



## Report to Cabinet

<b>Date:</b>	29 March 2022
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Succeeding as a Place: Achieving our Shared Vision for Buckinghamshire to 2050</b>
<b>Cabinet Member(s):</b>	Martin Tett, Leader of the Council
<b>Contact officer:</b>	Lisa Michelson
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	All Wards
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<b>Cabinet are asked to endorse the Buckinghamshire Growth Board's Strategic Vision for 2050</b>
<b>Reason for decision:</b>	Once the Strategic Vision for 2050 has been endorsed by Cabinet, the document can be formally signed off by the Growth Board at its next meeting in May 2022.

### **1. Executive summary**

- 1.1 The Buckinghamshire Strategic Vision for 2050 has been developed by the Buckinghamshire Growth Board with input from partner organisations and other key stakeholders. The Growth Board approved the most recent draft with minor changes at its December 2021 meeting and it is now ready for endorsement by its partner boards, including Buckinghamshire Council's Cabinet.

### **2. Content of report**

- 2.1 The Buckinghamshire Strategic Vision has been developed by and for the Buckinghamshire Growth Board as an expression of our shared long-term ambition across partner members for the future of Buckinghamshire 'the place' to 2050.
- 2.2 The Strategic Vision is a multi-purpose document that sets out the key priorities and objectives partners (including the Council) will take forward. The Strategic Vision is influential in guiding emerging strategies and play a core function in the deliverables of the Growth Board partners. It also establishes our identity and sets out our

aspirations to Buckinghamshire's residents and businesses, as well as regionally and nationally.

- 2.3 The content of The Strategic Vision was written in conjunction with Buckinghamshire's Recovery and Growth Proposal looking closely at how the objectives align in delivering a Buckinghamshire that facilitates placemaking and economic growth.
- 2.4 The Strategic Vision for Buckinghamshire will:
- a) **Express our shared ambition and focus** by setting the commitment and direction to improve the economic, environmental and social health of Buckinghamshire
  - b) **Tell the compelling narrative for Buckinghamshire** by using our single voice to make clear our willingness to engage and deliver sustainable and ambitious clean growth. Setting out what our priorities are and where we wish to go.
  - c) **Set the strategic direction and overarching guidance** that has previously been absent to enable the shared 2050 goal to be achieved in all future plans, strategies, and frameworks.
  - d) **Establish our identity** nationally and in the context of the wider South East region by bringing together our successes, future opportunities, and challenges.
- 2.5 The Strategic Vision can help to achieve a truly integrated and co-ordinated programme of investment in infrastructure, skills, services, and the environment and assist in creating the conditions for people to flourish and achieve their potential. This sits alongside helping to facilitate Buckinghamshire's communities to reflect the wider determinants of health and promote wellbeing for all.
- 2.6 Appended to this report is the proposed Strategic Vision document itself.
- 2.7 In December 2021 the Buckinghamshire Growth Board approved the draft Strategic Vision for 2050, subject to some minor amendments, for endorsement of the document at its partners' boards. The appended Strategic Vision document is now with partners who are seeing the document in its fully designed format. Each partner board is being asked to endorse the Strategic Vision so that there is full agreement prior to publication by the Buckinghamshire Growth Board.

### **3. Other options considered**

- 3.1 The other option we have is to not produce a Strategic Vision which would limit our ability to set out a shared ambition as a coterminous Buckinghamshire.

## **4. Legal and financial implications**

- 4.1 There are no legal or financial implications to the endorsement of the Strategic Vision document. The Strategic Vision document will be used in the future to help demonstrate Buckinghamshire's ambitions when applying for future government funding.

## **5. Corporate implications**

- 5.1 In the drafting of the Strategic Vision strategies and policy documents from the Council and partner organisations were reviewed. The Strategic Vision builds upon each of the priorities of the corporate plan through sustainable, innovative and collaborative growth and regeneration across Buckinghamshire.
- 5.2 Improving the economy of Buckinghamshire and increasing prosperity is a central theme of the Strategic Vision with one of the three key ambitions being 'successful businesses and careers'. The Vision recognises the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities regarding the county's economy and sets out a roadmap to 2050 to how things could be improved.
- 5.3 Another of the three strategic ambitions is to enable a 'thriving culture, heritage and natural environment', influenced strongly by the corporate plan's environmental priority.

## **6. Local councillors & community boards consultation & views**

- 6.1 Several cabinet members sit on the Buckinghamshire Growth Board so their views have been incorporated in the document over the time that it has been developed.
- 6.2 The strategic vision was also discussed at a meeting of the Community Board Chairs in September 2021, where their feedback was also considered and fed into the document.

## **7. Communication, engagement & further consultation**

- 7.1 From June 2020 to December 2021, there has been a series of engagement activities with multiple key stakeholders.
- 7.2 Firstly, in June 2020, topic specific discussions were held with officers of the Buckinghamshire Growth Board members according to their specialities.
- 7.3 From July 2020 to March 2021, the document was taken to multiple meetings with Buckinghamshire Council Planning Growth and Sustainability, Buckinghamshire

Council Corporate Management Team, and Buckinghamshire Local Economic Partnership Board. Over this period, these groups were invited to provide input.

7.4 During the summer of 2021 engagement was undertaken with key stakeholders and community boards. As well as engagement with stakeholders the Vision was discussed at the Growth, Infrastructure and Housing Select Committee. Summaries below are the common theme of comments received during the engagement including:

- a) There is a lack of understanding of the purpose of the ambition. Comments included the purpose is not clear enough and suggestions for changes included adding step by step explanations of how each aspect will be achieved.
- b) The vision needs to consider strategies to make housing more affordable in the county.
- c) The vision is too generic and could apply to any county.
- d) The roadmap could be expanded in the shorter term.
- e) It needs some measurables to track progress and ensure we are meeting the ambitions that are set out.
- f) There is an issue of intra-Buckinghamshire connectivity which should be addressed.

7.5 Throughout the development of the document, feedback from the engagement was incorporated.

7.6 More recently as part of this endorsement process, it has been suggested that the document could be brought up to date to include reference to Government's recent announcement on their Levelling Up agenda. If the Council considers that this should be included, any further changes will need to be considered by the Growth Board at their next meeting.

## **8. Next steps and review**

8.1 Once the vision is endorsed by Cabinet and the other partner boards, it will go back to the Buckinghamshire Growth Board in April for final review and endorsement. Moving forward, the Strategic Vision will be reviewed regularly as a living document.

## **9. Background papers**

9.1 Not applicable.

## **10. Your questions and views**

- 10.1 If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report please get in touch with the author of this report. If you have any views that you would like the cabinet member to consider please inform the democratic services team. This can be done by telephone [01296 382343] or email [[democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)]

