

Leighton-Linslade Partnership Committee

1 September 2022

## Partnership and collaboration

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Report of: Central Bedfordshire Council

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### Purpose of this report:

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

The Partnership Committee is asked to:

- 1 Note the report.**
- 2. Note that officers of both Councils will progress collaboration opportunities where possible.**

### INTRODUCTION

At the Partnership Committee meeting held on 16 June 2022, colleagues at the Town Council presented a report detailing projects and accompanying notes indicating where it is seeking to collaborate with Central Bedfordshire Council.

Officers at the Council have reviewed the list and provided helpful feedback as to current status.

## **Vision 2050**

During 2018/19 we undertook extensive stakeholder and resident engagement to prepare a Vision for Central Bedfordshire 2050. It is based on a Vision statement, a simple message that captures a clear direction for Central Bedfordshire towards 2050, supported by 4 clear outcomes and 16 ambitions. <https://www.centralbedfordshire2050.co.uk/>

## **Strategic Plan**

Our Strategic Plan outlines how the Council will contribute to the achievement of our Vision 2050, to make Central Bedfordshire a great place to live and work, for everyone.

- It clarifies how our values and underlying principles will guide how we work across the Council and our communities.
- It also spells out our five areas of priority and the outcomes we are aiming for over the coming five years. These will drive how we prioritise the work we'll be doing.
- The work will influence both Members and officers of the Council.

Our strategic plan lays out how we will achieve the ambitions set out in Vision 2050.

- It reaffirms our values and principles. These determine how we will work with our residents, partners and colleagues. They guide our approach to the work we will do.
- It outlines our priorities and outcomes which are the key areas we will be focused on. The areas of development we are striving towards.
- It provides a framework for our activities and business plans which will set out in more detail what we will do across the council (as well as when and how) to deliver our priorities and outcomes.

Our guiding principles are:

**Fairness:** We want to make Central Bedfordshire a great place to live and work for everyone and we will create opportunities for everyone, lifting people out of poverty, and putting safeguards in place to avoid people slipping into poverty

**Our economic strategy,** building local prosperity: We want to encourage diverse and flourishing local businesses and help our residents develop skills for the future, with an inclusive education system supporting lifelong learning and developing digital skills for all

**Our place-based approach:** Engaging with communities, partners, and stakeholders to work in partnership together to deliver what matters to people locally

**Our sustainability plan:** Taking on our pivotal role in leading by example in how we operate and deliver services, and evolving the attitude, practices and behaviour of residents and businesses to cut CO2 emissions from fossil fuel vehicles, homes and other buildings; ensuring that local communities and industry grow in a sustainable way

### Delivery and Collaboration

In addition to the list provided by LLTC at the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> June, CBC frequently and regularly reports on project and service delivery in the locality and presents this to the Partnership Committee at every other meeting and has done so for a number of years.

There are numerous schemes where we have and will continue to work collaboratively with the Town Council e.g Welcome Back scheme and the Market Town Regeneration scheme. Marigold House Care Home is a significant investment in the town and we have worked collaboratively with the Town Council to ensure stakeholder engagement and delivery of social value to the town.

Area	LLTC comment	Comment relevant to CBC (if applicable)	CBC position
<b>Grounds &amp; Environmental Services</b>			
Allotments	LLTC has seen a dramatic increase in demand since March 2020. The current waiting list is 291. Only residents within the parish are added to the waiting list.	Awaiting information on the future of allotment sites on the eastern urban extension. The requirement for additional allotment land is noted in the CBC Parish Schedule regarding Leisure.	The Stearn Land development within the East Leighton includes the provision of 0.6ha of land for an allotment site with parking. S106 trigger – ‘to lay out allotments - Prior to occupation of 100 <sup>th</sup> dwelling’.

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			On completion land can be transferred freehold to CBC or its nominee.
Play areas	LLTC has invested some £300k in the refurbishment of the play area in town centre destination park Parson's Close Recreation Ground, to create a bespoke, inclusive adventure playground which will allow children of all abilities to play together, including play at height.  LLTC is also refurbishing its play area in Alwins Field, Linlade.	This development complements the installation of a Changing Places pod funded by S106 monies. An application has been submitted to the CBC Rural Match Fund to resurface and widen the diagonal footpath/cycleway across the park.	The Traffic Management team are in the process of reviewing the submissions for the RMF scheme and will be in contact with Parish and Town Councils in the coming weeks to provide a further update'
Parks & open spaces	The beach and Splash & Play park, which are both free of charge, are now open for the summer season. A temporary refreshment offer replaces the previous Café in the Park. LLTC supports volunteers in three community gardens with a fourth currently being established in Parson's Close.		CBC welcomes the commitment of the Town Council to support volunteers in the town. Central Bedfordshire Council has always been very proactive in supporting volunteering and the Volunteer Centre and we are lucky to have such dedicated residents willing to give their time to local causes. Our annual Cheering Volunteering event celebrates and recognizes volunteer contributions
Cemeteries	LLTC has invested in increased memorialisation options and is monitoring demand for a potential second mausoleum. The quantity of burials and ashes interments remains constant. LLTC's remaining burial capacity is classified as "problematic".	The longstanding requirement for additional burial land to allow LLTC to continue as a burial authority has been noted by CBC in its Parish Schedule and was further acknowledged during the Covid pandemic crisis. A site on the Stearn Land is identified but is currently outside the LLTC parish boundary.	The Stearn Land development within the East Leighton includes the provision of 1.16ha of land for a cemetery site with parking. S106 trigger is prior to occupation of 185 dwellings.  On completion land can be transferred freehold to CBC or its nominee.

Commented [LW1]: Planning to confirm if trigger met

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Public Realm	LLTC is undertaking regular activity such as graffiti removal. Summer planting and hanging baskets are now installed.	Purchase of equipment was funded through the CBC public realm improvement scheme.	This is a great example of the CBC and LLTC working together to deliver an enhanced ranger service to improve public realm in the town and surrounding parishes
Climate Emergency	LLTC has passed a resolution to seek to become net carbon neutral by 2030 and is currently seeking a supplier to provide baseline data. LLTC intends undertaking carbon literacy training later in the year.	LLTC welcomes engagement with CBC on its Sustainability Plan.	Through the Sustainability Plan, the Sustainability Team at CBC, is able to work collaboratively with Town and Parish councils. An example of this is the community tree grant or the delivery of Carbon Literacy Award training to Town and Parish Councillors. To register your expression of interest please email <a href="mailto:BeGreen@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk">BeGreen@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</a>
Greening	LLTC supports the work of the Friends of Leighton-Linslade in Bloom and the South Bedfordshire Friends of the Earth on local community gardens, maintenance and planting of amenity land and wildflower/biodiversity projects.	LLTC and the Friends would welcome engagement with CBC over the maintenance of the Hockliffe Street town centre roundabout.	CBC would welcome discussion with LLTC regarding this roundabout and options for biodiversity. The Council are in the process of trials regarding various ecology and biodiversity initiatives and would be keen to discuss these
Projects	LLTC has recently installed a re-creation of the 1937 Coronation Shelter in Parson's Close and held a beacon lighting with firework display for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, which was very well attended. Future projects include interpretation signage in the parks, possible works to the Henry Finch Memorial Fountain and installation of drinking water fountains.		CBC has several grant schemes which can support projects such as these <a href="#">Community grants   Central Bedfordshire Council</a>
<b>Cultural &amp; Economic Services</b>			
Street Market	At the end of May LLTC celebrated the 10 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of taking on the Market Charter with a visit by representatives of the National Association of British Market Authorities. LLTC won the "best council run market" award earlier in 2022.		We would be happy to share good news stories by tagging us in on social media

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	Additional activities including visiting markets, Love Your Local Market campaign and a special Platinum Jubilee market.		
Trails	LLTC continues to promote its Living History trail and the Sands of Time trail. 2022 sees the 10 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Children's Trail and a birthday party will take place in August, with an addition to the trail in Linslade Recreation Ground.		
Community Events & Promotions	2022 sees a welcome return to the Big Lunch, Linslade Canal Festival and Christmas Festival, which are enjoyed by thousands of residents. LLTC produces a bi-monthly parish newsletter which is freely available in printed form in various outlets, as well as online.	These free community events are possible with CBC support to use the town centre and Tiddenfoot Waterside Park.	Community events and engagement are vital particularly post COVID and provide opportunities to engage with local residents
55UP	LLTC is funding a 2 year project to provide digital support to older people. Support can be provided by telephone or in person. Digital champion volunteers are currently being recruited and trained. One venue for support will be the "Chatty Café" which operates on Tuesday mornings at the Teenage Advice Centre, in conjunction with Bassett Road Patient Participation Group. LLTC has provided grant funding to a number of groups and is considering funding a part time "Community Agent" through Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity.		We have put the 55UP project in touch with relevant officers across CBC e.g Active Lifestyles and officer looking at Digital vulnerability
TACTIC	The Teenage Advice & Information Centre continues to provide mentoring, signposting to specialist services, drop-in sessions, holiday activities, a weekly additional needs group, sessions in 5 of the 6 local Middle/Upper schools and is supporting 11 young people in working towards an AQA accreditation. The Centre saw 789 young people in February-April 2022, a marked increase back towards pre-pandemic attendance numbers.	LLTC would welcome greater involvement in the next review of commissioned young persons services by CBC due to our established local offer.	Recommissioning of youth service are not due for at least another 2 years. CBC acknowledges the request for LLTC and other stakeholders to be involved in any future review of services

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Business support	LLTC has funded a revision of the local shopping directory and contributed towards the creation of an online business directory as well as an online shopping portal. The annual Business Network Event resumed in April 2022 with over 100 local business people attending. LLTC is currently funding free town centre WiFi as well as GeoSense town centre footfall counting data.		CBC leads on town centre benchmarking the involvement of the relevant Town Councils is vital. We have and will continue to collaborate with LLTC on future benchmarking studies. We work closely with the LL Business Network and supported the annual event this year
<b>Central and Democratic Services</b>			
Civic	On 16 May 2022, Cllr Farzana Khwarawala was re-elected Chairman (Town Mayor) for 2022-23, with Cllr Sheona Hemmings elected Deputy. Cllr Khwarawala will be raising funds for the L-L Citizens Advice and L-L Helpers over the next year.		
Transport	<p>LLTC has recently endorsed the revised Buzzcycles Cycling Strategy and aims to support progression of initiatives to promote greater cycling in the town.</p> <p>LLTC is also looking to support the creation of a bus user group.</p> <p>LLTC is keen to engage with CBC as soon as possible on the future of traffic in the High Street.</p>	<p>LLTC looks forward to continued partnership working with CBC officers on highways matters; queries are regularly put forward from the Planning &amp; Transport Committee.</p> <p>LLTC welcomed the statement made by Cllr I Dalgarno on 1 February 2022 regarding engagement with the council on developing future options for the High Street and looks forward to early progress on this matter.</p> <p>Meeting with taxi licensing took place on 8<sup>th</sup> March and awaiting comment on the merits or otherwise of a preferred taxi rank location.</p>	<p><u>Cycling</u> CBC will be preparing Local Cycling &amp; Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) which are documents that set out the improvements needed to make cycling and walking the most convenient and attractive options for local journeys, making our towns and villages cleaner and greener places to live and work.</p> <p><u>Taxis</u> If we have Highways approval for the proposed new rank site and the proposal on how the current rank could be re-purposed we can agree (with them) a full consultation on this (as completed for Dunstable)</p> <p><u>LSHS</u> CBC are part of the LLTC task force and as previously reported CBC commissioned a study on the High</p>

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	<p>LLTC is keen to encourage the re-location of the taxi rank from its current location outside of Pizza Express.</p> <p>LLTC has recently expressed concerns regarding the A505 bypass.</p> <p>LLTC is keen to progress the requested trial of a timed crossing at the Bridge Street/Lake Street junction.</p>	<p>LLTC is keen to understand the progress of the A505 safety review.</p>	<p>Street and engaged with Town Council.</p> <p><u>Bus Back Better</u> We recently consulted on the Bus Service Improvement Plan and the lead officer attended a previous Partnership Committee meeting which includes a commitment to create a passengers charter and bus users forum</p> <p><a href="#">Public transport - bus timetables, routes, operators and rail services   Central Bedfordshire Council</a></p>
Planning	<p>In 2020-21 LLTC commissioned consultants to advise on the likely costs and benefits of developing a neighbourhood plan. Council decided not to proceed with this on the understanding that greater direction in terms of place shaping and engagement with parishes would come from the local authority.</p> <p>LLTC has formed a working party in respect of land south of the High Street and is keen to see a clear plan for this derelict site which will enhance the town centre offer.</p> <p>LLTC has sought engagement with S106 spending officers to better understand current agreements and funds relating to the parish and to seek greater engagement in the process.</p>	<p>LLTC is keen to understand CBC's strategic plans in respect of Place.</p> <p>LLTC is keen to have greater involvement in the S106 process.</p> <p>LLTC is keen to understand CBC's intentions in respect of the land south of the High Street and how both councils can work together to ensure appropriate development on this site.</p>	<p>LLTC has sought engagement with S106 spending officers to better understand current agreements and funds relating to the parish and to seek greater engagement in the process. This work is complex and ongoing.</p>
Community Safety	<p>A Community Safety Plan is currently under development with our CBC Community Safety Officer.</p>		<p>The Community Safety team includes a Safer Neighbourhood team and updates are submitted in the CBC update report. CBC are supporting</p>



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	LLTC is funding digital CCTV upgrade on its land as part of the wider CBC digital CCTV programme. LLTC is aware of residents' wish for a local police hub and was pleased to note the Police Crime Commissioner's commitment to this initiative at its recent Council meeting on 4 April 2022.		LLTC to create a Community Safety Plan
Governance review	LLTC awaits the outcome of the second round of CBC consultation with residents in respect of the current boundary between Leighton-Linslade and Eggington.	LLTC is keen for greater engagement with CBC on this matter given the ramifications for future management of public land and facilities on the eastern developments.	A decision has been made on the community governance review at Council on 21 July. <a href="#">Minutes of the Meeting - 21 July 2022.pdf   Powered by Box</a>
Health	Recent town growth has added to GP pressures and waiting lists. Leighton-Linslade is understood to be the largest town in the country without a hospital. Residents are keen to see increased GP capacity as well as provision of additional healthcare services locally. LLTC has a Health Services Task & Finish group which is keen for closer involvement and engagement in the provision of local health services and the proposal to develop an Integrated Care Hub.	LLTC is aware this is one of the top issues for residents, as provision of local health services is not keeping pace with population growth. LLTC is keen for greater engagement with the CBC Health and Wellbeing Board on this matter and to see demonstrable progress towards the improvement of local healthcare provision.	Members and officers from both the Council and Clinical Commissioning Group are engaging with the LLTC Health Services Task and Finish Group and will provide further updates as available.
Grants	LLTC will be supporting local organisations with almost £80k in grant funding in 2022-23, through service level agreements, guaranteed grants (over 4 years) and general grants (for small annual projects). LLTC provides grants to the L-L Sports Council and Arts Forum to distribute on its behalf. Recent small grants include support for Girlguiding and Scouts, Reclaim Life, Buzzcycles, W.I. and Friends of Tiddenfoot Waterside Park.	LLTC supports Citizens Advice with £23k+ in grant funding. LLTC also supports the Leighton-Linslade Music Centre, run by CBC Inspiring Music, with over £9k per annum. Other recipients relevant to CBC include Buzzer Bus (Dial A Ride) and the Meadow Way Community Centre.	CBC supports the 3 Citizens Advice organisations and DRC which cover Central Bedfordshire with grant funding totalling £333,000 including a recently agreed inflationary uplift. We also provide £75,000 to BRCC and CVS to ensure support to Community and Village Halls and the voluntary sector with advice information and training and a Volunteer Centre.

			200k is allocated to support the Community Asset grant scheme and 118k is allocated to the Ward Cllr grant scheme (15k in L-L) Additional grants from the Town Council are much appreciated.
Awards	LLTC is currently inviting nominations for the 3 <sup>rd</sup> year of its Young People awards. In May, LLTC presented two Community Volunteer Awards to two local residents with 5+ years of volunteering in the community.		CBC recognizes and welcomes many Town/Parish Councils holding their own volunteer award schemes. This complements the Central Bedfordshire Cheering Volunteering event which is an opportunity to celebrate and thank volunteers from across Central Bedfordshire for their time and contribution. CBC provides grant funding to CVS to provide a Volunteer Centre service to volunteers and volunteer involving organisations across Central Bedfordshire
Other	<p>LLTC is currently undertaking a software review including meetings management software.</p> <p>LLTC committed to an equalities statement in 2021 and commissioned an accessibility audit of its buildings. A programme of actions to enhance accessibility is under development.</p> <p>The White House re-opened to the public earlier this year. We continue to receive walk-in enquiries from residents on CBC matters and approximately one-third of telephone calls are on CBC-related matters.</p>	<p>LLTC would be keen to talk to CBC officers about its Convene software for meetings management.</p> <p>LLTC is keen to understand whether CBC customer service provision will resume at the LB Library. We deal with in-person enquiries from residents who may not be able or willing to access services online and wish to discuss in person. At</p>	<p>CBC would be happy to talk to LLTC about their meetings software.</p> <p>CBC is currently consulting on the future locations for in person appointments and general enquiries in the area. Customer demand for in person appointments has decreased significantly over the years. Despite this trend we know that there will be times when in person appointments are needed. We are proposing to</p>

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		present there is nowhere we can refer such enquiries.	provide in person appointments in may of our other public buildings e.g Libraries. The consultation closed on 22 <sup>nd</sup> August.
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