

Luton and South Bedfordshire Joint Committee	
Sub-Committee Meeting	
Date: 12 October 2011	
AUTHOR	Richard Fox
SUBJECT	A new Plan-making Programme for Central Bedfordshire
PURPOSES	To present to the Sub-Committee the proposed planning policy documents outlined for Central Bedfordshire
RECOMMENDATIONS	<p>1) that the Sub-Committee consider and agree the proposed Plan-making Programme insofar as it relates to southern Central Bedfordshire.</p> <p>2) that delegated authority be given to the Authorised Person, in consultation with the Chair of the Joint Committee, to make any minor changes necessary to the Programme, both prior to and following submission.</p>
REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS	The Joint Committee remain the plan-making authority for southern Central Bedfordshire until 31 March 2011.

Introduction

1. From 1 April 2012, formal responsibility for plan-making across Luton and southern Central Bedfordshire will revert to Luton Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire Council for the respective areas. In preparation for this, and in light of the recent withdrawal of the joint Core Strategy, Central Bedfordshire Council has set out the planning policy documents it intends to produce in the form of a "Plan-making Programme". This new Programme will be formally known as the Local Development Scheme for Central Bedfordshire but in the interests of transparency and accessibility a new title has been given that more clearly explains the purpose of the document.
2. The attached report and "Plan-making Programme" were considered by Central Bedfordshire Council's Executive on 4 October. However, since the Joint Committee is technically still the plan-making authority for the southern part of Central Bedfordshire it is necessary for the Joint Committee to formally consider and agree the Local Development Scheme for that part of Central Bedfordshire.

3. While the “Plan-making Programme” proposes documents that cover Central Bedfordshire only, there will clearly be a need under the duty to cooperate for continued joint working and sharing of information across boundaries. A report elsewhere on this agenda sets out the key areas for cooperation and how this might work in practice.
4. The Programme of Plan-making must be submitted to the Government (DCLG). It will come into effect four weeks after submission unless the Secretary of State intervenes or asks for more time. Given the potential for minor changes to be suggested by the Secretary of State as part of the submission process, it is recommended that delegated authority be given to the Authorised Person (see elsewhere on the agenda for details), in consultation with the Chair of the Joint Committee, to make any minor changes necessary to the Programme, both prior to and following submission.
5. As stated above, the Programme was considered by Central Bedfordshire Council’s Executive on 4 October. A verbal update will be provided at the meeting on the resolution from the Executive meeting.
6. The Joint Committee is recommended to agree the Plan-making programme insofar as it relates to the southern part of Central Bedfordshire.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Executive report for 4 October 2011

Appendix B – Plan-making Programme for Central Bedfordshire