

## Appendix A

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**Meeting:** Executive  
**Date:** 15 June 2012  
**Subject:** Response of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to the Medium Term Plan Consultation Document

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### Background

1. At their meetings in April 2012 each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSCs) received the Medium Term Plan consultation document. The following provides the views and comments of each of the OSCs:-

#### 2. Children's Services OSC

2.1 In particular, Members discussed the Council's ability to achieve its educational attainment targets when set against its diminishing influence as a result of the increasing prevalence of academy schools. The Executive Member for Children's Services acknowledged the issue but assured the Committee that new models of partnership working, peer to peer support and the teaching school concept, amongst other initiatives, would help ensure the Council met this ambitious target. Members also discussed the Council's ambitions relating to NEETs and education & training opportunities and expressed some concern regarding the lack of any quantifiable targets to measure these ambitions.

#### RECOMMENDATION

2.2 That the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee endorses the approach for adopting the Medium Term Plan 2012-16.

#### 3. Corporate Resources OSC (former Customer and Central Services OSC)

3.1 In addition to the recommendation below the former Customer and Central Services OSC commented on the following during their discussion but did not feel it necessary to make a recommendation:-

- The Woodside Link should be included in the list of schemes identified under "Better Infrastructure – Improved roads, broadband reach and transport";
- References to the "Luton – Dunstable Guided Bus Way" should be amended to state "Luton – Dunstable – Houghton Regis Guided Bus Way"; and
- References to the Council endeavouring to freeze council tax should be clarified to make it clear whether this target covers the next three or four years.

#### RECOMMENDED

3.2 That the Customer and Central Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee agrees to the approach for adopting the Medium Term Plan 2012-16, subject to consideration of the above observations by the Executive at its meeting on 15 May 2012.

#### **4. Social Care, Health and Housing OSC**

4.1 In addition to the recommendations below the Committee commented on the following during their discussion but did not feel it necessary to make a recommendation:-

- whether targets should be included in relation to public health; and
- whether the 100% coverage target for the operation of Village Care schemes by 2014 was appropriate.

#### RECOMMENDED

4.2 That the Social Care, Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee agrees to the approach for adopting the Medium Term Plan 2012-16.

4.3 That the Social Care, Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee has considered the emerging priorities and targets in within the Medium Term Plan and commented that the Council needed to ensure that the focus on customer experience still provided appropriate opportunities for customers who wished to engage with the Council by phone or face to face as well as by other means. In developing a consolidated customer service team the Council needed to ensure that officers maintained an awareness of a wide number of areas and did not become de-skilled.

#### **5. Sustainable Communities OSC**

#### RECOMMENDED

5.1 That the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee agrees to the approach for adopting the Medium Term Plan 2012-16.

5.2 That the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee has considered the emerging priorities and targets within the Medium Term Plan and recommends the following changes to be reflected in the Medium Term Plan prior to its adoption:-

- The addition of the Woodside Link in the list of schemes identified under “Better Infrastructure – Improved roads, broadband reach and transport.”
- The addition of a reference to the provision of affordable housing.
- Clarification in relation to the period of time over which council tax will be frozen.
- The addition of an explanation of the numbers of children requiring a child protection plan.