

## CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **EXECUTIVE** held in the Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Tuesday, 12 July 2011.

### PRESENT

Cllr J G Jamieson (Chairman)  
Cllr M R Jones (Vice-Chairman)

Cllrs Mrs A Barker  
Mrs C Hegley  
D J Hopkin  
K C Matthews  
B J Spurr

Cllrs Mrs P E Turner MBE  
M A G Versallion  
B Wells  
R D Wenham  
J N Young

Apologies for Absence: Cllrs R C Stay

Members in Attendance: Cllrs P N Aldis  
A R Bastable  
M C Blair  
D Bowater  
A D Brown  
Mrs R J Drinkwater

Cllrs P A Duckett  
C C Gomm  
D Jones  
D McVicar  
B Saunders  
P Williams

Officers in Attendance	Mr J Atkinson	Head of Legal and Democratic Services
	Mr R Carr	Chief Executive
	Ms D Clarke	Assistant Chief Executive (People & Organisation)
	Mr A Fleming	Acting Director of Sustainable Communities
	Mrs E Grant	Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Children's Services
	Mrs S Hobbs	Committee Services Officer
	Mr C Jones	Assistant Director Customer and Systems
	Mrs J Ogley	Director of Social Care, Health and Housing
	Mr J Unsworth	Assistant Chief Executive (Resources)
	Mr C Warboys	Assistant Director Finance

E/11/19

### Minutes

### RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting held on 31 May 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendment:-

- **Members in Attendance – add Councillor Mrs Barker as present.**

E/11/20 **Members' Interests**

(a) **Personal Interests:-**

None.

(b) **Personal and Prejudicial Interests:-**

Councillor R Wenham, Deputy Executive Member for Corporate Resources declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 11a 'Consultation on Central Bedfordshire's draft Approach to Parking Management' due to him being a Chief Executive Officer in full of ISS Europe Ltd.

E/11/21 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman, by virtue of the authority vested in him in accordance with Section 100(b)(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, had agreed to allow an item on the Luton and southern Central Bedfordshire Core Strategy – Memorandum of Understanding with Luton Borough Council on continued joint working to be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

The Chairman advised Members that a question had been raised by a member of the public, Mr Konstantinidis, at the Audit Committee meeting on 27 June 2011. The question had been referred to the Executive and the Executive Member for Corporate Resources explained that a written response would be provided to Mr Konstantinidis.

E/11/22 **Petitions**

No petitions were received.

E/11/23 **Public Participation**

No members of the public had registered to speak.

E/11/24 **Forward Plan of Key Decisions**

**RESOLVED**

**that the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 be noted.**

E/11/25 **Biggleswade Town Centre Strategy and Masterplan**

The Executive considered a report from the Deputy Member for Sustainable Communities Planning and Strategy that set out the Biggleswade Town Centre Strategy and Masterplan as a Supplementary Planning Document as part of the Local Development Framework for Central Bedfordshire (North).

Reason for decision: To enable the Town Centre Strategy and Masterplan to provide a strategic lead to the improvement and regeneration of Biggleswade Town Centre.

**RESOLVED**

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

E/11/26 **Delivering the Rural Development Programme in Central Bedfordshire**

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Corporate Resources outlining the requirement by Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC) for a loan of up to £500,000 from Central Bedfordshire Council to support cash flow in the delivery of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) for the Greensands Ridge area.

The Executive Member for Corporate Resources moved the following revised recommendations, which were duly seconded:

- “1. that the loan as set out in 2. below is approved on the basis that the arrangements will have no adverse impact on the approved 2011/12 Revenue Budget and that this arrangement is not covered by the Treasury Management Strategy and is therefore within the approval powers of the Executive; and
2. that using the powers available under Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, a loan facility of up to £500,000 be approved to enable Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity to fulfil its role as the accountable body on behalf of the Greensand Ridge Local Action Group in the delivery of the European Funded Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) Greensand Ridge Rural Development Programme (2008-13).”

Members were advised that the Central Bedfordshire Together Board at its meeting on 5 July 2011 had supported the use of its resources to support the interest costs of the proposed loan. At this meeting partners expressed a desire for the Rural Development Programme in Central Bedfordshire to be focussed towards young unemployed people, wherever possible.

Reason for decision: To enable continued delivery of the RDPE Greensand Ridge Rural Development Programme.

## RESOLVED

1. that the loan as set out in 2. below is approved on the basis that the arrangements will have no adverse impact on the approved 2011/12 Revenue Budget and that this arrangement is not covered by the Treasury Management Strategy and is therefore within the approval powers of the Executive; and
2. that using the powers available under Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, a loan facility of up to £500,000 be approved to enable Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity to fulfil its role as the accountable body on behalf of the Greensand Ridge Local Action Group in the delivery of the European Funded Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) Greensand Ridge Rural Development Programme (2008-13).

### E/11/27 **Integrated Children's System Replacement**

This item was deferred to minute no. E/11/34 and considered in conjunction with the Business Case, as this item contained information about the financial or business affairs of the Council.

### E/11/28 **Special Urgency - Luton and southern Central Bedfordshire Core Strategy - Memorandum of Understanding with Luton Borough Council on continued joint working**

The Executive considered a report on the proposed arrangements for Central Bedfordshire Council to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding, attached at Appendix A, regarding continued joint working with Luton Borough Council on plan-making.

The Executive Member for Sustainable Communities – Strategic Planning and Economic Development moved the following revised recommendations, which were duly seconded:

- “1. to note the current position in respect of the Core Strategy as outlined in the report and the terms of the draft Memorandum of Understanding, in order to facilitate continued joint working between Luton Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire Council; and
2. to authorise the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Leader of the Council, to approve the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding following further discussions with Luton Borough Council.”

Reason for decision: To enable progress to be made on important Local Development Framework documents.

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

- 1. to note the current position in respect of the Core Strategy as outlined in the report and the terms of the draft Memorandum of Understanding, in order to facilitate continued joint working between Luton Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire Council; and**
- 2. to authorise the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Leader of the Council, to approve the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding following further discussions with Luton Borough Council.**

E/11/29

### **Consultation on Central Bedfordshire's draft Approach to Parking Management**

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Sustainable Communities – Services that sought approval to consult with the wider community on the draft Approach to Parking Management.

The Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee had set up a Task Force to consider the draft Approach to Parking Management as part of the consultation process. Members were aware of the parking problems in Dunstable and Sandy. The Chairman of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee confirmed that the Task Force would consider the views of local residents across Central Bedfordshire.

Reason for decision: To involve the community and key stakeholders in developing an approach to parking management for Central Bedfordshire.

#### **RESOLVED**

**that the proposals to consult the wider community on the draft Approach to Parking Management be approved, including seeking the views of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee, before reporting back to a future Executive meeting.**

E/11/30

### **Provisional Outturn 2010/11**

The Executive considered a report from the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources that provided information on the Provisional Outturn for 2010/11, subject to audit. Members noted the positive 2010/11 provisional outturn and that Central Bedfordshire Council was the first local authority within the local Audit Commission operational area to submit its International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) compliant 2010/11 Statement of Accounts for review.

Reason for decision: To facilitate effective financial management and planning.

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1. to note the report and that the draft outturn position has improved since December 2010. This report is consistent with the draft Annual**

Financial Statements recently submitted to the Audit Committee. They are subject to any matters arising from the formal audit;

2. that the proposed transfer to General Fund and Earmarked Reserves as set out in Appendix D to the report be approved;
3. that the capital programme be revised to reflect the slippage into 2011/12, removal of closed prior year schemes and the reprofile of the budget to ensure a focus on prioritisation; and
4. that the National Non Domestic Rate debt be written off as outlined in paragraph 7.3 of the report.

E/11/31 **Quarter 4 Performance Report**

The Executive considered a report from the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Corporate Resources that set out an overview of quarter 4 performance and the 2010/11 outturn position for Central Bedfordshire Council's key performance indicator set.

Reason for decision: To ensure a rigorous approach to performance management across Central Bedfordshire Council.

**RESOLVED**

**that the Quarter 4 Performance Report setting out the Council's overall performance position be noted.**

E/11/32 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

**RESOLVED**

**that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 the Press and Public were excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that consideration of the item was likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.**

E/11/33 **Steppingstones Hostel, Dunstable**

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Corporate Resources that sought consent to dispose of Steppingstones Hostel, Lancot Drive, Dunstable. This property had previously been used by Adult Social Care to provide residential services to Aragon Housing Association Ltd for the provision of residential services for people with learning difficulties.

Reason for decision: To dispose of a surplus property for it to be utilised to provide accommodation for people with learning disabilities whose welfare is the responsibility of the Council.

**RESOLVED**

**that the Steppingstones Hostel, Lancot Drive, Dunstable be sold as detailed in the report.**

E/11/34

**Integrated Children's System Replacement - Business Case**

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Corporate Resources that sought approval to a variation of the existing Capital Scheme to enable procurement processes to commence for a replacement Integrated Children's System. Members noted that the new system would replace the existing ICT system in Children's Services.

The Deputy Executive Member for Corporate Resources responded to questions from Executive Members on the financial details and the arrangements for records transfer.

Reason for decision: To enable Officers to commence the procurement process for the replacement of an integrated children's system and thus ensure children's services continue to provide for the safeguarding of children in Central Bedfordshire.

**RESOLVED**

- 1. that the variation to the existing capital scheme be approved as proposed in the exempt Business Case and that procurement processes be commenced for an Integrated Children's Services replacement system;**
- 2. that the tendering process include the opportunity for implementation partners to bid for a review of work practices at the same time as the system implementation to generate additional efficiencies on a risk and reward basis; and**
- 3. that authority to procure a replacement system for Children's Services be delegated to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Executive Member for Corporate Resources.**

(Note: The meeting commenced at 9.30 a.m. and concluded at 10.17 a.m.)

Chairman .....

Dated .....

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## Appendix A

Luton Borough Council

Central Bedfordshire Council

**Memorandum of Understanding**Dated: 29<sup>th</sup> July 2011

1. This Memorandum of Understanding establishes the principles of joint working between the two Authorities of Luton Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire Council in the period up to and beyond the end of the current Joint Committee<sup>1</sup> arrangements.
2. The “joint working” referred to is in respect of the pursuance of the Luton and southern Central Bedfordshire Core Strategy which is in current progress, in respect of its adoption either by the Joint Committee or by the two Authorities, in respect of the policies contained within the adopted Core Strategy and in respect of subsequent reviews of the Luton and southern Central Bedfordshire Core Strategy thereafter.
3. The two Authorities will co-operate at Member level through the mechanism of a Working Group which will, in practice, be a continuation or modification of the current Sub Group, involving equal numbers of Members from each Authority, with the same participation opportunities for Members. The Chair and Vice-Chair will alternate annually between the two Authorities.
4. Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding shall prejudice compliance with any requirement of any statute affecting either Authority during the period of joint working.
5. This Memorandum of Understanding affirms that both Authorities recognise they need to work together to achieve more than they can alone. To this end they will continue joint working on strategic planning to support and periodically review the

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<sup>1</sup> Established under the Luton and South Bedfordshire Joint Committee Order 2007 and ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012

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Core Strategy, beyond the end of the current Joint Committee, on a "parity of esteem" basis.

6. Following the adoption of the Luton and southern Central Bedfordshire Core Strategy both Authorities commit to early review of that Core Strategy to focus initially on an examination of all previously discarded locations for growth, to determine to what extent smaller developable sections of each could contribute to the provision of housing and employment

Cont/

Signed By:

[insert Authorised Person for Central Bedfordshire Council]

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

On behalf of Central Bedfordshire Council

and

Insert Authorised Person for Luton Borough Council

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Insert Authorised Person for Luton Borough Council

On this day [insert date of signature]