

## Central Bedfordshire Council

EXECUTIVE

7 July 2015

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### Central Bedfordshire's Five Year Plan: 2015 -20

Report of: Councillor James Jamieson, Leader of the Council.

Advising Officers: Richard Carr, Chief Executive and Deb Broadbent-Clarke, Director of Improvement and Corporate Services ([deb.broadbent-clarke@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:deb.broadbent-clarke@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk))

**This report relates to a non-Key Decision**

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#### **Purpose of this report.**

1. Following the election of a new Administration in May 2015, work has commenced on developing a plan for the coming period.
2. The purpose of this report is to propose a process of engagement in order to develop the plan over the summer months.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Executive is asked to:

1. **note the intention to develop a new five year plan for the Council; and**
2. **approve the engagement process and timetable for completion of the plan.**

#### **Overview and Scrutiny Comments/Recommendations**

3. It is proposed that all Members will have an opportunity to engage with the development of the plan through the Overview and Scrutiny process. Specifically, the framework for the plan will be presented for discussion at each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees this summer.
4. Feedback from this process and other stakeholder engagement will be reflected in a developed plan that will be considered by Executive in October.

## Issues

### Corporate Planning within Central Bedfordshire

5. The election of a new Administration in May 2015 creates an opportunity to review of the Council's existing priorities.
6. These were articulated in the Council's previous Medium Term Plan and were collectively designed to ensure Central Bedfordshire remains a great place to live and work.
7. Activity in pursuit of these priorities has been rigorously monitored and performance is reported quarterly to the Executive under the three categories of People, Place and Making it Happen (organisational development).
8. Progress on Place measures – has included:

Securing the funding and support for major infrastructure developments including the A5-M1 link road, roll out of superfast broadband, development of the economy through the growth of existing companies and relocation of new businesses within the area.

Development of new community based services including a new Leisure Centre in Flitwick, major refurbishment of Leisure and Library services in Dunstable and investment in independent living schemes across Central Bedfordshire.

9. Progress on People measures has included:

A growth in customer satisfaction with the Council (from a baseline of 35% to 73%), which is likely to have been influenced by enhanced perceptions of Value for Money.

Improved educational outcomes for children and young people in Central Bedfordshire and increasing levels of dignity, choice and control for vulnerable adults as services become less institutional and more personalised.

10. Progress on organisational development measures has included:

A drive for efficiency in order to maintain front line services from reductions and protect council tax payers from increases in their charges for Central Bedfordshire Council services. More than £80m has been saved through efficiency measures since the Council was created.

### **A New Five Year Plan**

11. In order to build on the progress the Council has achieved in the past and maintain the momentum of improvement, a process for developing a refreshed five year plan is proposed..
12. Attached at (Appendix A) is a set of slides which outline the framework for the development of the plan which includes:
13. The purpose of the plan
14. The context for its development
15. Provisional outcomes related to community resilience, jobs and prosperity, education and skills, character of place, protecting the vulnerable, health and housing, value for money and becoming a more responsive Council.
16. Key questions on the substance of the priority outcomes, potential activity programmes and performance measures.
17. An engagement process for Members of the Council, officers and other stakeholders.

### **Developing the Plan**

18. All Members of the Council will have the opportunity to contribute to the development of the plan through the Overview and Scrutiny process.
19. At meetings of all of the Committees during August, Members will be invited to reflect on the framework, comment on the outcomes and propose areas for activity and performance measures.
20. Other stakeholders who will be engaged are:
21. Central Bedfordshire Council staff – a representative sample of employees from all services and at all levels will be invited to participate in a series of engagement sessions on the plan.
22. Partners including Town and Parish Councils, neighbouring local authorities, the NHS, business community, emergency services and advocacy groups will also be engaged through either individual or group meetings.

## **Finalising the Plan**

23. Following the engagement exercise, it is expected that a revised and more fully developed plan will be considered by Executive on 6 October and recommended to Full Council for approval on 19 November 2015.

## **Reason for decision**

24. To endorse the proposed approach for the development of the Council's Five Year Plan.

## **Council Priorities**

25. In 2012, the Council confirmed its priorities within the previous corporate plan.

These were:

- Enhancing Central Bedfordshire – creating jobs, managing growth, protecting our countryside and enabling businesses to grow.
  - Improved educational attainment.
  - Promote health and wellbeing and protecting the vulnerable.
  - Better infrastructure – improved roads, broadband reach and transport.
  - Great universal services – bins, leisure and libraries.
  - Value for money – freezing council tax.
26. The election of a new Council in May 2015, has prompted a review of progress against the plan and these priorities. Subject to further engagement and consultation with Members and stakeholders, the revised plan will include amended priority outcomes. Were this to be approved by Council they would replace those listed above.

## **Corporate Implications**

### **Legal Implications**

27. There are no legal implications in developing the five year plan.

### **Financial Implications**

28. Once a refreshed plan is adopted, the future Medium Term Financial Plan will become the financial expression of what the Council aspires to achieve through the priorities and targets set out in the five year plan.

## **Equalities Implications**

29. Public authorities have a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

## **Conclusion**

30. The development of the next five year plan is an important process. It will allow the Council to clearly articulate what it is seeking to achieve between now and 2020. It will form the basis of our core programme of activity against which performance will be measured.
31. The Council will be held accountable by its success or failure to deliver against the plan by the public, stakeholders and staff.
32. Engagement with formulation of the plan will therefore be critical and support of the Member community to this process will be actively sought by those responsible for it.

## **Appendices**

The following Appendix is attached:

Building for the Future  
Central Bedfordshire's Plan – 2015 – 2016  
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## **Background Papers**

1. The following background papers, not previously available to the public, were taken into account and are available on the Council's website:

Delivering our Priorities – the previous Medium Term Plan of Central Bedfordshire Council.