

**LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE**  
**THURSDAY 06 FEBRUARY 2014 AT 1930 HOURS**

Present: Councillors      M Bishop  
                                     S Cotter - Chair  
                                     D Hopkin  
                                     R Goodchild  
                                     G Perham (substituting for A Dodwell)

Also in attendance      J Martindale (Partnership Officer)  
                                     G McKenzie (Central Bedfordshire Council)  
                                     G Borelli (LB First)

Members of the public:      0

**84/EC      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor D Bowater, Councillor A Shadbolt, Councillor A Dodwell (substituted by Councillor G Perham) and M Saccoccio (Acting Town Clerk)

**85/EC      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were asked to declare any interests, including the nature of those interests, which they had in any of the items under consideration at this meeting. No declarations were made.

**86/EC      REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

No requests for dispensations had been received from Councillors.

**87/EC      PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from members of the public.

**88/EC      MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Sub-Committee received the minutes of the Economic Development Sub-Committee meeting held on 14 November 2013.

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the Economic Development Sub-Committee meeting held on 14 November 2013 be approved as a correct record and were signed accordingly.**

**89/EC EAST OF LEIGHTON LINSLADE DEVELOPMENT**

The Sub-Committee received an East of Leighton Buzzard report from Central Bedfordshire Council with information on the growth and development around Leighton-Linslade. This was accompanied by a site map and minutes from the Community Facilities workshop held on 8 January 2014.

The Officer from Central Bedfordshire Strategic Planning Team was due to present at this meeting, however was unable to attend. A number of questions arose from Councillors and the Central Bedfordshire Officer was asked to relay these queries back to the strategic planning team to respond.

**RECOMMENDATION to the Partnership Committee to write to Central Bedfordshire Council to express the disappointment at the lack of Officer attendance and to request that an Officer be present at the next meeting on 22 May 2014 to discuss the East of Leighton Linslade Development.**

**90/EC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

The Sub-Committee received a Work Plan and verbal update from Central Bedfordshire Council regarding activity for 2013-2014.

A confidential paper was provided with details of the current available employment land in and around Leighton Linslade. It was requested that this be split into Commercial, Retail and Industrial for future meetings. The CBC Officer provided information regarding how the projects are publicised and an update.

It was requested that details of when the Car Park Survey is going to be carried out (now that the funding has been agreed) be provided. It was hoped that an update would be available at the next meeting.

**RESOLVED to note the information.**

**91/EC LOCAL BUSINESS ECONOMY**

The Sub-Committee received a report regarding the Local Business Economy survey and was asked to consider supporting both a retail/business survey and a residential survey. The aim was to measure the current product offerings in the town and the gaps that needed to be considered.

The proposal was to mirror a telephone survey and outsource to a marketing company, who will solely focus on Leighton-Linslade and cover specific sectors including new housing, estate agents and car sales etc.

LB First provided information regarding a potential project they were working on with Dash Direct to incentivise residents to visit the town centre.

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**RECOMMENDATION to the Partnership Committee to support the proposal for the survey and consider an allocation from the 2014/15 budget in the region of £10,000.**

**92/EC BUSINESS NETWORKING EVENT 2014**

The Sub-Committee received a report with an update on the Business Networking Event to be held on 30 April 2014.

The Partnership Officer confirmed that the Leighton Buzzard Golf Club had been booked from 6pm-9pm and the event would be run in partnership with LB Connect. Publicity and promotion would start shortly and the registration process would be improved, with a “meet and greet” service introduced on the night.

**RESOLVED to note the information.**

The meeting closed at 21.15 hours.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6 FEBRUARY 2014.

Chair

22 MAY 2014