

MID BEDFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

At a meeting of the **EXECUTIVE** held in the Council Chamber, Priory House, Chicksands on Wednesday, 18 March 2009.

PRESENT

Cllr Mrs P E Turner MBE (Chairman)
Cllr K C Matthews (Vice-Chairman)

Cllrs	Mrs C F Chapman MBE	Cllrs	S F Male
	M R Jones		B Wells
	Mrs J G Lawrence		

Apology for Absence: Cllr Mrs A M Lewis

Members in Attendance:	Cllrs	P N Aldis	Cllrs	H T W Harper
		A R Bastable		D J Lawrence
		I Dalgarno		J A G Saunders
		B J Golby		J Street
		Ms A M W Graham		Mrs C Turner

Officers in Attendance:	Mr G Alderson	–	Director of Environmental & Planning Services
	Mr S Andrews	–	Acting Forward Plans Manager
	Mr B Carter	–	Overview & Scrutiny Manager
	Mr J Cliff	–	Special Projects Manager
	Mr R Parsons	–	Community Services Manager
	Mr J Phillipson	–	Senior Committee Administrator
	Miss C Ruvolo	–	Communications Officer
	Mrs J Salisbury	–	Chief Executive, MBDC/Interim Chief Executive, CBC
	Mr D Sutherland	–	Chief Finance Officer
	Miss F Webb	–	Team Leader, Conservation Project Design
	Mr M Woolsey	–	Solicitor

E/08/60

MINUTES

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 21 January 2009 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

E/08/61 **MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

(a) **Personal Interests:-**

None.

(b) **Personal and Prejudicial Interests:-**

None.

E/08/62 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Chairman announced that no applications had been received under Appendix "A" to Executive Procedure Rule No. E14 to speak during the 15 minute question and statement period set aside for public participation at the beginning of the meeting. However in respect of Agenda Item No. P1 an application to speak had been received. Using her discretion under the scheme of public participation the Chairman extended the question and statement period in order that four members of the public could address the Executive.

E/08/63 **VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The Chairman advised that she intended to vary the order of business under the Provisions of Executive Procedure Rule No. E19 to enable Agenda Item No. P1 to be taken first in the order of business.

E/08/64 **EXEMPT ITEM(S) OF BUSINESS**

It was noted that there were no exempt items of business to be dealt with at this meeting.

E/08/65 **PETITIONS**

The Executive was advised that there were no petitions referred from Council requiring consideration at this meeting.

E/08/66 **CALL-IN AND BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK RULES**

The Executive was advised that no matters had been referred for consideration in accordance with Rule No. S12 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules or the Budget Policy Framework Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of the Constitution.

E/08/67

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM GYPSY AND TRAVELLER DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT

Following upon notification given under Minute No. E/08/62, the Executive received public participation under Executive Procedure Rule No. E14 in respect of Agenda Item No. P1.

Having noted the comments made by the speakers, the Portfolio Holder (Planning Services) presented the report of the Director of Environmental and Planning Services. The Executive were invited to consider determining the way forward in relation to the Local Democracy Forum (LDF) recommendation that a review be undertaken of the present range of sites, together with a further site search in order to meet the requirements for additional gypsy and traveller pitches and possible transit provision as recommended by the Panel report into the East of England Plans Single Issue Review.

During the consideration of the report now presented the Executive endorsed the recommendation of the Local Development Forum Task Force.

Reason for decision: To obtain agreement from the Executive on the delay to the current LDF Timetable in relation to the Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document.

RESOLVED

- 1. that a review be undertaken of the present range of sites together with a further site search in order to meet the total requirements for Gypsy and Traveller pitches within the District including those recommended by the Panel Report into the East of England Plan Single Issue Review;**
- 2. that arrangements be made for the Vision Twenty One report on responses to consultation to be published before the end of April 2009; and**
- 3. that GoEast be requested to clarify the level of pitch provision recommended for Mid Bedfordshire in the light of the most up-to-date information and evidence.**

E/08/68

REFERENCES FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 12 MARCH 2009

The Executive received and considered the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Manager in relation to references from the Scrutiny Committee held on 12 March 2009.

Having considered in detail the recommendations as now presented the Executive endorsed the findings of the Scrutiny Committee.

Reason for decision: To respond to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee in respect of the final report of the Biggleswade Skate Park Task Force, decreasing performance against the target relating to Other Burglary and the forwarding of performance management arrangements to the new Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

RESOLVED

- 1. that the Executive endorses the recommendations contained within the final report of the Biggleswade Skate Park Task Force and takes appropriate steps to ensure these recommendations are communicated to and implemented by Central Bedfordshire from 1 April 2009;**
- 2. that the Executive take steps to ensure that Central Bedfordshire investigates at the earliest opportunity decreasing performance against the target relating to Other Burglary and asks Bedfordshire Police to explain what it is doing to improve performance in this area; and**
- 3. that the Executive take steps to ensure that Central Bedfordshire officers submit reports to the first meetings of the new Overview and Scrutiny Committees setting out the performance management arrangements proposed in the new Council.**

E/08/69

DESIGN GUIDE FOR MID BEDFORDSHIRE

The Portfolio Holder (Planning Services) presented the report of the Director of Environmental and Planning Services inviting consideration of responses following public consultation on the draft design guide and design supplement seeking endorsement of the documents as technical guidance for the Mid Bedfordshire Local Development Framework for the consideration and determination of planning applications for development.

During consideration of this matter representations were made with regard to the design requirements contained in the Guide in relation to the size of garages and car parking space provision. Although the Executive considered it appropriate for the Design Guide in relation to the size of garages to be amended, the Executive acknowledged the need to review a Draft Design Guide and Design Supplements further it was not only in this respect but also in respect of the matters discussed at the meeting including car parking provision and accordingly was considered appropriate for the Local Development Framework Task Force at its meeting to be held on 23 April 2009 to conduct a detailed review and present recommendations upon the design guide for Mid Bedfordshire to the Executive of the new Council.

Reason for decision: To help underpin Local Development Framework Policy National Planning Guidance aimed at improving the quality and sustainability of new development.

RESOLVED

that the Executive requests the LDF Task Force at its meeting to be held on 23 April 2009 to further consider the Design Guide and Design Supplements in the light of the Executive's opinion that the dimensions of garages should be 7m x 3m and that the recommendations of the Task Force be presented to the Executive of the new Council.

E/08/70

FLITWICK TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENTS

The Portfolio Holder (Planning Services) presented the report of the Director of Environmental and Planning Services requested the Executive to release funds to Flitwick Town Council to enable them to progress the proposals for the enhancement of the High Street and Station Square area of the town centre.

Reason for decision: To enable progress to be made with developing and proposals for and implementing the enhancement of the High Street and Station Square area of Flitwick Town Centre.

RESOLVED

that the Executive approves the release of £80,000 to Flitwick Town Council from the Town Centre Enhancement Budget, and contributions secured via Section 106 Agreements for the purposes set out in paragraph 6 of the report, subject to:-

- (a) an undertaking from the Town Council that the monies will be spent in accordance with the Business Plan; and***
- (b) the securing of an indemnity from the Town Council that if Section 106 monies are not used in accordance with the terms of the relevant Section 106 Agreements, they would be repaid to the Central Bedfordshire Council.***

(Note: The meeting commenced at 9.30 a.m. and concluded at 12.31 p.m.)

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