

Response to Buckinghamshire Select Committee Inquiry

Select Committee Inquiry Title: Is the Council Ready for Growth?

Committee Chairman: David Carroll, Brian Roberts, David Watson, Dev Dhillion.

Date report submitted for response:

Lead BCC Cabinet Member (where response required from BCC Cabinet) and Lead Officer: Martin Tett and Mark Kemp

Select Committee Support Officer / Advisor (Extension): Kama Wager (2615)

Suggested frequency of future updates (e.g. 6 & 12 months): 6 and 12 months.

Recommendation	Agreed Yes/No	BCC Cabinet / Partner Agency Response including proposed action	Responsible Cabinet Member (for BCC recs)	Responsible Officer	Action by date
<p>As an overarching response to the Inquiry, the Cabinet wished to emphasise the importance of working collaboratively with key partners and stakeholders in relation to all aspects of the growth agenda. This applies to each of the recommendations below, and the Cabinet's response to these.</p>					
<p>1. That Business Units' Commercial Plans for 2018-2022 and other key plans & strategies reflect how services are planning for the impact of future housing and population growth and show links to the Bucks Strategic Infrastructure Plan.</p>	Y	<p>In reviewing the Business Plans for each Business Unit Cabinet Members and Executive Directors will ensure that the implications of growth are reflected in the all Plans including the Medium Term Financial Plan.</p>	All	All	Feb 2018 and then ongoing
<p>2. That the Bucks Strategic Infrastructure Plan becomes one of the Council's key strategies for responding to growth and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes explicit the links between housing and population growth and potential changes to demand for Council services • Is embedded across all Business Units 	Y	<p>Completion of action 1 above will support delivery of a cross organisational approach to supporting the Growth Agenda. It is important that this is supported through the Corporate Working Group (identified in 3. below) and will be regularly reviewed through the councils Business Planning and Medium Term Financial Plan processes.</p>	Cllr Bill Chapple	Mark Kemp	Feb 2018

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates that all Business Units have been involved in its development. 					
<p>3. That the current governance arrangements around the growth agenda are strengthened to ensure a strategic view and maximise the Council's influence around housing development by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreeing formal Terms of Reference for the Corporate Working Group. • Ensuring permanent membership of the Group from key service areas in each Business Unit. • Making sure membership roles are clearly articulated. • Agreeing and documenting a formal reporting mechanism on outcomes from the meetings to Corporate Management Team (CMT) and Cabinet. • Ensuring all Cabinet Members have the same level of knowledge around planned growth and can help drive planning in Business Units. • Annual report to Council on growth and progress made on action plans. 	Y	<p>Formal Terms of Reference will be developed for the Corporate Working Group and agreed by Cabinet and CMT identifying membership roles and including any enhancement to the current quarterly Growth Update process that is needed to ensure the implications of growth are fully considered across the council. Actions linked to growth should be embedded in the Business Plans and monitoring of progress against those actions can be undertaken through the normal Business Plan progress review process.</p>	Cllr Bill Chapple	Mark Kemp	ToR agreed by CMT in discussion with Cab by Jan 2018
<p>4. That the Council develops a single repository for relevant growth data and analysis to</p>	Y	<p>The Council's Business Intelligence & Insight function is currently leading the development of an integrated data platform which will host</p>	Cllr Martin Tett	Sarah Ashmead/ Mark Kemp	March 18

enable sharing of data between Business Units.		data from across the organisation, including growth data, and provide the longer term solution. In the short term, all data analysis related to growth will be stored in a shared folder accessible by all Business Units.			
5. The Bucks Strategic Infrastructure Plan should be promoted as a key strand of the Council's prospectus for growth to Government to demonstrate the Council's ambition and lever additional funding.	Y	The Bucks Strategic Infrastructure Plan is being integrated with the emerging Growth Strategy which will provide the overall prospectus for growth in Buckinghamshire. The next phase of the Plan will be developed over the remaining months this year and will give more clarity to the range of infrastructure needed to support the growth agenda.	Cllr Martin Tett	Neil Gibson	March 2018
6. That the Council develops a longer term Capital and investment programme to enable a more robust strategic approach to addressing the impacts of the growth agenda.	Y	Delivery of the overall strategy involves multiple organisations and the council will work closely with BTVLEP to develop a robust strategic approach. The council's contribution to this will be developed in conjunction with the Asset Strategy Board.	Cllr John Chilver	Richard Ambrose	Mar 2018
7. That clawback mechanisms should always be used to review new developments as they progress and that, where these have increased in value, the Council should re-assess developer contributions.	Y	The Corporate Working Group will review the council's current policy position and recommend appropriate adjustments such that should the council not achieve all its asks related to a specific development it would look to renegotiate if the viability of the development improves after the initial agreement is reached..	Cllr Bill Chapple/ Cllr John Chilver	Mark Kemp/ Richard Ambrose	Mar 2018