

Report to Cabinet

Title:	Is The Council Ready For Growth?
Date:	Monday 25 September 2017
Date can be implemented:	Tuesday 03 October 2017
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Local members affected:	All
Portfolio areas affected:	All

For press enquiries concerning this report, please contact the media office on 01296 382444

Summary

'Is the Council Ready for Growth?' was a joint inquiry undertaken by all of the Council's Select Committees. It was set-up to investigate whether the County Council is ready for growth and the impact it will have on its services. It reviewed preparations at a strategic level and each Select Committee gathered evidence, with information provided by the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Members and Senior Officers from the Business Units.

The findings and recommendations in this report are a culmination across all the Select Committees.

Recommendation

That Cabinet AGREES the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee Inquiry 'Is the Council Ready for Growth?' as follows:

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.
2. That the Bucks Strategic Infrastructure Plan becomes one of the Council's key strategies for responding to growth and:
 - Makes explicit the links between housing and population growth and potential changes to demand for Council services
 - Is embedded across all Business Units
 - Demonstrates that all Business Units have been involved in its development.
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:
 - 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.
4. That the Council develops a single repository for relevant growth data and analysis to enable sharing of data between 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.
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.
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.

A. Narrative setting out the reasons for the decision

See report as set out in Appendix 1.

B. Other options available, and their pros and cons

As above.

C. Resource implications

None.

D. Value for Money (VfM) Self Assessment

As above.

E. Legal implications

None.

F. Property implications

There are no property implications.

G. Other implications/issues

See report as set out in Appendix 1.

H. Feedback from consultation, Local Area Forums and Local Member views

None.

I. Communication issues

The response will be published following Cabinet's decision and the recommendations will be owned by the Select Committees.

J. Progress Monitoring

Progress on recommendations will be reported to the Transport, Economy and Communities Select Committee after 6 & 12 months. As this is a joint Select Committee report, the Chairman from the Council's other Select Committees will be invited to attend the relevant Committee meetings. Lead officers will be required to provide written response updates. The Cabinet Member and relevant lead officers will be invited to the Select Committee to follow-up on progress.

K. Review

As above.

Background Papers

None identified.

Your questions and views

If you have any questions about the matters contained in this paper please get in touch with the Contact Officer whose telephone number is given at the head of the paper.

If you have any views on this paper that you would like the Cabinet Member to consider, or if you wish to object to the proposed decision, please inform the Member Services Team by 5.00pm on Friday 22 September 2017. This can be done by telephone (to 01296 382343), or e-mail to democracy@buckscc.gov.uk