

Request to Leader for inclusion of item on the Executive agenda

I would request the Leader of the Council to include the following item of business on the agenda for a meeting of the Executive under the provisions of Rule 9.4 of the Executive Procedure Rules:-

“Please would the Executive advise of the actions it proposes to take under the Sustainable Communities Act.

The Executive is no doubt aware that the Act:-

- (i) supports a bottom up process designed to allow local authorities and their communities to drive the action and assistance that central government gives in promoting thriving, sustainable communities;
- (ii) gives local authorities the power to make proposals to government on the action and assistance government must take or give to promote sustainable communities, and those proposals can be for a transfer of public money and function from central or regional control to local control;
- (iii) defines sustainable communities broadly, that definition having the 4 aspects of
 - the improvement of the local economy,
 - protection of the environment,
 - promotion of social inclusion, and
 - participation in civic and political activity;

The benefits for the Council in using the Act include gaining new powers or assistance from government, determining those powers or that assistance and transferring public monies from central or regional control to local control.

Given that local authorities were invited to by central government in October 2008, to use the Act by submitting proposals for action and assistance from central government by 31st July 2009, the Executive is therefore specifically asked to comment upon whether any proposals will be submitted by Central Bedfordshire.”

Cllr David Lawrence
8 April 2009