

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

**This meeting
will be filmed.***



**Central
Bedfordshire**

please ask for Sandra Hobbs
direct line 0300 300 5257
date 4 April 2019

NOTICE OF MEETING

COUNCIL

Date & Time

Thursday, 18 April 2019 at 6.30 p.m.

Venue at

Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford

Richard Carr
Chief Executive

To: The Chairman and Members of the COUNCIL:

***MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THIS
MEETING***

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AGENDA

Prayers

The Reverend Nigel Washington, Vicar of Westoning and Tingrith, Joint Interim Minister of Harlington and Associate Minister of Toddington and Chalgrave will take prayers.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence to be received.

2. **Minutes**

To approve the minutes of the Council meeting held on 21 February 2019.

3. **Members' Interests**

To receive from Members any declarations of interest.

4. **Questions, Statements and Deputations**

To receive any questions, statements and deputations from members of the public in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in Part 4G of the Constitution.

5. **Petitions**

To receive and discuss petitions if any, in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in Part 4G of the Constitution.

6. **Chairman's Announcements and Communications**

The Chairman to announce any matters of communication.

7. **Leader of the Council's Announcements and Communications**

The Leader of the Council to announce any matters of communication.

8. **Executive Member Presentations**

To receive reports from up to three Executive Members on recent matters of interest and ask questions on matters contained within the reports.

Reports are anticipated from:

- Councillor Ghent, Executive Member for Assets and Housing Delivery
- Councillor Dalgarno, Executive Member for Community Services

9. **Recommendation from the General Purposes Committee**

To consider a recommendation from the meeting of the General Purposes Committee, 28 March 2019 and answer questions asked under Rule No. 13.1.

- a) Proposed changes to the Director of Children's Services delegated powers relating to Education and Maintained Schools

A copy of the above report can be viewed on the Council's website or via the link below:

<https://centralbeds.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=617&MId=5642&Ver=4>

10. **Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority**

To receive and consider a report from the Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority.

11. **Independent Remuneration Panel**

This report proposes re-appointing an existing member of the Panel.

12. **Domestic Abuse**

To receive a presentation from the Executive Member for Families, Education and Children.

13. **Motions**

To consider motions by Members of the Council under Part 4A, Rule No. 17 of the Council's Procedure Rules in the order received.

14. **Written Questions**

To answer written questions from Members of the Council under Part 4A, Rule No. 13.2 of the Council's Procedure Rules.

15. **Open Questions**

To answer Open Questions asked by Members of the Council under Part 4A, Rule No. 13.7 of the Council's Procedure Rules.

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **COUNCIL** held in the Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Thursday, 21 February 2019.

PRESENT

Cllr Mrs C F Chapman MBE (Chairman)
Cllr B Saunders (Vice-Chairman)

Cllrs	R D Berry	Cllrs	Ms A M W Graham	Cllrs	I Shingler
	M C Blair		Ms C Hegley		P Smith
	D Bowater		J G Jamieson		B J Spurr
	A D Brown		J Kane		R C Stay
	J Chatterley		D J Lawrence		Mrs T Stock
	K M Collins		Mrs J G Lawrence		T Swain
	I Dalgarno		Cllr M Liddiard		G Tubb
	S Dixon		K C Matthews		A M Turner
	Mrs A L Dodwell		Ms C Maudlin		M A G Versallion
	P Downing		D McVicar		N Warren
	P A Duckett		R Morris		S Watkins
	K Ferguson		T Nicols		B Wells
	F Firth		G Perham		R D Wenham
	E Ghent		A Ryan		J N Young
	C C Gomm		J A G Saunders		A Zerny
	Mrs S A Goodchild		D Shelvey		

Apologies for Absence

Cllrs	Mrs A Barker	Cllrs	P Hollick	Cllrs	R W Johnstone
	Mrs S Clark		K Janes		T Woodward

Absent

Cllrs	Costin	Cllrs	Gurney	Gurney
	Freeman		Walker	

Officers:	Mr R Carr	–	Chief Executive
	Mr M Coiffait	–	Director of Community Services
	Mr A Davie	–	Assistant Director Development and Infrastructure
	Mrs P Everitt	–	Scrutiny Policy Adviser
	Mrs S Hobbs	–	Senior Committee Services Officer
	Mr P Keates	–	Head of Development and Regulation
	Mrs J Ogley	–	Director of Social Care, Health and Housing
	Mr S Rix	–	Interim Monitoring Officer
	Mrs M Scott	–	Director of Public Health
	Mrs S Tyler	–	Assistant Director Business and Supporting Services
	Mr C Warboys	–	Director of Resources

PRAYERS

Prayers were taken by Councillor Blair.

C/18/71 Minutes

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 17 January 2019 be approved as a correct record.

C/18/72 Members' Interests

No declarations of interest were received.

C/18/73 Questions, Statements and Deputations

No members of the public had registered to speak.

C/18/74 Chairman's Announcements and Communications

Sandy Town Council and Harlington Parish Council had been mentioned in the National Association of Local Council's publication, Points of Light, that set out a collection of case studies highlighting the work that town and parish councils were undertaking to support their communities.

C/18/75 Leader of the Council's Announcements and Communications

The Leader highlighted the importance of setting the Council's budget and reflected on the services that the Council delivers. Community Safety was an issue that concerned residents and the proposed budget included additional funding for this area. He also highlighted schemes that were planned as part of the budget proposal:

- M1/A6 Link Road
- dualling of the A421
- additional footpaths and cycle routes
- new school places
- improving older peoples accommodation in Ampthill, Houghton Regis, Flitwick and Biggleswade
- Health Hubs in Dunstable and Biggleswade
- new leisure facilities
- providing employment opportunities; and
- improved waste collection services.

The proposed Council Tax was for a 1% increase for 2019/20.

The Executive Member for Community Services provided an update on the motion that was passed at Council on 15 November 2018 regarding Level Crossing at Tempsford. The Chief Executive, Network Rail acknowledged that there was an issue in the Tempsford area and an additional £40,000 had been allocated for policing and patrolling areas where there was a high risk of people committing suicide. Network rail worked closely with the Samaritans and would meet with the Council to discuss improving the area.

C/18/76

Recommendations from the Executive

(a) Budget 2019/20 and Medium Term Financial Plan

The Council considered recommendations from the meeting of the Executive held on 5 February 2019, seeking approval of the proposed Revenue budget for 2019/20 and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

In his introduction, the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources commented on the range of external factors which had influenced the proposed budget. In particular the loss of the Revenue Support Grant, 2% pay award, increase in the Living Wage, the Homelessness Act and people living longer. The Financial Settlement provided a one year grant of £1.5m to be ring-fenced for social care and £1m extra New Homes Bonus.

£14.8m of efficiencies had been identified for 2019/20 and £40m efficiencies over the MTFP period.

The Executive Member commented on the outcome of the public consultation and that the draft budget had been scrutinised by the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee. He highlighted the statutory requirements relating to specific budget proposals, as set out in Appendix F to the Executive report.

In response to the results from the public consultation it was proposed to allocate additional funding towards:

- Community Safety
- Sustainable Transport
- Town Centre Ranger
- Community Councillor Fund
- Parking
- Countryside Access
- Culture.

The Executive were recommending a Council Tax rise of 1%.

The Leader of the Independent Group enquired how much of the budget had been allocated towards paying pensions and hoped that the efficiencies could be achieved.

The Leader of the Labour Group commented on the demand for services and the financial pressures on families in Central Bedfordshire. She was concerned that the proposed efficiencies would impact residents, especially on children with mental health problems and learning disabilities. She felt that the Council should ensure that the budget was spent in the community. She proposed that the recommendations from the Executive be voted upon separately.

The Liberal Democrat representative recognised the work of Officers and highlighted the pressures on Councils, with the increase in homelessness, social care and the much needed increase in the Living Wage. Many residents faced loneliness and there was a need to build integrated and resilient communities. The Health and Wellbeing Board were looking to improve health and wellbeing across Central Bedfordshire, in particular mental health and reducing obesity which was higher in the areas of greatest need. She sought assurance that this would continue to be a high priority for the Council.

Other Members of the Council were invited to comment on the proposed budget.

In response to questions, the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources confirmed that the percentage contributed towards pensions in 2019/20 was the same as 2018/19. It was anticipated that the budget would be underspent at the end of the financial year. Unemployment in Central Bedfordshire was low. Resources were being focused on communities in areas where there was the greatest need. The Community Councillor Fund would allow for Members to bid for funding to help with small projects within their communities.

£1m was being invested in community safety for such issues as increased uniformed presence in the community, CCTV, prevention of anti-social behaviour and fly tipping. The Town Ranger scheme had been successful in Dunstable and would be rolled out across the area. Sustainable transport was very important and additional funds would be put towards improving walkways and cycle routes.

The proposal to allow Council to vote on the recommendations from the Executive separately was voted upon with 4 voting in favour and 45 voting against the proposal. This proposal was lost.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders)(England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a recorded vote was taken.

The recommendations from the Executive upon being put to the vote, those in favour:

Councillors Berry, Blair, Bowater, Brown, Chapman, Chatterley, Collins, Dalgarno, Dixon, Dodwell, Downing, Duckett, Ferguson, Firth, Ghent, Gomm, Goodchild, Graham, Hegley, Jamieson, Kane, D Lawrence, J Lawrence, Liddiard, Matthews, Maudlin, McVicar, Morris, Nicols, Perham, B Saunders, J Saunders, Shelvey, Smith, Spurr, Stay, Stock, Tubb, Turner, Versallion, Warren, Watkins, Wells, Wenham and Young.

Councillors Ryan, Swain and Zerny voted against the resolution.

Councillor Shingler abstained from voting.

RESOLVED

- 1. that the Revenue Budget for 2019/20 and the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2019/20 to 2022/23 be approved;**
- 2. that in line with Government guidance, the following increases in Council tax (CBC element) for residents of Central Bedfordshire be approved:**
 - (a) a Band D increase of £14.86, representing a 1% increase on the charge for 2018/19; and**
 - (b) the CBC Band D Council Tax for 2019/20 will therefore be £1,500.64**
- 3. that the items set out in Appendix L to the Executive report be added to the Council's Budget for 2019/20 and Medium Term Financial Plan for 2019/20 to 2022/23, noting that the use of previously identified funding streams does not necessitate any change to recommendation 2 above.**

(b) Capital Programme 2019/20 to 2022/23

The Council considered a recommendation from the meeting of the Executive held on 5 February 2019, seeking approval of the proposed Capital Programme for 2019/20 to 2022/23.

The Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources drew attention to some of the major investments planned, including:

- New School Places
- M1/A6 Link Road
- Highways Structural Maintenance
- Integrated Health and Care Hubs in Dunstable and Biggleswade.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders)(England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a recorded vote was taken.

Upon being put to the vote, those in favour:

Councillors Berry, Blair, Bowater, Brown, Chapman, Chatterley, Collins, Dalgarno, Dixon, Dodwell, Downing, Duckett, Ferguson, Firth, Ghent, Gomm, Goodchild, Graham, Hegley, Jamieson, Kane, D Lawrence, J Lawrence, Liddiard, Matthews, Maudlin, McVicar, Morris, Nicols, Perham, B Saunders, J Saunders, Shelvey, Shingler, Smith, Spurr, Stay, Stock, Tubb, Turner, Versallion, Warren, Watkins, Wells, Wenham, Young and Zerny.

No Members voted against the resolution.

Councillor Ryan and Swain abstained from voting.

RESOLVED

that the Capital Programme for 2019/20 to 2022/23 be approved.

(c) Budget for the Housing Revenue Account (Landlord Business Plan)

The Council considered a recommendation from the meeting of the Executive held on 5 February 2019, seeking approval of the proposed budget for the Housing Revenue Account (Landlord Business Plan).

The Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources and the Executive Member for Adults, Social Care and Housing Operations set out the proposals covering the Housing Revenue Account.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders)(England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a recorded vote was taken.

Upon being put to the vote, those in favour:

Councillors Berry, Blair, Bowater, Brown, Chapman, Chatterley, Collins, Dalgarno, Dixon, Dodwell, Downing, Duckett, Ferguson, Firth, Ghent, Gomm, Goodchild, Graham, Hegley, Jamieson, Kane, D Lawrence, J Lawrence, Liddiard, Matthews, Maudlin, McVicar, Morris, Nicols, Perham, Ryan, B Saunders, J Saunders, Shelvey, Shingler, Smith, Spurr, Stay, Stock, Swain, Tubb, Turner, Versallion, Warren, Watkins, Wells, Wenham, Young and Zerny.

No Members voted against the resolution.

No Members abstained from voting.

RESOLVED

1. that the plans for additional borrowing of £35M over the MTFP period, to be used for building new affordable housing, be approved;
2. that the recent legislative changes relating to Housing Finance and their impact on the Landlord Business Plan, be noted;
3. that the Landlord Business Investment Plan, which proposes HRA investment throughout the Council area, be approved;
4. that the HRA Revenue Budget for 2019/20 and the Landlord Business Plan Summary at Appendices A and B to the Executive report, be approved;
5. that the 2019/20 to 2022/23 HRA Capital Programme at Appendix C to the Executive report, be approved; and
6. that the average rent decrease of 1% for Council tenancies for 2019/20 in line with the national rental decrease as per Government legislation, be approved.

(d) Treasury Management Strategy and Treasury Policy 2019-20

The Council considered a recommendation from the meeting of the Executive held on 5 February 2019, seeking approval of the Treasury Management Policy, Treasury Management Strategy Statement Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2019/20.

RESOLVED

that the Treasury Management Policy, Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2019/20, be approved.

The decision was unanimous.

(e) Capital Strategy 2019/20

The Council considered a recommendation from the meeting of the Executive held on 5 February 2019, seeking approval of the Capital Strategy for 2019/20.

RESOLVED

that the Capital Strategy for 2019/20 be approved.

Upon being put to the vote 47 Members voted in favour, no Members voted against and 2 Members abstained from voting.

(f) Investment Strategy 2019/20

The Council considered a recommendation from the meeting of the Executive held on 5 February 2019, seeking approval of the Investment Strategy for 2019/20.

In response to a question, the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources confirmed that the Capital and Investment Strategies had been scrutinised by the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee, but the Chairman of the Audit Committee could request for them to be considered by the Audit Committee.

RESOLVED

that the Investment Strategy for 2019/20 be approved.

The decision was unanimous.

(g) Proposed Charges for Traded Services to Schools and Academies 2019/20

The Council considered a recommendation from the meeting of the Executive held on 5 February 2019, seeking approval of the revised charges for Traded Services to Schools and Academies for 2019/20.

RESOLVED

- 1. that the charges for traded services to Schools and Academies 2019/20, as set out in Appendix A to the Executive report, be approved;**
- 2. that the charges for the new services to be introduced for 2019/20, as set out in Appendix B to the Executive report, be approved; and**
- 3. that the year on year price changes, as set out in Appendix C, and the volumetrics analysis for 2017/18 and 2018/19, set out in Appendix D to the Executive report, be noted.**

The decision was unanimous.

(h) Social Care, Health and Housing Fees & Charges 2019/20

The Council considered a recommendation from the meeting of the Executive held on 5 February 2019, seeking approval of the revised Social Care, Health and Housing fees and charges for 2019/20.

RESOLVED

1. **that the fees and charges prices for 2019/20, as set out in Appendices A and B to the Executive report, be approved; and**
2. **that the new fees and charges for 2019/20, as set out in Appendix C to the Executive report, be approved.**

The decision was unanimous.

(i) Council Tax Resolution

The Council considered a recommendation in respect of the Council Tax Resolution arising from the budget proposals approved above.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders)(England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a recorded vote was taken.

Upon being put to the vote, those in favour:

Councillors Berry, Blair, Bowater, Brown, Chapman, Chatterley, Collins, Dalgarno, Dixon, Dodwell, Downing, Duckett, Ferguson, Firth, Ghent, Gomm, Goodchild, Graham, Hegley, Jamieson, Kane, D Lawrence, J Lawrence, Liddiard, Matthews, Maudlin, McVicar, Morris, Nicols, Perham, Ryan, B Saunders, J Saunders, Shelvey, Shingler, Smith, Spurr, Stay, Stock, Swain, Tubb, Turner, Versallion, Warren, Watkins, Wells, Wenham and Young.

Councillor Zerny voted against the resolution.

No Members abstained from voting.

RESOLVED

that the Council Tax Resolution, set out in Appendix A, be approved.

(Note: The meeting commenced at 6.30 p.m. and concluded at 7.51 p.m.)

Chairman

Dated

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COUNCIL MEETING – 18 April 2019

**Recommendation to Council from the General Purposes Committee
held on 28 March 2019**

GPC/18/47. Proposed changes to the Director of Children's Services Delegated Powers relating to Education and Maintained Schools

The Committee considered a report setting out the proposed changes to the Director of Children's Services delegated powers relating to Education and Maintained Schools.

The report explained that greater clarity was needed with regard to the delegated powers held by the Director of Children's Services concerning the establishing and discontinuance of maintained schools. It was also noted that the delegations would be revised to reflect the current legislation.

RECOMMENDED to Council

that the proposed changes to the Director of Children's Services delegated powers, as set out in Appendix A, be approved and incorporated into Part 3E of the Constitution.

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APPENDIX A

CURRENT

4.5.10 To carry out the functions of the Council as the Local Education Authority including the functions of the Council relating to child employment and the youth service, and functions relating to adult learning and further education, set out in the Section 18(3) of the Children Act 2004 (as amended from time to time).

PROPOSED

4.5.10 Subject to the exceptions prescribed by Section 18(3) of the Children Act 2004 (and such other statutory exceptions as might be prescribed from time to time), to carry out the education functions of the Council, as set out in Schedule 36A to the Education Act 1996 (as amended from time to time).

CURRENT

4.5.11 To be responsible for the administration and planning of the review of organisation of schools within the area.

PROPOSED

4.5.11 To be responsible for the administration and planning of the review of organisation of schools within the area pursuant to the Council's duties under Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 ('Functions in respect of provision of primary and secondary schools') (as amended from time to time).

Making prescribed alterations to schools

CURRENT

4.5.12 To exercise the Council's functions relating to the publication of statutory notices for prescribed alterations to schools maintained by the Council in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and Regulations made under those Acts.

Subject to consultation with the Executive Member for Families, Education and Children To take particular account of:

- statutory and non-statutory guidance and the key factors for decision makers
- the Admissions Code
- full consideration of the budget implications.

PROPOSED

4.5.12 To exercise the Council's functions relating to the publication of statutory notices for proposed prescribed alterations to schools maintained by the Council in accordance with the relevant provisions of Part 2 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act") and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 ("the Prescribed Alterations Regulations") (as amended from time to time).

Subject to consultation with the relevant Executive Member to take particular account of:

- such statutory and non-statutory guidance and the key factors for decision makers as might be published from time to time by the Department for Education;
- the School Admissions Code;
- full consideration of the budget implications.

(At the conclusion of the formal 4 week consultation period following publication of the relevant statutory notice(s), Executive will consider any responses to the consultation and will thereafter determine the relevant proposal(s) in accordance Part 2 of the 2006 Act and the Prescribed Alterations Regulations (as amended from time to time). In so doing, Executive shall take particular account of such statutory guidance and the key factors for decision makers as might be published from time to time by the Department for Education.)

CURRENT

4.5.15 To exercise the Council's functions relating to the modification of previously determined statutory proposals for prescribed alterations and/or for the establishment and discontinuance of schools maintained by the Council in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and Regulations made under those Acts.

Subject to consultation with the relevant Executive Member and the Monitoring Officer, to take particular account of:

- statutory and non-statutory guidance
- the Admissions Code
- full consideration of the budget implications.

PROPOSED

4.5.15 To exercise the Council's functions relating to the modification of previously determined statutory proposals for prescribed alterations to maintained schools in accordance with the relevant provisions of Part 2 of the 2006 Act and the Prescribed Alterations Regulations (as amended from time to time).

Subject to consultation with the relevant Executive Member and the Monitoring Officer, to take particular account of:

- such statutory and non-statutory guidance and the key factors for decision makers as might be published from time to time by the Department for Education;
- the School Admissions Code;
- full consideration of the budget implications.

Establishment and Discontinuance of Maintained Schools

4.5.16 To exercise the Council's functions relating to the modification of previously determined statutory proposals for the establishment of new schools and the discontinuance of schools maintained by the Council in accordance with the relevant provisions of Part 2 of the 2006 Act and the School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013 ("the Establishment and Discontinuance Regulations") (as amended from time to time).

Subject to consultation with the relevant Executive Member and the Monitoring Officer, to take particular account of:

- such statutory and non-statutory guidance and the key factors for decision makers as might be published from time to time by the Department for Education;
- the School Admissions Code;
- full consideration of the budget implications.

4.5.17 To exercise the Council's functions relating to informal / pre-consultation for the proposed establishment of a new school and/or the proposed discontinuance of a maintained school.

Subject to consultation with the relevant Executive Member and the Monitoring Officer, to take particular account of:

- such statutory and non-statutory guidance and the key factors for decision makers as might be published from time to time by the Department for Education;
- the School Admissions Code;
- full consideration of the budget implications.

4.5.18 To exercise the Council's functions relating to the publication of statutory notices for the proposed establishment of a new school and/or the proposed discontinuance of a maintained school in accordance with the relevant provisions of Part 2 of the 2006 Act and the Establishment and Discontinuance Regulations (as amended from time to time).

Subject to consultation with the relevant Executive Member, to take particular account of:

- such statutory and non-statutory guidance and the key factors for decision makers as might be prescribed from time to time by the Department for Education;
- the School Admissions Code;
- full consideration of the budget implications.

(At the conclusion of the formal 4 week consultation period following publication of the relevant statutory notice(s), Executive will consider any responses to the consultation and will thereafter determine the relevant proposal(s) in accordance with Part 2 of the 2006 Act and the Establishment and Discontinuance Regulations (as amended from time to time). In so doing, Executive shall take particular account of such statutory and non-statutory guidance and the key factors for decision makers as might be published from time to time by the Department for Education.)



BEDFORDSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

REPORT OF BEDFORDSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY FROM ITS MEETING ON 7 FEBRUARY 2019 TO CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) held a meeting on 7 February 2019 at Dunstable Community Fire Station, Brewers Hill Road, Dunstable. The major issues discussed at the meeting are summarised below:

1. COMMUNICATIONS

Police Community Cohesion Awards

The Vice Chair reported that he, Councillor Atkins and the Deputy Chief Fire Officer attended the Community Cohesion Awards on 1 February 2019, where a number of individuals and community groups were recognised for supporting the communities of Bedfordshire.

2. AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE 6 DECEMBER 2018

Councillor Headley introduced the draft Minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee held on 6 December 2018. The Committee had received the Statement of Assurance at the meeting and had suggested a number of amendments to the Statement. The updated Statement had been circulated with the Minutes and the Committee had recommended that this be signed by the Chair of the Authority and the Chair of the Committee.

Councillor Headley reported that the Committee had received an update from the internal auditors and had been advised that the cyber security audit had been delayed as a joint audit with Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service had been planned but Cambridgeshire no longer wished such an audit to be conducted. The Committee had expressed the view that, given the growing importance of cyber security, it did not wish to see this audit removed from the Service's audit plan.

The submitted draft Minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee held on 6 December 2018 were received and the Chair of the Authority and the Chair of the Audit and Standards Committee were authorised to sign the final Statement of Assurance on behalf of the Authority.

3. HUMAN RESOURCES POLICY AND CHALLENGE GROUP 10 JANUARY 2019

Councillor Waheed submitted the draft Minutes of the meeting of the Human Resources Policy and Challenge Group that was held on 10 January 2019.

She reported on performance against the indicators that had been rated amber or red for the second quarter of 2018/19, such as EQ1a (percentage of new entrants to the retained duty system to be women) and EQ2 (recruitment of black and minority ethnic staff across the whole organisation). It was hoped that the current recruitment campaign would result in a workforce that was more representative of the communities in Bedfordshire.

HR3 (appraisals completed by 30 September) had missed its target as a result of management vacancies and, in some cases, the second line manager not signing the appraisal off even though it was completed. It was anticipated that performance would improve against this indicator.

Performance against H1(number of serious accidents (over 28 days) per 1000 employees) and H2 (number of working days/shifts lost to accidents per 1000 employees (excluding Retained Duty System employees) had been adversely affected by two accident injuries. Both individuals had now returned to work.

The Committee had also received the Public Sector Equality Duty Report. This detailed the large amount of work undertaken by the Service, including the positive action campaigns to seek to ensure that the recruitment campaign was targeting the best candidates from all the local communities in Bedfordshire.

It was noted that the Committee had resolved to send a letter of thanks to the former Assistant Chief Officer and it was suggested that this should be written on behalf of all Members of the Authority.

Councillor Waheed also advised that the Committee's report on the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) audit had been deferred to the Group's June meeting as the audit would be taking place after the Group's March meeting.

The submitted draft Minutes of the meeting of the Human Resources Policy and Challenge Group held on 10 January 2019 were received.

It was agreed that the Chair be requested to write a letter on behalf of all Members of the Authority, thanking the former Assistant Chief Officer for her support and wishing her well in her future endeavours.

4. 2019/20 REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Members received a report on the proposed revenue budget and capital programme. The draft revenue budget requirement had been updated as the three unitary authorities had recently submitted their business rate returns and some of the figures had changed. A revised appendix setting out the final budget was tabled for the Authority's approval.

A Council Tax increase of 2.99%, below the cap level of 3%, was being proposed. This equated to an increase of £98.45 per Band D property.

In addition to the final budget, the Authority also received the medium term savings and efficiencies, the Capital Programme, the Medium Term Financial Strategy, the Reserves Strategy and the Treasurer's Statement on the adequacy of reserves and robustness of estimates.

The final settlement had been issued and there had been no changes to the figures previously indicated to the Authority. The continuing reduction in Revenue Support Grant, from £2.6 million to £2.283 million, was noted.

It was noted that 2019/20 was the last year of the four year funding settlement from Government and highlighted the uncertainty in the 2020/21 budget arising from the formula funding review, changes to business rate retention and the spending review.

Changes to the original budget included the business rate baseline (line 52) and the separate reporting of the transformational reserve for investment into the Control Mobilisation Project (line 76). The annual use of transformational reserve for strategic projects and improvements (line 77) was set at £250,000 from 2019/20. After the next four year period, this would leave the earmarked reserve at £1.946 million. This was in line with a general principle of reducing the level of reserves.

Consultation on the budget had been undertaken with approximately 1120 responses received. 84% of respondents supported the proposed 2.99% Council Tax increase. 73% had also supported the Service going to referendum for a level of Council Tax exceeding the current capped level of 3%.

In relation to the assumptions made on pay, a generous 9% increase over the medium term period had been budgeted for. Members were assured that these pressures were reviewed every year. Detailed inflation figures for gas, water, electricity and derv had also been included in the budget (line 33).

The prudent use of reserves to support the budget setting process was recognised.

The Authority agreed that:

- a. A Revenue Budget requirement is set at £29.832 million, met as indicated in paragraph 3.8 of this report.
- b. In meeting this budget requirement, the Authority's Precept be set at £20.971 million and that as a consequence, a council tax increase of 2.99% up to £98.45 per Band D equivalent property, calculated as shown in Paragraph 3.8 of this report.
- c. In order to meet the Precept requirement, the Head of Finance/Treasurer be authorised to issue Precepts in the necessary form to each of the Unitary Councils and for the amounts indicated in Paragraph 3.11 of this report.

The Medium-Term Revenue Plan, the 2019/20 savings and efficiencies, the Medium-Term Capital Programme, the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Reserves Strategy were approved.

It was agreed that the 2018/19 year-end underspend be allocated to the Transformation Reserve.

In considering the above recommendations, the Treasurer's statement on the robustness of estimates included in the budget and the adequacy of the reserves for which the budget provides, was noted.

The Authority delegated any budget amendments, following receipt of the final settlement figures, to the Treasurer and Chief Fire Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Authority.

5. SHARED PRINCIPAL OFFICER COVER

The Authority received a report on opportunities to extend the existing collaboration between the Service and Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service for sharing Area Commanders to also include the sharing of Brigade Managers, thereby further enhancing the resilience of the strategic operational command structure within both services. This would be especially important in the event of a large incident such as the Novichok poisoning in Salisbury.

Members were assured the Brigade Management responsibilities for incidents in Bedfordshire would be retained by the Chief Fire Officer and Deputy Chief Fire Officer and that the Principal Officer cover would only be shared in the event of a large incident.

Members were assured that these were not cover arrangements, as was the case at Area Commander level, but an agreement to strengthen resilience arrangements. Any further extension of the arrangements would be submitted to the Authority for approval.

The establishment of formal arrangements to share Brigade Manager operational cover between Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Services was agreed and the development and implementation of these, including any appropriate legal agreements, was delegated to the Chief Fire Officer.

6. BREXIT “NO DEAL” PREPARATIONS

The Authority received a report providing an update on the work the Service had been undertaking in preparation for a ‘no deal’ Brexit, both internally and working with the multi-agency partners of the Bedfordshire Local Resilience Forum (BLRF).

BLRF had begun its preparations in September 2018 and was now meeting on a weekly basis.

Guidance received from the National Fire Chiefs Council had set out the following three areas of focus for Brexit preparations: procurement or supply chain issues, operational impacts and support which may be provided to assist the Police. Command and control arrangements were being implemented as there was the potential for large-scale disorder.

The content of the report and the continued efforts to minimise the impact of a ‘no deal’ Brexit were acknowledged

7. LOCALISM ACT – PAY POLICY 2019

In accordance with the requirement to agree and publish an annual pay policy statement and its constituent parts for the financial year 2019/20, the Chief Fire Officer presented the Service’s Pay Policy for 2019. This incorporated the changes to spinal column points and pay increases that had been awarded.

The submitted proposed pay policy statement for 2019/20 was approved, subject to additional text being added regarding abatement and re-engagement as follows:

1. that “and in line with all Government guidance” be added to the end of the first paragraph under section 6; and
2. that the following new sentence be added to section 6: “From 2019, the service will not reappoint Principal Officers after retirement to their previous, or a similar, post save for in exceptional circumstances when such a decision is necessary in the interests of public safety. Any such appointment must be transparent, justifiable and time limited.”

8. HMICFRS INSPECTION UPDATE

The Authority received the outcomes of the inspection process in 2018 conducted by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

All reports from the first tranche of the inspections were available on the HMICFRS website and a “State of Fire” report would be produced when all fire and rescue services had been inspected. The effectiveness of the Service had been judged as “good” with efficiency and people being judged as “requires improvement”. A number of the areas of improvement had been identified by the Service in its self-assessment. The inspection had not identified any causes for concern.

An action plan to address the areas requiring improvement had been prepared and would be monitored by the Corporate Management Team.

The Authority was advised of apparent inconsistencies that would be addressed in a meeting with Inspectorate officials. This included statements in the report that indicated that the Service had a budget deficit. Members, having just received and agreed the budget proposals for 2019/20, noted that this was not the case.

Members recognised the opportunities for improvement provided by the inspection process but expressed concern about the apparent inconsistencies with some of the statements included within the inspection report.

The content of the report and the findings of the HMICFRS inspection of Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service were acknowledged and Members committed to supporting initiatives that provided a response to any recommendations to benefit further improvement across the Service.

9. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2019/20

The proposed calendar of meetings for 2019/20 was submitted for approval. The calendar was based upon a new governance structure that would be submitted to the Authority for approval at its next meeting. This included a change in the structure of the Policy and Challenge Groups to align with the themes of the HMICFRS inspection regime, with a Group for Effectiveness and a Group for Efficiency and People.

The submitted provisional calendar of dates for meetings of the Fire and Rescue Authority and its associated Committees and Groups for the forthcoming year was approved, subject to consideration of the Governance Review paper to be received in March 2019.

10. COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2019-2023 UPDATE

Members considered a report on the progress made toward the completion of the Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) 2019-2023, including the associated consultation process.

A significant amount of work had been undertaken to prepare the CRMP, including the development of a detailed Community Risk Analysis, and it was now ready to go out for public consultation to allow the final draft to be considered by the Authority at its next meeting. Public consultation would include face to face consultation and online surveys. There would also be extensive internal consultation. This would enable the CRMP to be published by 1 April 2019 as was required by the National Framework.

All the actions arising from the HMICFRS inspection were included within the CRMP. There was a greater focus on data quality and the use of data. There were also links to a number of other Service documents and policies.

Members were referred to the proposed consultation questions which were set out in full in the appendix to the report and asked for views on the Service's mission to provide outstanding fire and rescue services to help make Bedfordshire safer, the revised aims of the Service and a number of questions on the specific plans for 2019/20.

It was noted that there were no proposed changes to the response standards.

The initial draft Community Risk Management Plan and the revised consultation arrangements were approved.

11. COLLABORATION WORKING GROUP

Members received update on progress with key collaboration initiatives as managed by the Blue Light Collaboration Strategic Group which included the following:

- The appointment of a joint project manager to lead on the joint headquarters work was progressing.
- A workshop with all blue light partners on managing community risk had been arranged for later in February 2019.
- The improvement works had been completed at Leighton Buzzard Community Fire Station and a meeting to explore the Police use of Toddington Community Fire Station had been arranged.
- Discussions with the Ambulance Service on the feasibility of further opportunities for co-location were ongoing.
- The Service continued to explore the use of What3Words, a geo-application that had been adopted by the Police in December 2018.
- Training on the use the drone had been completed and the drone had been deployed during the incident on Kimbolton Road earlier in the year.
- The red route pilot continued.
- The Service had been authorised by the College of Policing to train Police motorcyclists for blue light response and work was continuing to establish a cohort of Trainers which could enable an expansion of training activities.
- The Service would be meeting with the Police to explore opportunities to collaborate on procurement, recognising that the Police were involved in a tri-force agreement with Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire.
- Work was underway to detail and map current shared training provision with the Police. The second stage of the exercise would review the capacity and usage of training spaces and facilities to seek further joint provision.

The content of the report and the continued efforts to pursue collaboration with the Service's blue light partners were acknowledged.

12. INFORMATION BULLETIN

Members received the information bulletin for the period covering 1 October to 31 December 2018.

In response to a question about the short length of service of a firefighter at Leighton Buzzard Community Fire Station, the Chief Fire Officer advised that he would investigate.

It was noted that the Executive Committee had recently attended the presentation to Derek Holt, the Station Commander at Kempston Station, who was retiring after 30 years of service.

**COUNCILLOR DOWNING
MEMBER OF BEDFORDSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

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Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service

Information Bulletin

October to December 2018

Examples of Incidents Attended

ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISIONS

RTC Persons Trapped

M1 Southbound Junction 14

6 October 2018 - 1429 hours

Rescue Pumps from Woburn and Buckinghamshire Fire Service and specialist rescue unit from Kempston attended incident involving two cars. One male casualty extracted by the Fire Service.

RTC Persons Trapped

A6 Wilstead Hill to Deadmans Hill

9 October 2018 - 0850 hours

Rescue Pumps and specialist unit from Kempston attended a RTC involving three cars. One casualty was extracted by the Fire Service.

RTC Persons Trapped

Tennyson Road, Luton

26 November 2018 - 1254 hours

Rescue Pumps from Luton and Stopsley attended an incident involving two vehicles. One female casualty released using hydraulic rescue equipment by the Fire Service.

RTC Persons Trapped

Leagrave Railway Station, Luton

26 December 2018 – 0237 hours

Rescue pumps from Luton and Stopsley attended an incident involving two vehicles. One casualty extracted by the Fire Service using specialist rescue equipment.

FIRES

Fire Outside

Manor Farm, Wilden

10 October 2018 - 1555 hours

Rescue Pumps from Kempston, Bedford and Ampthill attended a fire involving a large number of agricultural vehicles and equipment. All destroyed by the fire.

Barn Fire

Dovehouse Lane, Kensworth

31 October 2018 – 1910 hours

Rescue Pumps from Dunstable and Luton and specialist vehicles from Toddington and Leighton Buzzard attended a barn fire involving 15,000 bales of hay, animal feed and equipment. All destroyed by fire.

House Fire

Baker Street, Luton

1 November 2018 - 2205 hours

Rescue pumps from Luton and Dunstable attended a fire in a private property. Significant damage to two floors and roof space. Property used for production of drugs. Fire and crime investigations completed.

Shop Fire

Saffron Close, Bedford

4 December 2018 - 1518 hours

Rescue Pumps from Kempston attended a fire in a derelict shop over three floors.

House Fire

Huntsmans Way, Bedford

12 December 2018 – 0413 hours

Rescue pumps from Bedford, Harrold and Kempston attended a fire in a two storey private premises. One casualty rescued by brigade personnel from ground floor.

RESCUES

Calf Stuck in Mud

Old Warden

5 October 2018 – 1330 hours

Rescue pump from Dunstable and specialist rescue unit from Kempston attended one cow requiring rescue from mud.

Rescue from Height

Bideford Green, Linslade

19 October 2018 – 1243 hours

Rescue pumps from Leighton Buzzard and Dunstable attended incident involving

one male casualty, extricated from first floor flat roof by the Fire Service.

Letters of Appreciation or Complaint

Complaint:

No complaints (past Stage I) have been received for this period.

Appreciation:

We continue to receive letters of appreciation from members of the public, schools and organisations that we visit and/or assist with charitable events.

The following is a selection:

Thank you from a **Member of the Public:**

.....'please pass on our thanks to the fire crews (I think it was Biggleswade and Kempston) who attended a house fire at our home. It was a distressing time for us and the crews were calm, professional and informative. They dealt with the situation in a kind and matter of fact manner which stopped us panicking'.....

A member of the public sent thanks for the assistance they received:

.....'I wish to thank the crews from Luton and Dunstable that assisted the Ambulance Service last night lifting my husband into the ambulance. The FRS personnel were so amazing and wonderful with my husband, I am very grateful'...

Thanks from **Residents of Oakway House:**

.....'please send our heartfelt thanks to the personnel who attended the North Wing fire on Thursday night to keep us safe. We were horrified but humbled'.

.....

Thank you from a **Member of the Public:**

.....'I would like to compliment the crews who attended the fire at my neighbour's

property in Sandy, they did an absolutely amazing job, the loss adjusters cannot believe we had so little damage to our own property and that was down to the excellent work carried out by the Firefighters'.....

Thank you from a **Member of the Public**
for Dunstable Red Watch:

.....'Within 5 minutes of calling, the crew arrived, and with the kindest and gentlest approach, helped my dad to safety. They turned a traumatic experience into an event my father doesn't remember. I cannot express how grateful I am for the work the Fire and Rescue Service do in general and in this particular case you probably saved my father's life'.....

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Central Bedfordshire Council

Council

18 April 2019

Independent Remuneration Panel

Report of: Cllr Richard Wenham, Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources,
(richard.wenham@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Responsible Director(s): Charles Warboys, Director of Resources,
(Charles.warboys@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Purpose of this report

This report proposes re-appointing an existing member of the Panel.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council is asked to:

- 1. re-appoint Dr R Tipping to the Independent Remuneration Panel until 31 March 2022.**

Overview and Scrutiny Comments/Recommendations

1. This report has not been considered by any O& S Committee as it is only an administrative procedure.

Background

2. The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 require that a local authority may not adopt or amend a Scheme of Members' Allowances without first having regard to recommendations made to it by an Independent Remuneration Panel.
3. The Regulations also require that each local authority must establish an independent remuneration panel consisting of at least three members who must not be a member of a committee or sub-committee of the authority or disqualified from being a member of an authority.

Panel Membership

4. The current Panel membership is as follows

Mr C Bell	Expires 31 March 2022
Mr P Hubbard	Expires 31 March 2020
Mr G Lambert	Expires 31 March 2021
Mr J Shipman	Expires 31 March 2021
Dr R Tipping	Expires 31 March 2019

5. Dr Tipping was first appointed in 2012 and has served on the Panels of the legacy authorities. He has indicated that he wishes to continue.
6. Statutory Guidance on the 2003 Regulations stipulates that:

The local authority will need to consider the term of office of members of the panel. The panel may become more effective as its knowledge and understanding of members allowances is increased. Accordingly, local authorities may wish to consider appointing members of the panel for a term of office of several years, perhaps 3-5 years. Local authorities may also wish to consider phasing appointments to ensure that there is always one member of the panel who has some experience. This could be achieved by differing lengths of appointment.

Reason for decision

7. Whilst Dr Tipping has served for a number of years there would be benefits of continuity in the panel's membership by re-appointing Dr Tipping who has extensive knowledge of members' allowances.

Council Priorities

8. The effectiveness of an Independent Remuneration panel contributes to the Council's priorities of 'creating a stronger community' and a 'more effective and responsive Council'.

Corporate Implications

Legal Implications

9. Legal implications are incorporated within this report

Financial and Risk Implications

10. Members of the Panel receive an allowance for each meeting attended which is at the same level as allowances paid to co-opted members. The allowances are currently £75 where a meeting lasts up to 4 hours and £150 where it is over 4 hours. Historically, the Panel has never met on more than 3 occasions in a financial year. Any costs can be met from within existing budgets.

Equalities Implications

11. Central Bedfordshire Council has a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
12. An Independent Remuneration Panel is necessary in relation to the provision of a fair scheme of Members' Allowances which is essential to the democratic process in ensuring an equal opportunity to all to become a Councillor.
13. The Scheme of Members' Allowances includes allowances for Dependants' Carers' to provide equality for any Member with caring responsibilities.

Appendices

None

Background Papers

None

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Democratic Services Manager

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