

**Leighton-Linslade Partnership Committee**

**10 February 2022**

**Title: Partnership Project List**

**Report of:** Sarah Sandiford, Deputy Town Clerk

**Purpose of this report:** To provide the Committee with information on the Partnership Project List review and for the Committee to consider next steps.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Partnership Committee is asked to:

- (i) **Receive and note the report.**
- (ii) **Receive and endorse the updated Leighton-Linslade Partnership Project List, for use (as agreed December 2020) to lobby on behalf of the parish to raise the profile of projects.**
- (iii) **Subject to ii) above, to request of Central Bedfordshire Council:**
  - a) **To acknowledge that the Partnership Project List produced by Leighton-Linslade Town Council has been endorsed by the Partnership (Joint) Committee.**
  - b) **To advise whether the Partnership Project List can be added to the relevant information sources considered by the Planning department when determining planning applications and developing S106 planning obligations agreements in the parish.**
  - c) **To advise whether the Partnership Project List can be added to the relevant information sources considered by S106 spending officers when developing projects for delivery in the parish relating to S106 agreements.**
  - d) **To advise whether there is a formal process that must be followed at Central Bedfordshire Council for the Leighton-Linslade Partnership Project List to be formally recognised and communicated across the council and if so, what that process is and how it can be implemented.**
  - e) **Whether the council would wish for any additional endorsed or aspirational projects/objectives relevant to the parish to be included in the Leighton-Linslade Partnership Project List.**
  - f) **To advise the Partnership Committee and/or Town Council if any further actions are required from either body to achieve points b)-e) above and if so, to clearly set out what those actions are.**

**1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 In 2007, the Town Council published its Big Plan for the town following months of extensive public consultation. The Big Plan was intended as “a comprehensive statement of improvements local people would like to see in the town over the next twenty years”.

- 1.2 An updated Big Plan II was published in 2011 as the town plan for 2011-2017.
- 1.3 Towards the end of the designated lifespan of Big Plan II, the Town Council began to consider next steps. A report to Council on 11 January 2016 summarised that 29 Big Plan II proposals had been completed, 10 remained ongoing and 41, while supported, could not ultimately be delivered without the involvement of other parties.
- 1.4 As a result of this analysis, the Council resolved to change its approach by creating its own Three Year Plan for 2015-2018, focusing on 41 projects and objectives which it could deliver within its own finances, resources and legal powers. This was followed by a further, Five Year Plan for 2019-2024 on the same basis.
- 1.5 In recognition that more strategic, larger scale projects and aspirations could not be delivered by the Town Council alone, the Partnership Project List (based on the previous evidence from Big Plan and the Town Council's resident survey of Autumn 2018) was later developed in 2019 and endorsed by the Town Council in September 2020.
- 1.6 The naming of the document referred to the fact that the aspirations contained in the List could only be achieved by partnership working with other parties, including but not limited to, the local authority. Given the lack of direct control the Town Council has in the delivery of many of those projects found on the partnership list, it was considered pragmatic to separate them out. In doing this, the Town Council could not be held to account (by its parishioners) over projects which it had little to no control in their delivery. In essence, the Partnership Project list was considered a lobbying list to be drawn to the attention of key partners.
- 1.7 The List was presented to the Partnership (Joint) Committee at its meeting on 10 December 2020 and it was agreed (Minute ref 76/LLP): **where considered relevant and appropriate, to lobby on behalf of the Parish in raising the profile of any project(s) as set out within the Leighton-Linslade Partnership Project List.** The hope being that Central Bedfordshire Council can use the project list to understand and influence the timely delivery of said projects either within the principal authority or when discussing project priorities with third party providers. In particular leveraging monies from those developments where the principal authority had entered a legal agreement with developers.
- 1.8 At its meeting held on 15 April 2021, discussions surrounding the future provision of open space leisure facilities to serve southern Leighton Buzzard was considered by the Partnership Committee. Based on the outcomes of the discussions, Members believed the Partnership Project List was not up to date and therefore requested that officers bring forward proposals for its review.

- 1.9 In June 2021, Partnership Committee received a report outlining a proposed review process through the Town Council standing committees and resolved the following:

*The review will focus on removal of outdated objectives and aim to provide direction in terms of priority projects. Any additions to the list will only be permitted further to an endorsement by either Leighton Linlade Town Council or Central Bedfordshire Council and/or where clear evidence of public consultation can be demonstrated.*

- 1.10 It was further agreed to seek information from officers at Central Bedfordshire Council to better understand the scope of S106 legal agreements and whether any S106 monies might be available to help progress any of the aspirations contained within the Partnership Project List ("PPL").

## **2. UPDATE**

- 2.1 Whilst the PPL review was an agenda item for all standing committees during the Town Council's September meeting cycle, it proved to be the case that insufficient time was available during those meetings to allow for adequate discussion and debate. A recommendation was made for the Full Council to review the List at its meeting in November.
- 2.2 At the Town Council meeting on 29 November 2021, a proposal was put forward to categorise the projects in the List and the following resolution was passed:

### **RESOLVED:**

- That the existing Partnership Project List be revised into categories A B C and D as set out in the proposal.
- That those projects listed as Category A which have a sole or overwhelming Town Council interest be pursued through the relevant Town Council Committees as part of their objectives, subject to budget constraints within the 5 Year Financial Plan
- That those listed as Category B where Central Bedfordshire Council would be a necessary and significant Partner, form a Partnership List where the Partnership Committee should take a central responsibility albeit in some cases in conjunction with the relevant Town Council Committee
- That those projects listed as Category C which are of importance to the town but where realisation rests very largely with a third party (not Central Bedfordshire Council) are kept under review for any appropriate action by the relevant Town Council Committee(s).
- That those projects listed as Category D be deleted.
- that any new prospective projects be included in the list under the appropriate Category as and when they are endorsed by Council following a proposal from the relevant Town Council Standing Committee, and /or the

**Partnership Committee where Central Bedfordshire Council is the significant partner.**

- 2.3 The list has been updated with the removal of category A objectives (now transferred to Town Council committee work plans) and category D objectives.
- 2.4 At its meeting held 31 January 2022, the Town Council received and approved the updated Partnership Project List as **attached**. [The approved list incorporated Central Bedfordshire's aspiration for the proposed Visitor Facilities at Tiddenfoot Waterside Park in acknowledgement of the Town Council's initial support for the project to be further explored.](#)
- 2.5 In respect of S106 monies, limited information has as yet been received from the spending officers at Central Bedfordshire Council but it is anticipated that workshop/s can be set up to facilitate further understanding and discussion on this.

**3 CONCLUSIONS**

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to note and endorse the updated list, which is not materially different than the version previously endorsed on 10 December 2020, having had a number of objectives deleted or transferred to solely Town Council committees. The sole addition being the CBC-endorsed project to enhance facilities at Tiddenfoot Waterside Park.
- 3.2 The Committee is asked to endorse the document and request of Central Bedfordshire Council how best to formally recognise and raise awareness of the Partnership Project List and its objectives across all service areas, in particular relating to planning and S106 planning obligations, as set out in the recommendations above.

**End.**