

APPENDIX

SPEAK AT OUR MEETINGS

Speaking at Council, Executive and Committee Meetings

Please use this form to request to speak at a meeting of the Council, the Executive or a Committee

I wish to speak at the meeting of: **CUSTOMER AND CENTRAL SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**
under item 6, public participation on Monday 26th July, 10.00 am

:

I wish to ask the committee the following questions:

1. On item 13, page 84, under asset pressures please explain the reason for £141k variance on unexpected rates on various assets. Rates are known at the beginning of the year and should be no variance. Is this a result of assets been omitted from the register which indicates a further problem with the assets register?
2. Debt management costs £1.154m p.a. Please explain which part of the income is under the control of a debt management company and express this cost as % of that income. Please disclose the name of the debt management company.
3. Reduction of audit fees by £83k as result of the reduced work. Is the reduced work a decision of the auditors, or a decision of this Council in order to save costs? Last year's audit report disclosed material errors in the financial statement and therefore common sense dictates an increase in audit testing and amount of work. However, perhaps reliance was placed in the improved internal audit functionality, but having been restricted from these reports at the last audit committee

Central Bedfordshire Council

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

Telephone 0300 300 8000

Email info@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

APPENDIX

we, the public are unable to determine such an improvement. Please confirm the exact reason for reducing the audit work, and also please confirm if these reports can be available under the Freedom of Information Act in which case the exclusion of press and public is irrelevant.

4. Page 84 “ A release of old balances for un-invoiced goods receipts, together with additional HRA recharges has produced £1.3M, which has been used to make a contribution to the redundancy reserve.” Please confirm that this has been approved by the auditors. Regardless the materiality and the zero effect on profit and loss, it distorts the redundancy costs which will now be understated by £1.3m, so I would like the auditors comment on this please .
5. Last year you reported a capital outturn under spent of £19.6m. This year is again under spent £9.16. It appears that you either have a policy of over providing for capital items for which the tax payers have paid up front, or you unable to provide an accurate capital expenditure forecast, or perhaps combination of both. Please explain why this is a continuing issue.
6. Page 21, item 1.3 over accrual of £1.15m. Is this another accrual in addition to the £1.3m on page 84 which was mentioned above at item 4. I am very concerned that part of the savings you claimed for the year is result of accounting treatments and not actual savings.

APPENDIX



Capacity in which speaking (personal, representative of an organisation etc):

PERSONAL

Name: (please print)

George Konstantinidis

Address: 6 Greens Close, Sandy, SG19 1AD

Telephone: 07894473730

Date