

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

**This meeting
may be filmed.***

The logo for Central Bedfordshire, featuring the text "Central Bedfordshire" in white on a black circular background.

please ask for Rebecca Preen
direct line 0300 300 4193
date 28 February 2019

NOTICE OF MEETING

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date & Time

Thursday, 14 March 2019 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), D Bowater, F Firth,
C C Gomm, Ms A M W Graham, J Kane, Cllr M Liddiard and K C Matthews

[Named Substitutes:

R D Berry, G Perham, I Shingler, M A G Versallion and N Warren]

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 January 2019 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 **Executive Members Updates**

To receive a brief verbal update from the Executive Member for Community Services and the Executive Member for Regeneration.

10 **Waste and Resource Strategy Update**

To receive a presentation regarding an update on the waste strategy for Central Bedfordshire, providing Members with the opportunity to discuss the approach in relation to sustainable production, consumer action and innovation in order to promote long term solutions to waste management.

11 **Dunstable Town Centre Regeneration**

To receive a presentation with regards to phase two of the regeneration of Dunstable High Street.

12 **Work Programme 2018/19 and Executive Forward Plan**

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

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 January 2019.

PRESENT

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

Cllrs F Firth
C C Gomm
Ms A M W Graham

Cllrs J Kane
Cllr M Liddiard
K C Matthews

Apologies for Absence: Cllrs D Bowater

Substitutes: Cllrs M A G Versallion

Members in Attendance: Cllrs A D Brown
B Wells
J N Young

Deputy Executive
Member for
Regeneration
Deputy Executive
Member for Community
Services
Executive Member for
Regeneration

Officers in Attendance: Mr M Coiffait – Director of Community Services
Mrs J Keyte – Head of Community Safety
Mrs R Preen – Scrutiny Policy Adviser
Ms L Scott – Community Safety Strategy Officer
Mrs J Selley – Head of Planning Delivery

Others in Attendance D Boyle Chief Superintendent, Bedfordshire
Police
J Lunn Superintendent, Bedfordshire Police

SCOSC/18/118 **Members' Interests**

None.

SCOSC/18/119 **Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

The Chairman thanked Cllr Graham for organising a recent briefing hosted by Anglian Water, with their attendance reinforcing the importance of the Council working collaboratively with partners. Members were advised that following a request from officers agenda items 10 and 11 would be re-ordered to consider item 11 first.

SCOSC/18/120 Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 22 November 2018 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

SCOSC/18/121 Petitions

None.

SCOSC/18/122 Questions, Statements or Deputations

None.

SCOSC/18/123 Call-In

None.

SCOSC/18/124 Requested Items

None.

SCOSC/18/125 Executive Members Updates

The Executive Member for Regeneration provided an update in relation to the Council's apprenticeship scheme and that the Local Plan was due for examination in the Spring of 2019. Members were advised of the status of recent planning applications and the challenges around particular sites and developments in Luton impacting traffic movement within Central Bedfordshire, with the anticipated timescales for development expected to be between one to two years following the granting of planning permissions. In response to a Member query the Executive Member confirmed that the Council was still in dialogue with Luton Borough Council around the duty to cooperate in relation to the Local Plan although agreement had not yet been reached.

The Deputy Executive Member for Community Services provided an update in relation to the waste collection contract and those tenders which had been received would be evaluated, with a decision to award the contract made on 17 May 2019. The Executive Member provided details of a recent communication from DEFRA in relation to a consultation on a waste deposit return on plastic bottles, with the outcome of that consultation determining the Council's approach to future kerbside collections. The dualling of the A421 was progressing well, construction would begin in March 2019 and the road would be open to the public in 2020.

The Chairman announced that there would be a press release on Dunstable Leisure Centre circulated week commencing 28 January 2019.

SCOSC/18/126 Community Safety Resources

The Head of Community Safety welcomed representatives from Bedfordshire Police and delivered a presentation which set out proposals for additional

community safety resources. Members were appraised of the key points and changing priorities for the service in order that tangible outcomes could be realised, highlighting feedback from a resident survey which strongly indicated that respondents felt less safe than they had previously. There was a need to redress the balance, returning to a community safety model similar to that of the past and continue strong partnership working in order that statutory duties be addressed. Proposals included seeking additional delegated enforcement powers for community safety officers as well as increased resources, with those officers directly situated within the community. It was anticipated that the new model would engender a far more preventative approach rather than reactive as had been experienced in recent years and the Chief Superintendent from Bedfordshire Police highlighted a recent drive within the force to re-establish community policing, which would be complemented by the community safety team's approach.

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

- That the new approach was an excellent opportunity to make a difference within the community.
- That participatory budgeting between the police and the Council would allow the seizure of assets from criminals to fund future initiatives in helping prevent crime.
- That the additional resource required had been sourced from the current mid-term financial plan (MTFP) and a need to carefully consider the allocation of officers across the region.
- That the additional resource had been proposed as a result of resident feedback suggesting that the Council had not done enough to address community safety issues, despite its statutory responsibilities to do so.
- That Ward Members be appraised of the roles and responsibilities of each particular community safety officer and that robust communications with Town and Parish Councils and the rural community was essential.
- That any increase in CCTV across the region would be separate from the current proposals.
- That the police be invited to provide a briefing to all Members in relation to the policing model and their resource allocation, particularly given that perceptions were that much of the resource was deployed elsewhere in Bedfordshire .

RECOMMENDED that the Committee support the proposal for additional community safety resources and that the Executive include the required funding within the Council's current MTFP for 2019/20.

SCOSC/18/127 **Community Safety Partnership Strategy 2019-21**

The Community Safety Strategy Officer highlighted the two year priorities of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) which included ending exploitation and tackling domestic and sexual abuse, along with addressing the knowledge gap in relation to the prevalence and impact of substance misuse. Members were advised that a PAN Bedfordshire strategy between Central Bedfordshire Council and Bedford and Luton Borough Councils would be initiated in March 2021 in order that a more coordinated approach be adopted. Members were advised that sexual abuse reporting had decreased which required further

analysis as did the reporting of cybercrime and that cases of unauthorised encampments (UAE) across Central Bedfordshire had increased during 2017.

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

- That the outcomes appeared ambitious with no clear action detailed in relation to how they would be achieved, along with concerns around measures to address substance misuse.
- That despite rebranding and recent communications via social media, residents were largely unaware of the existence and work of the CSP.
- That the results of a recent consultation did not correlate with the priorities of the CSP and resident's primary concerns were in relation to burglary, anti-social behaviour (ASB) and crime. In response Members were advised that crime would be dealt with as 'business as usual' with the identified priorities helping to address the underlying causes of those crimes, in particular County Lines, 'cuckooing' properties and ASB in young people living with domestic abuse.
- The importance of the CSP not being seen as a 'talking shop' and that tangible outcomes must be evidenced.
- That particular villages were considering the need for private security or policing arrangements which should not be deemed necessary due to the Police and Crime Commissioner's pledge to reinforce community policing.
- That the CSP would also be working with the Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) in order to support those experiencing domestic abuse.

RECOMMENDED that the Committee support the two Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment Priorities and one 'Knowledge Gap' identified for Central Bedfordshire for 2019-2021.

SCOSC/18/128 **Planning Enforcement and Unauthorised Development**

The Head of Planning Delivery outlined the key elements of a report which included current and possible future officer resource within the team and the nature of the roles and responsibilities of officers in relation to planning enforcement and unauthorised development. Members were advised that in the majority of enforcement cases no action was taken as they were often resolved before there was any need for intervention, however when appropriate notices were served which often required extensive officer time and resource, with delays occurring due to the exhaustive evidence gathering and appeals process.

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

- That the Committee formally thanked officers for delivering the report as requested at a previous meeting and acknowledged the complexities, challenges and delays they faced in relation to planning enforcement due to government legislation and the judicial system not favouring an expedited process.
- That the example provided in relation to the site at Kingswood, Tilsworth had been helpful and that it be shared with the focus group in that area.
- That permanent staff would be recruited to post in the coming months which would include compliance officers in order that breaches in conditions be addressed at the earliest opportunity.

- Clarification around the responsibilities of those officers tasked with addressing the burning of waste, bonfires and other environmental breaches.
- That Members would welcome a full review of the enforcement plan once a new team leader was in post.

NOTED the report and acknowledged the complexities officers faced in discharging their duties in relation to planning enforcement and unauthorised developments.

SCOSC/18/129 Work Programme 2018/19 and Executive Forward Plan

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

- **Waste Strategy Update to include details in relation to the installation of fresh water fountains in Central Bedfordshire – 14 March 2019**

Following a brief discussion Members agreed that a public information page detailing guidance on the roles and responsibilities and contact details of Council departments and partners would be helpful and the directorate agreed to consider publicising this on the Council's website and in other communications.

(Note: The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. and concluded at 12.38 p.m.)

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Water Fountains and Waste & Resource Strategy Update

Cllr Budge Wells

Water Fountains

Background

- Query from a young resident
- Positive effects to reduce single use plastic bottle usage and consumption of sugary, fizzy drinks.

Key Considerations

- Suitable locations
- Perception may discourage use
- Design
- Installation/ Maintenance
- Costs

Water Fountains

Other Local Authority Projects

- Mainly large metropolitan areas for maximum usage
- Joint initiatives with water company and charities.

Alternatives

- Refill initiatives

Discussion

Resources & Waste Strategy

Background

- Defra's new strategy "Our Waste, Our Resources"
- Published 18th December
- Includes sustainable production, consumer action, waste management, waste crime, innovation.
- Several consultations, 4 launched 18th Feb

Greater Consistency

- All LA's to collect a core set of recyclable materials
- All LA's to collect food waste
- All LA's to offer a free garden waste collection

Resources & Waste Strategy

Deposit Return Scheme (for drinks containers)

- Includes plastic bottles, glass bottles and cans
- Potential to reduce volumes collected at the kerbside by CBC and reduce income for the council

Extended Producer Responsibility (for packaging waste)

- Considering full net cost recovery of dealing with packaging waste for LA's (link in with DRS)

Plastic Packaging Tax

- For packaging with less than 30% recycled content

Resources & Waste Strategy

Next Steps

- Team is attending industry meetings and workshops
- Council intend to respond on our own behalf to set out impacts on CBC
- Support submissions from national industry bodies
- Deadlines 12th/13th May

Questions?



Dunstable Town Centre High Street Improvements

Sustainable Communities
OSC March 2019

Dunstable Town Centre Vision and Place Objectives



Town Centre Regeneration

- Anchored by the principles set out in the 2011 Masterplan
- Pivotal to regeneration of Dunstable
- Window of opportunity for Regeneration Funding
 - Local Growth Fund
 - Highways England
 - Homes England
- Celebrating heritage
- Place shaping Dunstable
- Creating economic vitality
- Breathing life back into Dunstable

Dunstable High St – The issues

Car domination

- Car culture dominant
- Severe Congestion
- Heritage is lost
- Road safety
- Public realm & Highway not fit for emerging growth



Access, Permeability

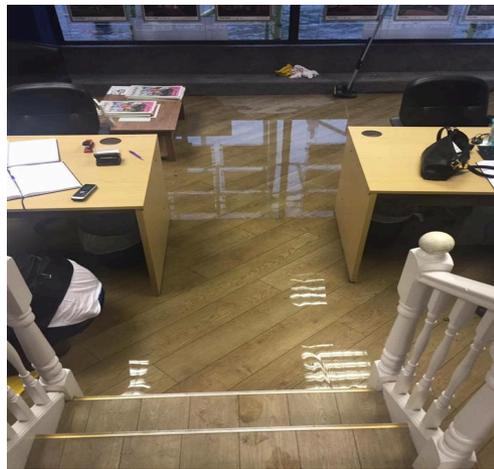
- Lack of enticement off the High St
- No opportunities to stop and look around
- Pedestrian & cyclists safety and access issues



Dunstable High St – The issues

Environment & quality of life

- Flooding and perception of future flood risk
- Lack of accessibility for non car modes
- Air quality (AQMA area)
- Aesthetic of High Street and open space e.g. barriers



Dunstable Town Centre – The issues

Housing need

- High demand for housing due to its strategic location, connectivity and a number of socio-economic factors.
- 56% of households in the area are unable to afford market housing without subsidy.
- Relatively high-level of growth in newly forming households each year.
- Existing level of planned growth in Dunstable is insufficient to meet the total demand for housing
- The Councils waiting list demonstrates that 374 households are awaiting affordable properties in Dunstable.
- A combination of growth in local employers and also the excellent road and public transport links, makes the Dunstable market an attractive area for both prospective renters and homebuyers



Dunstable High Street Improvements – part of a wider programme

Made up of a number of live projects:

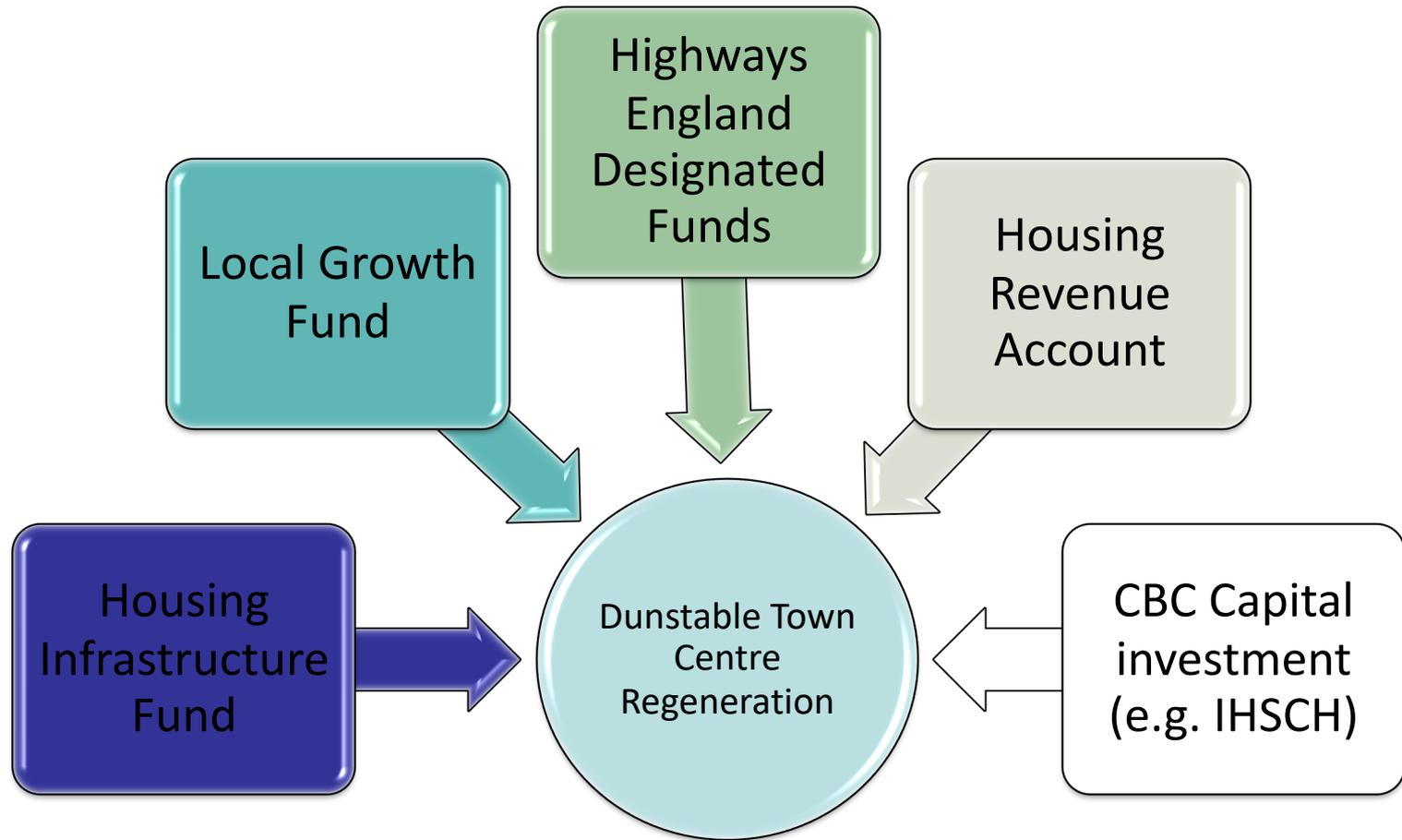
- High Street improvements – Phase 1
- Market Town Regeneration Fund
- High Street Improvement Scheme
- Leisure Centre re-development
- Future redevelopment & housing opportunities

Progress so far....

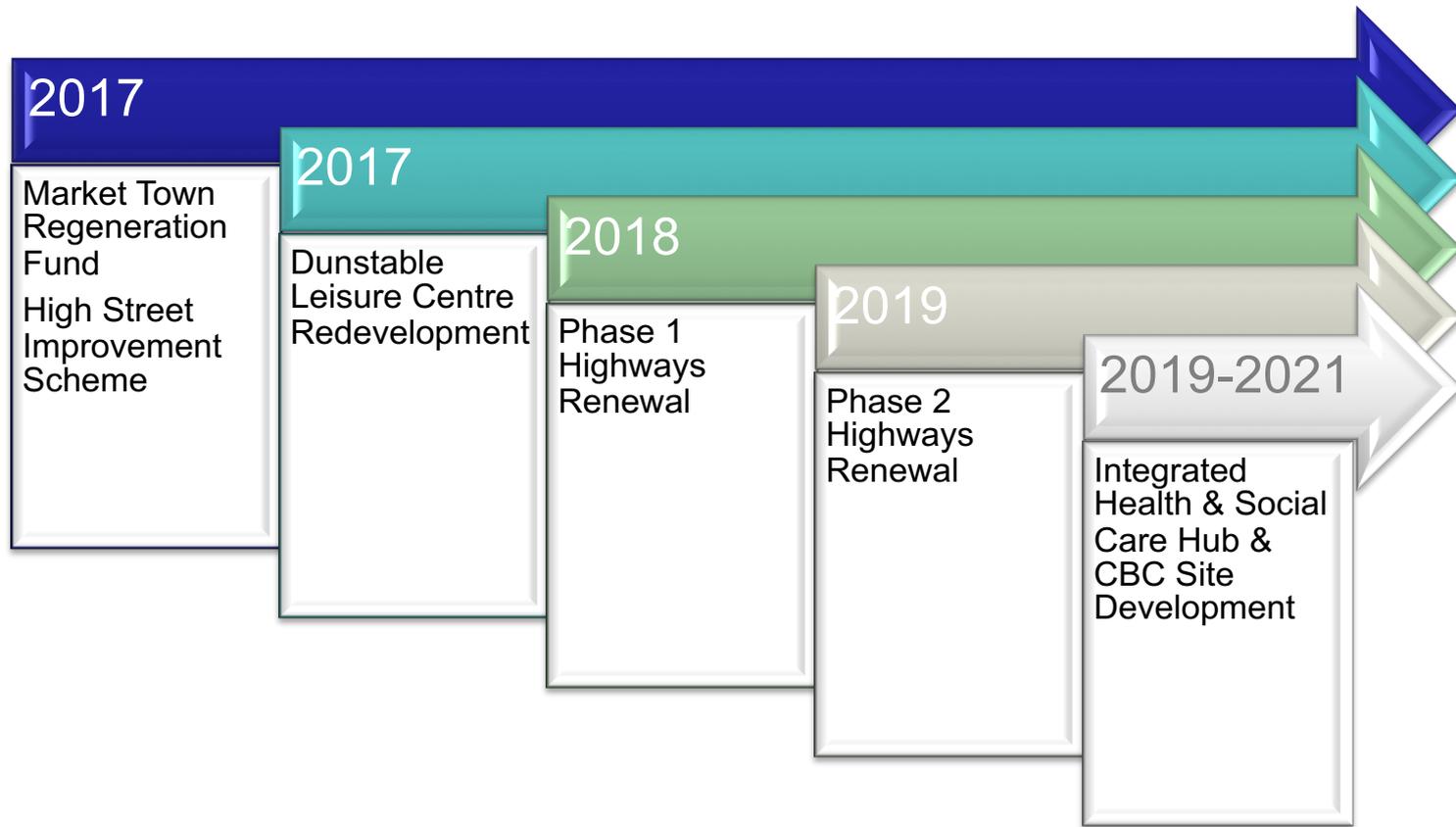


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Possible funding routes

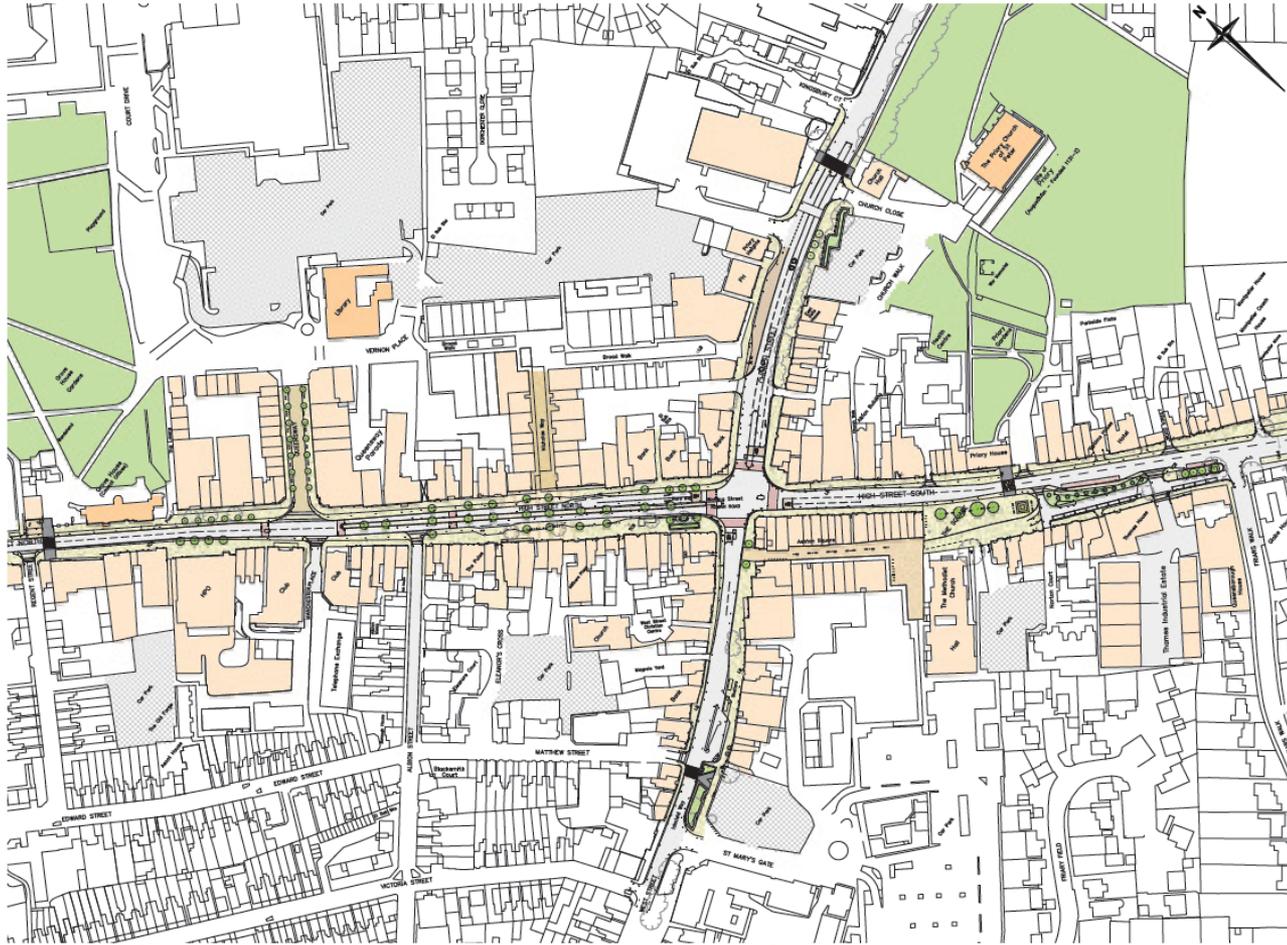


Timeline



Focus on High Street Improvements Phase 2

Overall Scheme Layout



Progress so far....

Two rounds of public consultation held in 2016 and 2017. Suggested improvements include:

- Better pedestrian and cycle routes
- Wider pavements
- Less traffic
- More greenery
- Better sequencing of traffic lights
- Remove railings
- Art/sculptures
- Make the most of Historic features
- Less HGV's
- Better placed crossings

Residents gave support to measures that:

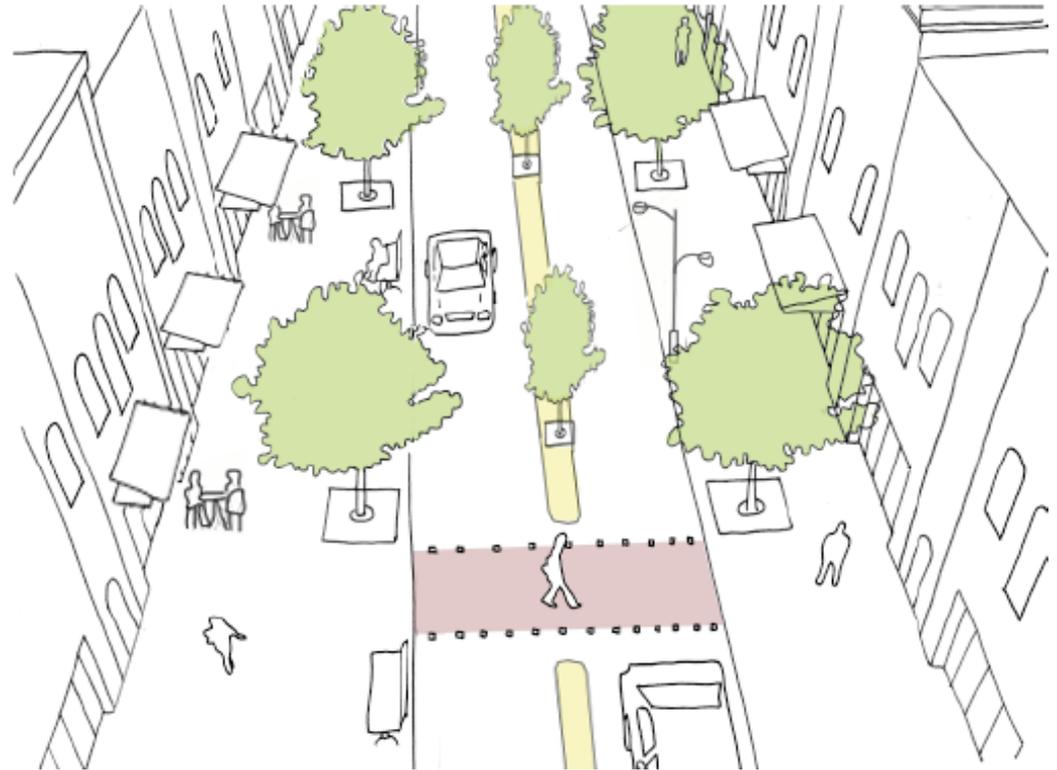
- Prioritise pedestrians as they are the ones spending their money in the shops (68%)
- Provide short stay parking on the High Street (67%)
- Invest in cycle routes that avoid the A5 (62%)

Phase 1 works carried out late 2018.

Phase 2 works scheduled to be delivered during 2018 to 2021

High St North - Central Median

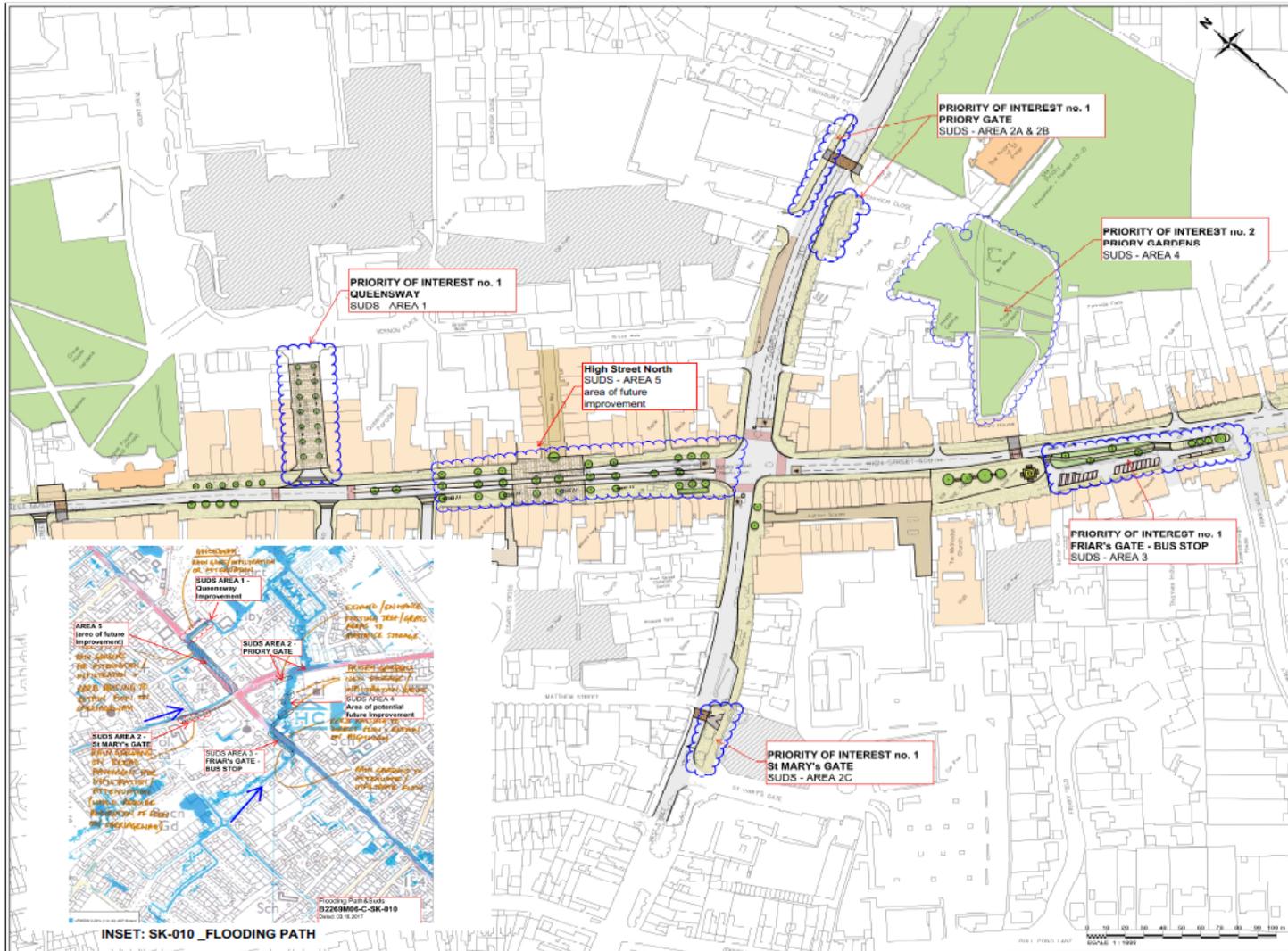
- Repurpose of central reserve to widened median allowing informal crossing
- Wider pavements and narrower roads to favour pedestrians and improve accessibility
- Incorporates significant SUDs scheme in combination with improved public realm, paving, street furniture and landscape treatments
- Clutter removed and focused placed in median
- Improved pedestrian crossings at junctions
- Pilot or trial scheme opportunities



Gateways



Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDS)



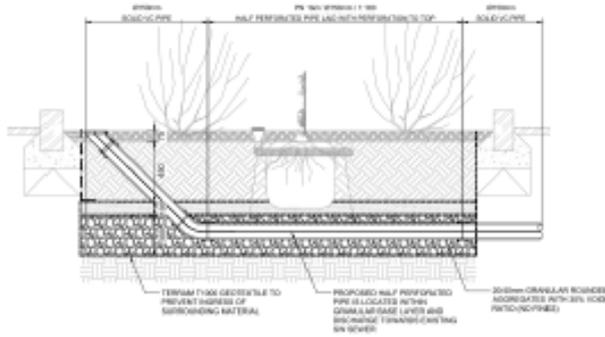
Date: 03/10/2017
Rev: A

SUDS Area Location Plan
B2269M06-C-SK-002

Item 11
Page 15

SUDS LIBRARY

Rainwater Garden (Option A)
(no Infiltration/overflow)

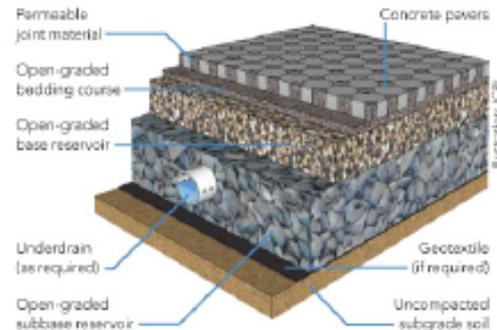


- SUDS are an integral feature of the improvements
- Phase 1 saw 140,000 gallon SUDS solution for High Street South
- Combined with pocket parks and landscaping to improve public amenities

1. Rainwater Garden (Option B) - moveable units with small planting (attenuation/discharge into public sewer)



Below-ground storage system for stormwater and surface water (Stormcell/ Stormbloc or similar)



Permeable Paving (sample)



Stormcell



Stormbloc



Thank you

Any questions?

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Central Bedfordshire Council

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14 March 2019

Work Programme & Executive Forward Plan

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

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
Community Safety Partnership Priorities 2019-2022	2 April 2019
A6-M1 Link Road and Land North of Luton	2 April 2019
Dunstable Town Centre Regeneration - Housing Infrastructure Fund	2 April 2019
Transfer of Sports Facility at Mill Road, Cranfield to Cranfield Parish Council	2 April 2019
Housing Enabling Strategy	2 April 2019
Decision Making Arrangements for Removing BT Payphones in Central Bedfordshire	2 April 2019
Non Key Decisions	Indicative Exec Meeting date
None identified at this time	

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 2018/19

OSC Date	Report Title	Outcomes we are seeking to achieve
Thursday 23rd May	Draft Air Quality Action Plan	To receive a report detailing the outcomes following a public consultation for a Draft Air Quality Action Plan

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