

Town Mayor: Cllr E Cooper Town Clerk: Clare Evans

E Cooper Tel: 01582 708540

20th January 2025

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 Watkins, Executive Member for Assets Business & Housing, CBC

 Cllr Smith, Executive Member Adult Social Care & Health for 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 28th January 2025** 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*

THIS MEETING MAY BE RECORDED *

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 5 - 18.

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd October and 27th November 2024.

Recommendation: To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 22^{nd}

October and 27th November 2024.

5. INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW INTEGRATED CARE BOARD PLACE TEAM

It is hoped that a representative from the CBC Place Team will be able to attend the meeting to introduce Members to the new Integrated Care Board Place team.

6. COMMUNITY BUILDINGS IN HOUGHTON REGIS

A verbal update will be provided by the CBC Community Engagement Manager on the current lease of Bedford Square Community Centre.

7. UPDATE ON SPORTS HALL

Members are advised that an Expression of Interest under the Community Asset Transfer process was submitted on 23rd December 2024 and receipt has been acknowledged.

A verbal update will be provided by the CBC Community Engagement Manager to provide the CBC response to questions raised at the Partnership meeting on 27th November 2024.

8. COUNCIL BUDGETS 2025/26

Update on CBC Budget 2025/26

A verbal update will be provided by the CBC Community Engagement Manager.

Update on HRTC Budget 2025/26

The officer draft budget was presented for consideration to the Town Council meeting on 20th January. The following provides a link to the agenda for that meeting: <u>Town</u> <u>Council 20/01/2025</u> A verbal update will be provided.

9. PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Pages 19 - 22

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.

Members are invited to consider the Partnership Committee workplan for 2024/25.

10. CBC UPDATE REPORT

Pages 23 - 55

The CBC update report is attached for information.

Recommendation: To note the report.

11. PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE CO-OPTION

It has been requested that potential co-option onto this committee remain on the agenda as a Standing Agenda item.

Members are invited to consider whether they would like to explore the possibility of seeking to co-opt local stakeholders onto the Houghton Regis Partnership Committee. In this regard the Terms of Reference for the Committee state:

Co-option

1. To support engagement with local stakeholders the Town Joint Committee can co-opt members from local representative groups, as appropriate up to a maximum of 15. Each co-opted Member will be able to engage fully in all discussions but will not have any voting rights. Co-opted members can be removed from the Town Joint Committee. Decision making around removals can either be taken by the whole Town Joint committee or by joint agreement of the Chair and Vice Chair, depending on each Town Joint Committee's preference.

The list of Co-opted Members should be reviewed annually, by the Town Joint Committee

12. ITEMS REQUESTING ATTENTION BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

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

Members of this committee are able to use this process to forward items for CBC's attention via the CBC Joint Committee Chair or CBC Joint Committee Vice Chair. As such members are requested to identify and confirm if there are any requested items for CBC's attention.

13. PROPOSED DATES FOR MEETINGS FOR 2025/26

The proposed dates for the Houghton Regis Partnership meetings for 2025/26 are:

29th July 2025 21st October 2025 27th January 2026 28th April 2026

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Town Mayor: Cllr E Cooper Town Clerk: Clare Evans

Tel: 01582 708540

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HOUGHTON REGIS PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, PEEL STREET ON 22nd October 2024

Present: Town Cllrs: J Carroll, Y Farrell, D Jones, C Slough

CBC Cllrs: C Alderman, S Goodchild, P Hamill, T McMahon CBC Sarah Hughes, Community Engagement Manager

Officers:

HRTC Clare Evans, Town Clerk

Officers:

Co-opted J Anderson, T Haines, D Hill, C Regan, R Turner

members:

Also in attendance: Cllr Owen, Executive Member for Children's Services, CBC

Apologies: D Gibbons, Cllr Baker

Members of the public: 6

1046 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from D Gibbons and Cllr Baker.

1047 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The issue of sports hall facilities within Houghton Regis was brought before Members for discussion. The following points were raised:

- The proposal to move sports hall provision to Houstone School would mean a sizeable reduction in the number of hours available for community use.
- Individual members of the community would experience the greatest impact as they
 would not have the means to book the hall in the same way as groups and
 organisations.
- Disadvantaged and vulnerable members of the community would be affected and have little access to an indoor sports facility.
- Many of the activities currently catered for would not be provided under the proposed scheme.
- The population of Houghton Regis had increased significantly and would continue to grow. Even with the current population, the proposed SLA with Houstone School would not mitigate the losses of the sports hall removal and facilities would remain at a deficit.
- No other indoor provision was available in Houghton Regis and requesting people to use other facilities outside of the town did not accord with the leisure strategy.

Town Partnership 22nd October 2024

• Engagement in sport can help address wider social issues such as wellbeing, ASB etc and a lack of an accessible provision could negatively impact on local services, for example if ABS rises there is increased burden on the police and CBC

• Wellbeing was an important issue and the provision of a sports hall was an essential provision in achieving this.

At the Town Council meeting on 14th October 2024, it had been requested that the Town Council take a lead role in addressing the issue of sports hall provision and to be the primary driver in finding a solution. There were two areas that Houghton Regis Town Council were requested to explore with Central Bedfordshire Council. These were:

- 1. To open formal dialogue to explore the possibility of adding a sports hall to the new build that was currently in progress. Land adjacent to the site was believed to be available for this.
- 2. In the interim HRTC were requested to approach CBC Assets Department with a view to adopting control of the existing sports hall as a community asset. There was the possibility of:
 - borrowing money from the Public Work Loan Board which offers more favourable interest rates
 - raising the precept

Community Safety teams.

It was believed that a formal dialogue between HRTC and CBC was essential. In the interim, HRTC could take control of the sports hall to operate it as a community asset.

The Deputy Head Teacher at the Academy of Central Bedfordshire then addressed Members.

Over 100 students attended the Kingsland campus each year. Of these, 50% had an EHCP or an EHCNA going through and this number would continue to grow. This figure demonstrated the level of vulnerability within the student cohort. 75% of students came under pupil premium free school meals and 50% of these lived within Houghton Regis.

When ACB was first approached about the new leisure centre, they were led to believe that a new sports hall would be included. ACB had subsequently been informed by a member of the council that when the figures were calculated in terms of usage, there was no record of ACB usage. ACB had spent approximately £150,000 on sports hall provision over the past decade and without a new space there would be no other options available; therefore, it would not be possible to deliver a curriculum the students needed and deserved.

The Academy provided students with a 'second chance' and sports formed a large part of this process. The option to travel to Dunstable had been suggested but this was not suitable for the most vulnerable students and would not allow for an adequate level of staffing.

The Head of PE informed Members that ACB was an alternative provision for students who had been permanently excluded from a mainstream setting. Some of the students had been permanently excluded from Houstone School and, therefore, would not be able to be able to enter that site. There was no suitable site on the Kingland campus for sports provision and travelling to Dunstable would reduce lesson duration from eighty minutes to under sixty minutes.

A councillor from CBC confirmed they had been in dialogue with CBC officers and had highlighted that it was necessary to focus on future figures and the fact that Houghton Regis was a deprived town deserving of a sports hall.

It was explained that the plan for the leisure centre had been put forward quickly with low expectation of winning a new facility. As a result, the sports hall had not formed part of the plan. It was agreed that an interim solution was required while long-term options were discussed. Dialogue would continue with CBC officers in order to progress the issue to executive level.

The Children's Services portfolio holder confirmed that it was likely to be a difficult year in terms of budgets but stated that they would be happy to visit the schools involved to establish what their particular needs were.

Members believed that leaving this issue unresolved until the meeting in January was unacceptable and that a course of action was required sooner. More information was required on the Service Level Agreement and the views of the schools involved. It was felt that a meaningful discussion was needed between CBC, HRTC and other representatives.

While there was general agreement that the leisure centre would be a welcome addition to the town, it was necessary to provide amenities for all sectors of the community.

The Chair clarified that since this issue was not a formal agenda item it was not possible to make any decisions. There were two options available to Members:

- 1. This item could be added to the agenda for January's meeting
- 2. A special meeting could be called to facilitate an earlier discussion

It was questioned whether there was sufficient information or time to discuss the subject meaningfully under Item 5 'Community Buildings in Houghton Regis'. Members agreed that calling a special meeting was the preferred option and the Town Clerk confirmed that the information would be gathered and liaison take place with a view to a special meeting in November.

Verification was requested on whether the opening of the leisure centre had been delayed to 2025.

1048 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

1049 MINUTES

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

Members had requested an exploration of means by which minutes could be distributed within CBC. Members were informed that the Monitoring Officer response had stated there was currently no such provision in the CBC Constitution. Any changes to procedure would require an amendment to the Constitution, which would need to be considered by the

General Purposes Committee before being presented to Council for approval. If the intention was for minutes to be shared for information, the Monitoring Officer would ask Committee Services to investigate ways in which the publication and links to minutes could be highlighted more effectively. Members had two options for consideration:

- Pursue seeking a change to council procedure rules to allow minutes to go into the CBC full council agenda as an item to be noted
- Ask the Monitoring Officer to investigate ways of making the minutes more widely accessible.

Members were requested to consider their preferred choice prior to this becoming an agenda item at a future meeting.

A co-opted member felt it would be helpful if a portion of Town Partnership meetings could be dedicated to updates from CBC members on how agenda items and actions had been progressed. The Chair agreed to explore further the possibility of incorporating updates into future meetings.

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 30th July 2024 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

1050 COMMUNITY BUILDINGS IN HOUGHTON REGIS

Representatives from the Houghton Regis Scout Group and the Houghton Regis Memorial Hall gave a presentation to Members on improvements secured through effective partnership working and s106 funding.

The Committee was informed that the Scout group was formed of approximately 80 members aged 6-14 and was based in a 1980s building. Improvements had been made to the building following s106 funding and included: a new ceiling and floor in the main hall; improved wheelchair access; CCTV and fencing and smart heating.

The scout hall provided a safe and secure space for other members of the community including the CHUMS Babyloss service and CBC fostering services.

A representative from the Memorial Hall informed Members that funding had allowed for a new path to be installed at the front and side of the building, a new boiler had also been installed and a refurbished kitchen. There were projects proposed for 2025 that included: a new car park gate; new lighting for the stage; benches for outside; new lights for the foyer and new chairs for the hall. Further news would be announced in the near future.

A verbal update was provided by Sarah Hughes, Community Engagement Manager, CBC and the 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

The Community Engagement Manager informed Members that transfer of the land was due to be discussed at the December Executive.

The Chair read a response from CBC stating that it would be sufficient for the Town Council to express their interest in the Bedford Square Community Centre. The response continued that it was uncertain whether the centre would continue to supply service needs; however, should it not be required for this purpose, more meaningful discussions could be held regarding the return of this asset. The Chair was awaiting notification of relevant dates but would pursue the matter further if necessary.

Members expressed disappointment in the response, feeling it did not address the matter adequately, and requested that it be forwarded as an action to the Town Council, as a matter of urgency, to discuss what further action could be taken. The Town Clerk confirmed they would move this forward.

The Community Engagement Manager confirmed the Houghton Regis Day Centre would be vacated once the space at All Saints View was ready. The Townsend Centre was dependent on the delivery timescale for the new leisure centre.

The Town Clerk had been in discussions with the relevant CBC officer regarding the Red House and confirmed that it was available to purchase at its market value. Discussions had been taking place with the Heritage Society about putting a business case together.

The purchase and fit-out costs of the Red House would present a challenge, and it could also prove difficult to establish an income from the building to cover its cost. It was felt, however, that the social value for a central community facility should also be factored in.

Members agreed that it was unsatisfactory that the property was still not visible after an extensive renovation had been carried out. It was confirmed that CBC usually carried out work to the property prior to Remembrance Day and this was expected to take place again this year.

In response to questions about CBC's plans for the Townsend Centre and the Houghton Regis Day Centre land, the Community Engagement Manager informed Members this would be the decided by the landlord. Members were keen to know how the sites would be utilised, and it was thought that discussions should be arranged with the portfolio manager to gather more information.

There were aspirations for a community space in Parkside and it was suggested that this might potentially become a day centre.

1051 CONSULTATION ON THE PRINCIPLES TO INFORM THE SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN

The Executive Member for Children's Services and the Head of Capital Planning provided Members with a presentation on the CBC School Organisational Plan.

Councils were required to provide a clear strategic plan on school places where there were increases/decreases in numbers. This was not only to provide transparency but clarity about the future needs within an education system that included a significant number of academies.

A consultation process was taking place until November and the Plan was to ensure:

- Enough school places were available
- Securing and delivering investment
- Forecasting school places informed by population data
- Key principles informing the SOP for the next 5 years

There were 7 proposed principles:

- 1. to provide local schools for local children
- 2. create schools of sufficient size that would be financially and educationally viable
- 3. the ability to support expansion or link to expanding schools
- 4. the potential to promote and support robust partnerships and learning communities
- 5. to seek opportunities to create inspirational learning environments
- 6. to promote diversity of provision in Central Bedfordshire
- 7. to support vulnerable learners in area special schools and integrate appropriate Special Education Needs provision within mainstream schools

Results from the consultation and a full revised plan would be presented to the Children's Review Committee in January. This meeting would inform the report that would be taken to Executive.

It was questioned how the consultation was being promoted to parents and carers outside of social media and it was confirmed that there was access to all parents via schools. It was highlighted that the meeting at the Houghton Regis Library had not been well attended and while the reason for this could not be accounted for, it was confirmed that an engagement event had been arranged for Bidwell. There was still considerable dissatisfaction from some members of the Committee regarding significantly low turnouts for such an important issue. The Community Engagement Manager suggested that possible reasons for the disappointing attendance included bad weather, the time of day and the omission of the full address. The team would ensure that future events were effectively promoted.

The consultation was in advance of replacing an SOP which was due to lapse. Following consultation, officers working on revised school roll numbers and forecasts would have completed their work. CBC members would be asked to present the numbers for their area and the officer forecasts based on these figures for 3 chunks of the capital programme. These were:

- The 3 tier to 2 tier transformation programme
- Special school places in relevant areas to avoid taxi rides to and from school
- New school places occasioned by new build areas

Numbers would be presented to CBC to establish priorities and inform budget decisions. Councillors were advised to be alert for meeting invitations and to attend and give voice to their opinions.

In response to questions from the Committee the following was confirmed:

 Location, especially for primary schools, was important and the principles had been formed to feed into the process. Any feedback regarding location would be welcome.

- Regarding timelines, the work would be completed before the budget.
- It was noted that consideration needed to be given to the current clusters and whether Houghton Regis should continue to be included with Dunstable.
- Data and numbers were felt to be satisfactory and would be published in the future. It was emphasised that at this stage of the process the focus needed to be on the Principles

1052 PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

- a) Members were provided with the CBC Forward Plan of Key Decisions from 1st November 2024 to 31st October 2025.
- b) Members were invited to consider the items listed and to identify any future Partnership agenda items arising.

Members were invited to consider the Partnership Committee workplan for 2024/25.

1053 HRTC UPDATE REPORT

The HRTC update report was provided for information.

Given time constrictions the Town Clerk invited questions from Members rather than go through the report.

It was questioned whether feedback had been received from parents regarding events held by HRTC. The Town Clerk responded that although feedback was not formally gathered, officers and councillors spoke to many attendees to gain feedback.

1054 LOCATION/ VENUE OPTIONS FOR HRPC MEETINGS

Members were invited to consider the venue for future Partnership Committee meetings. There were two options currently available:

- HRTC Council Chamber
- All Saints View

Members expressed a preference to continue with the Chamber as a venue. It was felt that there were issues with the All Saints site, including:

- Seating not being as conducive to interaction between Members
- Unsatisfactory acoustics and sound quality
- Poor ventilation, especially in the summer

The preference from Members was to continue holding meetings in the Chamber as the site provided a central and consistent venue and people were familiar with the location. Mixing venues was not felt to be a suitable option as it was unlikely to encourage greater attendance numbers. While other sites could be investigated as a potential venue, it was possible that alternative locations might incur a cost which would require budgeting.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9pm.

Dated this 27th day of November 2024

Chairman



Town Mayor Cllr E Cooper Town Clerk: Clare Evans

Tel: 01582 708540

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HOUGHTON REGIS PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, PEEL STREET ON 27th November 2024

Present: Town Cllrs: J Carroll, Y Farrell, D Jones, C Slough

CBC Cllrs: C Alderman, S Goodchild, T McMahon

CBC Sarah Hughes, Community Engagement Manager

Officers: Ian Berry, Service Director for Assets

HRTC Clare Evans, Town Clerk

Officers: Amanda Samuels, Administration Officer

Co-opted

J Anderson, D Gibbons, C Regan

members:

Also in attendance: Cllr Burgess, Cllr Rollins

Apologies: Cllr Hamill, D Hill, R Turner, Cllr Watkins

Members of the public: 6

1055 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Cllr Hamill, D Hill, R Turner and Cllr Watkins.

1056 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Members were updated as follows regarding the provision of sports hall facilities:

- Initial exploration had begun into the feasibility of the solutions suggested at previous meetings and it was thought that making the sports hall a community asset was viable.
- While it was acknowledged that due process needed to be observed, there was some frustration that when the matter escalated the same narrative would be repeated, namely that the sports hall provision at Houstone was adequate; the algorithms did not indicate the need for a sports hall; that 4 badminton courts at the sports hall would be matched by the four at Houstone School (when in fact six courts were currently available); and that demand for sports hall usage was in decline.
- Sports England data showed sports hall usage had increased nationally.
- There was no evidence in the Leisure Strategy that Houghton Regis needed to accept a deficit in leisure provision.
- Feedback from leisure providers indicated that the data capturing mechanisms did not reflect the footfall.
- It had still not been demonstrated to the community how the provision at Houstone School would operate 52 weeks of the year or provide flexible access for walk-in members of the community

• While it was believed there had been some oversight regarding the level of sports hall provision required, this should be viewed as an opportunity for HRTC and CBC to work collaboratively to deliver a positive outcome for the community.

The Head of the Academy of Central Bedfordshire also wished to put concerns on public record.

- Indoor space was essential for the academy whose pupils included those who were vulnerable and disadvantaged. The sports hall had been used for twelve years for physical activities.
- Students would have to travel in a minibus for alternative facilities. There were pupils with additional needs, disabilities or were subject to an Educational Health Care Plan. Transporting the pupils would entail additional cost, result in time lost driving between sites and would require more staff support for the lesson and return journey.
- EHCP levels would be affected.
- When the funding was procured for the leisure centre, the Academy had written a
 letter of support in the belief that a sports hall would be included in the design.
 Support for the plans would not have been given otherwise.
- There were legal implications regarding those pupils who had been banned from Houstone School.
- The Academy would be unable to meet the physical activity levels outlined in the national curriculum.

The Head of ACB expressed interested in forming a cooperative management structure for the current hall if this was pursued as an option and may be able to access Conditional Improvement Funding for this purpose.

ACB was one of only two institutions providing this type of education and pupils were able to gain meaningful qualifications to support them in adult life. It was also of note that no pupil had been arrested during the academic year for the last 6 years.

Members of the public were keen to highlight there was a likelihood the building would sit dormant for a significant amount of time, and it was questioned if there was a budget in place for its disposal. It was also noted that the plant and boiler rooms serviced the rest of the Kingsland campus and would, therefore, need to remain operational.

The Head of ACB confirmed they had written a letter of concern regarding the sports hall but had only received a verbal response. A copy of this letter would be forwarded to Cllr Alderman.

Cllr Goodchild had attended a Sustainable Communities OSC meeting on June $13^{\rm th}$ and read the following resolution from the meeting –

In response the Executive Member for Health and Community Liaison confirmed that the topic had been discussed at the recent Joint Partnership Committee and welcomed engagement with the local community. Housing and population figures had been incorporated into Sports England data, so the Executive Member was keen to see the figures mentioned by the speakers in order to understand any disparity and mitigate concerns by arranging a meeting with interested parties in order to resolve it. The committee agreed that this outcome would be shared with members once it had taken place.

It was questioned and confirmed that a meeting had been arranged but had not taken place.

1057 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Cllr McMahon declared a non-pecuniary interest as a previous Chair of the Houghton Regis Leisure Centre Action Group.

1058 MINUTES

Member requested the following amendments to the Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd October 2024:

- Inclusion of Cllr Hamill's comments in regard to securing the sports hall for ongoing use while options were discussed.
- Page 5, Minute 1050, alter text to 'day centre may be converted to become a community space'.

Resolved: To defer approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd October 2024 until the next meeting.

1059 SPORTS HALL PROVISION IN HOUGHTON REGIS

This meeting was arranged to enable Members to explore options for sports hall provision in Houghton Regis.

Discussions had also been held at the Houghton Regis Annual Parish Meeting on 15th April 2024, the Town Council meetings on 18th March 2024 and 14th October 2024 and at Partnership meetings on 23rd April 2024 and 22nd October 2024.

Members were invited to consider the feasibility of a dedicated community sports hall in Houghton Regis and what might be involved to make that happen.

The Community Engagement Manager acknowledged that the Houghton Regis Partnership Committee was expressing the concerns of the community and proceeded to read a response from CBC addressing the points raised.

It was felt by Executive that sports hall demand could be met by the facilities at Houstone School and the Dunstable Leisure Centre. Using the school hall on a community-use basis would make the best use of facilities and of capital funding, while having both a sports hall and the school facilities would result in over provision. CBC would support the transition to the other facilities and plans for this were being formulated.

Responses to key questions:

Was there scope for continued use of the existing sports hall?

CBC did not see a need for this facility in addition to the school. HRTC could submit an Expression of Interest and a robust business case to facilitate a transfer of the site to the community.

Are there any other possible sites for a sport hall (Day Centre, Townsend Centre)?

No other sites were being considered as it was not felt another facility was required. If there were no other service needs for the Day Centre or the Townsend Centre, an

expression of interest could also be submitted for these sites, along with a robust business plan.

Was there scope for provision or expansion at the leisure centre to include a sports hall?

Currently no consideration was being given to expanding the new leisure centre for those reasons previously set out

Challenges to the accuracy of the data and figures that were used

The Leisure Facility Strategy and the Project Feasibility Study had assessed the demand for sports facilities, which included population growth forecast. Sport England guidance had suggested a four-court sports hall provision would be adequate

Access to Houstone sports hall facilities would be secured by a Community Use Agreement which would outline the hours and facilities available. Some daytime usage would be displaced due to school activities. Dual use with schools had been established for many years, however, as a way of maximising public access whilst reducing the impact on public funding.

Questions were invited from the Town Partnership Committee. The Community Engagement Manager advised that they were unlikely to have detailed answers to individual questions but they would take the questions away for discussion with Leisure colleagues and report back.

- CBC had stated consultation had taken place between educational users and CBC, but did not appear to be the case. Could this be reconciled for the Committee?
- Who had consultations been held with and when? This might help establish why had key stakeholders had been excluded.
- There had been a public consultation as part of the statutory planning process. Had there been direct consultation with education?
- The Academy had sent supporting documentation to CBC but why had there been no follow up once the bid was won?
- Would it be possible to see the specific statistics referred to by CBC? There appeared to be a significant discrepancy between the figures quoted by CBC and those brought to Town Partnership by the public.
- It was stated that the new provision would be as good as, if not better than, the existing provision. This did not appear to be the case. Did this mean that Houghton Regis had been over provisioned in the past? This was not supported by experience.
- Had existing facilities not been considered when the new centre was designed?

The Town Clerk was invited to update Members from the Town Council perspective. Members were informed as follows:

- A conversation had taken place with the Service Director for Assets focusing on what would happen following the leisure centre closure. This had clarified the process for a Community Asset Transfer and what needed to be included in the business case, highlighting also the impact on uses in the surrounding land.
- There had been discussions with CBC leisure officers who maintained that the provision by Houstone School would be adequate and existing leisure users could be accommodated in Dunstable and the new leisure centre. CBC stated that conversations had been held with existing users which had not suggested a problem with the provision offered by Houstone School, which contradicted the presentations made at a number of HRTC committee meetings. It was thought that

- a further meeting between members of the public and CBC leisure officers needed to be held.
- The Town Clerk had taken a tour of the Kingsland site and seen the plant room which was an integral part of a much larger space. It was hard to understand how the site could be redeveloped when the plant room was essential.
- A visit had been made to ACB which had highlighted the level of commitment to vulnerable and disadvantaged pupils. CBC had perhaps not fully appreciated the importance of sports hall access in relation to the academy's curriculum.

The Committee was reminded that part of the Corporate Peer Challenge Review had been to rebuild the relationship with CBC, and this provided an ideal opportunity to work together.

For clarity, members of the public sought further information from CBC officers regarding the future plans for the site and how this would be determined by the budget-setting process.

- Had the Chiltern School formed part of the consultation process?

 The Community Engagement Manager agreed to establish which stakeholder groups were engaged in the process.
- Following the letter of support to CBC, could CBC confirm receipt of the expression of displeasure which was made when the plans revealed a sports hall would not form part of the leisure centre?
- CBC officers were questioned whether children's services were aware of the impact of the sports hall closure on the school closure?

 The Community Engagement Manager would investigate this further.
- The Community Use Agreement with the school was still not complete and the Committee queried the reasons for this the delay.
 The Community Engagement Manager advised that discussions were still ongoing but they would try to establish a likely timescale plus any additional information available.

Members were keen to know the future plans for the Kingsland quadrant which was a hub for the community. A member/officer briefing with CBC was requested to facilitate greater understanding regarding future plans for this quadrant. The Chair confirmed they would submit a request for a briefing.

It was highlighted, once again, that accurate data reflecting usage was needed as there were significant discrepancies between the figures quoted by CBC and those of community members. It was confirmed that alternative statistics had been forwarded to CBC but that these could be sent again.

When discussing outcomes, it was agreed to look at a variety of options for presentation to the Town Council. Members submitted the following suggestions:

1. At the meeting on 30th July, Cllr Hamill had suggested the matter could be called in. The Chair Confirmed that they would be happy to take the issue forward with CBC.

2. HRTC could be invited to make an expression of interest and engage in the Community Asset Transfer process. This could also be an opportunity for Cooperative management by HRTC and ACB.

3. A community group could be formed to keep the sports hall open on a voluntary basis.

A final suggestion was that a transfer could be made direct to the ACB. This would require a feasibility study, and it was agreed the Town Clerk would be a key point of contact for the ACB while the study was compiled.

The formal outcome of the discussion was read out by the Town Clerk

Proposed by: Cllr McMahon Seconded by: Cllr Slough

Members voted unanimously in favour

It was agreed that calling the matter in could be discussed at the next meeting in January 2025.

Resolved: For this committee's support to be given to HRTC for detailed

consideration by HRTC to explore a way to secure the retention of the sports halls as an interim measure whilst a community asset transfer application be developed and submitted for determination by CBC

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.15pm

Dated this 28th day of January 2025

Chairman



Town Mayor: Cllr J Hillyard Town Clerk: Clare Evans

Tel: 01582 708540 Fax: 01582 861102

Houghton Regis Partnership Committee

28 January 2025

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.

Town Mayor: Cllr J Hillyard Tel: 01582 708540 Town Clerk: Clare Evans Fax: 01582 861102

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

Links and Appendices

Appendix A 13.1 Forward Plan of Key Decisions - February 2025 (1).pdf

Appendix B OSC Workplans

16.2 250114 Work Programme App A.pdf (Childrens)

18.2 Appendix A - CROSC work programme.pdf

15.2 Appendix A SCHH OSC work programme.pdf

16.2 241107 Work programme report App A.pdf (Sustainable Communities)

Report author(s): Sarah Hughes

Community Engagement Manager

Sarah.hughes@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Houghton Regis Partnership Committee





Town Clerk: Clare Evans Email: info@houghtonregis-tc.gov.uk

HOUGHTON REGIS PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2024/25

Meeting Date	Regular Updates	Work Plan 2024/25	Reports already received / completed
30 th July 2024	i 	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: • 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)	 Local Plan Process HRTC Corporate Plan – Town Centre Improvements Youth Engagement
22 nd October 2024 28 th January 2025	HRTC Update report Work Plan CBC Update report Work Plan Proposed Dates For	 Housing And Engagement Chalk Pit / Quarry Kingsland / HR Leisure Centre Education (inc Primary School places) 	Community BuildingsEducation
29 th April 2025	Meetings for following year HRTC Update report Work Plan Houghton Regis Together HRN 2 Community Building Tennant Involvement Strategy		

CBC contact: Sarah Hughes Tel 0300 300 6166

Houghton Regis Partnership Committee

Agenda Item 10

Central Bedfordshire

Houghton Regis Partnership Committee

Central Bedfordshire Council Update







CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE

Purpose of the report: for information

January 2025

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Community Safety

Safer Communities and Partnership Team

July 1st – December 31st, 2024

During this period there were 79 cases open to the Community Safety Operations Team: -

- Dog Barking 12
- Dog Fouling 1
- Fly Tipping 19
- Littering 2
- Graffiti 2
- Nuisance Neighbours 1
- Nuisance Vehicles 3
- Pollution Noise 31
- Pollution Light 2
- Pollution Odour 6

There were 5 cuckooing cases investigated of which 3 are still open.

There were 17 weapon sweeps in the area.

Houghton Regis Town Council and Central Bedfordshire Council working in partnership



Safer Neighbourhood Officers spent more than 252 hours patrolling the area.

- Partnership event led by CBC Neighbourhood Operations Housing attended by Safer Communities Officer, at Ashtree Road and Black Thorn Road following concerns raised regarding nuisance motorcycles in the area.
- Community event led by Houghton Regis Town Council attended by Safer Communities
 Officers, to promote safety related items and drink spiking awareness at the Houghton
 Regis Carnival.
- Pop up event led by Housing 21 attended by Safer Communities Officer at Johnson Court.
- Skate Jam Youth engagement led by Houghton Regis Town Council, attended by Safer Communities Officers at Tithe Farm Road Recreation Ground.
- Letter drop by Safer Communities Officer, in partnership with the police, at Evans Close following a resident raising concerns about drug use whilst attending Houghton Regis Carnival.
- Letter drop by Safer Communities Officer in Trident Drive, to assist the Housing Team with some direct resident engagement following a complaint about drug use in the area.
- 2 x Partnership events attended by Safer Communities Officer led by Public Health at the Food Bank, Sandringham Hub.
- Pop up event in partnership with Bidwell West Residents Association, attended by Safer Communities Officers, Community Policing, CBC Councillors and Town Councillors at Collie Place.
- Pop up event during Safer Business week with Safer Communities Officer, Cllr Goodchild and PCSO at Bedford Square Library Concourse. Business visits to shops by Safer Business Officer.
- Pop up event by Safer Communities Officer at Houghton Regis Library.
- Partnership Event attended by Safer Communities Officer with Children's Services and Cllr Goodchild, led by CBC Tenancy Involvement at Bedford Court Temporary Accommodation.
- Youth engagement by Safer Communities Officer at Houghton Regis Library.
- Community Event attended by Safer Communities Officer led by Streetwatch and with Cllr Herber, Cllr Goodchild and Cllr Cooper at Linmere.
- Youth Engagement at Houghton Regis Library attended by Safer Communities and Safer Neighbourhood Officers.
- Pop up event and Youth engagement at Houghton Regis Library coffee morning by Safer Communities Officer.
- Pop up event attended by Safer Communities Officers and PCSO at Tithe Farm Recreational Field, arranged as part of Op-Sceptre week.
- Pop up event attended by Safer Communities Officer, Police, PCSO and CBC Councillors in Bedford Square Library atrium for ASB week.
- Pop up event in partnership with the police, attended by Safer Neighbourhood and Safer Communities Officers and CBC Cllr Farrell at Bedford Square, to promote awareness of exploitation and cuckooing.
- Letter drop by Safer Communities Officer and High Town Housing Association Officers at Trevi Court and Duroco Court, following reports of ASB in the area.



- Letter drop by Safer Communities Officer and CBC Cllr Farrell at Bromley gardens, after being made aware of an increase in fly tipping around the area.
- Community Event attended by Safer Communities Officer at Houghton Hall Park, around responsible dog ownership.
- Pop up event by Safer Communities Officer at All Saints View following concerns by residents around youths accessing the accommodation.
- Pop up event by Safer Communities Officer at the Library coffee morning

CCTV Reports

1st November to 30th November 2024

This report contains data gathered by the Council's CCTV Control Room located at Thorn Turn, Houghton Regis. It includes details of CCTV monitored incidents and arrests by the police in the town of Houghton Regis. It does not include details of the police response to any incident where an immediate arrest is not made, nor does it include incidents not captured by CCTV; for this reason, the data will not reflect the overall picture of crime and disorder in any area.

Date	Time	Location	Type of Crime
01/11/2024	20:41	Houghton Road	Op Meteor
05/11/2024	17:45	Tithe Farm Rd	Shoplifting
09/11/2024	18:17	Sapphire Place	Theft
09/11/2024	18:40	Clarkes way	Intelligence
11/11/2024	06:22	Sundon Road	Road Traffic Collision
11/11/2024	06:57	Tithe Farm Road	Suspicious Activity
11/11/2024	20:29	Tithe Farm Road	Arson
24/11/2024	15:28	Bedford Road	Op Meteor
29/11/2024	02:46	Woodside Link	Drug Related



Contact us...

by telephone: 0300 300 8858

by email: cctv@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

on the web: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Write to Central Bedfordshire Council Watling House Thorn Turn,

Grendall Lane, Houghton Regis LU5 6GJ

Penalty Charge Notices

	PCN's issued	Visits conducted
April	15	28
May	12	17
June	18	37
July	17	54
August	14	43
September	14	34
October	5	30
November	18	42
December	18	31
Total	131	316

Fix my Street Reports

1st July - 30th Nov

	Road markings and lining	Signs	Grand Total
closed	0	1	1



confirmed	2	0	2
duplicate	0	1	1
internal referral	2	2	4
unable to fix	2	9	11
Grand Total	6	13	19

Public Health

Stop Smoking

At CBC the specialist Level 3 Stop Smoking Service delivers flexible support options, including telephone support, plus an app. The service is also offering e-cigarettes as an aid to quitting.

The Service continues to offer face-to-face delivery for those clients who need it. Extended treatment programmes are available to some residents who would need them or benefit most from them, for example those with a Mental Health diagnosis or COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder). The Smokefree Baby and Me programme is also available for pregnant smokers.

Public Health continues to commission Primary Care to deliver Level 2 Stop Smoking Support. The delivery of these Stop Smoking Services through most GP Surgeries continues,

The latest performance data shows that, at Quarter 2 2024/25, the Titan PCN, covering the 3 local GP practices serving the local population (Houghton Regis Medical Centre, Toddington Medical Centre and Wheatfield Surgery) have had a total of 34 clients set a quit date. This has so far led to only 5 validated 4-week quits, plus a further 8 referrals into the specialist service for the period.

Call one of our advisors free on: 0800 013 0553

Email: stop.smoking@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Web: http://www.smokefreebedfordshire.org/

NHS Health Checks

The NHS Health Check is a national risk assessment and management programme for those aged 40 to 74 living in England, who do not have an existing vascular disease, and who are not currently being treated for certain risk factors.



It is aimed at preventing heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease and raising awareness of dementia for those aged 65-74 and includes an alcohol risk assessment. Everyone receiving an NHS Health Check will have a risk assessment which will look at individual risk factors as well as their risk of having, or developing, vascular disease in the next ten years. An NHS Health Check should be offered every five years.

GP practices continue to be the sole provider of the NHS Health Check programme and consequently performance varies. As qualifying patients are entitled to one Health Check every five years, Practices have a target to invite 20% of their eligible population each year.

Combined for Chiltern Vale, the GP Practices were under target for Health Checks delivered at the end of the latest reporting period, April-November 2024/25. 743 Health Checks were delivered against a target of 1,503 for the period (so 49.3% of annual target). Overall, they invited 1,251 patients for a Health Check (target 4,934) so performed at 25.4% Of the annual target for that indicator.

The 3 local Titan Practices are performing as follows:

- Houghton Regis Medical Centre at 95.1% of annual target for Health Checks delivered (137 against a target of 144 but only 48.2% offered (220 out of 456 target).
- Toddington Medical Centre performed at 57.3% for Health Checks delivered (47 against a target of 82) and 13.2% for offered (39 out of 296 target).
- Wheatfield Surgery delivered 67 Health Checks from a target of 146 for the period (45.9%) and offered 96 (from a target of 456) at a rate of 21.1% during this reporting period.

Public Health will continue to support Practices to over-deliver, where there is both spare capacity and funding in the system, with an emphasis on those Practices with a population that has poorer health outcomes and targeting those patients at greatest health risk.

The overall quality measure for all these 3 practices in relation to Health Checks is generally good; Houghton Regis Medical Centre has improved to 'green', whilst the other 2 practices remain at 'green', showing quality is at target level.

We will continue to work with Practices to identify how we can support them to deliver Stop Smoking and Health Check services to their patients, as well as working with them to understand and reduce health inequalities for our residents.

Business, Investment, Employment and Skills

Business Support



We're continuing to promote our UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) business support programme and since the last quarter there has been an increase in applications with businesses receiving support as follows:

- Business Innovation (University of Bedfordshire) 2
- Business Entrepreneurship & Start Up (<u>Wenta</u>) 12
- Business Scale-up and Resilience (Cranfield University) 1
- Export support (Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce) 1
- Business Decarbonisation (Cranfield University) 1

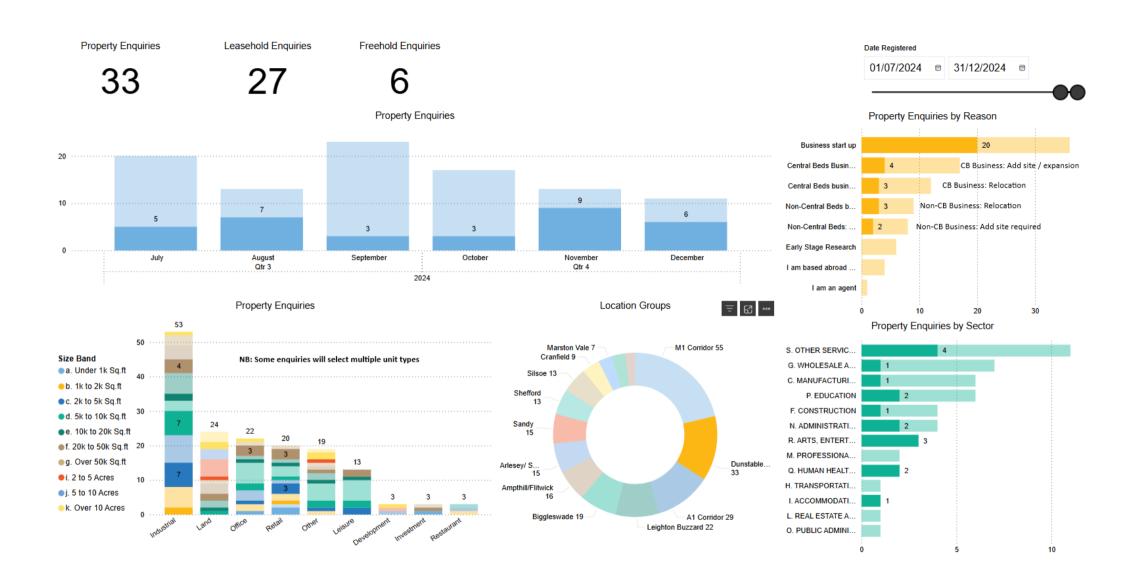
For further information about the business support on offer please contact the Business and Investment Team by email, or visit the **Be Central Bedfordshire** website.

Commercial Property Enquiries

Report covers the 6 month period 1st July to 31st Dec 2024. Dunstable and Houghton Regis have seen a higher number of enquiries in Qtr 4 (18 enqs; 44% of all CBC enqs) compared to Qtr 3 (15 enqs; 27% of all CBC enqs). Both quarters maintained a similar proportion of start-up enquiries (approx. 60% for both) with the remainder of enquiries coming from local business (25%) and non-Central Bedfordshire businesses accounting for 15% of enquiries. 11 enquiries required industrial units, 6 of which were for units of less than 2,500 sq ft, with the largest requirement for 40,000 sq ft.

This dashboard report shows the number of property enquiries for Dunstable/Houghton Regis throughout the dates shown on the top right (no further enquiries were received for this quarter). The faded elements of the chart relate to enquiries taken for the rest of Central Bedfordshire.







Town Centre vacancy rates in Central Bedfordshire, November 2023 to November 2024

% vacant	% vacant			
	, o tasaire	% vacant	% vacant	% vacant
2.2	5.4	6.5	5.2	4.1
6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3
5.1	3.2	3.2	4.5	4.5
14.7	15.1	14.3	15.0	15.9
4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.4
3.1	3.1	6.3	6.3	9.4
5.5	6.8	6.8	7.6	7.2
8.0	8.0	12.0	12.0	8.0
10.3	8.8	8.8	7.4	7.2
2.3	2.3	6.8	9.3	7.0
0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
7.5%	7.8%	8.1 %	8.6 %	8.4 %
	6.3 5.1 14.7 4.7 3.1 5.5 8.0 10.3 2.3 0.0	6.3 6.3 5.1 3.2 14.7 15.1 4.7 4.7 3.1 3.1 5.5 6.8 8.0 8.0 10.3 8.8 2.3 2.3 0.0 0.0	6.3 6.3 6.3 5.1 3.2 3.2 14.7 15.1 14.3 4.7 4.7 4.7 3.1 3.1 6.3 5.5 6.8 6.8 8.0 12.0 10.3 8.8 8.8 2.3 2.3 6.8 0.0 0.0 0.0	6.3 6.3 6.3 6.3 5.1 3.2 3.2 4.5 14.7 15.1 14.3 15.0 4.7 4.7 4.7 4.7 3.1 3.1 6.3 6.3 5.5 6.8 6.8 7.6 8.0 8.0 12.0 12.0 10.3 8.8 8.8 7.4 2.3 2.3 6.8 9.3 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0

In November 2023 the vacancy rate for all units within towns surveyed was 7.5%. There were a total of 976 units of which 73 were vacant. One year later, in November 2024, the vacancy rate increased to 8.4% with a total of 984 units and 83 vacancies. During this time, the vacancy rates for Biggleswade, Flitwick and Sandy have declined, Arlesey, Potton and Stotfold remain the same and the rates for all the other towns have increased.



Bedfordshire Employment and Skills Academy (BESA)

Adult residents in Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough can access a range of short skills courses, accredited qualifications, apprenticeship programmes, and careers support through BESA's funded provision. Read more on BESA's offer.

Ofsted rated BESA a 'Good Provider'

Ofsted inspected Bedfordshire Employment and Skills Academy over four days in July, and the service was rated 'good' in six categories resulting in an overall 'good' rating. Inspectors looked at: the quality of the education provided, behaviour and attitudes, personal development, leadership and management, adult learning programmes and apprenticeships.

The report highlighted a supportive learning environment, with inspectors saying: "Learners and apprentices develop positive relationships with staff and benefit from a culture where the principles of equality and diversity are nurtured. They feel highly valued and supported."

It also praised BESA's leadership and the variety of courses on offer, saying: "Leaders and managers provide an ambitious and accessible curriculum that helps learners to develop the knowledge and skills they need to improve their employment opportunities and to progress in their careers."

Last few months of the Multiply programme

Following the recent Budget announcement, the Multiply programme will finish in March 2025 with no extension. A full delivery schedule is still running until then for residents to access free courses to build confidence with maths skills for work and life, as well as financial wellbeing and digital skills.

BESA is making plans to absorb some of Multiply's invaluable curriculum into its Tailored Learning provision from April 2025. An update will be shared in due course.

UKSPF funded retrofitting courses are available

Through the government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund, BESA has subcontracted <u>STC Group</u> and <u>Installation Assurance Authority</u> to deliver free retrofitting courses, designed to address the urgent need for skills professionals in the construction industry. These courses are currently funded until March 2025. Residents can learn more about <u>BESA's free construction skills</u> <u>training</u> on the website.



New online level 2 qualifications available

BESA is pleased to introduce five new courses to our existing suite of short, nationally recognised online qualifications. They are suitable for anyone with an interest.

- Level 2 Certificate in Awareness of Bullying in Children and Young People
- Level 2 Certificate in Information, Advice or Guidance
- Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Children and Young People's Mental Health
- Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Distressed Behaviour in Children
- Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Specific Learning Difficulties

Our existing short qualifications cover topics such as autism, equality and diversity, early brain development (neuroscience), challenging behaviour, and Safeguarding and Prevent.

These are all self-study programmes, completed entirely online over 3 to 4 months using our eplatform, with remote support from an experienced assessor. Anyone with an interest can enrol – there's no need to have any prior knowledge or experience, nor be working in a relevant role.

Central Bedfordshire residents who are 19+ will be eligible for full funding to cover the cost of the qualification, making them completely free.

More information about each course can be found on our website.

Contact BESA

Residents can contact BESA about a course or service by completing a short online form



Leisure, Libraries and Countryside

Houghton Regis Leisure Centre

Pre covid monthly average based on 2019 usage:	17,760
Sep 2023	17,717
Oct 2023	17,528
Nov 2023	16,884
Sep 2024	16,944
Oct 2024	17,630
Nov 2024	16,114

Swim Lessons

01.11.24	Everyone Active Swimming Lessons	782
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The site has trained up 6 new Level 2 swimming teachers this year, all of which have taken on contracted roles within the centre. Additionally, the site has trained all full-time lifeguards to a Level 1 swim teacher certificate to support with any additional teaching requirements in preparation for the new leisure centre.

Fitness

01.09.23	June 23 Fitness members	1502
01.12.23	December 2023 Fitness members	1438
01.06.24	June 2024 Fitness members	1516
01.11.24	November 2024 Fitness Members	1527

The leisure centre has seen a steady increase in members towards the end of 2024, with the excitement of the new centre being the leading cause of this. EA will implement a new membership branding platform from January and the Fitness and Sales team will have an amazing opportunity to drive us even further.

In November 2024 the team ran 2 coffee & cake mornings in aid of Breast Cancer NOW, managing to raise an amazing £232 across the 2 events.



Houghton Hall Park

Operational management of the park transfered from Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) to Houghton Regis Town Council (HRTC) from 23 December 2024. CBC will continue to have representation on the management board for the park, provide financial support and be responsible for the maintenance of the visitor centre. The town council will assume responsibility for the management of the park including grounds maintenance, activity and event programming and the staff who will transfer under their existing terms and conditions. The transfer of management provides an opportunity for more co-ordinated and local management of the park, as well as more support for the existing staff. Really Awesome Coffee (Dunstable) will continue to manage the catering provision.

Events and Activities

The second half of the year was busy with events and activities in the park. These included:

- An Olympic QR Trail, 1045 players took part, 4,176,001 steps walked on the trail (based on average walking speed), took an average of 68 minutes to complete.
- HRTC Cinema
- Minibeast Hunting 3 sessions over the summer holidays, all fully booked
- The Secret Garden Outside Theatre 71 tickets sold, including an evening performance which had not been tried before.
- Robin Hood Outside Theatre 178 tickets sold
- Jemima Puddle Duck show and trail 73 tickets sold, only charged for children on this one so at least 140 people attended over the two shows.
- Daydreamers Show funding by Full House Theatre 122 children over four shows
- Hullabaloo a total of 285 people enjoyed the two shows in the park. 1150 people attended across the three sites
- Halloween Trail, crafts and potion making, Storytelling and Explorer trail all took place during October half term
- Volunteers Christmas Wreath Making
- Deluxe Christmas Wreath Workshop
- Click and collect Christmas Wreath
- Crafty Christmas event hosted by HRTC
- Elmer Christmas Trail running for six weeks around the park
- Elmer Christmas Arts & Crafts
- Breakfast and Afternoon Tea events with Santa



Community Involvement

Houghton Regis Heritage Society produced a new interpretation board about the history of Houghton Hall that with the support of town council staff has been installed in the park at the rear of the house. Houghton Regis Town Mayor, Cllr Elaine Cooper unveiled the new board to the public in September.

The Friends of Houghton Hall Park hosted a Macmillan Coffee morning and raised a fantastic £546.10. As well as coffee and cake, the volunteers continue to ensure there is plenty of produce in the gardens, decorate the display bed with different themes throughout the year and hosted a Christmas craft stall in the visitor centre with homemade gifts and decorations.

Lots of pop-up stalls have been hosted in the visitor centre throughout the year and continue to provide a great way for small businesses to showcase their products to park visitors.



New initiatives

New play equipment has been installed in the park in time for Christmas. This includes a new accessible roundabout in the toddler play area and multi-play unit that replaces the log stack for older children. In response to feedback from visitors, additional benches have also been added in the toddler play area.





The park achieved a gold award and was overall winner for Best Historic Parks and Gardens as well as a Special Award for Best Grow Your Own Project at Anglia in Bloom. It is the first time Houghton Regis has entered the awards, and the team and volunteers are very grateful for the support from Houghton Regis Town Council for including the park in their overall entry.



Seasonal update

The team and volunteers have been in full harvest mode and the weekly shop has attracted lots of customers. Regular donations to the local foodbank are continuing.

The gardens are at capacity with volunteers. This includes 18 volunteers who attend regularly at least once a week and 6 who attend occasionally. The Wednesday drop-in group has attracted a wider range of casual volunteers from all sorts of backgrounds. Newer volunteers include some younger people, two newly retired people who want to try out volunteering and some newly settled asylum seekers referred through their settlement officer. The Wednesdays work for them because they don't have to commit to a regular weekly time and can fit it round other priorities.

The irrigation system was installed in the summer and has been essential during drier periods, reducing the amount of time needed for manual watering. It has resulted in better harvests and happier volunteers!

This autumn and winter period will see much needed maintenance work such as repairs and replacement timber for the raised beds. Regular visitors may have noticed that the ground has sunk in several places in and around the kitchen garden area. This is currently under investigation, and we are awaiting further survey work and excavation to identify the issue and how best to rectify.

Community Physical Activity Team

GP Exercise Referral Scheme - Active Lifestyles Referral Scheme

Our referral programme is continuing to run throughout Central Bedfordshire supporting residents at risk or living with long term health conditions. For more information, please visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/active-lifestyles. We work in partnership with a number of organisations, to provide the residents with opportunities to promote physical and mental wellbeing.

Falls Prevention – Strength and Balance Referral Programme

Our Falls Prevention Strength & Balance referral programme is running at all leisure facilities including Houghton Regis Leisure Centre. The course is a free 12 week referral programme designed to help improve strength and balance for people over 65 who are at risk of falling or



have already had any falls. We also have an online strength and balance session that residents can attend from their own home. For more information please email: activityforhealth@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

GaitSmart Assessments

What is GaitSmart? - GaitSmart is an innovative technology which provides an objective measure of gait/walking ability in a person friendly report. It provides an opportunity to improve muscle strength and balance and reduce the risk of falls.

A person will need to independently walk 10 meters, turn and walk 10 meters back. A walking aid such as a stick or walker can be used.

After their assessment a personalised plan of six exercises are tailored to the person's needs. The person returns at set intervals (e.g. every 4 weeks over a 12 week programme) to measure progress and modify the exercise plan as needed.



GaitSmart Assessments are organised at All Saints View, Sapphire Place, Houghton Regis. For more information about dates times and how to book, please email active.lifestyles@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Health and Wellbeing Kiosks

The health and wellbeing kiosks are located across all 6 of our leisure centres and are accessible to the public. You do not have to be a member to use the kiosk. The health and wellbeing kiosks are free to use. For more information, please visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/health-kiosks

The health kiosks offer a secure and medically approved body analysis and use personal profiles with specific links to commissioned services in Central Bedfordshire including mental health support, weight management, physical activity and stop smoking services. Clinically validated, the kiosks them to self-monitor and continue to improve



their healthy lifestyle choices. Health and Wellbeing Kiosks can be found in Houghton Regis Leisure Centre.

Online Activity Programme

We are continuing to provide our online programme and are always adding new classes to our YouTube library.





Online Day Activities

Central Bedfordshire Council offers an online schedule of weekday activities for residents of Central Bedfordshire to enjoy Monday to Friday every week. Activities include things like cookery, gardening, arts & crafts, informative talks, and fun gameshows.

As part of this programme, the Active Lifestyle Team offer a number of sessions to get active. Activities include seated exercise, dance and full body workouts, there is something for everyone.

For more information or to add your name to the Newsletter so you receive emails detailing the activities taking place, please phone 0300 300 6588 | 0300 300 6710 or email ODA@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Community Physical Activity Programme

Activities include Buggy fitness, walking football and Netball, outdoor bootcamp. Most of the activities are FREE. Residents must book on via our booking page. www.bookwhen.com/activelifestyles

Children and Families - Active Lifestyles

For families who could benefit from advice and support to make healthier lifestyle choices. The team are now offering an Active Families Referral Programme for families with children under 5 years old. It comprises a FREE 12 week programme to help lead a healthier, happier, active lifestyle.

To register your interest e-mail: active.lifestyles@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk





Houghton Regis library

The Summer Reading Challenge was a great success this year, with over 4000 children participating in the challenge in Central Bedfordshire alone! Houghton Regis had over 200 children finish the challenge. This year's theme 'Marvellous Makers' was chosen to inspire children to make their own stories through creative outlets, such as arts, crafts and any hobby they're comfortable with.

Full House Theatre

Full House Theatre are a touring theatre company with a focus of children's productions. Earlier this year they have held various SEND workshops in the library but have also held other theatrical performances in the library for local members for free these have been well attended and often sell out.

- School of Noise Sept 7th
- Wondergigs Sept 27th
- Big Red Bath Nov 29th
- Drama Geezers Dec 7th
- Key Creatives Dec 13th

ACL Collective

ACL is a performing arts community interest company that's run by Aaron, Charlotte & Lauren with a focus on engaging local communities in Bedfordshire. The library has hosted 2 wonderful projects by ACL, which were well received by the local community, and were also free to book on. ACL was self-funded via a grant bid

- The first event by ACL was the Lost Monster in the Library, which took place on October 31st. This event included spooky storytelling, creepy crafts, and monster puppeteering.
- The second event was the Magical Christmas Library on December 5th, where visitors took a trip to a gingerbread village to enjoy an interactive story time, crafting a reindeer headband, and a surprise visit from Father Christmas himself.

 To immerse yourself in this experience, please see the following video:
 - https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1980972942325673

Council Events

The library has hosted various events for both Central Bedfordshire Council, as well as Houghton Regis Town Council.

• CBC's Housing Team continued to host their monthly drop-in Housing Hubs at the library, this being an opportunity for residents to voice their concerns or queries in regards to housing, and to receive advice.



- Central Bedfordshire's Councillors also continue their Help & Advice Surgeries at the library, these are hosted on the last Saturday of the month. If there are any grievances, or if locals need advice, this is a chance to talk to the councillors in a relaxing and safe environment.
- Houghton Regis Town Council held a Christmas Craft Market on the 7th of December in the Bedford Square indoor atrium just outside the library, where there were various stalls full of all sorts of items and trinkets, perfect for gift giving this Christmas.
- With the help of Houghton Regis Town Council, Santa had visited December 14th in his magical grotto hidden away at the Library, with a surprise gift for every child that visited (over 250)

Regular Events

Regular events at the library until the end of 2024 with no plans to stopping in the new year:

- Tuesday's Coffee Morning is warmly welcoming everyone and all to enjoy a warm space, a hot drink and a snack this winter period.
- Rhyme & Story Time is still performed Wednesday mornings during term time, a perfect chance for tots to learn words, numbers and rhymes, all while in a safe social setting.
- Lego Club continues Wednesday afternoons, and it's still a big hit, an opportunity for kids of various ages to use the blocks or Duplo to explore and expand their creativity.
- Knit, Natter & more's popularity has grown, and because of this the library now host it
 every Thursday morning, instead of the original alternating weeks. This charming club is
 perfect for when you want to work on your home based craft projects, but in a social
 setting among like-minded peers.
- Paws to Read is ongoing Thursday afternoons with library volunteer Caroline and her therapy dog Tasha. If your child is reluctant to read or struggling speaking aloud, this is a great opportunity to improve their reading skills and confidence, because Tasha loves to listen to their stories.
- Lego Coding Club is still going strong, and continues to be volunteer run. This is a great experience for children ages 8+ with an interest in coding or computers to see how code they write can be brought to life. However, as of December 2024, this club is currently fully booked into the new year.
- Dough club has been moved from Thursdays to alternating Friday mornings instead. The dough is made fresh on the morning of the club, and there are plenty of toys and tools for the children to shape their own fun.
- Board Games Club during Friday afternoons continues to grow, as it has been very
 popular since it began towards the end of spring. With a wide selection of games to
 choose from, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

School Visits

Local schools have expressed interest in the library and the service it provides, so there have been multiple bookings from local schools to visit the library, sometimes being entire year groups, or specific classes.

Houghton Regis Town Council and Central Bedfordshire Council working in partnership



- St Vincents SRC
- Tithe Farm SRC
- Houghton Regis Primary SRC
- All Saints SRC
- Chiltern

Sustainability

Tiny Forests

We are very pleased that Thornhill Primary School will be planting a Tiny Forest on their school grounds this January. Central Bedfordshire Council support this project through our contractors Earth Watch. A Tiny Forest is created using a method that supports the trees to have a higher than average survival rate. About 400 to 600 carefully chosen tree whips are planted in a compact area roughly the size of a tennis court. The Tiny Forest support carbon sequestration, biodiversity and creates a fantastic experience and ongoing learning opportunities for students. For further information please visit Tiny Forest | Super Tiny. Super Powerful.

Tree planting grants

We are pleased to offer out the tree planting grant again this year. The deadline is 31st January. This grant is for tree and hedgerow on land which has public access. As a team we have expertise to support your scheme and have reviewed the online application to make it simpler. We are delighted to have already awarded Dunstable Rugby Club funds to plant an impressive hedgerow along their boundary. To apply please go to Tree Planting

Carbon Literacy training

Following successful Carbon Literacy Councillor and Officer training for Dunstable Town Council this November, we have seen more interest for the training from other Town and Parish Councils. If you are interested to find out more about Carbon Literacy training please do get in contact. For further information please go to Celebrating Local Councils - The Carbon Literacy Project

Eco Schools

We supported 29 Central Bedfordshire schools and nurseries to receive their Green Flag award this year, a brilliant achievement everyone involved. We continue to look for ways to support schools through this process. If your school is signed up to Eco Schools and would like a member of Sustainability staff to deliver a Eco session for your students please do get in contact. Our Eco Forum for teachers is going strong. The autumn forum involved the Wildlife Trust, while the latest session took us to Whipsnade zoo! Please do get in contact if you work at



a school or nursery and would like to upskill and be part of the fun and supportive Eco Forum Network.

Please contact <u>begreen@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk</u>

Active Travel

Tithe Farm Primary School took part in our Santa Challenge; walking, scooting and cycling an incredible 6436 journeys over two-weeks. We held an air quality day where pupils were able to monitor levels of pollution during a street audit using our new air quality machine. We also provided a Dr Bike session, cycle security marking and lights for pupils scooting and cycling to school.

We supported Thornhill Primary School and the Linmere development with a Park & Stride launch – parents who have no alternative but to drive to school, are able to use the nearby Farmstead to park and then walk the last part of their journey to school.



We continue to work with schools on their Travel Plans, alongside the sustainable travel platform <u>Modeshift STARS</u>.

<u>Bikeability</u> training is available to all schools, and we are able to offer limited Dr Bike sessions to ensure pupils' bikes are in a safe condition to use. We also offer bike security marking to schools who have an active Travel Plan.

Housing - Green Skills and Home Energy Audits

Two new projects to support energy efficient homes are now live.



- Free Green Skills Course are now available. A new training programme has been launched that can help make older homes more energy-efficient in a process called retrofitting. For more information <u>Central Bedfordshire Council news and press releases</u> | Central Bedfordshire Council
- Free Home Energy Audits are now available through the NEF <u>SuperHomes</u> project. For more information visit <u>www.superhomes.org.uk</u>
- Free energy advice to residents struggling to keep their homes warm through the NEF Better Housing Better Health scheme. For more information visit <u>Better Housing Better</u> <u>Health</u>

Community Energy

Three new community energy groups have formed in Central Bedfordshire area since the Council started working partnership with Community Energy South, as part of a three-year pathways programme. For more information visit Community energy | Central Bedfordshire Council

The groups teamed up to train as Energy Champions and deliver home energy advice to the Central Bedfordshire residents for free. If you would like to receive advice how to reduce your bills and improve energy efficiency of your home, please contact a group closest to you. To find out groups location and how to contact them please visit the groups network website Our Network.

Energy Champions held a 'retrofitting your home' event on Monday 20th January, 7:30pm at St Andrew's Church Chapter House, Ampthill. The key theme was making our homes more eco with renewable energy and flexi tariffs and various other technologies. The session was available to all residents.

Highways

Note: same information as previous report (July 2024)

Repairs in Houghton Regis

The below table shows the number of reactive maintenance repairs carried out in Houghton Regis between 1^{st} May $2024 - 11^{th}$ July 2024

Defect Repaired	Total Number
Potholes	60
Street Light Repair	20



Bollards and signs	10
Footway patching schemes	3

Annual Plan – 2023/24 Completed Works

The below table provides an overview of planned works in the Houghton Regis Ward.

Works Category	Scheme Name	Location	Parish	Work Type
Pipework/attenuation	Drury Lane	Drury Lane	Houghton Regis	Construction
Drainage - Design	Drury Lane Design	Drury Lane	Houghton Regis	Design Only
Parking	Knightly Close	Knightly Close	Houghton Regis	Design Only
Parking	The Cloisters Parking Scheme	The Cloisters	Houghton Regis	Design & Construction
Traffic Management and Capacity	Parkside Drive	Parkside Drive	Houghton Regis	Design Only
Traffic Management and Capacity	Windsor Drive	Near junction with Longbrooke	Houghton Regis	Design & Construction
Footway resurfacing	St Micheals Ave FW Resurfacing	St Micheals Ave	Houghton Regis	WTB Construction
Carriageway Resurfacing	Watling Street C/W Resurfacing	Watling Street	Houghton Regis	WTB Construction
Carriageway Resurfacing	Redhouse Court	Redhouse Court	Houghton Regis	Design & Construction
Carriageway Resurfacing	Clarkes Way	Clarkes Way	Houghton Regis	Design Only
Surface Dressing	Sewell Lane	Sewell Lane	Houghton Regis	Design & Construction



Fix My Street Improvements

Our Highways team have been working hard to improve the Fix My Street system making it easier for residents to use whilst ensuring our teams receive the best information possible.

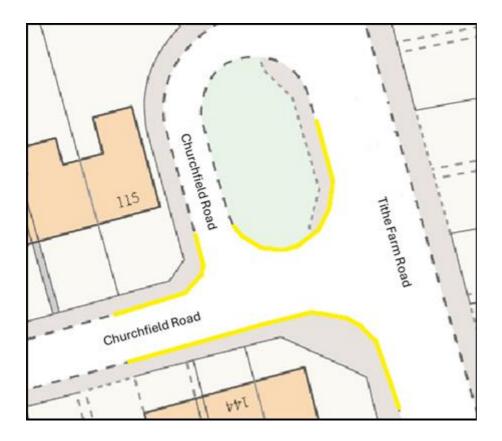
Below is a list of recent and upcoming improvements to the system.

- Rights of Way integration with Fix My Street is complete
- Search bar added to the system to easily find a category
- Fly-tipping integration completed
- Pothole category updated so residents can report road potholes specifically

If you see an issue on the Highway network please report it online, <u>FixMyStreet</u> (centralbedfordshire.gov.uk).

Highways Consultations

A00456 Tithe Farm Road and Churchfield Road Houghton Regis



Houghton Regis Town Council and Central Bedfordshire Council working in partnership



Environmental Services

Waste Management

Waste Collections

Some collection delays were experienced due to the flooding event and associated road closures, recollection of all roads affected was organised the following day

Litter Bins

No dog or litter bin installations or repairs during this period

Environmental Management

Fly Tips and Street Cleansing

Street Cleansing:

• Additional leaf fall crew deployed across CBC to clear high priority areas

Large Fly Tip Clearances:

- Kent Road Yellow hippo bag containing building waste
- Thorn Road Large amount of green waste
- Hammersmith Gardens Pile of garden waste and a large piece of trellis
- Bedford Road Large pile of pallets and bags
- Trident Drive Pile of tree cuttings
- Sundon Road Pile of rubble
- Elmers Gate 30+ tyres
- Arenson Way Large pile of builders and green waste
- Arenson Way Large pile of green waste and litter
- Elm Park Close Assorted building materials
- Elm Park Close Top box part of campervan



Grounds Maintenance

- Final grass cut completed.
- Final weed spray application completed.
- Final hedge cut completed.
- Completed shrub cut 11, moving on to the final shrub cut (12).

Abandoned Vehicles (1st July to 30th November)

• 76 vehicles reported for inspection, 5 of which were destroyed

Dog Patrols (1 st July to 30th November)						
Location	Notes					
 Bedford Road Bromley Gardens Drury Lane Hillborough Crescent Leafields Redhouse Court Recreation Ground Tudor Drive 20 	All above roads are patrolled once per week. Hillborough Crescent, Bedford Road and Redhouse court patrolled twice per week					

Service Development

From January, we are introducing the following changes at our Household Waste Recycling Centres (Tidy Tips):

- **Carpet disposal:** Disposal is limited to 2 visits per household per year. You will need to have a waste permit which is free to apply for
- Mattress disposal: Disposal is limited to 2 per household per year. You will need to have a waste permit which is free to apply for.
- **Tyre disposal:** A charge of £11.30 per tyre will apply. This applies to all tyre disposal. For the disposal of any tyres, you will need to have a waste permit.



A charge to dispose of old tyres, still less than at most garages, is in line with government legislation. Tyres are not classified as household waste and cost the council to dispose of – a cost that is currently passed on to all Council taxpayers.

Youth Support Services

Update on NEETs within the wider Central Bedfordshire area

The figures presented in the table are those reported to NCCIS/DfE as **FINALISED** at the end of **November 2024**.

Headline Figures for the whole Central Bedfordshire area							
Cohort	Total number of young people	Positiv destin	e (EET) ations	NEET destination			
16year olds / Year 12	3782	3636	(96.1%)	76	(2.0%)		
17year olds / Year 13	3434	3319 (96.7%)		92	(2.7%)		
Combined cohort	7216	6955	(96.4%)	168	(2.3%)		

Overview for the Houghton Regis area compared to other local areas

The figures presented in the various tables below are based on the data stored within the Youth Support Service's CCIS database for young people as of **17th December 2024**.

	Dunstable	Houghton Regis	Leighton Buzzard
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Total YPs in area	105	55	656		114	48
EET	959	(90.9%)	606	(92.4%)	1095	(95.4%)
NEET	18	(1.7%)	12	(1.8%)	27	(2.4%)
Unknown/Refused	78	(7.4%)	38	(5.8%)	26	(2.3%)

Characteristics of the NEET Group in the Houghton Regis area

Summary of the individual Houghton Regis wards

Ward	Total number of YPs in the Year 12-13 cohort	Total number of YPs recorded as NEET	% of NEET within ward
Houghton Regis East	376	7	1.9%
Houghton Regis West	280	5	1.8%
Total	656	12	1.8%

Summary of the Houghton Regis NEET cohort by age, time, and gender

Actual Age (Ye	ar 12 & 13)	Length of Time NEET		Gender	
16 years old	3	Less than 3 months	1	Male	6
17 years old	8	3 - 6 months	6	Female	6
18 years old	1	6+ months	5	Not Recorded	0

Summary status of the Houghton Regis NEET cohort

Status



Seeking Employment or Training	10	(83.3%)
Unable to work due to 'Personal Circumstances'	2	(16.7%)

The Youth Support Service will offer support to 16-18 years olds who are NEET (*up to 25 if they have an EHCP or care leaver*). Referrals can be made by emailing youth.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Communications and Engagement

Feedback on the council's budget

Central Bedfordshire Council is under huge financial pressure and is having to make some tough financial decisions in the months to come.

As with all local authorities, the council's finances were already under pressure with high inflation, interest rates, and increasing demand for school transport. On top of this, rising costs for Children's Services and Adult Social Care and substantial increases in demand for such services mean the council's costs are forecast to be £32million more than its income next year.

Most council services are funded through Council Tax, but even a repeat of the 5 per cent increase approved last year would not bring in enough extra money to pay for the council's existing services.

The council has set out plans for changing some services to reduce costs further and is asking the public for their views. Among the changes are proposals to reduce the number of staff employed across the council which might mean the council will be slower to respond to some queries. The council is also proposing to introduce a booking system for Household Waste Recycling Centres (tidy tips) which will permit each one to close on the two quietest days of the week. Furthermore, the council is looking at removing safer neighbourhood patrols although it is clear that this will not reduce the number of officers assigned to dealing with anti-social behaviour. The council also proposes to review high-cost home care packages where this exceeds the cost of providing care in a care home.

You can <u>read more about the council's budget proposals and have your say online</u> or pick up a paper copy at a council library.

The consultation closes on 4 February 2025.

Elected councillors will consider the feedback before setting a final budget in February 2025.





Young person's card continues to allow 18s and under to 'get around for a pound' in Central Bedfordshire and beyond

Using buses in Central Bedfordshire remains highly affordable for young people as the £1 maximum single fare for anyone aged 18 and under, introduced in 2024, will continue for the foreseeable future.

The scheme, known as the YP Card, has been a resounding success since its launch, enabling young people to travel around Central Bedfordshire and to nearby towns and cities for just £1 per single journey. The initiative continues to make public transport accessible, encouraging greater use of local buses among young residents.

This program ensures that young people will maintain their freedom to explore the local area conveniently and affordably, enhancing their ability to participate in educational, social, and recreational activities.

This discounted travel scheme for young people is funded by the Bus Service Improvement Plan grant received from the UK government.

Read more about the young person's bus card.

For assistance with applications or enquiries, please email public.transport@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

Consultations

Details of current and upcoming consultation activity undertaken by the Council are provided by the Community Intelligence Team. For more information about this update please contact Clare Harding, tel: 0300 300 6109 (ext. 76109).

Current consultations and surveys						
Subject	Description	Start	End	Lead officer(s)		
Admissions Arrangements 2026-27	Consultation on proposed changes to the Admissions Arrangements for academic year 2026-27.	18 Dec 2024	29 Jan 2025	Lydia Braisher 0300 300 5254		
Housing Revenue Account survey	Survey with tenants to have their say on how their rent money is spent and to help shape the housing service plans.	2 Dec 2024	4 Feb 2024	Ruhelly Begum 0300 300 5388		
Children and Young People's Plan 2025-28	Consultation on the draft plan.	18 Dec 2024	17 Feb 2025	Lisa Shepherd		



				0300 300 4237
Landlord Assurance Board	Consultation with tenants about the development of a landlord assurance board for the CBC Housing service.	20 Dec 2024	2 Feb 2025	Charlotte Gurney 0300 300 5345
Budget 2025/26	Consultation on the draft Budget for 2025/26	7 Jan 2025	4 Feb 2025	Denis Galvin 0300 300 6083

Upcoming consultations and surveys				
Subject	Description	Start	End	Lead officer(s)
Pharmaceutical Needs Analysis	Engagement survey with residents to understand pharmaceutical usage. This is a joint survey with Bedford and Milton Keynes	Tbc	Tbc	Karen McCormack- Morgan (based at Milton Keynes) 01908 252327

Upcoming Meetings

February

- Corporate Resources OSC 11 February 2025 at 10:00 AM
- Development Management Committee 12 February 2025 at 10:00 AM
- Sustainable Communities OSC 13 February 2025 at 10:00 AM
- Social Care, Health and Housing OSC 17 February 2025 at 10:00 AM
- Corporate Parenting Board 18 February 2025 at 02:00 PM
- Executive 18 February 2025 at 06:30 PM
- Audit 25 February 2025 at 10:00 AM
- Children's Services OSC 27 February 2025 at 10:00 AM
- Full Council 27 February 2025 at 06:30 PM



March

- Full Council 06 March 2025 at 06:30 PM
- Development Management Committee 12 March 2025 at 10:00 AM
- SEND Sub-Committee 13 March 2025 at 09:30 AM
- Licensing Committee 19 March 2025 at 10:00 AM
- Police and Crime Advisory Panel 19 March 2025 at 06:30 PM
- Traffic Management 20 March 2025 at 10:00 AM
- SACRE 25 March 2025 at 04:00 PM
- General Purposes 27 March 2025 at 09:00 AM
- Dunstable Joint Committee 27 March 2025 at 07:00 PM





Central Bedfordshire in contact

Find us online: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Email:

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Write to: Central Bedfordshire Council, Priory House,

Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, Bedfordshire SG17 5TQ