

Partnership Committee

Date: 13 February 2014

Title: Riverside Centre

Purpose of the Report: To provide updated information regarding proposals for use of the Riverside Centre

Contact Officer: Jo Martindale, Partnership Officer

RECOMMENDATION:

The Partnership Committee is asked to note the report and support the principle of Central Bedfordshire Council working in collaboration with Central Bedfordshire College to provide an educational facility at the Riverside Centre.

1. CONTEXT

- 1.1 At Partnership Committee held 12 December 2013, Committee received a presentation from Central Bedfordshire College setting out its vision for the use of the Riverside Centre in the delivery of adult education provision within the town.
- 1.2 In order to enhance educational offer and to meet an identified need, the proposal would involve the setting up of an arts & creative studio, a café gallery, media suite, incubation units and curriculum provision aimed at 16-18 year olds upwards.

2. UPDATE

- 2.1 It is understood that tentative discussions have begun between Central Bedfordshire Council and the College to secure the Riverside Centre for the above purposes. Any such agreement would be between the two parties and would not in any way fetter the Town Council. However, it should be noted that should agreement be forthcoming, the proposal would meet many town council aspirations (as set out within Big Plan II) by creating an education and tourist facility at the heart of the town.
- 2.2 The Partnership Committee is asked to support the use of the Riverside Centre by Central Bedfordshire College for the purposes outlined.

Report Author:
Jo Martindale, Partnership Officer