Town & Parish Council Conference

9th June 2010
Welcome and Introduction

Cllr Tricia Turner MBE - Leader
Central Bedfordshire Council
0300 300 8019
New Government – opportunities and challenges

Cllr Richard Stay – Deputy Leader
Central Bedfordshire Council

Cllr Maurice Jones – Finance, People & Governance Portfolio Holder
Central Bedfordshire Council
Times are changing ....
The (Cunning) Plan

“A seriously ambitious programme for change”
It’s the Economy Stupid!

Above all else – it’s about money!

Central Bedfordshire Council
What we do know.....

£6.2 billion

(Less than 1% of HMG spend)
“Repairing the public finances will be the defining domestic policy task of the Government”.
Robert Chote - Institute of Fiscal Studies

Conservatives declared £11.3billion spending cuts - only 18% specified
Lib Dems declared £12billion spending cuts - only 26% specified
What lies ahead?
What would you say is the most important issue facing Britain today? What do you see as other important issues facing Britain today?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top mentions %</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economy</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime/law and order</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race relations/immigration</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defence/Foreign Affairs/Terrorism</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHS</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education/Schools</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morality/individual behaviour</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inflation/prices</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug Abuse</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Source: Ipsos MORI Issues Index
Public concern

• The economy is the number one public concern
• Unemployment also an issue
• Local government has the responsibility to rise to this challenge.
Financial pressures – this year .......

Proportionately low government grant

Greater demand for services – less income

Ambition to limit Council Tax increases
Financial pressures .......

- £10m saving in first year
- £12m savings in 2010/11
- £ ??? to come
- Efficiencies
- Service reductions
Challenging decisions
Challenging decisions

Risk of redundancies as cutbacks continue

Tricia Turner on:

Thames Project: "I think the economic climate will have to improve to get people to fund a project as exciting as this. I want to see it come to fruition because I want Bedford to be a tourist destination rather than just somewhere people pass through.

Council Tax: "We never said it would be reduced from the very start. There would be too many cuts at the outset to reduce the level of tax. We cannot deliver the sort of services people are looking for without having sufficient money to do it. It was a 2.5 per cent increase. I still understand it as an increase for people. I hope the increase will be simpler still next time."

Traveler sites: "When we have any consultation on additional sites for travellers, we know the answers before we go out to consult. I'm afraid. The sites chosen previously did not reflect areas, particularly in the Bedford area."

Housing Growth: "We need the necessary infrastructure to support these new communities. Already there is an infrastructure deficit, not just roads. I mean healthcare, water supply, drainage, schools etc."

"We know we have problems already, any new development will only compound this. "Paying back from France you know the special settlements and come back to England. It's from there to where you think, why are we putting further developments in the south of the country?"

Central Bedfordshire Council
Challenging decisions

Central Bedfordshire Council

Council loses faith in free school bus

BY KELLY FINCHAM

INTEGRITY of parents will be challenged as the council prepares to axe a free school bus service for children living near to schools.

Central Bedfordshire Council agreed for its service to school children to cease at the end of the academic year, following a meeting this week.

As part of the changes, children at six schools will have to find their own transport from September. As parents, campaigners are gravely concerned about the impact the decision will have on the children of those families.

This year, 8,000 per pupil per year, significantly more than children at mainstream schools, will be paid.

The new policy applies to children under the age of 11 who live within two miles of school who live in the borough. The policy will be introduced from the new academic year.

Mr Fincham, a local campaigner and son of a school governor, was present at the meeting at Priory House.

Inquest into stab death victim, 36, is adjourned

AN INQUEST has opened into the death of a 36-year-old man whose body was found on Maple Lane, Bedford, last Sunday night.

Matthew Barnes of Markham Lane, Bedford, died from a stab wound to his chest.
What it means for you?

- Highways Parish Partnership Fund
- Town Centre Management Grants
- Small reductions to Community and Voluntary Sector Grants
- Capital Programme Review
Financial pressures – next year ……

“Dear Chief Secretary,

Apologies, there’s no money left. Good Luck”

Liam Byrne
Strategic response – efficiency measures

• Cutting bureaucracy
• Streamlining processes
• Avoiding duplication
Strategic response – efficiency measures

• Smarter use of our resources
• Joint procurement
• Contract reviews
Strategic response – efficiency measures
Strategic response – efficiency measures

- Working collaboratively across the public sector
- Sharing services
- Pooling resources
A (Brave) New World......
The Big Society

“This, then, is our new role for the state.

*Galvanising, catalysing, prompting, encouraging and agitating for community engagement and social renewal. It must help families, individuals, charities and communities come together to solve problems.*

We must use the state to help stimulate social action.”
From state dependency....
To community self-reliance
Changing the ground rules

Efficiency alone will not be enough – we must stop doing some things
DIY services
Adversity is the mother of invention
Our Sustainable Community Strategy
A New Prospectus for Central Bedfordshire

Richard Carr – Chief Executive
A shared vision...

“Globally connected, delivering sustainable growth to ensure a green, prosperous and ambitious place for the benefit of all”

Central Bedfordshire Council
The qualities of our patch
Great transport links
The Greater South East Commuting Network
Great shopping and leisure
Quality of environment
Education & innovation

Cranfield University

Cranfield Innovation Centre

Central Bedfordshire College

Central Bedfordshire Council
Entrepreneurial business
Growth
New Govt... New agenda?
A successful economy has:

- High levels of economic success
- High levels of skills/ knowledge
- One or more universities
- Strong communication & connectivity (air, road, rail)
- Distinctive long term investment
- Strategies to ensure all communities benefit
Creating the right conditions for success

- Achieve economic growth
- Raise standards
- Tackle inequalities
- Appropriate housing growth
- Maintain our distinctiveness
Getting there

- Largest investment in infrastructure in the region
- Improved Cycle and Green Infrastructure
- Expansion of Cranfield and University of Bedfordshire
- Highest levels of employment of the region
- Highly skilled and professional workforce resident in the area
- Big Private sector investment coming forward
- Award winning, high quality housing design
Town & Parish Councils... key role

• For Central Bedfordshire to thrive, we need:
  • Vibrant communities
  • Attractive environment
  • Sense of pride
  • Sense of belonging
  • Sense of purpose
Conclusion

• We can’t ignore the growth agenda
• Risk of becoming a ‘dormitory’ area?
• Need to maximise economic potential of the area
• Collectively we can shape the future success of Central Bedfordshire
Town & Parish Councils ...

In the Spotlight
Dunstable Town Council

CORPORATE PLAN
2010 - 2013

Presentation by David Ashlee – Town Clerk
Why have a Corporate Plan?

- Compulsion?
- Informs Members, staff, residents and partners what the Council intends to do
- Where discretion exists, gives clarity and focus
- Why not a Town Plan?
- Council spends £millions of public money
New Peter Newton Community Centre - £1.5million
Improved Dunstable Cemetery
£650,000
Improved Play Areas
£320,000
Creasy Park Football Hub
£3 million joint project with CBC
CIVIC PRIDE – REFURBISHED GATED ENTRANCE TO GROVE HOUSE GARDENS
Why a Corporate Plan now?

- New Council formed in June 2009 including 10 new Members
- New Senior Management Team recruited during 2009 following management restructure
- Position in Growth Area
- Formation of new unitary authority
Process

- Senior management and Member Away Day
  November 2009
- Presentation and workshop April 2010
- Adoption by Full Council 5 July 2010
What does the Corporate Plan achieve for Dunstable Town Council?

- Sets out organisation vision
- Sets out organisation priorities
- Sets out key actions
- Sets out performance measures
- Not a Town Plan (a Corporate Plan does as opposed to influences)
- Corporate Plan will be Council’s guiding policy document
Council Priorities

- To represent residents and businesses of Dunstable on key strategic issues facing the town
- To preserve and enhance the history and identity of the town
- To improve and develop the provision of green and open space in the town
- To improve services targeted to all community sectors in the town
- To contribute to the regeneration of the town centre and development of neighbourhoods in the town
Actions

- Secure additional grounds maintenance responsibilities from CBC
- Secure the right to manage Dunstable’s Market or ideally the market rights from CBC
- Create and manage a new sport/community facility on the existing Creasy Park/Brewers Hill School and Peppercorn Park site
- To help deliver the Master Plan for Dunstable’s town centre
- Improve partnership working with public, private and voluntary sector agencies in order to maximise new service opportunities
Closing Remarks

Cllr Tricia Turner MBE - Leader
Central Bedfordshire Council