

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



CONSTITUTION ADVISORY GROUP

DATE: 21st March 2011

TITLE	Dunstable Joint Committee
REPORT OF	Helen Shore, Head of Business Investment & Marketing

PURPOSE	To amend the terms of reference under Part J2 - Joint Arrangements relating to Dunstable Town Centre Management Committee
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ORIGIN OF PROPOSAL	A request was received from Cllr Nigel Young in his capacity as Chairman of Dunstable Town Centre Management Committee to take a fresh look at the form and function of the Committee. The Town Centre Management Committee has now considered its future and aims to re-focus the work of the Committee to take into account all aspects of town development and growth. The Terms of Reference have been altered to reflect this and are attached as Appendix A.
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RECOMMENDATION:

to recommend to Council:

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| (1) that the existing Dunstable Town Centre Management Committee should be abolished and a new committee called the Dunstable Joint Committee be created. |
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| (2) | that the revised terms of reference be included in the Council's Constitution. |
| (3) | that the membership of the Dunstable Joint Committee includes 5 Central Bedfordshire Members appointed from Dunstable area ward members only. |

**REASON FOR
RECOMMENDATIONS**

(To be included in report to Council)

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| (1) | With the advent of the Masterplan, the Luton/Dunstable Busway, Local Transport Plan 3, the Core Strategy and the A5-M1 Link Road the existing Town Centre Management Committee considered that now was an appropriate time for the Committee to expand its remit and change its name to create a genuine joint committee. |
| (2) | To create a new terms of reference for a partnership forum for all those involved in initiatives impacting on Dunstable in order to consult with each other and co-ordinate their activities so as to realise their aspirations for the town. |
| (3) | As Dunstable has very specific issues it is a recommendation of the Town Centre Management Committee that the five Central Bedfordshire Council Member representatives are drawn from Dunstable area wards to sit on the Dunstable Partnership Committee as they are best placed to be directly engaged. |

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. A request was made by Councillor Nigel Young, Chairman of the Dunstable Town Centre Management Committee, to draft new terms of reference for a new Committee, the Dunstable Joint Committee.
2. The proposed terms of reference are attached at Appendix A. These were discussed and approved by the Dunstable Town Centre Management Committee on the 10th March 2010.
3. The existing terms of reference for the Town Centre Management Committee are included within Central Bedfordshire's Constitution under Part J2. The required amendments are attached at Appendix B.
4. 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.

5. 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.”

6. Following consideration by the Constitution Advisory Group, it is proposed that a recommendation is taken to the full Dunstable Town Council meeting on 11th April and Central Bedfordshire Council on 14th April 2011.
7. Changes to the existing Committee structure will be effective from May 2011.

Contact Officer Details:	Key Background Papers:
Helen Shore: 0300 300 6527 (Ext: 76527) Peter Fraser: 0300 300 6740 (Ext. 76740	Appendix A: Terms of Reference