Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Schedule
Thursday 12 September 2019, 10:00 AM — 2:00 PM BST

Venue
Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, Bedfordshire, SG17 9TQ

Notes for Participants
A member of the public who wishes to speak at this meeting can register to speak online via this link:
www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/speak

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Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence

   Apologies for absence and notification of substitute members.
2. Minutes

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 11 July 2019 and to note actions taken since that meeting.

[190711 SC OSC Minutes FINAL.docx]

3. Members' Interests

To receive from Members any declarations of interest and of any political whip in relation to any agenda item.

4. Chairman's Announcements and Communications

To receive any announcements from the Chairman and any matters of communication.

5. Petitions

To receive petitions from members of the public in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in Part 4G of the Constitution.

6. Questions, Statements or Deputations

To receive any questions, statements or deputations from members of the public in accordance with the Public Participation Procedure as set out in Part 4G of the Constitution.

7. Call-In

To consider any decision of the Executive referred to this Committee for review in accordance with Part 4D of the Constitution.
8. Requested Items

To consider any items referred to the Committee at the request of a Member in accordance with Part 4D of the Constitution. The following options are available to the Committee:-

3.3.1 If the matter is a simple one, to resolve it forthwith; or
3.3.2 To request the officers to prepare a report for the next meeting; or
3.3.3 To set up a task and finish group to investigate and report back to the Committee; or
3.3.4 To make recommendations to the Executive or Council, as appropriate; or
3.3.5 To decide to take no further action upon the request, for stated reasons.

9. Executive Members' Updates

To receive a brief verbal update from the Executive Members for Community Services and Regeneration.

10. The Impact of 5G Technology and LED Lighting on Public Health

The presentation provides information regarding the impact of 5G Technology and LED Lighting on Public Health, as requested by a member of the public at a previous meeting.

11. Anglian Water Update

To invite representatives from Anglian Water to discuss measures to reduce the risk to flood zones in Central Bedfordshire and determine future water efficiency initiatives. Presentation to follow.
12. Work Programme 2019/20 and Executive Forward Plan

The report provides Members with details of the currently drafted Committee work programme and the latest Executive Forward Plan.

190912 SC OSC Item 12 work programme report.docx
190912 SC OSC Item 12 App A SC OSC Work Programme.docx
At a meeting of Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held in Priory House Council Chamber on 11 July 2019 from 10am

Present:  
Cllr D McVicar (Chair)  
Cllr M Foster (Vice-Chair)

Members:  
Cllrs  
Y Farrell  
C Gomm  
A Graham  
K Matthews  

Cllrs  
E Perry  
P Spicer  
M Walsh

Members in Attendance:  
Cllrs  
K Collins  
B Spurr  
E Ghent  

Cllrs  
I Dalgarno  
C Hegley

Officers in Attendance:  
M Coiffait  
Director - Community Services  

J Selley  
Head of Planning Delivery  

S Childerhouse  
AD, Public Protection and Transport  

J Keyte  
Head of Community Safety, Parking and Programmes  

L Scott  
Community Safety Partnership and Communities Manager  

R Preen  
Scrutiny Policy Adviser  

Others in Attendance  
L Gardner  
Jacobs  
Jeremy Richard  
Jacobs

Public  
8
1. **Members' Interests**

   Councillor Gomm declared an interest in relation to item 10 as he was previously a member of the board at Mid Beds Link a Ride. Councillor Walsh declared an interest in relation to item 10 as she previously worked with one of the public speakers. Cllr Walsh had also met with Link a Ride on several occasions to organise community transport within her Ward. Councillor Matthews declared an interest in relation to item 10 as he previously met with representatives from the various community transport providers.

2. **Chairman’s Announcements and Communications**

   The Chair welcomed all new and returning Members to the Committee and confirmed that the meeting was public and would be webcast in accordance with Committee procedure.

3. **Minutes**

   RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 14 March 2019 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

4. **Petitions**

   None.

5. **Questions, Statements and Deputations**

   Three speakers delivered statements which included the following in summary:-
   
   • That it was not the intention of the transport providers to have the current contract set aside, instead they wished to highlight core concerns regarding the procurement process due to inadequate responses to concerns they had raised.
   
   • That the Committee reject the recommendation within the report to take no further action.
   
   • That the process had been driven by officers and not Members with concerns that information had not been shared with Committee Members at an earlier meeting and that Councillors had not received answers to their questions.
• That Mid Beds Link a Ride (MBLAR) had not refused to hand over their customer lists, GDPR had prevented them from doing so.
• Why contract monitoring information was considered sensitive and could not be shared in public.
• That to challenge the decision via legal channels would prove too costly and that the decision should be independently reviewed.
• Queries in relation to disparities between tenders and how operators were funded with MBLAR being chased for monies they stated they did not owe the Council.
• That Bedford Rural Communities Charity (BRCC) had been keen for MBLAR to work collaboratively and in conjunction with them, that several meeting had taken place to secure this approach and services had been sub-contracted to them in lieu of this but that in the end a decision had been taken by the provider not to join BRCC.
• Following MBLAR’s decision BRCC developed the new company Green Sand Country, procured additional vehicles, recruited drivers and the new contract commenced in October 2019.
• BRCC were serving parts of the area which had not historically been served by the previous transport provider and that the customer base was steadily increasing, with the company determined to deliver the best possible service for users and the Council.

6. Call-In
None.

7. Requested Items
None.

8. Executive Members Updates

The Executive Member for Community Services advised Members that the Dunstable Leisure Centre and library had opened to the public, a large number of events were being run for children over the school holidays with recent events well attended. The work on the swimming pool was progressing, testing would be undertaken and work had commenced to begin demolishing the old site at which the leisure centre and library had previously stood. The wider leisure strategy was considered very important to the Council and residents, with the same company being contracted in order to provide consistency and the Executive Member highlighted the importance of Ward Members encouraging their respective town and parish councils to engage in the consultation process so that leisure facilities could be provided for residents and local communities.
In response to a Member query the Executive Member confirmed that Section 106 contributions would be used according to identified need.

The Executive Member for Regeneration provided details of a recent successful business networking event held locally, with outcomes demonstrating robust growth and a positive future for businesses within Central Bedfordshire. The Local Plan examination continued, the Inspector would provide feedback at the conclusion of the process which was anticipated to be in the Autumn of 2019, but progress to date indicated a positive outcome. There had recently been two significant planning appeal decisions and in both cases the Inspector supported the Council’s methodology which confirmed a five-year land supply.

In response to a Member query and a request from the Chair the Executive Member for Regeneration agreed to assess the outcome of a recent appeal which had not found in the Council’s favour and instead suggested that standard methodology be applied.

9. **Dial a Ride Provision in Central Bedfordshire**

The Executive Member for Community Services confirmed that a full written response to the statements delivered at item 6 would be provided in due course but he addressed the points raised by the speakers in summary:-

- That the tender process for the contracts had been undertaken on three occasions due to concerns raised by the operators and that on each occasion the Council had followed the requisite government and local guidelines with regards to procurement rules. The Council’s legal and procurement departments had assessed the process on each occasion and found it to have followed due process, as had the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CR OSC) which had scrutinised proceedings on two separate occasions.
- That with any new contract there was a mobilisation period where services would grow and progress rather than be in situ from day one.
- That all providers had agreed at the tender stage of the process to share their customer lists in light of an unsuccessful bid but that when the time came some had refused to do so.
- That service users were suffering as a result of non-collaboration between providers.

Prior to the delivery of the report which aimed to address those concerns raised by some transport providers, the Chair highlighted an exempt appendix which if Members wished to discuss any aspect it would be necessary to go into private session and exclude members of the press and public.

The Executive Member highlighted those areas of the report which addressed the concerns of residents and provided historic background to the issue which was in line with the wider passenger transport strategy which Members had previously supported. Despite some providers’ dissatisfaction with the outcome, it was suggested that it was
inappropriate to continue to bring the matter before the Committee as appropriate due process had been followed.

In light of the report and address by the Executive Member, Members discussed the following in summary:-

- That in some circumstances grants could be offered to transport providers without contravening EU law, however it would be necessary to assess the value of that approach.
- The variation in fares charged by the transport providers.
- Whether the approach which had been taken was appropriate given the good level of service historically provided and the need to support the voluntary sector.
- Accusations that officers had acted with impropriety, which should be put before the Monitoring Officer as it was beyond the remit of the Committee.
- That in order to meet requirements under GDPR, service users were required to give express consent to have their details shared with other providers but that the incumbent providers had not asked their users to do so.
- Confirmation that tender questions were available to all tenderers.
- That at its meeting in 2016, when considering the passenger transport strategy the Committee had recommended a delay of one year in order to assess the impact of the changes to transport providers. This had subsequently been rejected by the Executive and Members expressed the view that those concerns were the reason for the speakers’ attendance and report at this meeting.
- That it was not appropriate or legal to overturn the outcome of the procurement process but it was necessary to address unanswered questions.

RECOMMENDED:-

1. That the Committee note the procurement process had been previously considered by the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as a result of which it was agreed the tendering of the contracts was undertaken in line with the relevant legislation and procurement best practice.
2. That in response to the views presented to the Committee, a politically proportionate working group be formed to meet on one occasion to address the 20 areas of concern raised by speakers and that an invitation be extended to all interested parties.

10. Parking Management Strategy

The Executive Member for Community Services welcomed representatives from the Council’s highways contractor, Jacobs, who delivered a presentation which set out an interim parking strategy.

In light of the presentation Members discussed the following in summary:-

- That only a small number of residents had appeared to respond to the consultation in relation to resident parking zones. It was confirmed that the number was in line with other consultations of this nature.
• Whether multiple carers could apply for parking permits. It was confirmed that the permit was issued to the person receiving the care, not their carers directly and that anyone with a valid blue badge could park in a disabled bay, not just the person who had requested it.

• That it appeared counter-productive to support only those schools with a travel plan already in place, instead those schools without one required additional support. In response it was confirmed that it was necessary to incentivise schools in the first instance but in the long term all schools would be encouraged to ensure that they had active travel plans in place.

• Concern that the document did not include area specific information and that Members had not been consulted. In response the Executive Member confirmed that the presentation provided details of the interim overarching strategy which was in lieu of a wider report currently in its early stages, with specific zones to be considered in consultation with Members at a later date.

• Whether the Council had benchmarked against other local authorities. It was confirmed that they had begun to do so.

• Whether the implementation of a permit system would disadvantage those on a low income. It was confirmed that the Council had to recover costs, if another system were to be considered it would mean a change to the Constitution.

• The impact on towns and high streets as a result of parking restrictions and the need to ensure parity of approach between towns and rural areas, recognising the need for a bespoke approach in some areas with small and narrow streets, roads and pathways.

• The need to enforce against idling cars in order to mitigate the environmental impact to which it was confirmed that the Council had approached the Secretary of state for Transport to request additional powers in this regard.

RECOMMENDED that the Committee support the content and implementation of the draft Parking Management Strategy

11. Construction Code of Practice

The Executive Member for Regeneration introduced a report which set out the approach to minimise the effects of construction by setting out the Council’s overall standards for developers building homes and commercial buildings in the area.

In light of the report Members discussed the following in summary:-

• That the document was very welcome due to historic on site damage caused by some developers. It was suggested specific wording be included in the code to ensure the protection of significant elements of a site, in particular areas of environmental interest.
• That building alarms on site were required to be in good working order and the responsibilities of planning or public protection officers during instances of disturbance.

• The complexities regarding restricting the delivery of goods and materials on sites and the need to assess these on a case by case basis at the planning stage.

**RECOMMENDED that the Committee support the Construction Code of Practice as technical planning guidance for Development Management purposes and that the Executive grant delegate authority to the Director of Regeneration and Business, in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning and Regeneration to make any minor amendments to the Construction Code of Practice.**

### 12. Outcome of public consultation on the Air Quality Action Plan and the finalised plan

The Executive Member for Community Services delivered a report which set out the Council’s air quality action plan following government findings that emissions were above target levels in some towns. A recent public consultation had concluded and the Council were subsequently assessing four different areas of work in order to address and reduce emissions.

In light of the report Members discussed the following in summary:

• The logistics of implementing the plan and how aspirational measures would work in practice.

• Confirmation that a car park in Ampthill had been free of charge but had been underutilised, as a result of which the developer had submitted an application for a residential development.

• That an alternative solution was required in Sandy until such time that Highways England made a decision regarding the relocation of a road.

• That incentives within Ampthill included encouraging and developing cycling networks within the town, the introduction of HGV bans and to encourage taxi drivers to switch to electric vehicles. It was anticipated that lots of small changes would result in a reduction in emissions to below government targets.

• Confirmation that the action plan was a series of measures and actions required of the authority following government findings in relation to emissions.

• That in addition to an HGV ban, that weight restrictions would be considered as well.

**RECOMMENDED that the Executive Member for Community Services approve the finalised Air Quality Action Plan for adoption into Central Bedfordshire Council’s policies.**
13. Public Space Protection Orders

The Community Safety Partnership & Communities Manager delivered a report which set out a number of orders regarding anti-social behaviour, dog fouling and alcohol exclusion zones. There was a need to consult on new government legislation relating to public space protection orders and during the consultation commencing in September 2019 residents would be asked whether the areas identified were appropriate. Once the exercise had concluded the results would be brought back to the Committee for comment in March 2020 with implementation following the Executive in April 2020.

In light of the report Members expressed support of the recruitment of 24 additional community safety officers and were encouraged that they had been granted delegated police powers.

RECOMMENDED that the Committee support that the Public Space Protection Order proposal should go out to a 12-week public consultation.

14. Work Programme & Executive Forward Plan

AGREED the Committee work programme subject to the following amendments:-

- Dunstable High Street Regeneration – 12 September 2019
- A Review of the Planning Enforcement Plan – 12 September 2019
- Community Safety Update – 23 January 2019
- That a future report detailing the outcome of a task force meeting on community transport concerns be delivered – date TBC

Chair ..................................................

Dated ..................................................
Staffing

CBC currently employs two landscape officers, two tree officers, an ecologist and two conservation officers. In addition there is a Principal Enforcement Officer and four Planning Enforcement Officers [under Richard Proctor]. There are also two compliance officers who sit within Planning [and fall under David Lamb]. These compliance officers currently work closely with developers on sites of 100 properties or more, to ensure continued compliance with planning conditions. Once strategic sites are underway (e.g. Houghton Regis North, East Leighton Buzzard and any potential future sites arising from the Local Plan e.g. Marston Vale), the compliance officers will be spending the monitoring of their time monitoring these, which will reduce their capacity for checking other sites. Some development sites have seen a number of enforcement actions but often these only occur after the damage has been done and rely upon tip-offs from members of the public.

Protection

At present, many hedges are removed by developers prior, during and after applications are received by local authorities. While there have been a number of recent local incidences this is a problem for all rural local authorities. At present, planning conditions are only consistently used to protect hedges when these hedgerows meet all the conditions of the Hedgerow Regulations (1997). Developers are obliged to design their layout to accommodate the protected hedgerow but some developers will simply remove hedges prior to planning applications or remove them when clearing land prior to development on the basis planning conditions cannot be enforced until building work commences. While most rural hedgerows are 'protected' by the regulations, not all are 'important' as the latter is dependent on historical or biological features. It is straightforward to identify protected hedgerows but identifying important ones requires technical expertise. Access can also be an issue. Identifying historical importance is often possible on a desktop assessment but ecological importance relies on the number of species of certain plants in the hedge so a botanical survey might be needed, which would rely on the landowner’s permission if the hedgerow wasn’t on public land or accessible from a right of way. Evidence demonstrates compliance with laws is not based on the size of punishment but on the likeliness of getting caught. It will not matter that the penalty for breaking the rules may not be perceived as big but that they are likely to be caught. At present CBC is also developing a code of conduct for construction site traffic.

Recommendation

- Investigate costing for expansion of the compliance protection Team with a further three officers who would perform a similar role to these compliance officers but work with all the smaller developments of fewer than 100 houses. They would liaise with developers during the planning process, and continue engagement afterward
permission is granted, to ensure developers appreciate all obligations and meet the planning conditions. The team would also be responsible for building relations with, and sharing intelligence with Beds Police rural crime team to ensure wildlife crime is investigated immediately across developments of all sizes.

- Investigate resources required for the establishment of a protection register of hedges which meet the Hedgerow Regulations (1997), for all areas within 1 mile of a settlement, within Central Bedfordshire. It is proposed initial work to build a list of sites to be conducted by conservation volunteers, parish councils and ward members in conjunction with members of the public. List to be passed to CBC to be checked, recorded and made public. Work to be conducted within the compliance team. The list will act as a method of ensuring developers have not removed hedges. Trees not currently protected by TPOs to also be considered. Much work could potentially be done using aerial imagery such as the Satellite Applications Catapult (SAC) which uses computer analysis of aerial imagery to assist planning enforcement for local authorities. SAC is a computer program that identifies differences between satellite photographs taken at different times.
- All Planning decision notices to state any hedges should be retained and that CBC will actively enforce against their removal. Compliance officers to work closely with developers to ensure the latter recognise they are being watched.
- Clarify all planning conditions must be clearly enforceable and should state exactly what actions CBC will take.
- Introduce updated Enforcement Plan to show clearly what actions will be taken.
- Investigate introduction of a Developer code of conduct.
- Investigate what changes in national legislation would also be helpful with a view to lobbying appropriate Government ministers.
- Investigate concept of a volunteer community environment officer (see appendix)

Appendix:

Volunteer Community Environment Officer

Overview

This scoping document considers the concept of a small network of trained volunteer community environment officers to help and assist the local authority oversee developments. It is specifically aimed at the natural environment aspect of a development and reviews why there is a perceived need for such a service, suggesting ways in which, and how the idea might work.

Rationale

The government has an ambitious programme to build 300,000 houses per year. This places considerable pressure on local authorities to ensure applications meet all criteria of Central and Local Government Policies such as the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Biodiversity Net Gain, the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans.
Due to lack of resource, local authorities find it increasingly difficult to police planning application delivery on the ground. As a result poor workmanship from contractors employed by developers often goes undetected or unchallenged. Recent incidents at new developments causing environmental damage has realised a need for further support that minimise environmental damage and deliver what has been agreed for the community. This is in no way a criticism of existing Council efforts but a community-based offer of help and support to officers.

Proposal

It is proposed to consider the feasibility of trialling a system based on the concept of Community Police Officers. However, in this case it would be a voluntary role and rather than interacting with the community, it would be to interact and liaise with site managers throughout the development process from groundwork and through the build to completion, while also assisting planning enforcement officers in being their eyes on the ground. The idea is for a small group of three to four trained volunteers with the ability to identify and report anything that does not meet granted planning consent or fails to follow best practice. Examples could be to ensure groundwork's have erected appropriate root protection zones around all retained features, ensure that retained features are not damaged or removed and proposed enhancement features are fit for purpose and located appropriately or in the right quantities. Monthly meetings and (pre-agreed) walk-over site visits between a volunteer, site managers and authority reps to discuss the periods work, issues that have arisen, plans to address them and a review of the forthcoming period to identify any potential issues and concerns and what to avoid should be a beneficially productive way forward.

Pros and Cons

The advantages would reduce some of the pressure on officers by being their eyes and ears. It potentially reduces risk of unintentional environmental damage and increases the likelihood of ensuring policies such as environmental net gain are delivered. It is also different from the Community Police scheme in that it will be voluntary, but not without some possible costs (see below). Much of the volunteers work will require post construction of each phase of the development when operations have moved to the next section of the site.

Disadvantages lay a reliance to be informed and communicated with at critical stages for example, start dates for ground works. Getting snagging works carried out post construction is notoriously difficult. It is better issues are flagged during construction, perhaps as discussed above in ‘Proposals’. Active sites pose a health and safety risk and site managers are reluctant to meet with and or accompany volunteers on active sites. In order to address health and safety issues, there might be a need for perhaps a senior volunteer to become Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) registered. This would be at a financial cost. It also relies on the ability of enforcement officers to be able to act on notification of any possible issue.
The Impact of LED Lighting and 5G Technology on Public Health

Trish Etheridge and Su Childerhouse
12th September 2019
Central Bedfordshire’s Approach to 5G

This Government’s plan for Britain is to build a stronger, fairer country that works for everyone, to back businesses and invest in technology for the future.

The ultimate ambition is to improve both living standards and economic growth by increasing productivity and driving growth across the whole country.

Whilst not its not the responsible authority, Central Bedfordshire Council needs to align with these plans, keep abreast of developments and, where it can, support the required digital infrastructure to be put in place to support emerging technologies.
Central Bedfordshire’s Approach to 5G... cont’d

The majority of technical developments and investment will be industry-led and shaped at national government level. Central Bedfordshire Council recognises that it has a role in facilitating and supporting the roll-out of these evolving technologies.

Every-day connectivity where we live, work and travel is essential, so it is the intention to ensure wi-fi is available on public transport and in more public places. Citizens expect reliable connectivity on the move.

The council recently conducted a digital survey with a view to gauging the experiences of residents, businesses and schools in Central Bedfordshire. The survey generated over 2,200 responses.
Central Bedfordshire’s Approach to 5G... cont’d

• 99% of people were accessing the internet was at home closely followed by 72% requirement for mobile and wi-fi access.

• 66% of respondents stated the reliability of their mobile internet connection (3G/4G) was either intermittent or bad.

• Businesses comments provided were also mainly around access to the internet and their ability to do business.

• Customer-facing businesses observed patrons continually requesting the internet/wifi access.

• Increasingly businesses feel as though the are perceived as ‘amateurs’ if there isn’t a decent wi-fi/mobile connection available to them.
5G – Health & Safety Issues

In March 2019 HM Government responded to an online petition titled Launch an independent enquiry into the health and safety risks of 5G. As wireless companies prepare to launch the next generation of service, there are new questions about the possible health risks. The National Toxicology Program study "was just an indicator that more and better research is needed,“

The full response can be found here
https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/233707?fbclid=IwAR1QQrV4qILyka9iy_w-O74wPcG3Dn_lfMXWqEF4TjEXWaOawgIfW7AFLc
Government Research

A considerable amount of research has been carried out on radio waves and they anticipate no negative effects on public health.

Public Health England’s (PHE’s) Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards (CRCE) takes the lead on public health matters associated with radio frequency electromagnetic fields, or radio waves, used in telecommunications.

Central to PHE advice is that exposures to radio waves should comply with the guidelines published by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). ICNIRP is formally recognised by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Some 5G technology will use similar frequencies to existing communications systems. Other 5G technology will work at higher frequencies, where the main change would be less penetration of radio waves through materials, for example walls.
Government Research... cont’d

While a small increase in overall exposure to radio waves is possible when 5G is added to the existing network, the overall exposure is expected to remain low and well within the ICNIRP guidelines. ICNIRP guidelines apply up to 300 GHz, well beyond the maximum (few tens of GHz) frequencies under discussion for 5G.

A summary of PHE advice on radio waves can be accessed in the following link: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/electromagnetic-fields#radio-waves

PHE is committed to monitoring the evidence applicable to this and other radio technologies, and to revising its advice, should that be necessary.
Independent Enquiry into the health and safety risks of 5G.

An independent enquiry was already undertaken, as wireless companies prepared to launch the next generation of service, there were new questions about the possible health risks.

This was concluded on 19th March 2019 and the findings of that enquiry revealed that exposure to radio waves had been carefully researched and reviewed and the overall weight of evidence did not suggest devices producing exposures within current guidelines pose a risk to public health.

Central Bedfordshire Council should therefore consequently be satisfied that, based on the findings of the independent enquiry into the health & safety risks of 5G, that as the risk level of 5G is considered not to pose a risk to public health, and should continue to facilitate and support the rollout of emerging mobile technology across the area.
Central Bedfordshire Lamps & Replacement Programme

The following lanterns will be put out onto the network:

CU Phosco

- 73w- P863-32LED-4000k-750mA-7 pin-Cable
- 37w-P863-16LED-4000k-700mA-7 pin-Cable
- 18w-P852-12LED-4000k-450mA-7 pin-Cable
- 9w- P852-12LED-4000k-200mA-7 pin-Cable

Central Bedfordshire Council are not undertaking a wholesale roll out, were are replacing knock down columns, columns that fail structural testing and then a number of local schemes where budgets allow.
Information Sources

Public Health England state that:

LED streetlights produce white light by using a blue LED to excite a yellow phosphor. Much of the blue light is absorbed in the phosphor, which is why the light is not usually particularly blue.

There has been a lot of misinformation about the risks from such streetlights and the blue component of the light they produce. Indeed, moonlight is actually quite blue and our eyes have evolved to be able to see low level light that is blueish.

The light that goes into our eyes will usually be scattered from at least one surface, such as the road or from buildings. This changes the colour of the light from that emitted by the streetlight. It would be considered quite unusual behaviour to lie under a streetlight and stare into the light source. Some streetlights may present a risk to maintenance staff if such staff are very close to the luminaire and working there with the lamp on for long periods of time. For that reason, it is usual for the lamp to be switched off during such work.
Information Sources – cont’d....

There have also been reports about the impact of the light from LED streetlights on sleep quality. Similar arguments to the above will apply. For most people, the light they receive from the normal indoor lighting after dark exceeds that normally received from streetlights by many (possibly one hundred) times. Anyone going about normal daytime activities should also receive considerable light exposure from sunlight that tends to reduce the impact of any evening exposure to light from, for example, streetlights. It should also be noted that for someone who opts to sleep in a bedroom with the curtains open will filter out the small amount of blue light reaching the retina of the eye as soon as they close their eyelids.
Potential Risks to Human Health of LED’s

The following opinion has been provided

Potential risks to human health of LEDs Final Opinion

Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks SCHEER

Opinion on Potential risks to human health of Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) 6th June 2018
LED lamps used for area illumination are usually more energy efficient than many other sources. For the same colour temperature, the blue light component of the optical emission can be similar to that of an incandescent lamp. However, the infrared (and possible ultraviolet emission) may be greatly reduced or absent (in comparison with other types of lamps), which might influence (positively or negatively) the normal human physiology. This aspect needs further research.

The upshot is that there is currently insufficient information on any dose-response relationship for adverse health effects for the healthy general public.
Conclusions

There is no evidence of direct adverse health effects from LEDs emission in normal use (lamps and displays) by the general healthy population. There is some evidence that exposure to light in the late evening, including that from LED lighting and/or screens, may have an impact on the circadian rhythm. At the moment, it is not yet clear if this disturbance of the circadian system leads to adverse health effects.

Vulnerable and susceptible populations (young children, adolescents and elderly people) were considered separately. Children have a higher sensitivity to blue light and although emissions may not be harmful, blue LEDs (between 400 nm and 500 nm) including those in toys may be very dazzling and may induce photochemical retinopathy, which is a concern especially for children below three years of age.
Older people may experience discomfort from exposure to light that is rich in blue light.

Although there are cellular and animal studies showing adverse effects raising concerns, particularly in susceptible populations, their conclusions derive from results obtained either using exposure conditions that are difficult to relate to human exposures or using exposure levels greater than those likely to be achieved with LED lighting systems in practice. Some LEDs present potential health concerns due to temporal light modulation (flicker) at frequencies of 100 Hz and above.

Reliable information on the dose-response relationship for adverse health effects for the healthy general public is not available in the scientific literature for all wavelengths emitted by LED devices.
Further Reading

There are three documents that may be of interest (two are quite lengthy) and they are accessible from the following links:

https://www.cibse.org/knowledge/knowledge-items/detail?id=a0q20000008l6z6
Central Bedfordshire Council

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

12 September 2019

Work Programme & Executive Forward Plan

Advising Officer: Rebecca Preen Scrutiny Policy Adviser
rebecca.preen@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Purpose of this report

The report provides Members with details of the currently drafted Committee work programme and the latest Executive Forward Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to:

1. Consider and approve the work programme attached, subject to any further amendments it may wish to make;
2. Consider the Executive Forward Plan; and
3. Consider whether it wishes to suggest any further items for the work programme and/or establish any enquiries to assist it in reviewing specific items.

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

1. During 2016/17 Members have been invited to share their experiences of the overview and scrutiny process and make suggestions to the Overview and Scrutiny Coordination Panel (OSCP) on future ways of working. This feedback was subsequently considered by the OSCP who resolved to encourage the OSCs to apply the following principles for ways of working:
   a. activity be led by the OSCs and residents as well as the Executive Forward Plan;
   b. more policy development activity be undertaken through the exploration of proposals and principles at the earliest opportunity of commencement of strategy development;
   c. shorter more focused agendas through prioritisation of items that add value and enable outcomes; and
   d. create more time for Members outside of formal meetings in addition to providing more opportunity to brief Members informally on some topics.

2. In addition, the OSCP agreed that given the current experience with regard quarterly performance and budget reports a trial should be
undertaken whereby these reports will only be received by the Corporate Resources OSC from April onwards. This trial will enable Members to determine whether this approach provides greater focus on these aspects of scrutiny. All Members will be able to request an item to be added to the agenda of any the OSCs on aspects of budget or performance. The Corporate Resources OSC will also be able to refer matters to the relevant OSC for a ‘deep-dive’ of any topic if there is a particular concern.

3. The Committee is requested to consider the work programme and the indicated outcomes at appendix A and to amend or add to it as necessary.

4. In considering which items should be added to the work programme Members are encouraged to minimise duplication, focus on those items that have been requested by residents and the committee and to focus on those items where Members can add value.

5. The work programme aims to provide a balance of those items on which the Executive would be grateful for a steer in addition to those items that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) wishes to proactively scrutinise.

Overview and Scrutiny Task Forces

6. In addition to consideration of the work programme, Members may also wish to consider how each item will be reviewed, i.e. by the Committee itself (over one or a number of Committee meetings) or by establishing a Member Task Force to review an item in greater depth and report back its findings.

Executive Forward Plan

7. Listed below are those items relating specifically to this Committee’s terms of reference contained in the latest version of the Executive Forward Plan. The full Executive Forward Plan can be viewed on the Council’s website at the link at the end of this report.

| Item |
| Indicative Exec Meeting date |
| --- | --- |
| Transfer of Sports Facility at Mill Road, Cranfield to Cranfield Parish Council | 8 October 2019 |
| Decision Making Arrangements for Removing BT Payphones in Central Bedfordshire | 8 October 2019 |
| Planning Enforcement Plan Review | 3 December 2019 |
| **Non Key Decisions** | **Indicative Exec Meeting date** |
| None identified at this time |  |
Corporate Implications

8. The work programme of the Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee will contribute indirectly to all 5 Council priorities. Whilst there are no direct implications arising from this report the implications of proposals will be details in full in each report submitted to the Committee.

Conclusion and next Steps

9. Members are requested to consider and agree the attached work programme, subject to any further amendment/additions they may wish to make and highlight those items within it where they may wish to establish a Task Force to assist the Committee in its work. This will allow officers to plan accordingly but will not preclude further items being added during the course of the year if Members so wish and capacity exists.

Appendices

Appendix A: Sustainable Communities OSC work programme.

Background Papers

Executive Forward Plan (can be viewed at any time on the Council’s website) at the following link:-

## Appendix A – SC OSC Work Programme 2019/20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OSC Date</th>
<th>Report Title</th>
<th>Outcomes we are seeking to achieve</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 21 November 2019</td>
<td>High street benchmarking</td>
<td>Dunstable high street regeneration and high street benchmarking, providing an update on the current status of high street regeneration across the region. To include the Biggleswade HIF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 21 November 2019</td>
<td>A review of the planning enforcement plan following the recruitment of a team leader</td>
<td>Following a request at Committee in January 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>An Update from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC)</td>
<td>PCC invited, awaiting response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBC</td>
<td>Highways innovation and reporting systems for highways faults</td>
<td>To receive a report in relation to highways innovation and a new reporting system for highways faults and defects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 23 January 2020</td>
<td>Community Safety Update</td>
<td>To receive an update in relation to community safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 12 March 2020</td>
<td>Public space protection order</td>
<td>This report follows on from the 12 week public consultation, and will propose the new Public Space Protection Orders for Central Bedfordshire.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>