

## CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Tuesday, 21 June 2011.

### SCOSC/11/11 **Biggleswade Town Centre Strategy and Masterplan SPD**

The Committee received a report and presentation regarding the draft Biggleswade Town Centre Strategy and Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and the outcomes of earlier public consultation. A full copy of the presentation is attached as an **appendix** to these Minutes. The Committee also received supplementary information that detailed all of the changes that had been made to the SPD in light of the public consultation.

In response to the report and in light of the consultation responses Members discussed the following:-

- Proposals for development in the town centre would be required to provide adequate car parking. There was no intention to reduce the current level of car parking that was available.
- The Masterplan was an important tool for attracting inward investment to the town centre from the commercial market. Whilst public funding was limited there were opportunities through Section 106 and LATP funds although the majority of funding would come from private investment.
- There had been a considerable level of public engagement in the consultations regarding the masterplan and the process had been a particularly positive one.
- The Council would discuss with local partners the most appropriate means of continuing local discussion to deliver the plan, which may replace the town centre partnership.

**NOTED the outcomes of the statutory consultation held during February and March 2011 and the proposed changes arising to the Draft Strategy and Masterplan.**

**RECOMMENDED to the Executive that the Biggleswade Town Centre Strategy and Masterplan be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document as part of the Local Development Framework (North).**