

COUNCIL MEETING – 24 NOVEMBER 2011

Recommendations to Council from the Executive meeting held on 15 November 2011

E/11/80 **Economic Development Plan**

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Sustainable Communities – Strategic Planning and Economic Development that presented the proposed Economic Development Plan. The Economic Development Plan sought to affirm the Council's commitment to support sustainable economic growth in Central Bedfordshire. The plan followed extensive public consultation and had been positively received across a wide range of businesses, partners and organisations from across all sectors.

In response to a question on youth unemployment, the Executive Member explained that the Council would be focusing on securing and influencing the delivery of externally funded provision to ensure young people were better equipped for work and were able to access employment and training opportunities.

The Executive Member responsible for Economic Partnerships reported that the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) had been awarded £13.1m to help accelerate infrastructure, new homes and employment across the area. This reinforced the importance of the Economic Development Plan and the Council had the opportunity to put forward schemes for support from the SEMLEP funding.

Reason for decision: To put in place an up to date, targeted and shared corporate plan, in response to the need to achieve job growth (27,000 jobs by 2026) in Central Bedfordshire to help realise the area's economic potential.

RESOLVED

that the Economic Development Plan be endorsed.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

that the Economic Development Plan, as set out in the Executive report, be adopted as part of the Council's Policy Framework.