

Partnership Committee

Date: 18 June 2015

Title: Sub-Committees and Task and Finish groups

Purpose of the Report: To advise the Committee of current arrangements in order that the structure for 2015-2016 can be determined.

Contact Officer: Sarah Sandiford, Committee Officer

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the existing Sub-Committee and Task and Finish group be disbanded and that the subject matter of economic development activity and town centre environment enhancements be reported directly to the Partnership Committee.**

2. CURRENT STATUS

- 2.1 The 2014-2015 structure chart is shown at Appendix A. This is subject to review every year following the Annual Council Meeting.

3. POTENTIAL CHANGES FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The Operation Swan Task Group has not been convened since 27 June 2013. Town Council Standing Order 16c states that “the need for a Task and Finish group should be reviewed after six months by the Committee”. There is now a permanent budget line for town centre environment improvements and it is suggested that this group could therefore be disbanded, with a periodic report to the Partnership Committee.
- 3.2 The number of meetings of the Economic Development Sub-Committee has dwindled from five in 2013-2014 to three in 2014-2015. With a structured programme of business support now established, it is suggested that the sub-committee be disbanded and a periodic update report be taken to the Partnership Committee.
- 3.3 Central Bedfordshire officers have been consulted on the above proposals and would endorse the recommendation to report on both matters directly to the Partnership Committee.
- 3.4 The Committee may at any time appoint new Sub-Committees, advisory committees or Task and Finish groups as deemed appropriate

and depending on the priorities identified in the Work Plan. For example, consideration could be given to establishing a Market Towns Programme sub-committee at a later date, if deemed appropriate.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 4.1 Should the Committee be minded to continue with either of these sub groups, consideration may be given to whether any amendments to the existing Terms of Reference are required:

Economic Development Sub-Committee

- i) to develop projects to support start-up businesses in Leighton Buzzard and Linslade
- ii) to support Central Bedfordshire Council's Economic Development Plan in relation to Leighton-Linslade
- iii) to consider, propose and promote projects which encourage greater economic development in Leighton-Linslade
- iv) to review and develop town centre strategies to encourage greater use of the town centre to maintain and enhance vitality and viability.

Operation Swan Task and Finish Group

To consider factors affecting the cleanliness of the town centre environment and options for resolving the issues.