

15th October 2024

To: Town Mayor and all Members of the Partnership Committee

Town Councillors: **J Carroll, Y Farrell, D Jones (Vice Chair), C Slough**

CBC Councillors **C Alderman (Chair), S Goodchild, P Hamill, T McMahon**

Co-Opted Members **J Anderson, D Gibbons, T Haines, D Hill, C Regan, R Turner**

CBC Officers
Mrs Hughes, Community Engagement Manager

Copies, for information, to:

- Cllr Baker, Executive Member for Finance and Highways CBC
- Cllr Owen, Executive Member for Children's Services, CBC
- all Houghton Regis Town Councillors

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the **Partnership Committee** to be held on **Tuesday 22nd October 2024** commencing at **7.00pm hours** at The Council Offices, Peel Street.

Members of the public who wish to attend the meeting may do so in person or remotely through the meeting link below.

To attend remotely through Teams please follow this link: [MEETING LINK](#)

<i>THIS MEETING MAY BE RECORDED *</i>
--

Clare Evans
Town Clerk

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

**Phones and other equipment may be used to film, audio record, tweet or blog from this meeting by an individual Council member or a member of the public. No part of the meeting room is exempt from public filming unless the meeting resolves to go into exempt session.*

The use of images or recordings arising from this is not under the Council's control.

2. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC (3 minutes per person; maximum 15 minutes)

To receive questions and statements from members of the public in respect of any item of business included in the agenda, as provided for in Standing Order No.s 1(f) and 1(h).

3. SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Under the Localism Act 2011 (sections 26-37 and Schedule 4) and in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, Members are required to declare any interests which are not currently entered in the member's register of interests or if he/she has not notified the Monitoring Officer of any such interest.

Members are invited to submit any requests for Dispensations for consideration.

4. MINUTES

Pages 4 - 10

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 30th July 2024.

Recommendation: To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 30th July 2024.

5. COMMUNITY BUILDINGS IN HOUGHTON REGIS

Representatives from the Houghton Regis Scout group and the Houghton Regis Memorial Hall have been invited to provide an update to members on improvements secured through effective partnership working and s106 funding.

A verbal update will be provided by Sarah Hughes, Community Engagement Manager, CBC and Clare Evans, Town Clerk, HRTC on:

- Bidwell Community Building
- Bedford Square Community Centre
- Aspirations for a community space in Parkside
- Red House
- HR Day Centre
- Townsend Centre

6. CONSULTATION ON THE PRINCIPLES TO INFORM THE SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN

Cllr Steve Owen, Executive Member for Children's Services and Mr Gareth Cheal, Head of Capital Planning, will provide members with a presentation on the CBC School Organisational Plan.

Details of the consultation can be found here: [Draft school organisational plan](#)

7. PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Pages 11 - 30

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HOUGHTON REGIS PARTNERSHIP
COMMITTEE
HELD AT HALL 1, ALL SAINTS VIEW, SAPPHIRE PLACE
ON 30th JULY 2024**

Present: Town Cllrs: J Carroll, Y Farrell, D Jones, C Slough
CBC Cllrs: C Alderman, S Goodchild, P Hamill, T McMahon
CBC Officers: Sarah Hughes, Community Engagement Manager

HRTC
Officers: Debbie Marsh, Head of Corporate Services
Ian Haynes, Head of Environmental & Community Services
Amanda Samuels, Administration Officer

Co-opted
members: J Anderson, T Haines, C Regan

Also in attendance: Cllr E Costello, Cllr M Herber (virtual)

Apologies: David Gibbons

Members of the public: 0

1031 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Members were invited to elect a Chairman for Houghton Regis Partnership Committee for 2024/25.

In accordance with the Terms of Reference this could be a member from either authority.

Nominee	C Alderman	Proposed by:	C Slough
		Seconded by:	D Jones

No further nominations were received.

Accordingly, Cllr Alderman was elected as Chair of the Houghton Regis Partnership Committee for the municipal year of 2024/2025.

1032 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Members were invited to elect a Vice Chairman for Houghton Regis Partnership Committee for the municipal year of 2024/2025.

In accordance with the Terms of Reference this should be a member from the other authority.

Nominee	D Jones	Proposed by:	C Slough
		Seconded by:	Y Farrell

No further nominations were received.

Accordingly, Cllr Jones was elected as Vice Chair of the Houghton Regis Partnership Committee for the municipal year of 2024/2025.

1033 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from David Gibbons

1034 PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE CO-OPTION

The Terms of Reference require the list of Co-opted Members to be reviewed annually, by the Town Joint Committee.

Members had received applications for co-option from:

- David Gibbons - a co-opted member during 2023/2024, confirmed would like to be co-opted again
- Jo Anderson – a co-opted member during 2023/2024, confirmed would like to be co-opted again
- Carole Regan – a co-opted member during 2023/2024, confirmed would like to be co-opted again
- David Hill – Chairman of the Houghton Regis Heritage Society
- Roger Turner – Trustee of the Houghton Regis Heritage Society and former town and district councillor for Houghton Regis
- Tim Haines - director of HRCDC, a co-opted member of the Community Association and a resident of Bidwell West

Members were invited to consider whether they would like to explore the possibility of seeking to co-opt further local stakeholders onto the Houghton Regis Partnership Committee. Members felt that a co-optee who had an education involvement would be beneficial to the group.

Resolved: To approve the Co-optee applications from:

- **David Gibbons**
- **Jo Anderson**
- **Carole Regan**
- **David Hill**
- **Roger Turner**
- **Tim Haines**

1035 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

1036 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

1037 MINUTES

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd April 2024.

Members approved the Minutes with the amendment of the date from 24th April to 23rd April 2024.

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd April 2024 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

1038 COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members received the Terms of Reference which related to this committee.

Members felt that councillors from both authorities should work more closely in order to increase the effectiveness of the Partnership Committee. This was one of the points highlighted in the HRTC Corporate Peer Challenge report.

It was suggested that the remit of the meetings needed to change and that an action plan should be put together to explore different methods of operation and ways to improve. It was also thought that the relationship would benefit if Central Bedfordshire Council could discuss potential actions prior to decision making.

It was proposed that the Chair of the Partnership Committee could put forward, to Central Bedfordshire Council, any issues raised by the committee.

The Chair agreed to seek what mechanisms were in place for doing so.

1039 CONFIRMATION OF THE SECRETARIAT

In accordance with the Terms of Reference, the Committee was required to confirm the Secretariat for the Partnership Committee for 2024/25.

The Secretariat role had traditionally sat with the Town Clerk of Houghton Regis Town Council. The Town Clerk had suggested that the Partnership might want to take the opportunity to make a change; however, they were happy to continue in the role if Members resolved to maintain the current arrangement.

Members discussed the possibility of appointing a representative from Central Bedfordshire Council to the role and what that would mean to the Partnership.

Members agreed to maintain the status quo for the current year but agreed that this was something that could be explored further prior to confirming the Secretariat in 2025/26. In the meantime, information could be gathered to establish how such an arrangement would work and whether CBC was likely to have the capacity.

1040 PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Members were invited to consider the Partnership Committee workplan.

Members were invited to suggest which items from the workplan should be given priority. It was suggested that these should be:

- health and wellbeing in Houghton Regis (inc. primary health care)
- education (inc. primary school places)

It was questioned whether customers would remain at the Townsend Centre until the new facilities were available. The new site was due to open in spring 2025 but delays meant this could be extended to summer.

The Community Engagement Manager advised that colleagues were seeking approval to consult on the policy and principles to inform the draft school organisation plan and were looking at engagement opportunities to attend the joint / partnership committees to discuss priorities.

It was highlighted that many Houghton Regis residents were having to travel outside of the area for healthcare. As the provision of child services was based on doctor registrations, this would mean that figures were unlikely to provide a true representation. In addition, the Houghton Regis Medical Centre, which was the town's primary healthcare provider, was rated as Amber.

1041 CBC STRATEGIC UPDATE REPORT

Members received, for information, an update report from Central Bedfordshire Council on the following:

- HR Leisure centre
- SEND provision
- Local plan process
- HR Day Centre
- Townsend Centre
- HR Quarry

The CBC Community Engagement Manager informed the Committee that the Houghton Regis Together meetings had been reconvened to look at how local organisations could work better together to support local residents and develop a way of working following the end of Time 2 Connect. There was a potential for these meetings to be held at venues around Houghton Regis.

The Committee discussed that there was a perception that Houghton Regis was viewed as separate areas and that residents felt more isolated. The new leisure centre might alter this perception, but it was necessary to look at ways to create a greater sense of union. It was suggested that the Houghton Regis Town Crier could contribute by including more information on external groups and events.

It was suggested that, as the Town Partnership did not get to make some of the bigger decisions, perhaps it needed to set goals within the municipal year and to focus on ways of achieving them or review why they were not achieved.

It was highlighted that Bidwell West was in need of a community centre; however, this should not preclude the delivery of a community centre within Houghton Regis town centre. There was always a need for more spaces, and it was suggested that sites could be assessed by CBC and how best to utilise them.

1042 LOCAL PLAN PROCESS

Sian Farrier, Policy and Planning Manager - Strategic Growth, CBC, gave a presentation on the Local Plans launch and engagement process.

The Local Plan was a key document that set out how Central Bedfordshire would grow in the future.

The launch had commenced in July and would run until September. The purpose of the launch was to:

- Raise awareness of the local plan
- Build understanding of the benefits of the Local Plan
- Shape early thinking with initial questions to understand aspirations and inform strategy direction

The Local Plan was due to be adopted in December 2028, but it was emphasised that engagement was a priority in addition to keeping everyone informed throughout the process.

One of the core aims of CBC's Strategic Plan was to get the right homes in the right places and ensure housing growth and infrastructure were carefully considered. The Local Plan played a key role in achieving this.

The approach to engagement would be predominantly digital, but paper copies of documents would be available from libraries and on request. It was critical that underrepresented groups and young people would also form part of the process.

Councillors would be enabled to share information using a toolkit of information. There would be a clear feedback loop to ensure optimum communication, and a bespoke website had been created.

Six main themes were being covered:

- Green space and nature
- Jobs
- Homes
- Transport
- Local facilities
- Enhancing the unique character of local areas

Residents would be kept involved and feedback options would be available, including map-based feedback.

A toolkit was also available for ward members and town and parish councils to help circulate the information.

The Town Partnership was invited to contribute and promote the plan.

Members raised the subject of the new Government's planning policy proposals and the impact these proposals would have on the Local Plan. The Policy and Planning Manager confirmed that CBC would form a response to these. It was also questioned whether the Local Plan would align with the Neighbourhood Plan. The Policy and Planning Manager

informed Members that the Neighbourhood Planning Officer, Jane Hubbard, would be liaising with communities to provide them with guidance.

Assurance was sought that public engagement would be a listening exercise and that there was no set agenda. It was emphasised that the feedback loop was particularly important and that the process would be transparent.

1043 HRTC CORPORATE PLAN - TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENTS

At the previous meeting it was agreed that the Partnership Committee would support HRTC's request to help deliver on 3 objectives within the HRTC Corporate Plan. The objectives were:

- Improve the visual appearance of the town centre
- Work with partners to improve the quality and accessibility of the public realm in the town centre
- Stimulate local business development and employment and training opportunities

An update on town centre improvements was provided by Beverley Gaynor, Central Bedfordshire Councils Programme Manager, on relevant work her team were undertaking. Members were advised that this was the final year of the UKSPF which covered three elements:

- Communities and Place
- Supporting local business
- People and skills

Town centre improvements would be the focus of the last year of delivery. An investment plan had been put together and the following items were currently being worked on:

- Parking problems outside All Saints View
- Supporting inclusion in Britain in Bloom
- Improving the power supply for the Christmas lights
- Highways improvements close to Chequers roundabout being discussed.
- A rain garden

There were also funds to support cultural activities in the area being progressed to encourage integration.

CBC was in the process of procuring benchmarking reports to compare the current situation to allow evaluation when then projects had been delivered. A Community Grant Fund had been applied for and a Cultural Grant Fund to support cultural groups.

Members raised the issue that gateway signage did not encompass the new developments. New signage would be welcomed, along with noticeboards to help the feeling of inclusion. It was highlighted that this would be done once the land had been transferred to the Town Council.

1044 YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

A verbal update was provided by Ian Haynes, Head of Environmental & Community Services, HRTC, on the work HRTC was undertaking in engaging with young people.

Houghton Regis Town Council had received investment from the Youth Investment Fund up until the end of March 2025. At the Community Services Meeting (Minute no 12918), it

had been agreed for the town council to include funding, at budget setting, to allow the work to continue in 2025/26. It was envisaged, that future funding, would allow for a full-time qualified youth worker to be employed along with an apprenticeship role being created. In appointing to these posts would allow for outreach work to continue.

Lisa Wright Youth and Participation Manager – Children’s Services, provided members with an update.

Members were informed that CBC had a Youth Parliament that young people were elected to for a two-year term. Thirty-eight young people worked on campaigns requested by young people in Central Bedfordshire; these were common themes across Central Beds. Members of the parliament had individual issues they stood for as part of the election process. There had been much success in encouraging young people to take part in the transportation consultation and would be ensuring that young voices were heard in the Local Plan process. Work with The Authentic Voice panel for domestic abuse had also been carried out helping to create awareness of these issues amongst young people. There had also been a meeting with the Strategic Alliance: a group including the DCS and other lead representatives who impact on children’s services.

1045 ITEMS REQUESTING ATTENTION BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

Members had previously been advised of the CBC process to determine further consideration, at CBC committee level, of items and issues.

Members of this committee were able to use this process to forward items for CBC’s attention via the CBC Joint Committee Chair or CBC Joint Committee Vice Chair.

Members were requested to identify and confirm if there were any requested items for CBC’s attention.

Members requested that the Chair pursue the Town regaining possession of the community centre in Bedford Square. It was understood that lease would expire in July 2026 and Members agreed that it was necessary to plan the next step now. The Chair agreed to pursue this issue.

It was highlighted that a review of principles and plans for school places was scheduled for September 2024. There was a need for accurate data to be captured since current boundaries no longer reflected the full scope of Houghton Regis and children were attending school outside of their area. More funding was needed for schools and new schools needed to be built.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.00pm

Dated this 22nd day of October 2024

Chairman

Houghton Regis Partnership Committee

22. October 2024

CBC Forward Plans

Report of: Sarah Hughes, Community Engagement Manager

Purpose of this report

To highlight to the Partnership Committee the forward plan of key decisions to be made by the Executive at Central Bedfordshire Council and the workplans for the Overview and Scrutiny Committees

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Houghton Regis Partnership Committee is asked to:

1. **Note the report**
2. **Identify items of interest to be added to the HRPC workplan**

Introduction

1. The Forward Plan of key decisions to be made by the Executive at Central Bedfordshire Council is attached in Appendix B
2. The Agenda and Workplans for the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees for Sustainable Communities, for Social Care, Health and Housing ,and for Childrens are attached in Appendix C.

Options for consideration if appropriate

3. The Partnership Committee can review the Forward Plan and Workplans and identify if there is anything relevant to the purpose of the Partnership Committee as set out in its Terms of Reference which are attached in Appendix A.

Committee Priorities

4. The Terms of Reference of the Joint Committees are set out in Part 3D of the CBC Constitution and determine the purpose as :

- To influence decisions and help shape initiatives and their delivery for the benefit of the whole town taking into account the needs of the town, customers, employees, residents, visitors, traders, property owners and developers.
- To develop and encourage public participation and engagement and take into consideration the resident voice in the work of the Town Joint Committee

Conclusion and next Steps

5. To identify items that might be added to the HRPC workplan for further discussion so that the views of the Joint Committee can contribute to the decision making process

Appendices

- Appendix A: Executive Committee Forward Plan
Appendix B: Overview and Scrutiny Committee Workplans

Report author(s): Sarah Hughes

Community Engagement Manager

Sarah.hughes@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Central Bedfordshire Council Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1 November 2024 to 31 October 2025

1) During the period from **1 November 2024 to 31 October 2025**, Central Bedfordshire Council plans to make key decisions on the issues set out below. “Key decisions” relate to those decisions of the Executive which are likely:

- to result in the incurring of expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the budget for the service or function to which the decision relates*; or
- to be significant in terms of their effects on communities living or working in an area comprising one or more wards in the area of Central Bedfordshire.

*Savings are significant if they exceed £200,000 per annum (revenue) or £500,000 whole life cost (capital). Expenditure is significant if it exceeds, in respect of revenue contracts: (i) £300,000 per annum; and (ii) £1m total cost; or (iii) 5 years duration (including contract extension periods); or £750,000 financial commitment (capital).

There are exceptions to these criteria which is set out in Part 2 Article 12 paragraph 1.3 in the Council’s Constitution. Specifically, expenditure which is identified in the approved Council revenue and capital budgets are not key decisions.

2) The Forward Plan is a general guide to the key decisions to be determined by the Executive and will be updated on a monthly basis. Key decisions will be taken by the Executive as a whole. The Members of the Executive are:

Councillor Adam Zerny

Leader of the Council

Councillor Mark Smith

Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health

Councillor John Baker

Executive Member for Finance

Councillor Steve Owen

Executive Member for Children's Services

Councillor Steven Watkins

Executive Member for Business, Housing and Public Assets

Councillor Tracey Wye

Executive Member for Sustainability and Climate Resilience

- 3) Whilst the majority of the Executive's business at the meetings listed in this Forward Plan will be open to the public and media organisations to attend, there will inevitably be some business to be considered that contains, for example, confidential, commercially sensitive or personal information.

This is a formal notice under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012 that part of the Executive meeting listed in this Forward Plan will be held in private because the agenda and reports for the meeting will contain exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

- 4) Those items identified for decision more than one month in advance may change in forthcoming Plans. Each new Plan supersedes the previous Plan. Any person who wishes to make representations to the Executive about the matter in respect of which the decision is to be made should do so to the officer whose telephone number and e-mail address are shown in the Forward Plan. Any correspondence should be sent to the contact officer at the relevant address as shown below. General questions about the Plan such as specific dates, should be addressed to the Senior Committee Services Officer, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford SG17 5TQ.
- 5) The agendas for meetings of the Executive will be published as follows:

Meeting Date	Publication of Agenda
03 December 2024	21-Nov-24
07 January 2025	26-Dec-24
04 February 2025	23-Dec-24
01 April 2025	20-Feb-25

Central Bedfordshire Council
Forward Plan of Key Decisions

Key Decisions

Date of Publication: 19 September 2024

Ref No.	Issue for Key Decision by the Executive	Intended Decision	Indicative Meeting Date	Consultees and Date/Method	Documents which may be considered	Contact officer (method of comment and closing date)
1	Community facility land - Bidwell West	Purpose of the report is to request to update the Executive decision (June 2022) to allow the transfer of the land from the developer to the HR Community Development Charity for Community facility use and enable the Charity to secure and unlock investment from Funding partners to construct the Community facility.	3 December 2024	None	Open to the public	Executive Member for Business, Housing and Public Assets Contact Officer: Sarah Hughes, Community Engagement Manager Email: Sarah.Hughes@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
2	School Organisation Plan 2025-30	The purpose of the report is to Review the results 'Have Your Say' consultation feedback, re principles and policies and to agree the plan following the review for the cluster data.	3 December 2024	Children's Services OSC - November 2024	Open to the public	Executive Member for Children's Services Contact Officer: Victoria Rollings, School Organisation Information Manager Email: Victoria.Rollings@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
3	M1 – A6 Link Road - Land North of Luton	The purpose of the report will be to : 1. provide an update to Executive as to the progress made since this project was previously taken to Executive in June 2022 . 2. outline the current financial position 3. set out the likely next steps and relevant time limits	3 December 2024	None	Fully Exempt	Executive Member for Finance Contact Officer: Paul Mason, Chief Officer Infrastructure Delivery Email: Paul.Mason@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

4	2024-25 Q2 Corporate Performance Report	To update Members on corporate performance in context of the Council's Strategic Plan. Members are asked to: • Review performance against the suite of performance indicators currently being used to help and support the monitoring of progress against the Strategic Plan. Reporting will enable Members to scrutinise performance and to ask officers to further investigate as appropriate.	3 December 2024	All OSCs - November 2024	Open to the public	Leader of the Council Contact Officer: Heather Price, Head of Strategy and Delivery Email: Heather.Price@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
5	Admission Arrangements 2026/27	To seek approval for the Council's Admissions Arrangements for the academic year 2026/27 to ensure statutory requirements are met. The Council is the admissions authority for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools.	3 December 2024	Childrens Services OSC - January 2025	Open to the public	Executive Member for Children's Services Contact Officer: Admissions Manager
6	Quarterly Budget Monitoring Revenue Budget Monitoring Q2 September 2024	The report sets out the forecast outturn financial revenue position for 2024/25 as at the end of September 2024 (Q2). It sets out spend against the approved budget and it excludes the Housing Revenue Account which is subject to a separate report.	3 December 2024	All OSCs - TBC	Open to the public	Executive Member for Finance Contact Officer: Dennis Galvin, AD Finance and Procurement Email: Denis.Galvin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
7	Quarterly Budget Monitoring Capital Budget Monitoring Q2 September 2024	The report sets out the forecast outturn financial position of the Capital Programme for 2024/25 as at the end of September 2024 (Q2). It sets out spend against the approved budget and it excludes the Housing Revenue Account which is subject to a separate report.	3 December 2024	All OSCs - TBC	Open to the public	Executive Member for Finance Contact Officer: Dennis Galvin, AD Finance and Procurement Email: Denis.Galvin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

8	Quarterly Budget Monitoring Housing Revenue Account Q2 September 2024	The report sets out the forecast outturn financial position of the Housing Revenue Account for 2024/25 as at the end of September 2024 (Q2). It sets out spend against the approved budget.	3 December 2024	All OSCs - TBC	Open to the public	Executive Member for Finance Contact Officer: Dennis Galvin, AD Finance and Procurement Email: Denis.Galvin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
9	Draft Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2025/26 – 2028/29	The report updates the Revenue Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) approved by Council in February 2024 and proposes the draft Budget for 2025/26 as the basis for consultation.	3 December 2024	All OSCs -	Open to the public	Executive Member for Finance Contact Officer: Dennis Galvin, AD Finance and Procurement Email: Denis.Galvin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
10	Draft Housing Revenue Account Budget and Business Plan 2025/26 – 2028/29	The report sets out the Draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Landlord Budget for 2025/26 and Business Plan for 2025/26 – 2028/29. It sets out proposals that make best use of the investment potential to deliver affordable housing, mitigate pressures in the Council's General Fund (GF), and align to the debt strategy in the context of long term Business Planning and Investment.	3 December 2024	All OSCs -	Open to the public	Executive Member for Finance Contact Officer: Dennis Galvin, AD Finance and Procurement Email: Denis.Galvin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
11	Draft Capital Programme 2025/26 – 2028/29	The purpose of this report is to seek Executive agreement to the Draft Capital Programme for the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) period 2025/26 to 2028/29 for consultation and to facilitate effective financial management and planning. It excludes the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) which is subject to a separate report.	3 December 2024	All OSCs -	Open to the public	Executive Member for Finance Contact Officer: Dennis Galvin, AD Finance and Procurement Email: Denis.Galvin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

12	Disposal of land at Steppingley Road, Flitwick	To consider offers received in connection with the disposal of Steppingley Road.	3 December 2024		Part Exempt	Executive Member for Business, Housing and Public Assets Contact Officer: Liz Arden, Delivery Manager Email: liz.arden3@centrlabeledfords hire.gov.uk
13	Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2025/26	The Executive is asked to review the Local Council Tax Support scheme and recommend to Council the scheme for 2025/26.	7 January 2025	Full Council 2025, Corporate Resources OSC 2025	Open to the public	Executive Member for Finance Contact Officer: Gary Muskett, Assistant Director Revenues & Benefits. Email: Gary.Muskett@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
14	Council Tax Empty Homes and Second Homes Premium	Review and comment on the proposal to levy the maximum level of premium for empty Homes as set out in the Levelling up and Regeneration Act 2023, with effect from 1 April 2025.	7 January 2025	Corporate Resources OSC, Full Council	Open to the public	Executive Member for Finance Contact Officer: Gary Muskett, Assistant Director, Revenues and Benefits Email: Gary.Muskett@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
15	Treasury Management Strategy 2025/26	This report requests Executive to recommend to Council the approval of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2025/26.	4 February 2025	All OSCs -	Open to the public	Executive Member for Finance Contact Officer: Dennis Galvin, AD Finance and Procurement Email: Denis.Galvin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

16	Traded Services to Schools & Academies for non-statutory services 2025/26	This report requests Executive to recommend to Council the approval of the revised 2025/26 charges for Traded Services to Schools & Academies for non-statutory services.	4 February 2025	All OSCs -	Open to the public	Executive Member for Finance Contact Officer: Dennis Galvin, AD Finance and Procurement Email: Denis.Galvin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
17	Investment Strategy 2025/26	This report requests Executive to recommend to Council the approval of the Investment Strategy for 2025/26 to facilitate effective financial management and planning.	4 February 2025	All OSCs -	Open to the public	Executive Member for Finance Contact Officer: Dennis Galvin, AD Finance and Procurement Email: Denis.Galvin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
18	Final Capital Programme 2025/26 – 2028/29	The purpose of this report is to seek Executive agreement to the Capital Programme for the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) period 2025/26 to 2028/29 to facilitate effective financial management and planning. It excludes the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) which is subject to a separate report.	4 February 2025	All OSCs -	Open to the public	Executive Member for Finance Contact Officer: Dennis Galvin, AD Finance and Procurement Email: Denis.Galvin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
19	Final Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2025/26 – 2028/29	The report updates the Revenue Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) approved by Council in February 2023 and proposes the Budget for 2025/26.	4 February 2025	All OSCs -	Open to the public	Executive Member for Finance Contact Officer: Dennis Galvin, AD Finance and Procurement Email: Denis.Galvin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

20	Final Housing Revenue Account Budget and Business Plan 2025/26 – 2028/29	The report sets out the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Landlord Budget for 2025/26 and Business Plan for 2025/26 – 2028/29. It sets out proposals that make best use of the investment potential to deliver affordable housing, mitigate pressures in the Council's General Fund (GF), and align to the debt strategy in the context of long term Business Planning and Investment.	4 February 2025	All OSCs -	Open to the public	Executive Member for Finance Contact Officer: Dennis Galvin, AD Finance and Procurement Email: Denis.Galvin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
21	Fees & Charges – April 2025 Changes	This report requests Executive to recommend to Council the approval of the revised Fees and Charges from April 2025, (predominately Social Care Health & Housing (SCHH))	4 February 2025	All OSCs -	Open to the public	Executive Member for Finance Contact Officer: Dennis Galvin, AD Finance and Procurement Email: Denis.Galvin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
22	Capital Strategy 2025/26	This report requests Executive to recommend to Council the approval of the Capital Strategy for 2025/26 to facilitate effective financial management and planning.	4 February 2025	All OSCs -	Open to the public	Executive Member for Finance Contact Officer: Dennis Galvin, AD Finance and Procurement Email: Denis.Galvin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
23	Freight Strategy	To approve the Freight Strategy for adoption.	01 April 2025	Sustainable Communities OSC	Open to the public	Leader of the Council Contact Officer: Caroline Danby, Head of Strategic Growth Email: Caroline.Danby@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

24	Quarterly Budget Monitoring Revenue Budget Monitoring Q3 December 2024	The report sets out the forecast outturn financial revenue position for 2024/25 as at the end of December 2024 (Q3). It sets out spend against the approved budget and it excludes the Housing Revenue Account which is subject to a separate report.	01 April 2025	All OSCs -	Open to the public	Executive Member for Finance Contact Officer: Dennis Galvin, AD Finance and Procurement Email: Denis.Galvin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
25	Quarterly Budget Monitoring Capital Budget Monitoring Q3 December 2024	The report sets out the forecast outturn financial position of the Capital Programme for 2024/25 as at the end of December 2024 (Q3). It sets out spend against the approved budget and it excludes the Housing Revenue Account which is subject to a separate report.	01 April 2025	All OSCs -	Open to the public	Executive Member for Finance Contact Officer: Dennis Galvin, AD Finance and Procurement Email: Denis.Galvin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
26	Quarterly Budget Monitoring Housing Revenue Account Q3 December 2024	The report sets out the forecast outturn financial position of the Housing Revenue Account for 2024/25 as at the end of December 2024 (Q3). It sets out spend against the approved budget.	01 April 2025	All OSCs -	Open to the public	Executive Member for Finance Contact Officer: Dennis Galvin, AD Finance and Procurement Email: Denis.Galvin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
27	2024-25 Q3 Corporate Performance Report	To update Members on corporate performance in context of the Council's Strategic Plan. Members are asked to: • Review performance against the suite of performance indicators currently being used to help and support the monitoring of progress against the Strategic Plan. Reporting will enable Members to scrutinise performance and to ask officers to further investigate as appropriate.	01 April 2025	All OSCs -	Open to the public	Leader of the Council Contact Officer: Heather Price, Head of Strategy and Delivery Email: Heather.Price@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Central Bedfordshire Council
Forward Plan of Key Decisions on Key Issues

For the Municipal Year 2023/24 the Forward Plan will be published on the following dates:

Period of Plan	Date of Publication
1 November 2024 - 31 October 2025	23rd September 2024
1 December 2024 - 30 November 2025	20th October 2024

Social Care Health and Housing Work Programme

Date of meeting	Title of Report/Decision	Reason for report	Main purpose presenting report to OSC	Lead member
11/11/2024	2024-25 Q2 Corporate Performance Report	To update Members on corporate performance in context of the Council's Strategic Plan.	Briefing, Information or any other reason	Cllr J Baker Executive Member for Finance
11/11/2024	Quarterly Budget Monitoring Revenue, Capital and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget Monitoring Q2 September 2024	The report sets out the forecast outturn financial revenue position for 2024/25 as at the end of September 2024 (Q2)	Performance (reviewing service or budgetary performance)	Cllr J Baker Executive Member for Finance
11/11/2024	Safeguarding Adults Board	To consider and comment on the achievements, challenges and plans going forward of the Safeguarding Adults Board for Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire Council and consider the effectiveness of the safeguarding adults arrangements across the two councils.	Briefing, Information or any other reason	Cllr M Smith Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Adult Social Care
11/11/2024	Housing Services, Tenant Involvement Strategy	The report is for information as part of the Council's new regulatory environment, with regards to our Landlord function. The Housing Services' recommended approach is to seek support, consideration and/or comment, and assurance from the Overview and Scrutiny committee prior to adoption of the strategy.	Scrutiny (review a final draft policy or decision immediately prior to the next Executive meeting)	Cllr M Smith Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Adult Social Care
13/01/2025	Draft Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2025/26 2028/29	The report updates the Revenue Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) approved by Council in February 2024 and proposes the draft Budget for 2025/26 as the basis for consultation.	Scrutiny (review a final draft policy or decision immediately prior to the next Executive meeting)	Cllr J Baker Executive Member for Finance
13/01/2025	Draft Capital Programme 2025/26 2028/29	The purpose of this report is to seek Executive agreement to the Draft Capital Programme for the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) period 2025/26 to 2028/29 for consultation and to facilitate effective financial management and planning.	Scrutiny (review a final draft policy or decision immediately prior to the next Executive meeting)	Cllr J Baker Executive Member for Finance
13/01/2025	Draft Housing Revenue Account Budget and Business Plan 2025/26 2028/29	The report sets out the Draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Landlord Budget for 2025/26 and Business Plan for 2025/26 2028/29.	Scrutiny (review a final draft policy or decision immediately prior to the next Executive meeting)	Cllr J Baker Executive Member for Finance
13/01/2025	Fees & Charges April 2025 Changes	This report requests Executive to recommend to Council the approval of the revised Fees and Charges from April 2025, (predominately Social Care Health & Housing (SCHH))	Scrutiny (review a final draft policy or decision immediately prior to the next Executive meeting)	Cllr J Baker Executive Member for Finance
14/04/2025	2024-25 Q3 Corporate Performance Report	To update Members on corporate performance in context of the Council's Strategic Plan.	Performance (reviewing service or budgetary performance)	Cllr J Baker Executive Member for Finance
14/04/2025	Quarterly Budget Monitoring Revenue, Capital and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget Monitoring Q3 December 2024	The report sets out the forecast outturn financial position of Revenue, Capital and the Housing Revenue Account for 2024/25 as at the end of December 2024 (Q3). It sets out spend against the approved budget.	Performance (reviewing service or budgetary performance)	Cllr J Baker Executive Member for Finance

APPENDIX B - Unscheduled reports

Date of Meeting	Title of Report/Decision	Reason for Report	Main Purpose for Presenting Report to OSC	Lead Member
Date TBC – within 6 months of April 2024	That an impact report on the transformation programme and subsequent improvements to Council services be delivered to the Committee	Member request following the annual compliments/complaints report delivered in April 2024		Cllr Steve Owen - Executive Member for Families, Education and Children
Date TBC –	Three to Two Tier (Plans TBC)			Cllr Steve Owen - Executive Member for Families, Education and Children
Date TBC – proposed November 2024	Youth Justice Service peer review	Pat Jennings and BBC lead		Cllr Steve Owen - Executive Member for Families, Education and Children
Date TBC – proposed November 2024	The Education Strategy and Action Plan	To include details of the school improvement planning board (Request arising from the School Performance Report delivered on 16 April 2024)		Cllr Steve Owen - Executive Member for Families, Education and Children
Date TBC	The Fairness Task Force -analysis and to understand why some YP did not attend school regularly (Request arising from the School Improvement report delivered on 16 April 2024)	The outcomes of the fairness task force might inform why some YP were not regularly attending school		Cllr Steve Owen - Executive Member for Families, Education and Children

Date TBC	That an update on the use and uptake on the graded care profile tool be provided at a future meeting. (Request arising from the Safeguarding report delivered on 16 April 2024)			Cllr Steve Owen - Executive Member for Families, Education and Children
Date TBC	That the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) be invited to a future meeting. (Request arising from the School Improvement report delivered on 16 April 2024)			Cllr Steve Owen - Executive Member for Families, Education and Children
Date TBC – proposed November 2024	Domestic Abuse Report			Cllr Steve Owen - Executive Member for Families, Education and Children
Date TBC – MEMBER BRIEFING	Children in Care Sufficiency Briefing	To include the Fostering Transformation Programme & Short Breaks Update		Cllr Steve Owen - Executive Member for Families, Education and Children

Corporate Resources OSC work programme

Date of meeting	Title of Report/Decision	Reason for report	Main purpose presenting report to OSC	Lead member
05/11/2024	2024-25 Q2 Corporate Performance Report	To update Members on corporate performance in context of the Council's Strategic Plan.	Performance (reviewing service or budget under-performance)	Executive Member for Finance Cllr John Baker
05/11/2024	Quarterly Budget Monitoring Revenue Budget Monitoring Q2 September 2024	The report sets out the forecast outturn financial revenue position for 2024/25 as at the end of September 2024 (Q2). It sets out spend against the approved budget and it excludes the Housing Revenue Account which is subject to a separate report.	Performance (reviewing service or budget under-performance)	Executive Member for Finance Cllr John Baker
05/11/2024	Quarterly Budget Monitoring Capital Budget Monitoring Q2 September 2024	The report sets out the forecast outturn financial position of the Capital Programme for 2024/25 as at the end of September 2024 (Q2). It sets out spend against the approved budget and it excludes the Housing Revenue Account which is subject to a separate report.	Performance (reviewing service or budget under-performance)	Executive Member for Finance Cllr John Baker
05/11/2024	Council Tax Empty Homes and Second Homes Premium	Review and comment on the proposal to levy the maximum level of premium for empty Homes as set out in the Levelling up and Regeneration Act 2023, with effect from 1 April 2025	Scrutiny (review a final draft policy or decision immediately prior to the next Executive meeting)	Executive Member for Finance Cllr John Baker
05/11/2024	Corporate Peer Challenge - Progress Report	As requested at CROSC in April, that an update on the implementation of the action plan from the Corporate Peer Challenge be provided to the Committee.	Performance (reviewing service or budget under-performance)	Leader of the Council and Chair of the Executive Cllr Adam Zerny
05/11/2024	Legal Services Update	To update Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the delivery of legal services by Pathfinder Legal Services (PLS).	Briefing, Information or any other reason	Executive Member for Finance Cllr John Baker
09/01/2025	Draft Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2025/26 2028/29	The report updates the Revenue Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) approved by Council in February 2024 and proposes the draft Budget for 2025/26 as the basis for consultation.	Scrutiny (review a final draft policy or decision immediately prior to the next Executive meeting)	Executive Member for Finance Cllr John Baker
09/01/2025	Draft Capital Programme 2025/26 2028/29	The purpose of this report is to seek Executive agreement to the Draft Capital Programme for the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) period 2025/26 to 2028/29 for consultation and to facilitate effective financial management and planning. It excludes the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) which is subject to a separate report.	Scrutiny (review a final draft policy or decision immediately prior to the next Executive meeting)	Executive Member for Finance Cllr John Baker
09/01/2025	Draft Housing Revenue Account Budget and Business Plan 2025/26 2028/29	The report sets out the Draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Landlord Budget for 2025/26 and Business Plan for 2025/26 2028/29. It sets out proposals that make best use of the investment potential to deliver affordable housing, mitigate pressures in the Council's General Fund (GF), and align to the debt strategy in the context of long term Business Planning and Investment.	Scrutiny (review a final draft policy or decision immediately prior to the next Executive meeting)	Executive Member for Finance Cllr John Baker
09/01/2025	Fees & Charges April 2025 Changes	This report requests Executive to recommend to Council the approval of the revised Fees and Charges from April 2025, (predominately Social Care Health & Housing (SCHH))	Scrutiny (review a final draft policy or decision immediately prior to the next Executive meeting)	Executive Member for Finance Cllr John Baker

09/01/2025	Traded Services to Schools & Academies for non-statutory services 2025/26	This report requests Executive to recommend to Council the approval of the revised 2025/26 charges for Traded Services to Schools & Academies for non-statutory services.	Scrutiny (review a final draft policy or decision immediately prior to the next Executive meeting)	Executive Member for Finance Cllr John Baker
09/01/2025	Capital Strategy 2025/26	This report requests Executive to recommend to Council the approval of the Capital Strategy for 2025/26 to facilitate effective financial management and planning.	Scrutiny (review a final draft policy or decision immediately prior to the next Executive meeting)	Executive Member for Finance Cllr John Baker
09/01/2025	Investment Strategy 2025/26	This report requests Executive to recommend to Council the approval of the Investment Strategy for 2025/26 to facilitate effective financial management and planning.	Scrutiny (review a final draft policy or decision immediately prior to the next Executive meeting)	Executive Member for Finance Cllr John Baker
09/01/2025	Treasury Management Strategy 2025/26	This report requests Executive to recommend to Council the approval of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for 2025/26.	Scrutiny (review a final draft policy or decision immediately prior to the next Executive meeting)	Executive Member for Finance Cllr John Baker
11/02/2025	2024-25 Q3 Corporate Performance Report	To update Members on corporate performance in context of the Council's Strategic Plan.	Performance (reviewing service or budget under-performance)	Executive Member for Finance Cllr John Baker
08/04/2025	Cross Cutting Efficiencies	To provide the Committee with an update on the delivery of the Cross-Cutting organisational change programmes and associated efficiencies.	Performance (reviewing service or budget under-performance)	Executive Member for Finance Cllr John Baker
08/04/2025	Quarterly Budget Monitoring Revenue Budget Monitoring Q3 December 2024	The report sets out the forecast outturn financial revenue position for 2024/25 as at the end of December 2024 (Q3). It sets out spend against the approved budget and it excludes the Housing Revenue Account which is subject to a separate report.	Performance (reviewing service or budget under-performance)	Executive Member for Finance Cllr John Baker
08/04/2025	Quarterly Budget Monitoring Capital Budget Monitoring Q3 December 2024	The report sets out the forecast outturn financial position of the Capital Programme for 2024/25 as at the end of December 2024 (Q3). It sets out spend against the approved budget and it excludes the Housing Revenue Account which is subject to a separate report.	Performance (reviewing service or budget under-performance)	Executive Member for Finance Cllr John Baker
08/04/2025	Quarterly Budget Monitoring Housing Revenue Account Q3 December 2024	The report sets out the forecast outturn financial position of the Housing Revenue Account for 2024/25 as at the end of December 2024 (Q3). It sets out spend against the approved budget.	Performance (reviewing service or budget under-performance)	Executive Member for Finance Cllr John Baker

Appendix B – Unscheduled Reports

Date of Meeting	Title of Report/Decision	Reason for Report	Main Purpose for Presenting Report to OSC
Date TBC	Parking Enforcement Strategy	To receive a report in relation to the parking enforcement strategy.	Policy development (early review of a new or revised policy or decision before a final draft is produced)
Date TBC	Construction Code review	The construction code was endorsed by the executive in 2019 . A decision to amend the code will be taken by the executive committee and the scrutiny committee asked to consider the draft proposals to amend the code.	Briefing, Information or any other reason
Date TBC	A comprehensive report from the Parking Services team.	To receive a report in relation to parking services.	Performance (reviewing service or budgetary performance)
Date TBC	UK Power Networks	An annual update from UKPN following its annual review of CBC’s climate related policies after UKPN had conducted its annual review against Central Bedfordshire Council’s climate related policies.	Briefing, Information or any other reason

Date TBC	Sustainable Modes of Transport to School (SMOTS)	To receive a report detailing SMOTS and school travel plans	Briefing, Information or any other reason
Date TBC	Leisure Management Contract	To consider the leisure management contract following year one of the new provider	Briefing, Information or any other reason



**HOUGHTON REGIS PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE
WORK PLAN 2024/25**

Meeting Date	Regular Updates	Work Plan 2024/25	Reports already received / completed
30th July 2024	Election of Chair Election of Vice Chair Partnership Committee Co-Option approval Confirmation Of The Secretariat Committee Functions & Terms Of Reference CBC Update report Work Plan Items Requesting Attention By CBC	The following suggestions are put forward, the timings of these reports / presentations will be confirmed once the content of the work plan has been agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving Health & Wellbeing In Houghton Regis (inc primary health care) • Place Delivery • Community Buildings in Houghton Regis (inc. HRN 2 Community Building, Bedford Square Community Centre, Parkside community space, Red House, HR Day Centre, Townsend Centre) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Plan Process • HRTC Corporate Plan – Town Centre Improvements • Youth Engagement
22nd October 2024	HRTC Update report Work Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing And Engagement • Chalk Pit / Quarry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Buildings • Education
28th January 2025	CBC Update report Work Plan Proposed Dates For Meetings for following year Houghton Regis Together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kingsland / HR Leisure Centre • Education (inc Primary School places) 	
29th April 2025	HRTC Update report Work Plan		

HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE

Purpose of report: For information

Contents

1.	Corporate Services	2
2.	Environment & Leisure	2
3.	Community Services	4
4.	Planning	5



1. Corporate Services

HRTC Budget 2025/26

The HRTC budget setting process is due to commence Autumn 2024. The budget will look to include the funding necessary for the delivery of the Corporate Plan and the CPC Action plan. [corporate-plan-2024-2028.pdf \(houghtonregis-tc.gov.uk\)](#)
[CPC Action Plan FULL July 2024.pdf \(houghtonregis-tc.gov.uk\)](#)

Possible community asset transfer update

Members may recall a request previously made for the council to consider the transfer of some Houghton Regis based community assets to the council. Initial discussions are currently being held at officer level, and further reports will be made in due course. Applications for transfer will first be made for Parkside Recreation Ground and Tithe Farm Recreation Ground.

Corporate Peer Challenge Review

The HRTC Corporate Peer Challenge Review took place from 26th – 28th March 2024. Based on the Report an Action plan has been developed and is being worked through. The CPC Team are booked to revisit HRTC in early December to look at the progress that has been made.

2. Environment & Leisure

Tithe Farm Sports Project

Works on the 3G AGP are complete, and the pavilion was handed over on 7th October 2024. The S278 agreement remains outstanding pending confirmation from Central Bedfordshire Council. The solicitor has reviewed the draft lease between HRTC and the Bedfordshire FA. To protect the town council's interests, it would be a full dilapidation lease. The Bedfordshire FA would assume full responsibility for the pitch, pavilion, and associated car park for a 25-year term.

UKSPF

Work to secure a highway licence is still ongoing. Discussions have focused on delivering a scheme that will work within the footprint of the agreed planning drawings for the front of All Saints View.

Grendall Lane Proposed Cemetery

The 12-month monitoring period has been completed. The town council's Proposed New Cemetery Sub-Committee will discuss the findings at its meeting on 4th November 2024.

Public Realm Improvements

Our 'See It Sort It' service continues to make Houghton Regis an attractive and vibrant place to live and work.

Houghton Regis in Bloom

Houghton Regis had performed well at the 2024 Anglia in Bloom Awards. The awards were as follows:

- Large Town – Houghton Regis (Silver-Gilt)
- Historic Parks and Gardens – Houghton Hall Park (Gold and Overall winner)
- Cemeteries – Houghton Regis Cemetery (Award of Merit)
- Churchyard – All Saints - Houghton Regis Parish Church (Silver award)

Public Park – The Village Green (Silver award)
Public Park – Parkside Recreation Ground (Silver-Gilt)
Public Park – Linnere Park (Silver award)
Nursing/Care Home – All Saints View Assisted Living (Silver-Gilt)
Nature Conservation Area – Windsor Drive (Award of Merit)
Nature Conservation Area – Dog Kennel Down (Award of Merit)
Nature Conservation Area – Houghton Brook (Award of Merit)

Houghton Regis also received nominations for three Special Awards, signifying that these projects or schemes were among the finest in the Anglia region. The town's achievements extended further as it clinched victory in one category, establishing itself as the best of the best of the area.

Congratulations were extended to

- Julie at Houghton Regis Memorial Hall for her nomination in the Best Floral Display by an Individual category
- The Chiltern School for their nomination in the Best Inclusivity Garden category
- The Houghton Hall Park Team for winning the Best Grow Your Own Project Special Award

Plans for the 2025 are already underway!

Approved Release of Developer Contributions

The town council's applications to release £172,000 worth of developer contribution to improve/refurbish both the Tithe Farm and Parkside (Lower) play areas have been approved: £75,000 for Tithe Farm and £97,000 for Parkside.





3. Community Services

Family Days and Trips

The planned summer fun activities were delivered across Houghton Regis during the summer holidays:

Activity	Date	Time	Location	Additional Information
Skate Jam	22 nd July	11.00-15.00	Tithe Farm Recreation Grounds	Youth Services have been delivering scooter and BMX sessions with a trained coach as part of the YIF provision in the lead-up to this event.
Inflatable Fun	30 th July	13.00-16.00	Parkside Recreation Grounds	Perfect Personalised Parties delivered six inflatables, including a slide and garden games. One inflatable will be allocated for children and young people with SEN.
Wild Science and Animal Facts	1 st August	13.00-15.00	Village Green Pavilion.	2 x 45-minute sessions delivered by Wild Science. Garden games will also be available.
Laser tag and inflatable	6 th August	13.00-16.00	Parkside Recreation Grounds	Delivered by A6 Fun and will include garden games.

obstacle course				
Birds of Prey and garden games	8 th August	13.00-15.00	Village Green Pavilion	Delivered by Herring Green Activities.
Southend	15 th August	9.00-17.00	Coach Trip	Three Star Coaches will manage the booking for this.

All the activities were well received by the residents. Participation appeared lower for the activities held at Parkside, which might be due to the change in location, and the laser tag activity was affected by rain.

Events

The Town Council continues hosting various community events throughout the year, which are free for visitors and residents. The current programme of events is as follows;

- Fireworks Display 3rd November 2024
- Santa's Grotto 14th December 2024
- Easter Egg Hunt 12th April 2025

4. Planning

Neighbourhood Plan

The referendum took place in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning (Referendums) Regulations, and the response was overwhelmingly positive. A total of **87.62%** of voters supported the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan.

This strong mandate from the community demonstrated both confidence in the plan and a shared commitment to shaping the future of Houghton Regis in a sustainable and thoughtful manner.

With the community's approval, the Houghton Regis Neighbourhood Plan was officially adopted May 2024.

The adoption of the Houghton Regis Neighbourhood Plan marks a significant milestone for the town. With the support of the community, the plan will pave the way for a vibrant, sustainable, and prosperous future.

In line with this, the Town Council is currently in the process of creating a dedicated group or committee that will monitor the implementation and use of the Neighbourhood Plan. This group will monitor the adherence to the goals and principles as set out in the plan, providing ongoing oversight and transparency.

The link to the Houghton Regis Neighbourhood Plan can be found here: [Link](#)