

# Minutes

## Cabinet

Date: 7 January 2019

Venue: Mezzanine Rooms 1 & 2, County Hall, Aylesbury

Time: 10.30 am to 12.45 pm

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr M Tett (in the Chair).

Mr M Appleyard, Mr N Brown, Mr W Chapple OBE, Mr J Chilver, Lin Hazell and Mr W Whyte

### **OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Julia Wassell and Mr D Dhillon

### **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Ms R Bennett, Mr R Ambrose, Mrs S Ashmead, Ms R Shimmin, Ms B Heran, Ms G Badhan, Ms J Bowie and Mr M Dickman

### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Mr M Shaw, Cabinet Member for Transportation, and his deputy Mr P Irwin attended on his behalf.

### **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

### **3 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the meeting held on 10 December were **AGREED** as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

## 4 HOT TOPICS

**The Cabinet Member for Transportation** highlighted the success of the children's Christmas present campaign with over 2,000 having been donated. Mr Shaw thanked staff and residents for their contribution and Mr Tett thanked Mr Shaw and Mr Irwin for their hard work on the campaign.

**The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills** highlighted the Home to School Transport consultation that had closed on 4 January. There would now be a delay in the current school term while responses were reviewed with more information due in March and April.

**The Cabinet Member for Children's Services** also gave thanks to Mr Shaw and Mr Irwin for the Christmas present campaign. Mr Whyte drew Cabinet's attention to the Ofsted monitoring visit before Christmas and the expectation of feedback with the coming week. Mr Whyte also highlighted the fostering events taking place in High Wycombe on 16 January and the adoption information event in Aston Clinton on 11 January. Details of all events could be found on the Bucks County Council (BCC) website.

**The Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing** highlighted that the Government had published the NHS long term plan and some detail had already been highlighted in the press. Lin Hazel stated that she was disappointed that it was published without the Green Paper and Cabinet would be updated once the details of the plan became clearer. Mr Tett also highlighted his disappointment in still no publication of the Green Paper, which had now been delayed for over a year.

**The Leader** stated that the Council's budget scrutiny process would be starting on 8 January, running for 3 days. The scrutiny sessions would run for 3 days with Members being cross-examined on their portfolio budgets. Mr Tett highlighted that BCC went over and above what other local authorities did in terms of budget scrutiny.

## 5 QUESTION TIME

Julia Wassell, County Councillor for Ryemead and Micklefield attended the meeting to highlight complaints received by residents due to the A40 major project development and the sequencing of traffic lights causing chaos that she had not been consulted on.

During the meeting, Mr Irwin feedback that there was a fault in the light system which was being looked into the previous sequencing would be referred back to.

Julia Wassell asked the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing and responsible for residential short breaks what other opportunities carers would have to understand the changes proposed in particular relating to transfer to the Aylesbury site, funding and proposed mix service use.

Lin Hazell responded by stating that these concerns would be picked up under the Residential Short Breaks for Adults item later on the agenda.

Julia Wassell also asked Lin Hazell if she was aware of the excellent trailblazer pilot scheme in Aylesbury reaching out to children in schools to prevent mental health conditions and that the NHS 10 year plan was planning to extend it to 350k people, but no parity between mental health and physical health so more work was needed.

Lin Hazell stated that mental health in Children's was the responsibility of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, however agreed with Julia Wassell's points and stated that mental health was a high priority in Adults too.

Mr W Whyte, Cabinet Member for Children's Services stated that there were a number of different types of mental health work undertaken by the Council and also co-commissioned with the NHS, including the online counselling service Kooth, a great service focused on mental health for children. Oxford Health had also announced last year that individuals could self-refer to their service.

Julia Wassell directed a statement at Mr J Chilver, Cabinet Member for Resources stating that with the proposal to sell the Seeley's House site he stood to get a capital receipt of £3.5m and that carers were not happy that this was going into general funds in particular as it was believed that charitable money went into the building. Julia Wassell asked for reassurances as to why these financial decisions were being made.

Mr Chilver stated that he would look into the restrictions on charitable donations. Mr Tett stated that the general principle was that the sale of any asset by a service would come into the corporate centre.

Mr D Dhillon, County Councillor for Cliveden thanked Mr Chapple for the discussions held within his division regarding the household waste recycling centre changes, however himself and residents were disappointed in the proposed closure of the Burnham site. Mr Dhillon had sent pictures of eight examples of fly tipping around the Burnham site area to Mr Chapple.

Mr Dhillon asked why estimates to travel to alternative sites were based on google map estimates between 10am-2pm and with the service level agreement with Slough Borough Council that funding that would be lost and the extra cost to clear incidents of fly tipping.

Mr Chapple stated that fly tipping was happening while these sites were still open and that this demonstrated they were two different issues to be addressed, fly tipping was typically carried out by criminals and not by residents. The County had a high success rate of catching fly tippers, 1 in 38 while nationally it was 1 in 638. Mr Chapple stated that the Council spent approximately £200k of the fly tipping issue.

Mr Chapple stated that using google estimates was the most accurate way to estimate travel time between sites and was not aware of a particular reason why 10am – 2pm had been

selected. Mr Chapple also stated that the contract with Slough Borough Council would continue.

Mr Chapple read out a statement from Mr B Bendyshe-Brown, County Councillor for The Risboroughs regarding the Household Waste Recycling Centre proposals. The statement would be appended to the minutes.

## **6 FORWARD PLAN FOR CABINET AND CABINET MEMBERS**

**RESOLVED: Cabinet NOTED the report.**

## **7 CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS**

**RESOLVED: Cabinet NOTED the report.**

## **8 SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME & INQUIRY WORK PROGRAMME**

**RESOLVED: Cabinet NOTED the report.**

## **9 UNITARY UPDATE**

Mr Tett confirmed that they were awaiting a letter from the Minister that was expected later that day, which would set out the governance for the implementation of the new council. A special meeting of the Cabinet was being held on Thursday 10 January to discuss.

## **10 RESIDENTIAL SHORT BREAKS (RESPITE) FOR ADULTS**

**Lin Hazel, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing introduced the report and made reference to the following:**

- The current provisions in Buckinghamshire were in need of modernisation relating to the built environment at Seeley's House in Beaconsfield and the quality and nature of services provided
- The Care Quality Commission had rated Seeley's House as inadequate in November 2016, Needs Improvement June 2017 and Needs Improvement in February 2018.
- The Commission were currently running a 10 week public consultation on the draft Adults Short Break Policy due to end on 14 January.
- Next steps were for Cabinet to consider the proposal for a new county residential Short Breaks Service and for it to be agreed that a six week consultation could start with those affected by the changes while the policy is being developed.
- Lin Hazel highlighted that there had already been a lot of consultation with users.

**Ms J Bowie, Service Director Integrated Commissioning also attended the meeting to answer any questions from Cabinet. Ms Bowie highlighted the following points:**

- The report before Cabinet was seeking agreement to start a six week consultation with service users and carers involved.

- Transfer of current service delivered on the Seeley's site and making it a joint integrated service with Health on the Aylesbury site in order to make better use of the site as currently underutilised.
- Meetings had been held with service users and carers from Seeley's House and the Aylesbury day service on 20 December and 3 January, prior to the papers being published for Cabinet.
- Sessions had been held with two local charities, South Bucks Association for Disabled and Friends of Seeley's House.
- The current value of the land at Seeley's house was £4.5m.

**Cabinet raised and discussed the following points:**

- It was highlighted that feedback suggested that some carers had been consulted yet and were not clear what the proposals were. It was noted that all engagement to date was pre consultation work and they were only now entering into a six week formal consultation process.
- Ms Bowie highlighted that there had and would continue to be communications on the extensive progress with the strategy and policy and how it would be rolled out.
- More engagement events were planned and the consultation would be open to all including those carers that had already been engaged with.

The report set out the following recommendations:

- **Cabinet is asked to approve a six-week consultation on:**
  - **The transfer of residential short break services from the Beaconsfield site to a partial new build on the Aylesbury Opportunities Centre site**
  - **An integrated service jointly commissioned with Buckinghamshire CCG to be based at Aylesbury Opportunities Centre.**
  - **The reduction in day service capacity at Aylesbury Opportunities Centre.**
- **Cabinet is asked to delegate approval of ongoing work in relation to the transfer of residential short breaks service to Aylesbury Opportunities Centre to the Lead Member for Health & Wellbeing.**

**RESOLVED: Cabinet AGREED the recommendations.**

**11 SMARTER BUCKS STRATEGY**

Mr Tett introduced the item by stating the importance of ensuring that the County Council were taking into account what the district councils were doing to ensure a smoother transition to a unitary authority. Mr Chilver stated that the strategy had been reviewed in light of the unitary decision and focused on shorter timeframes. The strategy did not seek to cover the work of the new council.

**Mr J Chilver, Cabinet Member for Resources introduced the Strategy and highlighted the following:**

- The strategy built on the strong processes already in place.
- It placed residents at the heart of what the Council do, ensuring improved access.
- Funds had been committed which included £15m from the Capital programme.
- Mr Chilver was confident that the Council could deliver an excellent service that could be taken through into the new authority.

**Ms B Heran, Joint Strategy Director, also attended the meeting to answer any questions from Cabinet. Ms Heran highlighted the following points:**

- The strategy was deliberately shorter and focussed on Buckinghamshire as a whole. It would improve infrastructure and put the authority in a better place to transition into the new authority.
- Ms Heran stated that regular meetings were held with district colleagues with collective agreement on work programmes that would continue, be stopped or put on hold.
- Focus was being put on items that needed to be in place on day one of the new authority and a programme of works for direction of travel.
- The strategy recommended a hybrid approach and that allowed the authority to have more varied options.
- The strategy focussed on five themes:
  - **Smarter County** – using technology to create opportunities and ensure Buckinghamshire thrives;
  - **Smarter Communities** – safeguarding our vulnerable and building self-reliant communities;
  - **Smarter for Customers** – making it easier for people to access our services;
  - **Smarter Council** – creating an efficient organisation, helping staff and Members to do their jobs;
  - **Enablement** – delivering this Strategy and ensuring value for money.
- Work within Children's and Adult Social Care would continue.
- The ICT Improvement Programme was being reviewed along the unitary plan to understand what work would continue, be put on hold or stopped.
- The strategy had already been seen by the Finance, Performance and Resources Select Committee.

**Cabinet raised and discussed the following points:**

- Cabinet Members were reassured that the strategy took into account integration with the NHS but also taking into account benefits for all five councils.
- Cabinet raised issues with the Broadband coverage map contained within the report as it seemed to be out of date. Ms Heran confirmed that the map was the latest requested from Ofcom before Christmas, but as soon as an updated map was issued it would be included.
- Cabinet asked to be updated on those showing red on the broadband map, which were commercial properties and which were residential as this had an impact on whether they would be eligible to be subsidised.

**ACTION: Ms Heran**

- It was also queried as to when community schemes were added to the map. Ms Heran suggested that Members could contact her with any specific queries.

The report set out the following recommendation.

**Cabinet is asked to approve the new Smarter Buckinghamshire Strategy (2018- 2020) and nominate the Technology and Digital Board to oversee and monitor the delivery of the Strategy and provide an annual update on progress.**

**RESOLVED: Cabinet APPROVED the above recommendations and asked for a further update in 6 months' time.**

## **12 PROPOSED HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE SERVICE CHANGES**

Mr B Chapple, Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment introduced the report and Mr M Dickman, Environment Services Director and Ms G Badhan, Head of Waste Management also attended the meeting to answer any questions from Cabinet.

Mr Chapple gave a briefing to Cabinet, which was appended to the minutes.

### **Cabinet raised and discussed the following points:**

- The decision was required due to budget constraints rather than the service provided, which was praised.
- The options explored including charging for household waste by changing the status of the sites to community sites. Mr Chapple stated that this had been explored, however this loophole would be filled in 2020 and a long term solution was required.
- The importance of publicity regarding the changes for residents and staff and in particular supporting staff in order for them to be able to answer questions from residents. Mr Chapple stated that each of the sites had communications in place and there had been extensive media coverage. Mr Chapple assured Cabinet that communication was a top priority.
- It was highlighted that the Burnham site numbers would be reviewed in 6 months' time to ascertain if the site could remain open. Mr Chapple stated that this was to ensure the expected income from all of the sites could be achieved. It was also asked why Bledlow would close over Burnham and Mr Chapple stated that it was down to the numbers.
- Cabinet raised the concerns picked up in the consultation relating to the possible increase in fly tipping if the proposals were agreed. Mr Chapple stated that fly tipping was rarely carried out by residents but by criminals. It was discussed that residents needed to be more vigilant when paying a third party to take their waste to ensure they had the appropriate paperwork to be able to legally dispose it.
- Mr Chapple highlighted that he had written to central government on a number of occasions and met the Minister to discuss harder penalties on those prosecuted.
- Lin Hazel stated that she understood the financial pressures however could not agree to the closure of the Burnham site.

- Concerns about relationships with neighbouring authorities and service level agreements in place were also raised in relation to the capacity for them to provide ongoing income.
- The importance of communication to residents was highlighted and in particular in the need to educate residents on doing things differently i.e. changing their habits and recycling.
- It was noted that even with the proposed reductions there was still a good provision across the county.
- The proposal put forward by Mr B Bendyshe-Brown was referred to and the hope that this could be explored in order to keep the Burnham site open.
- The cost of implementing out of county charging was discussed but it was stated it was hoped that this could be kept under review.
- Resident cards used in areas such as Hillingdon were put forward as a possible option going forward.

**In summary Mr Chapple highlighted the following:**

- Aspirations for higher recycling rates and stated that shops on waste sites were well used, with the Aston Clinton site having an 80% recycling rate.
- Future growth needed to be considered and the infrastructure required.
- Meetings had been held with neighbouring authorities
- Communication will be a priority and notices at sites to ensure residents know of alternative sites they can visit.
- Mr Chapple also stated the contract with FCC, providing the Energy from Waste contract ended in 2019, but there was the ability to extend for a further 3 years.

**The recommendations were voted on as follows to take effect from the 1st April 2019, unless otherwise stated:**

<b>1) Agree the revised Waste Access and Acceptance Policy (WAAP) (Appendix 2);</b>	<i>7 voted in agreement, 1 abstention.</i>
<b>2) Introduce charging for construction and demolition waste (also known as nonhousehold waste) for Buckinghamshire residents and non-Buckinghamshire residents;</b>	<i>All agreed</i>
<b>3) Close the Rabans Lane (Aylesbury), Chesham and Burnham (during closure review period) HRCs on Wednesdays and Thursdays, reducing the opening days from 7 to 5 days a week;</b>	<i>All agreed</i>
<b>4) Close the Bledlow HRC and delegate authority to the Environment Services Director, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment, to determine future arrangements for the</b>	<i>All agreed</i>

site;	
5) Agree that based on the current financial analysis, it will be necessary to close Burnham HRC on a permanent basis on 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2019, but agree that a final decision to continue with closure, or rescinding the closure, should be made in the 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2019 Cabinet meeting, following a detailed financial appraisal of the other savings implemented from 1st April 2019;	<i>7 voted in agreement, 1 abstention.</i>
6) Delegate authority to the Environment Services Director, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment, to maintain a service level agreement with Slough Borough Council, and enter agreement(s) with any other neighbouring authority, to share costs of operation of the HRCs on a fair basis to reflect usage;	<i>All agreed</i>
7) Agree that incidents of fly tipping should be monitored to identify whether there is an increase in activity and delegate authority to the Environment Services Director, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment, to identify appropriate mitigating measures should fly tipping activity increase; and	<i>All agreed</i>
8) Delegate authority to the Environment Services Director, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment, to extend the current HRC contract with FCC up to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022 as appropriate to align with future procurement strategies and timelines.	<i>All agreed</i>

### 13 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

10 January 2019

**MARTIN TETT  
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**



**STATEMENT FROM CCLLR BILL BENDYSHE-BROWN TO BCC CABINET ON 7<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2019 CONCERNING BLEDLOW HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE**

Although I profoundly disagree with the Cabinet Member's decision to close Bledlow HRC I have had to accept, after lengthy discussions with both himself and the Cabinet Member for Resources, that there is no alternative to its closure if the financial targets set for the Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment are to be met.

With this in mind I have been in detailed negotiations over the past months with BCC officers and several local commercial companies to assess an alternative option for keeping this site open as a commercial enterprise. We are now in a position to agree Heads of Terms for the future operation of the Bledlow Household Recycling Centre after its proposed closure on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 and hope to have these finalised within the next 2 to 3 weeks for presentation to BCC Property Management Board and Members.

If these Heads of Terms are accepted this will require a detailed planning application to be drawn up and submitted to BCC Development Control Committee to meet the proposal for operating the site not only as a Household Recycling Centre but also as a trade and commercial waste site. This planning application is likely to take a minimum of 13 weeks, and more likely up to 6 to 8 months, for determination after submission.

As this timescale will take us well past the planned opening date of 1<sup>st</sup> April for operating the site as a commercial enterprise, the Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment is seeking legal advice on whether the existing planning authorisation which BCC has for this site can be used to keep this site open from 1<sup>st</sup> April to enable a commercial company to operate until their planning determination is received.

As Cabinet Members will know, there is enormous local political pressure to keep Bledlow HRC open. Having had a petition of nearly 4,500 signatures to support this opposition for closure, I do urge Cabinet and particularly both the Cabinet Members for Planning and Environment and Recourses to support me in this new, novel and exciting proposal to keep Bledlow HRC open and to operate as a commercial enterprise.



# Cabinet 7<sup>th</sup> January HRC Service Summary

I would like to start off by covering the background to this item.

## Executive summary

The HRC report is very full and detailed. I do not intend to walk you through all of the detail I will go through key aspects.

Pages	Description	
79-101	Cabinet report	
103-127	Consultation Report	Appendix 1
129-151	Waste Access and Acceptance Policy (WAAP)	Appendix 2
153-160	Equalities Impact Assessment	Appendix 3
161-175	Survey Results	Appendix A for Appendix 1
177-178	Communications Plan	Appendix B for appendix 1
179-186	Survey issued	Appendix C for appendix 1
187-210	Ipsos MORI Pre-Engagement	Appendix D for appendix 1

211-221	Coding Methodology & Examples	Appendix E for appendix 1
223-247	Organisational Responses	Appendix F for appendix 1

1. The proposed changes are designed to meet budgetary demands in the short to medium term (from financial year 2019/20 a £1.25m savings target is needed). Benchmarking data shows the current HRC service is cost effective.
  
2. Although I would much rather inconvenience no-one, these closures are unfortunately necessary if we are to realise the level of cost savings the Council's budget requires.
  
3. This will help balance Value for Money (VfM), levels for an existing service contract and plans for a new proposed service model. The new service model can then be used to plan a new service contract from late 2019.

## **Recap - what happened and when**

1. In the summer of 2017 I visited all the Household Recycling Centres in Buckinghamshire. A wide range of things were considered from site layouts and flexibility, drive times, customer usage patterns, service costs, benchmarking with other local authorities and many more things. More than 50 options were investigated with a focus on the possibilities of service delivery. The range of things considered are available as background technical summary & modelling associated appendices to the main cabinet report. This has been a detailed piece of work and taken many hours of member time and officer time.
2. Pre-engagement work undertaken by Ipsos MORI during July 2018. This then informed the design of the public consultation which commenced on the 28<sup>th</sup> August to 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018, with a comprehensive communication plan. 17 events across the county were attended during the consultation period.
3. This cabinet agenda item was originally intended to be on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018 Cabinet meeting agenda. Due to the high number of consultation responses and engagement, we required more time to fully consider the public views and possible alternatives suggested. At the Cabinet meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> November, I announced I was going to delay bringing this item to

Cabinet until 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019. I have been open, transparent about the HRC service review since early summer 2018 and decision timelines.

4. There are strict democratic processes and timelines we have to follow with decision reports. The report and papers were all published quickly as possible and on time. We would not normally issue a press release when a cabinet decision report is published. However I am well aware there is much interest, emotion and passion related to the HRC service. I therefore I ensured a press release was issued, to keep everyone informed and highlight the cabinet report and supporting information was published and available.

### **Consultation Report - Themes**

The detailed Consultation Report and analysis is available as Appendix 1.

There are six appendices to the formal consultation report. The key themes expressed:

- **Fly tipping** – I recognise the strength of residents’ feelings about fly tipping. The Council has a zero tolerance stance on fly tipping. In Buckinghamshire 1 in 38 cases result in a successful prosecution compared to the national average of 1 in 638. I therefore will be looking to monitor fly tipping incidents to identify whether there has been an increase and take further mitigation actions if necessary.

- **Alternative suggestions were put forward** - to find different ways to fund the HRC service including charging at the gates, increasing council tax, organisational back of office costs and squeezing other public services. The alternative suggestions would not be legally available, and the current financial pressures highlight the Council must balance its budgets as a public body.
- **Reducing days and hours to avoid site closures.** Both of these alternative options represent a wider impact across the HRC network to the majority of residents as whole, compared to the two site closures. This is detailed in section 17.1 of the cabinet report.
- **Charging out of county users.** Residents have expressed mixed views on whether to charge non-Buckinghamshire residents or to do nothing. However, there is a clear theme that those wishing to charge suggest any income should help fund the existing service. Cabinet Report point 17, **Table 5 Potential non-Buckinghamshire charging solutions.** This is not recommended at present due to the high implementation costs and inconvenience introduced to Buckinghamshire residents compared to relatively low revenue recovery.
- Residents in general oppose charging for non-household waste. This opinion does soften when the scale of savings is explained, and the details of what waste can be charged for. Whilst I acknowledge residents'

concerns introducing charges for some waste types helps the council manage the risk of further HRC closures.

**Equality Impact Assessment** – see Appendix 3 for more details.

Cabinet Report (Section G). The EIA sets out the evidence of potential impacts of the proposed changes on the nine protected factors. There is some evidence that persons over 65 years are more likely to use the HRCs than other age groups and are more concerned about increased travel times.

**Site Closures and user/demographic analysis** - The most popular frequency of visits was monthly (37.8%); with 54.4% of respondents said they visited the sites monthly or less.

**Week day site closures (up to three HRCs)** – No obvious weekday preference emerged, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday all registering between 5-6% of responses. The significant majority said that they did not mind which day (83%). There is some evidence that closing on consecutive days may be more supported.

**Charging non-Buckinghamshire residents for using - HRCs** - mixed views, some support that the Council should charge, whilst others feel HRCs are a universal service irrespective of administrative boundaries.

**Site Closures and Travel Times** - If closures go ahead, residents will have to drive further to use their nearest HRC. The Council estimates 10.8% of Buckinghamshire households are nearest to Bledlow and Burnham. This data is provided by measuring the distances from each postcode in Bucks to the nearest HRC. The data is not actual visits, but homes potentially impacted if a site were to close. A map detailing the drive times is given in the Cabinet Report.

## **Summary**

The changes being put forward to the household recycling centre service have been very carefully considered, so that they make as little disruption as possible to residents across the county as a whole. However, I do accept that some of the changes, especially permanent closure of sites, will have an impact on residents living in that specific locality. There will be a continual need to carry out extensive communications to ensure that residents are aware of the changes.

Waste Access and Acceptance Policy (WAAP) covers the service provision for the HRC service, key policy update areas:

- **Control of vehicles accessing HRCs** – remains
- **District Councils use of designated HRCs** – remains
- **Charging for some types of waste (*waste outside definition of household waste*) entering HRCs** – new
- **Controls and charging out-of-county** – updated . To be managed part through direct administrative arrangements with neighbouring local authorities and part through the charging of non-household waste.

- **Charities / Parish Council restrictions** – updated
- **Planned weekday closures for some sites** – new

### **Finances this year and over the MTFP period**

In year 2018/19 the underspend in Waste Management has largely been due to low volumes of green waste (over £400K). We had an exceptional hot summer exceptional weather, this is a one-off item and can't be relied upon year upon year. The HRC service incurs weekly, monthly and daily revenue costs - requires continual funding sources.

The other £1m underspend in waste management is the opportunity related to the EfW contract income. This is not reliable income either and contingency to manage risks relate to the EfW contract, and it is being used to help balance cost pressure in Children Services. There are wider and continual financial pressures across the council, so whilst these changes are difficult they are needed to realise the level of cost savings the Council's budget requires.

I intend to take each recommendation in turn:

1. Agree the revised Waste Access and Acceptance Policy (WAAP) (Appendix 2);
2. Introduce charging for construction and demolition waste (also known as non-household waste) for Buckinghamshire residents and non-Buckinghamshire residents;
3. Close the Rabans Lane (Aylesbury), Chesham and Burnham (during closure review period) HRCs on Wednesdays and Thursdays, reducing the opening days from 7 to 5 days a week;
4. Close the Bledlow HRC and delegate authority to the Environment Services Director, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment, to determine future arrangements for the site;
5. Agree that based on the current financial analysis, it will be necessary to close Burnham HRC on a permanent basis on 30th September 2019, but agree that a final decision to continue with closure, or rescinding the closure, should be made in the 9th September 2019 Cabinet meeting, following a detailed financial appraisal of the other savings implemented from 1st April 2019;
6. Delegate authority to the Environment Services Director, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment, to maintain a service level agreement with Slough Borough Council, and

enter agreement(s) with any other neighbouring authority, to share costs of operation of the HRCs on a fair basis to reflect usage;

7. Agree that incidents of fly tipping should be monitored to identify whether there is an increase in activity and delegate authority to the Environment Services Director, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment, to identify appropriate mitigating measures should fly tipping activity increase; and
8. Delegate authority to the Environment Services Director, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment, to extend the current HRC contract with FCC up to 31st March 2022 as appropriate to align with future procurement strategies and timelines.

Finally I would like to thank everyone for taking part in this consultation; it is not something I wanted to do. I would also like to thank officers for working outside of normal working hours.