Reason for decision: To maintain rigour and transparency through the Executive's regular public monitoring of the capital budget.

RESOLVED

- 1. that the gross forecast outturn of £103.6M, excluding HRA but including deferred spend from 2016/17, which was currently below the approved budget by £7.0M (£11.8M below last year against a higher budget of £124.6M), be noted. The net forecast was £3.2M below budget (£5.1M above budget last year); and**
- 2. that a virement of £3.102M (gross and net) from the Thorn Turn Waste Park Scheme to the Highways South Depot Scheme, both within Community Services be approved.**

The decision was unanimous.

E/17/65

June Quarter 1 Housing Revenue Account Budget Monitoring

The Executive considered a report from the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources that set out the Quarter 1 2017/18 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) projected outturn revenue and capital position.

Reason for decision: To maintain rigour and transparency through the Executive's regular public monitoring of the HRA budget.

RESOLVED

- 1. that the Revenue forecast position to achieve a balanced budget with a contribution to HRA Reserves of £6.020M, thus strengthening the Council's ability to invest and improve its stock of Council Houses, be approved;**
- 2. that the Capital forecast of a net outturn of £12.654M, against a budget of £14.342M, be approved. £1.688M of future investment works be deferred to 2018/19; and**
- 3. that Right to Buy (RtB) sales be monitored for the possible impact on predicted surpluses in the medium to longer term.**

The decision was unanimous.

E/17/66 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

RESOLVED

to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that its consideration was likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

E/17/67 **Dunstable Leisure Centre Redevelopment - Approval to Enter into a Lottery Funding Agreement with Sport England**

See Minute No E/17/60 for further details.

E/17/68 **Award of Contract for the A421 (Dualling) M1/J13 – Milton Keynes, Magna Park Project**

See Minute No. E/17/61 for further details.

E/17/69 **Urgent Item of Business - Commissioning New School Places in the ward of Arlesey through the Temporary Expansion of Henlow Church of England Academy**

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Education and Skills that set out the proposal for the commissioning of new school places in the ward of Arlesey through the temporary expansion of Henlow Church of England Academy.

Reason for decision: To enable the Council to award a contract for the temporary expansion of Henlow Church of England Academy.

RESOLVED

to authorise the Director of Children’s Services, in consultation with the Executive Member for Education and Skills and the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resource, to approve the additional basic need funding set out in paragraph 34 to temporarily expand Henlow Church of England Academy to accommodate the 2017 additional cohorts and up to 70 school places by September 2018, taking into account the comments received from the Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

(Note: The meeting commenced at 9.30 a.m. and concluded at 11.45 a.m.)

Chairman

Dated

[Note: Due to a powercut this meeting was not webcast.]