



Central Bedfordshire Council

Welcome

to the second

Town & Parish Council Conference

Councillor Tricia Turner MBE

Leader of the Council

Introducing the new Chief Executive

Richard Carr



Delivering a comprehensive Community Engagement Strategy

Cllr Richard Stay
Deputy Leader of the Council

What is Community Engagement?

- Inform
- Consult
- Involve
- ... *simply, efficiently and cost effectively*





Localism Agenda

- Relevant to us all
- Further strengthening your ability to do what's best for your communities
- We know we have to do things differently

Localism

“...holds the key to economic, social & political success in the future.”

“There are plans to give people a much greater say over the issues that affect their daily lives; plans to give local councils much more responsibility and power; and plans to actually reshape the way political power is structured”



Quote: David Cameron
Leader of the Conservative Party

Localism

**Central
Bedfordshire**

“Citizens have a right to shape their community. They have a right to influence the services they receive.”



**Quote: John Denham
Secretary of State**

Localism

Central
Bedfordshire

It's time to put communities back together. We'll make it possible for local people to work together to run local services.

That's how to deliver what people actually want. We'll stop interfering from central government and help communities protect local services

Quote: Liberal Democrat Policy Statement



Nick Clegg
Leader of Liberal Democrats

Our aim...

- ...to deliver greater added value to our citizens by:
- understanding their needs & issues; and
- giving them a greater involvement in the decision-making process and access to public sector services.



Our 5 agreed principles...



- giving more people greater opportunity to influence decisions;
- enabling Councillors to be leaders in and for their communities;
- enhancing the role of Town and Parish Councils (where they want it);
- building the capacity for local people to engage; and
- ensuring a joined-up, strategic and coordinated partnership approach.



What does this mean for Town & Parish Councils?

- Bi-annual Town & Parish Council **Conferences**
- Identifying opportunities for **devolving services**, and budgets, to Town & Parish Councils (where they want them)
- Supporting clusters of Town & Parish Councils **working together** to resolve common issues
- Provide a **key contact** point for Central Bedfordshire Council for Town & Parish Councils



Next Steps

- Formal consultation to be undertaken by the LSP from November 2009 to January 2010
- The final strategy to be approved by the Executive at its meeting on 9th March 2010
- Where there are obvious things we can get on with that are in keeping with our principles, we will do so

... fleet of foot, flexible, and forward thinking

Question

What would your Council like to gain from the localism agenda in the context of the 5 principles in the Council's agreed policy position?

Key Issue: Devolving Services



The Council has agreed its policy position to devolve 'quality of life' services where it is mutually beneficial and following the development of a compelling business case.

We will not be forcing this issue.



Popular Ideas...

- Grass cutting
- Hedge cutting
- Weed control
- Street cleaning
- Footpath maintenance
- Minor road and path maintenance

**Which areas are your
Council interested in?**

Now is the time to talk to us

Innovation: Keeping in contact...



Our Councillors will play a key role in keeping you updated on CBC matters.

Would you value concepts such as a dedicated 'hotline' for Town & Parish Councils into our Customer Service Centres for problematic issues?

Question

What would your Council like to gain from the localism agenda in the context of the 5 principles in the Council's agreed policy position?



Central Bedfordshire's Sustainable Community Strategy

Richard Ellis
Director of Business Transformation



What is a Sustainable Community Strategy?

Sets out long term ambition & priorities for the area:-

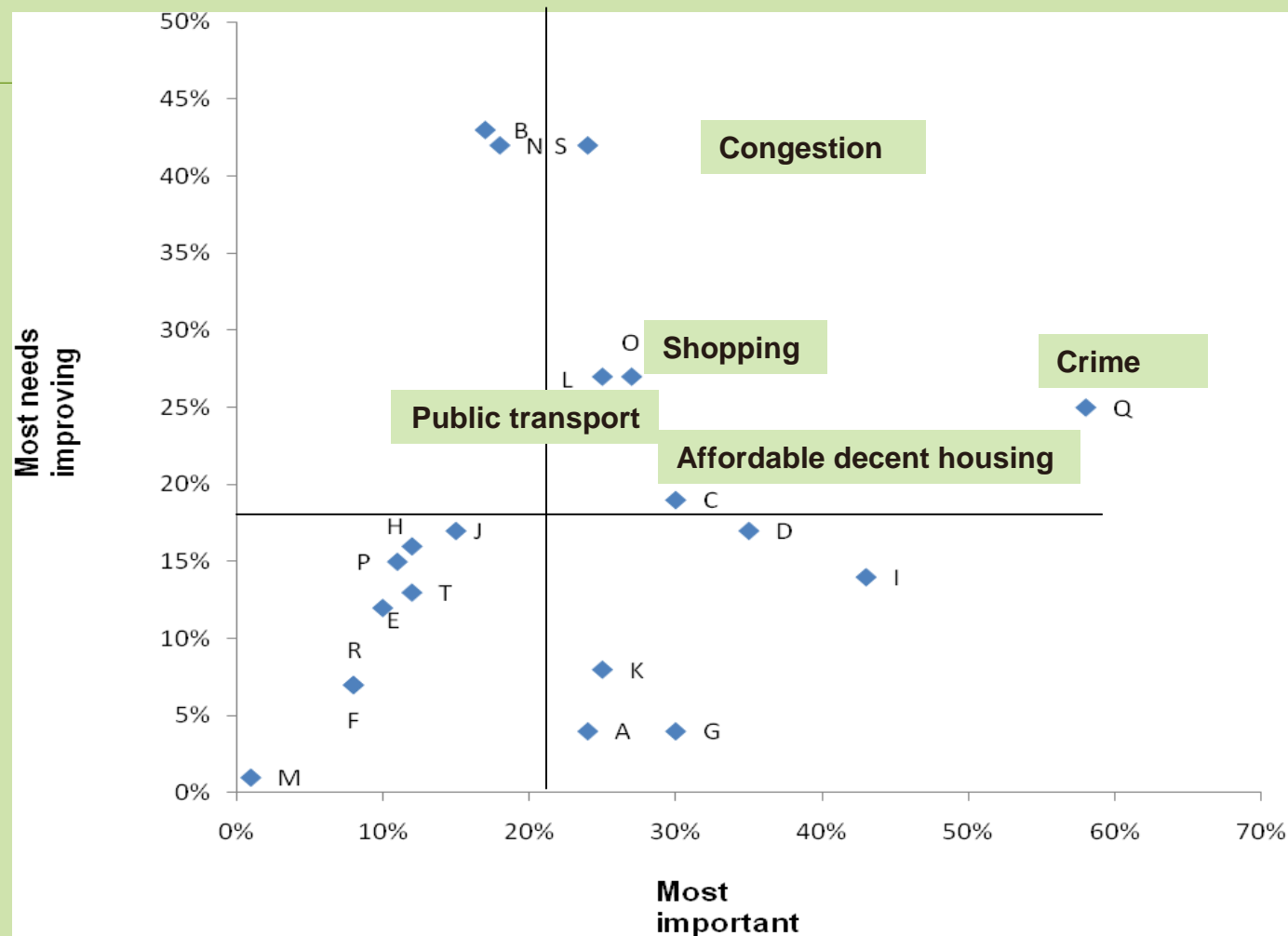
- considers the future issues and challenges
- all partners committed
- meet the economic, social & environmental needs of the area
- ensures the health, well-being & prosperity of its people and communities

Key Drivers for SCS



Place Survey...what are the priorities?

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Strategic Priorities

**Central
Bedfordshire**

Supporting and
caring for a
vulnerable and
ageing population



Strategic Priorities

Educating,
protecting and
providing
opportunities for
children and
young people



Strategic Priorities

**Central
Bedfordshire**

Promoting healthier
lifestyles for all



Strategic Priorities

**Central
Bedfordshire**

Ensuring our local
people have the
skills to prosper



Strategic Priorities

**Central
Bedfordshire**

Keeping our
communities safe



Strategic Priorities

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Bedfordshire

Nurturing a sense of pride and belonging by providing opportunities for everyone to take part in community life.



Strategic Priorities

**Central
Bedfordshire**

Maximising
employment and
housing opportunities
to meet the
needs of our growing
population





Next Steps

- Agree the key strategic priorities
- Identify key deliverables/outcomes
- Align partnership structures to our priorities
- Finalise SCS – June 2010

Round table discussions



Do the priorities reflect the critical issues for the Central Bedfordshire area?

How do the priorities relate to your communities?



Central Bedfordshire Council

Open Forum

Central Bedfordshire



Open forum

Panel Lead: Ian Porter

Panel: Cllr Tricia Turner MBE

Cllr Richard Stay

Richard Carr

Richard Ellis

Closing remarks

Councillor Tricia Turner MBE

Leader of the Council