

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **EXECUTIVE** held in the Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Shefford on Tuesday, 5 April 2016.

PRESENT

Cllr J G Jamieson (Chairman)
Cllr M R Jones (Vice-Chairman)

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| Executive Members: | Cllrs | C Hegley B J Spurr A M Turner | Cllrs | M A G Versallion R D Wenham J N Young |
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| Deputy Executive Members: | Cllrs | A D Brown Mrs S Clark K M Collins I Dalgarno | Cllrs | S Dixon E Ghent B Wells |
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| Apologies for Absence: | Deputy Executive Members Cllrs | Mrs A L Dodwell Ms C Maudlin |
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| Members in Attendance: | Cllrs | R D Berry D Bowater P Downing C C Gomm Ms A M W Graham | Cllrs | R Morris B Saunders D Shelvey A Zerny |
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| Officers in Attendance | Mr Q Baker | Assistant Director Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer (Interim) |
| | Mrs D Broadbent-Clarke | Director of Improvement and Corporate Services |
| | Mr R Carr | Chief Executive |
| | Mr M Coiffait | Director of Community Services |
| | Mrs S Harrison | Director of Children's Services |
| | Mrs S Hobbs | Committee Services Officer |
| | Mrs C Jagusz | Committee Services Administrator |
| | Mr J Longhurst | Director of Regeneration and Business |
| | Mrs J Ogle | Director of Social Care, Health and Housing |
| | Mrs M Scott | Director of Public Health |
| | Mr C Warboys | Chief Finance Officer |

E/15/117. **Minutes**

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

E/15/118. **Members' Interests**

None were declared.

E/15/119. **Chairman's Announcements**

It had been announced that the route for the East West Railway would go from Bedford via Sandy to Cambridge. The Leader welcomed this announcement as it would be beneficial to Central Bedfordshire and the work of the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP).

The Leader had visited the new Flitwick Leisure Centre and commended the new facilities.

The Council was working closely with former England footballer, Rio Ferdinand's Legacy Foundation and other partners and DCLG on a project to regenerate the Kingsland area in Houghton Regis.

Stephen Catchpole had been appointed as the new Chief Executive of SEMLEP.

The Leader had visited Sandy, including Sandy Upper School and congratulated the school on their excellent exam results.

E/15/120. **Petitions**

No petitions had been received.

E/15/121. **Public Participation**

No members of the public had registered to speak.

E/15/122. **Forward Plan of Key Decisions**

RESOLVED

that the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 1 May 2016 to 30 April 2017 be noted.

E/15/123. **Affordable Housing Guidance Note (South Central Bedfordshire)**

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Regeneration that set out the proposed Affordable Housing Guidance Note. The Note provided guidance to support the determination of planning applications for those parishes in the area of the former South Bedfordshire District Council and would apply until such time as the Central Bedfordshire Local Plan reached submission stage. The proposed target for affordable housing provision in the south of Central Bedfordshire was 30% on all qualifying sites of 4 dwellings and above. On sites of 4 dwellings, one affordable dwelling must be provided.

Reason for decision: To enable the Council to secure affordable housing in the southern part of its area.

RESOLVED

- 1. that the Affordable Housing Guidance Note (South Central Bedfordshire) be endorsed as planning guidance for Development Management purposes; and**
- 2. to authorise the Director of Regeneration and Business, in consultation with the Executive Member for Regeneration, to make any minor amendments to the Affordable Housing Guidance Note.**

E/15/124. **Passenger Transport Strategy: Introduction of a Dynamic Purchasing Scheme and Consultation on Public Transport Proposals**

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Community Services that set out the proposals for public transport, including subsidised public bus routes, community transport provision and concessionary travel, as a basis for public consultation. The report also proposed a move to a Dynamic Purchasing System to procure transport providers.

In response to a question, the Executive Member for Community Services explained that the impact on the subsidised bus services would not be known until after the public consultation.

Reason for decision: To enable the Council to deliver the next steps of a Passenger Transport Strategy that aimed to deliver fit for purpose transport services in a safe and effective way. The proposal to move to a Dynamic Purchasing System would provide greater flexibility within the scheme to allow providers to join and a faster tendering process.

RESOLVED

- 1. that the policies relating to Subsidised Bus Services, Concessionary Travel and Community Transport, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be approved for public consultation; and**

2. **that the use of a Dynamic Purchasing Scheme (DPS) to procure transport providers be approved.**

E/15/125. **Local Transport Plan 4**

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Regeneration that highlighted the proposal for a new Local Transport Plan (LTP), including the vision and objectives. The proposed LTP4 focussed on delivering sustainable growth which was key to securing the future prosperity of Central Bedfordshire. The three broad areas covered included:

- capacity;
- connectivity; and
- communities.

In response to questions, the Executive Member for Regeneration acknowledged that the local transport network needed to take account of the local residents' requirements as well as the needs of the business community. A feasibility study would be carried out to look at the option of building a northern bypass in Biggleswade. The Highways Authority had a ten year plan that included the remodelling of the A1.

Reason for decision: To enable the production of the new Local Transport Plan. The new Plan would supplement the Local Plan to provide a strategic integrated long term vision for facilitating growth.

RESOLVED

1. **that the production of a new Local Transport Plan be approved;**
2. **that the vision and objectives of the new Plan be endorsed; and**
3. **that the timetable for its production and adoption be supported.**

E/15/126. **Commissioning of New School Places in Biggleswade and Arlesey for September 2017**

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Education and Skills that sought support for proposed consultations by Biggleswade Academy Trust and the Governing Body of St Andrews Church of England Voluntary Controlled Lower School, Biggleswade, with a view to each expanding by 1 form of entry (30 places in each lower school year group) by September 2017.

The report also sought support for the consultation by Etonbury Academy, Arlesey, to expand by 1 form of entry (30 places in Year groups 9-11) from September 2017 to provide a total of 180 places in each Year group 5-11.

Reason for decision: To ensure that the Council continues to meet its statutory obligations to provide sufficient school places.

RESOLVED

- 1. that the proposed commencement of consultation by Biggleswade Academy Trust to expand by 1 form of entry (30 places in each lower school year group) by September 2017, be supported;**
- 2. that the proposed commencement of consultation by the Governing Body of St Andrews Church of England VC Lower School, Biggleswade, to expand by 1 form of entry (30 places in each lower school year group) by September 2017, be supported; and**
- 3. that the proposed consultation by Etonbury Academy, Arlesey, to expand by 1 form of entry (30 places in year groups 5-8 and 80 places in year groups 9-11) from September 2017 to provide a total of 180 places in each year group 5-11, be supported.**

The Executive then discussed the recommendations from the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee concerning the development of a policy on the issue of effective and accessible "drop off" and "pick up" point at schools.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the Leader of the Council, in consultation with the relevant Executive Members, develop a policy on the issue of effective and accessible "drop off" and "pick up" point at schools, with the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee being updated at a future meeting.**

E/15/127. New Lower School Places in Fairfield Parish

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Education and Skills that set out the outcome of the consultation exercise for the commissioning of new lower school places within the Parish of Fairfield from September 2017. The consultation had concluded on 9 March 2016 and 16 responses had been received of which 14 respondents had supported the proposed expansion.

Reason for decision: To ensure the Council continues to comply with its legal obligation to meet the needs of a growing population.

RESOLVED

- 1. that the proposal of the Governing Body of Fairfield Park Lower School to permanently expand onto a second site from a 2 form entry (300 place) lower school for pupils aged 3 to 9, to a 4 form of entry (600 place) lower school for pupils aged 3 to 9 also providing a 60 place nursery, increasing the school's published admission number from 60 to 120 with effect from 1 September 2017, be approved, thereby approving the commencement of the project and related expenditure, subject to the grant of planning permission**

under Part 3 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 by 1 September 2016; and

- 2. to authorise the Director of Children’s Services, in consultation with the Executive Member for Education and Skills, to approve any contractual arrangements necessary to undertake capital works required to deliver the proposed project in this report.**

E/15/128. Orchard Community Building - Land East of Biggleswade

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Stronger Communities that proposed the transfer of the Orchards Community Building, Biggleswade and all future liabilities and responsibilities for it to Biggleswade Town Council.

Reason for decision: To enable Biggleswade Town Council to have full responsibility for the Community Building.

RESOLVED

that the transfer of the Orchard Community Building, Biggleswade, and all associated future liabilities and responsibilities, to Biggleswade Town Council be approved.

E/15/129. Community Building at Marston Park

The Executive considered a report from the Executive Member for Stronger Communities that proposed the transfer of the Community Building at Marston Park, Marston Moretaine when built and all future liabilities and responsibilities for it to Marston Moretaine Parish Council.

Reason for decision: To enable the Parish Council to confirm its position to the developers to enable the community building to be built.

RESOLVED

that the transfer of the Community Building at Marston Park and all future liabilities and responsibilities for the building; the associated sports pitches and open space within Area 7 only as detailed in Drawing No. Bir.3429_24E, to Marston Moretaine Parish Council be approved.

(Note: The meeting commenced at 9.30 a.m. and concluded at 10.15 a.m.)

Chairman

Dated