

SHADOW EXECUTIVE

2 September 2008

SUBJECT	Strategic Plan 2009 – 11 To set out the aspirations for Central Bedfordshire including how the new council will contribute to the wider policy context previously developed with partners, and to list the overall priorities that will feature in the work of the various directorates.
REPORT OF	Officer Programme Board
<i>Contact Officer: Simon Redmore (01462 611255); David Moores (01462 611213)</i>	

IMPLICATIONS

SUSTAINABILITY	Addressing the economic, environmental and social aspects of sustainability are key features of the proposed Strategic Plan.
FINANCIAL	There are no specific financial implications arising from this report. However, the Plan will be the starting point for preparing the budget for the new council in the coming months.
LEGAL	None
PERSONNEL/EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES	There are no specific personnel issues arising from the report but staffing structures will be heavily influenced by the direction set out in the Strategic Plan.
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/SAFETY	Community development and safety are priorities for Central Bedfordshire and therefore feature in the proposed plan.
TRADES UNIONS	None
HUMAN RIGHTS	None
KEY ISSUE	Yes
BUDGET/POLICY FRAMEWORK	No

OTHER DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO REPORT

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Central Bedfordshire, A Joint Proposal for Unitary Local Government", Volumes 1 and 2, December 2007. 2. "Vision, values and priorities for Central Bedfordshire", Item L1, Shadow Executive 5 August 2008 |
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RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. To adopt the Strategic Plan 2009 – 11 at Appendix “A” to this report subject to any minor alterations to be determined by the Interim Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader;**
- 2. To publish the Strategic Plan 2009 – 11 subject to recommendation 1 above;**
- 3. To prepare a summary of the Strategic Plan for the purposes of communication with stakeholders including staff.**

Reason for Recommendation: To set out the high level aspirations of the new council in order to guide budget setting and provide clarity for stakeholders regarding what the council is setting out to achieve.

1. The proposed Strategic Plan 2009 – 11 is a key document in creating the new council. Its starting point is the vision and values agreed by the Shadow Executive on 5 August. The Plan clarifies the purpose of the council for customers, Councillors, staff, and partners. It is essential background to budget setting, and shows how the work of Central Bedfordshire will contribute to partnership priorities arising from the Local Area Agreement and the Local Strategic Partnership.
2. The proposed Plan is at Appendix “A”. The purpose of recommendation 1 is to seek the Shadow Executive’s approval to the wording of the main document. Officers propose to develop a document that is attractively presented. This may entail minor revisions to the wording and it is for this reason that the recommendation asks for a degree of delegation to determine any final changes.
3. The time available to prepare the proposed Strategic Plan has been very short. Ideally a draft plan would have been the subject of consultation with partners but this has not been possible without causing delays to the overall programme. However, the plan draws heavily on the Local Area Agreement indicators that have only recently been adopted. Those indicators are evidence based and were arrived at following extensive consultation. There has been discussion at meetings of the Central Bedfordshire Implementation Team (CBIT) about those indicators. All partners have voiced their support for them and their expectation that they will not be changed during the transition to the unitary council. On this occasion then, officers do not consider that the lack of consultation on the proposed Strategic Plan is an impediment to its adoption by the Shadow Executive.

4. Officers suggest that a three-year time horizon is the correct period of time to look ahead. The proposed Plan therefore covers the period to 2011. The Plan will be subject to review by the new Council following the elections in May/June 2009 and again following the elections in May 2011. A planning period beyond 2011 therefore seems inappropriate at this stage.
5. As Members may be aware, officers are currently working on business plans for the new Council. These are detailed documents that have benefited from strategic input from Portfolio Holders and the Transitional Task Forces. In order for the Shadow Executive to ensure that overall Council priorities cascade down into the work of the Directorates, officers are also working on short Directorate Plans which will be based on the business plans and the Strategic Plan. It is proposed to recommend the Directorate Plans to the meeting of Shadow Executive on 30 September. The Strategic Plan will need to be seen alongside the Directorate Plans.
6. In order to help communicate the key points in the Plan it is proposed to prepare a summary leaflet for distribution to all Members, staff and a wide variety of stakeholders.

Background Papers: None specific
Location of Papers: Deputy Chief Executive's work area, Priory House,
Sheffield
File Reference: CG3