

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

**This meeting  
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**Central  
Bedfordshire**

**please ask for** Rebecca Preen  
**direct line** 0300 300 4193  
**date** 28 December 2017

## **NOTICE OF MEETING**

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

Date & Time

**Monday, 8 January 2018 1.00 p.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), D Bowater, P Downing,  
Ms A M W Graham, J Kane, Cllr M Liddiard, K C Matthews and R Morris

[Named Substitutes:

Mrs A Barker, C C Gomm, P Hollick, I Shingler and N Warren]

All other Members of the Council - on request

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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 23 November 2017 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 Part 4G 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 Part 4G of the Constitution.

7. **Call-In**

To consider any decision of the Executive referred to this Committee for review in accordance with Part 4D of the Constitution.

8. **Requested Items**

To consider any items referred to the Committee at the request of a Member in accordance with Part 4D of the Constitution.

## REPORTS

- | Item | Subject   |
|------|---|
| 9    | <p><b>Executive Members Updates</b></p> <p>To receive a brief verbal update from the Executive Member for Community Services and the Executive Member for Regeneration.</p>   |
| 10   | <p><b>Central Bedfordshire Local Plan</b></p> <p>To receive a report detailing the recommendations to the Executive in relation to the pre-submission draft Central Bedfordshire Local Plan.</p> <p>The full report will be made publicly available on 3 January 2018 and can be accessed via the following link:-</p> <p><a href="http://centralbeds.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=577&amp;MId=5348&amp;Ver=4">http://centralbeds.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=577&amp;MId=5348&amp;Ver=4</a></p> |
| 11   | <p><b>Work Programme 2017/18 and Executive Forward Plan</b></p> <p>Members of the Committee will receive information regarding the Work Programme 2017/18 and Executive Forward Plan.</p>   |

## CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Thursday, 23 November 2017.

### PRESENT

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

Cllrs D Bowater  
Ms A M W Graham  
J Kane

Cllrs K C Matthews  
R Morris

Apologies for Absence: Cllrs P Downing  
Cllr M Liddiard

Substitutes: Cllrs C C Gomm

Members in Attendance: Cllrs A D Brown  
I Dalgarno  
B J Spurr  
N Warren  
J N Young

Deputy Executive Member for Regeneration  
Executive Member for Community Services  
Executive Member for Health and Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board  
Executive Member for Regeneration

Officers in Attendance: Mr M Coiffait – Director of Community Services  
Ms T Harris (Waste) – Head of Waste Services  
Mr P Keates – Head of Development and Regulation  
Mrs R Preen – Scrutiny Policy Adviser  
Mrs L White – Policy Manager - Leisure, Libraries and Countryside

Others in Attendance Ms E Tilbrook Senior Consultant, Eunomia Research & Consulting  
Mr J Papineschi Director, Eunomia Research & Consulting

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#### SCOSC/17/42 **Members' Interests**

None.

#### SCOSC/17/43 **Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

The Chairman reminded all Members of the Committee that they had been invited to attend the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 30 November 2017 due to the cross cutting nature of several items on the agenda.

#### SCOSC/17/44 **Minutes**

**RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 14 September 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.**

#### SCOSC/17/45 **Petitions**

None.

#### SCOSC/17/46 **Questions, Statements or Deputations**

None.

#### SCOSC/17/47 **Call-In**

The Committee were advised that a Call-In had been received in accordance with Part 4D of the Constitution to consider a recent decision made at the Traffic Management Committee.

The Ward Member for Dunstable Northfields presented the Call-In and outlined concerns regarding a parking permit for a non-resident of Stuart Street, Dunstable. Members were informed that resident parking had been made more challenging in the area as a result of increased numbers of residents from nearby streets parking on Stuart Street. Members were also informed that residents in the adjoining Clifton Road had previously rejected a parking permit scheme for their road. The Ward Member requested that the alternative recommendation previously submitted to the Committee be amended to remove the wording 'unless no off street parking was available'. He also stated until the planned review of the whole area was undertaken in 2018 it was felt that no exceptions should be made to the permit scheme.

Members were advised by officers and the Executive Member for Community Services that the scheme in that particular area of Dunstable had been in place for approximately 6 months and it was in accordance with policy agreed by Council in 2012.

In light of the details presented by the Ward Member the Committee discussed the following in summary: -

- Concerns that a property located on Clifton Road, with off-road parking for up to 4 vehicles had been granted a permit for Stuart Street, Members felt

permits should only be allocated to residents living on Stuart Street, not extended to those living elsewhere.

- That if permit schemes were applied on an area wide basis, not just individual streets in isolation, similar problems would be avoided in the future.
- That it could be considered reasonable to offer a permit for a resident whose property abuts the street in question, which was the case in this instance.

**RECOMMENDED that the decision be referred back to the Traffic Management Committee and that any parking permits issued for 37 Clifton Road, Dunstable to park on Stuart Street, Dunstable be withdrawn.**

Five Members supported the recommendation, two were against and the Chairman abstained from the vote.

#### SCOSC/17/48 **Requested Items**

None.

#### SCOSC/17/49 **Executive Members Updates**

The Executive Member for Community Services advised the Committee that the outcomes of a project underway at Houghton Hall had been very positive and would enhance the infrastructure in the area. Works to regenerate Dunstable Leisure Centre were progressing well and all Members were invited to visit the site. Due to the increase in the price of scrap metal, the region had seen a sharp increase in gully thefts.

The Executive Member for Regeneration provided Members with an update on the Government's budget and national infrastructure report and progress on the East/West rail line, particularly the area which encompassed the Oxford to Cambridge arc.

In response to the updates Members expressed concerns regarding the increasing cost of land when planning permission was applied and the need to safeguard against developers 'land banking', instead ensuring that where possible they were encouraged to build within a reasonable timeframe, acknowledging the difficulties due to planning legislation.

#### SCOSC/17/50 **Leisure Strategy - Parish Schedule Consultation**

The Policy Manager for Leisure, Libraries and Countryside delivered a presentation outlining the response from the Parish Schedules consultation which sought details of town and parish projects to enable officers to seek Section 106 developer contributions from new developments. The Executive Member advised there had only been 20 Parish Council responses, some of which lacked the project information requested, however officers had subsequently provided advice to councils with further projects identified. Members were advised that the request for project information would be repeated annually but parishes could submit project information at any time.

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

- Concerns at the low response rate from Parish Councils and whether they lacked the expertise to provide costed project information.
- Whether Parish Councils understood the impact of not submitting their priority project information and the importance of the local authority and Ward Members communicating with the relevant Parish Councils in order to ensure schemes were brought forward.
- That if parishes did not submit any priority projects, contributions from new developments would be sought for a strategic facility where it benefitted that particular parish and the wider area.
- That despite no official requests being received from Potton Parish Council or some other towns, officers and Ward Members were working closely with those who wanted projects in those areas to ensure developer contributions were sought to facilitate projects.
- That it would be useful to include indicative costings for common projects within the next iteration of the consultation document.

**RECOMMENDED:-**

- 1. That on receipt of new planning applications, the Committee support the endorsement of the Parish Schedules and Outdoor Sport Priority Project List as the point of reference for Leisure Services in identifying recreational open space and outdoor sports projects to which Section 106 developer contributions are sought.**
- 2. That on receipt of new planning applications, the Committee support the endorsement of the process whereby, if no local priority project has been identified, Leisure Services may seek Section 106 developer contributions towards the identified strategic priority project within the catchment of that parish.**

Cllr Graham abstained from the vote.

**SCOSC/17/51 The Waste Collection Contract**

The Director for Community Services outlined the current contract details, including differing methods of collection between the north and south of the region, with proposals to re-procure the contracts in 2019. Members were advised that prior to the UK leaving the European Union, it was likely that the UK would sign up to new European directives around waste disposal and they would be applied post Brexit. Members were provided with information relating to all available options which included an 'in house' and external contractor solution.

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

- The need to assess the most appropriate solution for homes without the space for large containers and bins.
- That the outcomes of the project be made available to the Committee at the earliest opportunity and before it was presented to the Executive.
- The need to ensure public engagement with regards to any proposed changes to waste collection, particularly if it involved additional separation of different types of waste, ensuring a cost effective and user-friendly option.



**RECOMMENDED that a further report be delivered to the Committee prior to a decision being made by the Executive.**

#### **SCOSC/17/52 Task Force Update - Planning Enforcement**

The Head of Client and Development Services delivered a verbal update on progress to the planning enforcement task force recommendations. The Committee were advised that a member protocol was in development, staff resourcing was being assessed and that a detailed action plan would be presented to the Committee early in 2018.

In light of the update Members welcomed the delivery of those recommendations it had been possible to implement to date.

**NOTED the update and extended timeline, with a report to be delivered in March 2018.**

#### **SCOSC/17/53 Work Programme 2017-18 and Executive Forward Plan**

**AGREED the Committee Work Programme subject to the following amendments: -**

- **Regeneration of Dunstable High Street – 8 January 2018**
- **Local Plan, Regulation 19 – 8 January 2018**
- **Task force update - Schools parking - 15 March 2018**
- **Task force update – Planning enforcement - 15 March 2018**
- **All age skills strategy - 15 March 2018**
- **Police Performance Update - 15 March 2018**
- **Community Safety Partnership - 15 March 2018**
- **Gypsy and Traveller update – May 2018**

(Note: The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. and concluded at 12.20 p.m.)

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**Central Bedfordshire Council**

**SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**08 January 2018**

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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. During 2016/17 Members have been invited to share their experiences of the overview and scrutiny process and make suggestions to the Overview and Scrutiny Coordination Panel (OSCP) on future ways of working. This feedback was subsequently considered by the OSCP who resolved to encourage the OSCs to apply the following principles for ways of working:-
  - a. activity be led by the OSCs and residents as well as the Executive Forward Plan;
  - b. more policy development activity be undertaken through the exploration of proposals and principles at the earliest opportunity of commencement of strategy development;
  - c. shorter more focused agendas through prioritisation of items that add value and enable outcomes; and
  - d. create more time for Members outside of formal meetings in addition to providing more opportunity to brief Members informally on some topics.
2. In addition, the OSCP agreed that given the current experience with regard quarterly performance and budget reports a trial should be

undertaken whereby these reports will only be received by the Corporate Resources OSC from April onwards. This trial will enable Members to determine whether this approach provides greater focus on these aspects of scrutiny. All Members will be able to request an item to be added to the agenda of any the OSCs on aspects of budget or performance. The Corporate Resources OSC will also be able to refer matters to the relevant OSC for a 'deep-dive' of any topic if there is a particular concern.

3. The Committee is requested to consider the work programme and the indicated outcomes at **appendix 1** and to amend or add to it as necessary.
4. In considering which items should be added to the work programme Members are encouraged to minimise duplication, focus on those items that have been requested by residents and the committee and to focus on those items where Members can add value.
5. The 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.

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

6. 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**

7. 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
Permission to Award Dial a Ride Contracts	6 February 2018
Dunstable High Street - Regeneration Proposals	6 February 2018
Waste Collection & Street Cleansing- Service Design and Delivery Method	6 February 2018
Waste Collection & Street Cleansing- Service Design and Delivery Method	6 February 2018
Travel Assistance Policies for School Children and Post 16 Students	6 February 2018
Community Safety Accreditation Scheme (CSAS)	6 February 2018
Non Key Decisions	Indicative Exec Meeting date
None at present	

### **Corporate Implications**

8. 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**

9. 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 2017/18

OSC Date	Report Title	Outcomes we are seeking to achieve
15 March 2018	Regeneration of Dunstable High Street	To consider the timetable of proposals in relation to the regeneration of Dunstable High Street
15 March 2018	Task force update - Schools parking	To receive an update on progress following recommendations to improve service delivery
15 March 2018	Task force update – Planning enforcement	To receive an update on progress following recommendations to improve service delivery
15 March 2018	All age skills strategy	With a focus on apprenticeships, work readiness and skills
15 March 2018	Police Performance Update	To discuss with the Police and Crime Commissioner and senior officers within the Force, progress made following the HMIC report in March 2017
15 March 2018	Community Safety Partnership	To receive an update on the priorities of the Community Safety Partnership.
May 2018	Gypsy and Traveller update	To receive a report detailing processes and procedures in relation to Gypsy and Traveller settlements.
TBC	Highways performance update on the improvement plan to be delivered at a future meeting.	

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