

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



CONSTITUTION ADVISORY GROUP

DATE: 2 December 2010

TITLE	Leighton-Linslade Partnership Committee
REPORT OF	Peter Fraser, Head of Partnerships & Performance, Central Bedfordshire Council

PURPOSE	To amend the terms of reference under Part J2 - Joint Arrangements relating to Leighton-Linslade Town Centre Committee
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ORIGIN OF PROPOSAL	A request was received from Cllr David Hopkin in his capacity as Chairman of Leighton-Linslade Town Council's Town Centres Management Task and Finish Group. This group was briefed to consider the structure and terms of reference for a new Leighton-Linslade Partnership Committee that would take on the role and responsibilities of the existing Town Development Committee and Town Centres Management Committee.
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RECOMMENDATION:

to recommend to Council:

- (1) that the existing Leighton-Linslade Town Centre Management Committee should be abolished and a new committee called the Leighton-Linslade Partnership Committee be formed**
- (2) that the revised terms of reference be included in the Council's Constitution.**

**REASON FOR (To be included in report to Council)
RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) To create a single terms of reference for a partnership forum for all those involved in initiatives impacting on the Parish to consult with each other and co-ordinate their activities so as to realise their aspirations for the Parish and the town centre.**

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. A request was made by Councillor D Hopkin, Chairman of the Leighton-Linslade Town Council Town Centres Management Task and Finish Group, to draft terms of reference for a new Committee based on the proposed merger of two existing Town/Town Centre focussed Committees: one managed by Leighton-Linslade Town Council (Leighton-Linslade Town Development Committee); and one managed by Central Bedfordshire Council (Leighton-Linslade Town Centres Management Committee) - for which the terms of reference are included in the Constitution for Central Bedfordshire Council.
2. The proposed terms of reference is attached in Appendix A, which is based on the terms of reference for the two existing committees.
3. Supporting our towns and their town centres to develop and thrive is vital to our economic growth and well being. This is best achieved through partnership working to collaborate on planning and investment opportunities to ensure our town centres are vibrant, safe and pleasant places offering essential and fun activities for local residents and visitors.

A commitment to support town centre development is included in the Central Bedfordshire Community Engagement Strategy, as follows:

“Enhancing the role of Town and Parish Councils through community-led planning, supporting clusters of local authorities to work together to resolve common issues, and devolving budgets to deliver local quality of life services.

The Local Authority recognises that there is no one size fits all approach to the management of town centres. The decision on whether a town has a Town Centre Management Committee, or a broader Town Committee, will be determined by the relevant Town Council. Thereafter, the option for this to be a Joint Committee and part of Central Bedfordshire Council's Constitution will be subject to joint discussion and agreement by both parties. The benefits of being included in the constitution are:

- a common understanding of the key issues;
- shared ownership and decision-making; and
- strong links with the Local Authority's Executive to influence policy and strategy.

Where a Town Council decides not to have a Town Centre Management Committee, the Local Authority will continue to work in partnership with the Town Council on developing its retail centre."

5. The proposal to disband the two existing Committees and form a new Leighton-Linslade Partnership Committee were agreed at the Town Development Committee on 1 November 2010 and Town Centres Management Committee on 11 November 2010.
6. Following consideration by the Constitution Advisory Group, it is proposed that a recommendation is taken to the full Leighton-Linslade Town Council meeting on 17 January 2011 and Central Bedfordshire Council on 20 January 2011.
7. Changes to the existing Committee structure will be effective from May 2011.

Contact Officer Details:	Key Background Papers:
Peter Fraser: 0300 300 6740 (int: 76740)	Appendix A: Terms of reference