

COUNCIL MEETING – 24 JUNE 2010

Recommendations to Council from the Executive meeting held on 8 June 2010

3. Minute No E/10/17 – Sustainable Community Strategy

The Executive considered a report from Councillor Tricia Turner MBE, Leader of the Council proposing the first Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) for Central Bedfordshire. The Strategy set out the shared long term vision for the area along with key strategic priorities and actions to be delivered with the aim of improving the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area and people living there.

(NOTE: A copy of the report had been circulated with the Executive agenda to all Councillors.)

The report set out the statutory process that had been carried out with partners and stakeholders to develop the strategy and key priorities. The priorities identified for tackling local quality of life issues, whilst having regard to the government's current priorities for public services, had been set from a clear analysis of local needs. It was noted that the priorities and actions had widespread support from partners and stakeholders.

Members were advised that the shared long term local vision was to ensure that Central Bedfordshire was:

“Globally connected, delivering sustainable growth to ensure a green, prosperous and ambitious place for the benefit of all”.

The Strategy's 8 key priorities were:

- (a) Maximising employment opportunities and delivering housing growth to meet the needs of our communities
- (b) Ensuring our local people have the skills to prosper
- (c) Getting around and caring for a green and clean environment
- (d) Supporting and caring for an ageing population and those who are most vulnerable
- (e) Promoting health and reducing health inequalities
- (f) Educating, protecting and providing opportunities for children and young people
- (g) Keeping our communities safe
- (h) Nurturing a sense of pride and belonging.

During the ensuing general discussion it was noted that the Strategy would be reviewed every year and refreshed every three years to ensure it continued to reflect the priorities for Central Bedfordshire based on the views of residents and the latest available evidence for the area.

Reason for decision: To ensure the Council meets its statutory requirement to work in partnership to develop a Sustainable Community Strategy for the area. To ensure partners work together to delivery actions against a shared set of priorities and long-term vision for Central Bedfordshire.

RECOMMENDED to Council

that the Sustainable Community Strategy 2010 - 2031, attached as Appendix A to the submitted report, be adopted.

[Please note that the Central Bedfordshire Together Board on the 13 May 2010 endorsed the final draft of the Sustainable Community Strategy for final approval by Council on 24 June 2010.]

Please also note that a copy of the original report can be found on the Central Bedfordshire Council web site at the following link:

<http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/modgov/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=15204>