

**LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**  
**THURSDAY, 7 JUNE 2018 AT 11.04 AM**

Present: Councillors            T Morris  
    A L Dodwell  
    F Kharawala  
    C Palmer  
    B J Spurr  
    E Wallace  
    R D Berry  
    S Jones  
    D Bowater  
    G Perham

Also in attendance:            V Cannon, Head of Cultural and Economic Services  
    S Sandiford, Head of Democratic and Central Services  
    S Hughes, Community Engagement Manager, (CBC)  
    S Mooring, Head of Place Delivery, CBC  
    T Keaveney, Assistant Director Housing Services, CBC  
    W Westerby, Head of Public Health, CBC  
    C Commosiung, Independent Living Manager, CBC  
    J Mockridge, Acting Hub Mnager, East London NHS Foundation Trust  
    R Monroe, South Beds & Luton Homeless Worker for ELFT  
    J Borthwick, Service Manager, Public Protection, CBC  
    M James, Licencing Officer, Public Protection, CBC.

Members of the public:        2

**210/LLP APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor R Berry be appointed Chair of the Committee for 2018-2019. There were no further nominations.

**RESOLVED to appoint Councillor R Berry Chair of the Leighton-Linslade Partnership Committee for 2018-2019.**

**211/LLP APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR**

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor F Kharawala be appointed Vice Chair of the Committee for 2018-2019. There were no further nominations.

**RESOLVED to appoint Councillor F Kharawala Vice Chair of the Leighton-Linslade Partnership Committee for 2018-2019.**

**212/LLP APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from the Town Clerk, Councillor G Tubb (substituted by Councillor D Bowater) and Councillor K Ferguson (substituted by Councillor G Perham).

**213/LLP 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.

Councillor R Berry declared an interest in the item regarding Taxis (minute reference 217/LLP) as a member of the Licensing Committee.

**214/LLP QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC (3 minutes per person; maximum 15 minutes)**

A member of the public spoke in respect of the retail park at Grovebury Road and asked whether Marks and Spencer would still be opening a store there, given their recent problems and announced store closures. A request was also made that local businesses be involved in the future development of land south of the High Street.

**215/LLP MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Committee received the draft minutes of the Partnership Committee meeting held on 3 May 2018.

Minute reference 201/LLP: it was questioned whether contact had been made with Arriva regarding changes to bus routes. It was hoped that a representative from Arriva might be able to attend the next Committee meeting.

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the Partnership Committee meeting held on 3 May 2018 be approved as a correct record and be signed accordingly.**

**216/LLP ENABLING DELIVERY IN LEIGHTON-LINSLADE**

By invitation, S Mooring of Central Bedfordshire Council attended the meeting to give an update in respect of the High Street Improvement Scheme and land south of the High Street.

It was admitted that the Central Bedfordshire High Street Improvement Scheme had been unacceptably delayed and recognised that this had had an impact on participating businesses. Mr Mooring advised the Committee that on starting in post, he had focussed on ensuring the right support was in place to start project delivery. The delivery phase had commenced in Dunstable first as the majority of scheme participants were located there. It was hoped that work in Leighton-Linslade would be completed in July/August and the entire scheme completed by October.

It was stated that timescales for the project had been underestimated and recognised that there were many complexities, as all the businesses taking part had different needs. If the scheme were to take place again in future the lessons learned would be applied, with more realistic timescales and a phased approach to delivery.

Committee members and others present expressed their frustration and disappointment at the delays and lack of communication regarding the project. In particular, the point was made that Easter week was a particularly busy period for businesses and therefore not ideal, but at no point had it been requested locally that delivery be delayed for this reason.

A specific request was made for Central Bedfordshire officers to consider whether compensation would be appropriate for participants who had paid their contribution to the work several months ago.

In respect of land south of the High Street, the Committee was advised that a decision was due to be made by the Central Bedfordshire Executive about the future of the Westlands facility in August. Once this was determined, it would be more feasible to progress the potential development of the land south of the High Street. It was reiterated that this was a challenging site and development would need to be both market led and complementary to the existing town centre offer.

Committee members expressed frustration that this project had been discussed for a number of years without significant progress and asked that the Town Council and the community be kept informed of strategic plans and timescales. It was felt that vision and commitment was needed to drive the project forward.

Mr Mooring was thanked for attending the meeting.

## **217/LLP ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND HOMELESSNESS**

Several officers from Central Bedfordshire Council and representatives from East London NHS Foundation Trust and ELFT (South Beds & Luton Homeless service) attended the meeting to give a presentation regarding homelessness and antisocial behaviour. The overriding message was that the issues involved in both situations were complex and therefore a multi-agency partnership approach was the key to creating pathways between organisations, providing a progression plan for people, with the ultimate aim

of getting them into secure housing, as well as employment or training.

The work done by the Leighton-Linslade Homeless Service was praised and a case study example was given of a night shelter provision elsewhere in the county, which was extremely well managed and well tolerated by the local community.

Central Bedfordshire Council was making a significant investment into acquiring further properties and the aspiration was to develop a larger number of smaller units, creating provision across Central Bedfordshire. Many Committee members raised the question of daytime provision for the homeless. The aspiration was that new properties would include space for a day room, which could then be used by the voluntary sector to provide services. The question was raised as to how the Committee or the Town Council could add support. The main focus was on seeking suitable land or accommodation in areas in which the local community would be supportive.

An explanation was given of the hub run by P2R, located in Dunstable but with a clinic in Leighton-Linslade twice a week. This provided an opportunity for people to self-refer for services, or to walk in without appointment. Many clients were not registered with GP practices and without access to primary health care. The hub offered services including healthcare assessments, blood tests and so on.

It was noted that there was a strong element of concern within the Leighton-Linslade community for those affected by homelessness and the question was raised as to whether to try to channel this willingness to help in a more centralised way – for example, by donating funding to a central source or considering schemes such as that currently running in Luton cafes to “buy two, take one”. It was agreed to consider this further.

Officers were thanked for their time in attending the meeting to provide information.

**RESOLVED to note the information.**

## **218/LLP TAXIS**

Two officers from Central Bedfordshire Council representing Licensing attended the meeting in respect of the wish to relocate the existing taxi rank in the High Street. It was noted that this had been a topic for discussion for a number of years and that all possible options had been given consideration. It was felt that of the possible options, use of Lake Street remained the most potentially viable location. However, it was noted that enforcement would be a crucial element to ensuring that taxis were parked in the appropriate place and that the number of vehicles was kept to a reasonable level.

It was proposed and seconded that the Committee request Central Bedfordshire Council to determine an appropriate solution and approximate costs, in consultation with Highways and with Lake Street as the preferred location for the taxi rank, as well as considering how adequate enforcement

could be provided.

On being put to the vote, the motion was carried (7 in favour, 1 against, 2 abstentions).

**RESOLVED to request Central Bedfordshire Council to determine an appropriate solution and approximate costs for relocating the taxi rank to Lake Street, in consultation with Highways, as well as considering how adequate enforcement could be provided.**

#### **219/LLP SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 1(A)(A)**

It was noted that in order to continue the meeting past 10pm, Standing Order 1(a)(a) would need to be suspended.

**RESOLVED to suspend Standing Order 1(a)(a) for a maximum of thirty minutes.**

#### **220/LLP CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE REPORT**

The Committee received a comprehensive update report from Central Bedfordshire Council for information, including community safety, investment, employment and skills, community services, waste, highways, youth support services, volunteering, public health, social care and public protection.

Several highlights were drawn to the Committee's attention including the recent careers event, the number of commercial property enquiries, the number of volunteers involved at Rushmere Country Park, that the Leighton Buzzard library would be fully operational from Tuesday 12 June, installation of parking meters at Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre, the huge response to the Council's recent waste consultation and the successful results from the "stop smoking" service.

It was noted that the state of the highways remained a huge concern for local residents and that the jet patcher was currently undertaking some repairs in the town and the area. It was noted that all highways faults could be reported via the Central Bedfordshire website and that the council's resurfacing plan was now available online.

**RESOLVED to note the information.**

#### **221/LLP BUSINESS GROUPS UPDATES**

The Committee received a brief update from LB Connect, members of which were reporting good business, and from LB First, which was focussed on preparations for this year's Independents' Day on Saturday 7 July.

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

#### **222/LLP COMMUNITY FORUM UPDATE**

The Committee was advised that the event held on 5 May at the Library Theatre had been attended by about 48 people, many of whom had stayed for a considerable period of time, leading to quality conversations. The feedback from the event would need to be written up and a report would be brought to the next meeting of the Committee.

**RESOLVED to note the information.**

#### **223/LLP STANDING ITEMS**

Joint Committee Review – an invitation was due to be issued imminently to the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Town Clerk of each Joint Committee to attend a meeting to consider the single set of Terms of Reference.  
Community Facilities Grant – only one grant had been approved to date, to a local scout group.

**RESOLVED to note the information.**

#### **224/LLP COMMITTEE WORKPLAN AND OBJECTIVES**

The Committee received and gave consideration to the objectives and work plan for the municipal year 2018-2019. It was noted that business support had been deferred to September and that following discussion during the meeting, a report on taxi rank relocation would also be anticipated for September. The Joint Committees' Conference on Health planned for 21 June had also been added.

**RESOLVED to note the report.**

#### **225/LLP BUDGET REPORT**

The Committee received a brief report regarding the current year budget to date.

**RESOLVED to:**

- (i) note the report**
- (ii) transfer the 2018/19 budget allocation (£3,000) for the delivery of the Business Networking Event and business development to the Town Council for on-going delivery via the Cultural and Economic Services Committee**

The meeting closed at 2221 hours

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A CORRECT AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 7 JUNE 2018.

Chair

6 September 2018