

Agenda

Cabinet

Date: Monday 4 February 2019
Time: 10.30 am
Venue: Mezzanine Rooms 1 & 2, County Hall,
Aylesbury

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Agenda Item	Page No
1 Apologies for Absence	
2 Declarations of Interest	
3 Minutes To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 7 & 10 January 2019.	5 - 30
4 Hot Topics	

5	Question Time This provides an opportunity for Members to ask questions to Cabinet Members	
6	Forward Plan for Cabinet and Cabinet Members For Cabinet to consider the Forward Plan	31 - 44
7	Cabinet Member Decisions To note progress with Cabinet Member Decisions	45 - 48
8	Select Committee Work Programme & Inquiry Work Programme For Cabinet to consider the Select Committee Work Programme	49 - 60
9	Unitary Update Standing item.	
10	Direct Care and Support Services Cabinet is asked to approve the six-week consultation on the future of Thrift Farm, and note approval of final decision by the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing.	61 - 74
11	Housing Infrastructure Fund Application	To Follow
12	Date of the Next Meeting 11 February 2019 – Budget meeting.	

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For further information please contact: Rachel Bennett on 01296 382343

Members: Martin Tett (Leader)

Mike Appleyard	Cabinet Member for Education & Skills
Noel Brown	Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Public Health
Bill Chapple OBE	Cabinet Member for Planning & Environment
John Chilver	Cabinet Member for Resources
Lin Hazell	Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing
Mark Shaw	Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation
Warren Whyte	Cabinet Member for Children's Services

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 (RESPIRE) 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:

1) Agree the revised Waste Access and Acceptance Policy (WAAP) (Appendix 2);	<i>7 voted in agreement, 1 abstention.</i>
2) Introduce charging for construction and demolition waste (also known as nonhousehold waste) for Buckinghamshire residents and non-Buckinghamshire residents;	<i>All agreed</i>
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;	<i>All agreed</i>
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	<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 th September 2019, but agree that a final decision to continue with closure, or rescinding the closure, should be made in the 9 th 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 st 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 7TH 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 31st 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 1st 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 1st 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 Resources to support me in this new, novel and exciting proposal to keep Bledlow HRC open and to operate as a commercial enterprise.

Cabinet 7th 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 28th August to 22nd 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 10th 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 12th November, I announced I was going to delay bringing this item to

Cabinet until 7th 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.

Buckinghamshire County Council

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Minutes

Cabinet

Date: 10 January 2019

Venue: Mezzanine Room 1 - County Hall, Aylesbury

Time: 8.40 am to 9.10 am

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr M Tett (in the Chair).

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

OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr A Hussain, Mr C Harriss and Mrs A Cranmer

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Ms R Bennett, Mrs S Ashmead and Ms R Shimmin

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Deputy Cabinet Members in attendance were Mrs A Cranmer, Mr A Hussain and Mr C Harriss.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.



3 UNITARY TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS

Mr M Tett, Leader introduced the item and highlighted the following background:

- Initial plans for a single unitary authority was initiated in 2014 by Aylesbury Vale District Council.
- Buckinghamshire County Council put forward their business case to Government in 2016 for the creation of a single unitary council, followed by a separate District submission in February 2017 for two separate authorities.
- In March 2018 the Secretary of State announced a 'minded to' decision to agree the County Council's business case. There was then an extended period for representations and then in November 2018 the new Secretary of State announced the continued support of the County Council's business case.
- Representations had been made for the governance of the implementation and the Secretary of State had released a letter setting out those areas that the five councils could not reach a consensus on.
- Mr Tett stated that the County Council wanted to work in partnership with the district colleagues in the creation of an entirely new council. The creation of the new council was for the benefit of residents and required the input of colleagues across all five councils.

Ms R Shimmin, Chief Executive, reiterated messages that had been made to staff highlighting the importance of the change and the impact for residents, businesses, partners and staff across the county. It would see a creation of a brand new council for Buckinghamshire and would have a significant impact on all our staff. County and district colleagues were working collaboratively in order to create a council all could be proud of. Ms Shimmin gave assurances to all staff at county and district councils that it was a new authority that would build on the best of all the councils.

Ms S Ashmead, Executive Director and Monitoring Officer attended the meeting to outline the process going forward. Ms Ashmead drew Cabinet's attention to the following:

- The report asked Cabinet to give consent to the making of Regulations by the Secretary of State.
- Ms Ashmead wanted to ensure that Members were clear about the distinction between the Regulations and the Structural Changes Order, both of which were required legislations to go through Parliament in order to implement the unitary proposal.
- Firstly the Regulations were required in order to streamline the process and to enable to the Secretary of State to lay a Structural Change Order in relation to Buckinghamshire; and Cabinet were being asked to consent to those Regulations
- The Secretary of State required at least one council to consent to the Regulations and the name of the councils in agreement would be included in the Regulations which would be laid on Monday 14 January.
- The second piece of required legislation was the Structural Changes Order which would include details of implementation, transition arrangements and details of the new council, the content of which was also set out in the report.

- The Structural Change Order would be laid later than the Regulations and therefore assurances had been sought on the expected content of the Structural Changes Order in order for Members to be able to make a decision on giving consent to the Regulations.
- Included in the reports pack was a letter from the Secretary of State setting out his intentions of what would be in the Structural Changes Order.
- Ms Ashmead confirmed that Cabinet were only being asked to give consent to the Regulations and not to the content of the Structural Changes Order.

Mr Tett echoed the message by the Chief Executive and stated that the creation of the new council would be a team effort and each member of staff across the county and district councils were valued. He also reiterated to Members that they were being asked to discuss giving consent to the making of the Regulations. He explained that the Structural Changes Order was still being finalised in legal terms, but that he had received assurances that the substance of the Order would be as set out in the Secretary of State's letter attached to the supplementary report.

Cabinet raised and discussed the following points:

- It had been a long process to get to the current position and residents and businesses wanted developments to proceed.
- Members urged colleagues to work together to create the best council for the future.
- There had already been the creation of various workstreams and colleagues working across all five councils.
- The need to update and refresh the business case in terms of resources was highlighted and for focus to be put on agreeing the budget for the new authority.
- It created an opportunity to create a new exciting innovative council bringing the best of all five councils together.
- There was disappointed over the agreed number of Councillors being 147 but the Secretary of State had acknowledged the need for a boundary review. Mr Tett stated that the agreed number of Councillors was higher than that stated in the business case and would create an additional members allowances cost of £3m on expenses over a 5 year period.
- Mr Appleyard noted that Members haven't got absolute certainty but have been given serious assurances from Government. In the spirit of avoiding delay, he supported the need for Cabinet to take a minor risk in order to move the process on as quickly as possible.
- Assurances were given to residents that the new authority would go live on 1 April with little impact and services still running effectively.
- Residents remained at the heart of the changes and the new authority would provide a single point of contact.
- Reassurances that decision making would be local e.g. planning and the opportunity for further devolution of services to those parish councils that wanted to.
- The creation of hubs would make it easier for residents to stay in touch and gain information.

Mr Tett summarised by saying that the creation of the new council was about residents and outcomes for the people Councillors were elected to serve. It would create a strong voice nationally, make things simpler, better value and remove duplication. There would be more local working including local hubs, local planning and more devolution for those councils that wanted it. Mr Tett urged districts colleagues to work with county colleagues and for the focus to be on residents in order to get the new council implemented and delivered as quickly and efficiently as possible.

The supplementary report set out the following recommendations:

- 1. In line with the main report Unitary Transition Arrangements Cabinet is recommended to confirm that the County Council gives consent to the making of the Regulations. This consent is on the basis of the Secretary of State's decision on the draft Structural Changes Order as set out in the letter at Appendix 2 and detailed in the table at paragraph 1.**
- 2. Cabinet is also recommended to delegate to the Leader responsibility for appointing the County Council's nominees to the Shadow Executive.**

RESOLVED: Cabinet AGREED the recommendations.

4 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

4 February 2019

**MARTIN TETT
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

CABINET/CABINET MEMBER FORWARD PLAN

Item	Description	Local Members	Member(s) / Contact Officer	Comments
Cabinet 4 February 2019				
Direct Care and Support Day Services	Direct care and support day services - approval to progress to public consultation	All Electoral Divisions	Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing / Jane Bowie	First notified 4/1/19
Housing Infrastructure Fund Application	Consideration of the HIF application to Homes England. This will provide funding to enable and accelerate housing development in Aylesbury.		Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment / Rob Smith	First notified 22/10/18
Cabinet 11 February 2019				
2018/19 Q3 Financial Position	To note Q3 Financial Position		John Chilver / Richard Ambrose	First notified 11/1/19
Budget Scrutiny Report	For Cabinet to consider budget scrutiny recommendations put forward by the Finance, Performance and Resources Select Committee		David Watson / Kelly Sutherland	First notified 11/1/19
Final Budget 2019/20	To recommend the final budget for agreement by full Council	All Electoral Divisions	Cabinet Member for Resources / Richard Ambrose	First notified 1/1/18
Property Acquisition	If required		Cabinet Member for Resources / Oster Milambo	First notified 11/10/18 Likely to include confidential appendices
Unitary Transition Arrangements	Standing item if required		Leader of the Council / Roger Goodes	First notified 11/1/19

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Agenda Item 6

Item	Description	Local Members	Member(s) / Contact Officer	Comments
Cabinet 4 March 2019				
Early Help Review	Decision on Early Help following public and partner consultation exercise.	All Electoral Divisions	Cabinet Member for Children's Services / Sara Turnbull	First notified 16/7/18
Home to School Transport	Report results and recommendations of public consultation following proposals to make changes to delivery of Home to School Transport	All Electoral Divisions	Cabinet Member for Education and Skills / Sarah Callaghan	First notified 12/11/18
Cabinet 25 March 2019				
Buckinghamshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan	To seek approval to adopt the Buckinghamshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2016-2036	All Electoral Divisions	Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment / Ismail Mohammed	First notified 27/11/18
Q3 2018/19 Performance Report	Quarterly report		Leader of the Council / Joanna Baschnonga	First notified 30/7/18
Support for Carers In-Depth Review	For Cabinet to discuss the recommendations made by the Health & Social Care Select Committee's in-depth review into Support for Carers.		Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing / Liz Wheaton	First notified 16/1/19
Cabinet 15 April 2019				
Buckinghamshire Integrated Care System governance	To agree required governance for Buckinghamshire County Council's participation in the Integrated Care System.		Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing / Gillian Quinton	First notified 12/11/18
Cabinet 13 May 2019				
Cabinet 10 June 2019				
Adult Services Update	To note the six month update		Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing / Gillian Quinton	First notified 11/1/19

Item	Description	Local Members	Member(s) / Contact Officer	Comments
Children Services Update	To note the six month update		Cabinet Member for Children's Services / Tolis Vouyioukas	First notified 11/1/19
Prevent Duty	To review the Council's progress in meeting the requirements of the Prevent Duty.		Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Public Health / Jane O'Grady	First notified 20/12/18
Q4 2018/19 Performance Report	Quarterly report		Leader of the Council / Joanna Baschnonga	First notified 30/7/18
Cabinet 8 July 2019				
Smarter Bucks Strategy	To note the six month update		Cabinet Member for Resources / Balvinder Heran	First notified 11/1/19
January 2019 Cabinet Member Decisions				
<u>Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Public Health</u>				
BCC Local Area Needle and Syringe Programme for Under 18's	This is a new Buckinghamshire wide policy for the provision of needle and syringe programme for children and young people under 18 (including under 16's)		Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Public Health / Cavelle Lynch	First notified 17/9/18
<u>Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing</u>				
Carers Strategy - Approval to progress to public consultation	The Council will be publishing the draft Carers Strategy 2019 - 2021 for public consultation		Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing / John Everson, Lisa Truett	First notified 4/12/18

Item	Description	Local Members	Member(s) / Contact Officer	Comments
Decision to Award Carers Contract	Decision to award Carers Contract following tender process		Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, Cabinet Member for Children's Services / John Everson, Lisa Truett	First notified 19/12/18 May contain confidential appendices
<u>Cabinet Member for Education and Skills</u>				
School Competition: Kingsbrook School, Aylesbury	Under present Department of Education statutory guidance all new schools have to open as Academy's. An LA is required to hold a Competition to find a bidder to run the school. The LA has sent details of the Competition to the DfE, RSC, a number of Multi Academy Trusts and all Buckinghamshire schools and Academies. All bids received by the deadline of 6 June, will be evaluated and after a short-listing, bidders will be interviewed by a panel of members and officers. Interviews are scheduled to be held on 6 September 2018. The LA makes a decision on its preferred bidder after the interviews, and after the Cabinet Member decision has been taken, the LA sends details of all bids and their preferred bidder to the DfE and RSC who make the final decision. It is anticipated that the final decision will not be made known to the LA until December 2018. The LA will then work with the successful bidder to manage the build project and the opening of the school.	Aston Clinton & Berton	Cabinet Member for Education and Skills / Sarah Callaghan	First notified 30/5/18
<u>Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing</u>				
Adult Social Care Data Quality Strategy	To approve the adult social care data quality strategy which sets out the service's approach to improving data quality and the use of data & information.		Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing / Jenny McAteer	First notified 19/12/18

Item	Description	Local Members	Member(s) / Contact Officer	Comments
Direct Payment Policy	Cabinet Member to agree the Direct Payment Policy		Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing / Marcia Smith	First notified 29/3/17
Market Position Statement for Technology – enabling people to stay connected and stay independent	A Market Position Statement (MPS) is a commissioning document describing health and social care needs, and gaps across Buckinghamshire. The purpose is to outline areas where the Council, Clinical Commissioning Groups and independent providers (including the voluntary, community and faith sector) can work together to best support our residents and achieve better health and wellbeing outcomes. This MPS focusses on potential technology solutions to enable people to stay connected and independent.		Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing / Jane Bowie	First notified 17/7/18
Winter Funding Plan	To approve the plan for utilising the Department of Health and Social Care Winter Funding 2018/19		Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing / Jane Bowie	First notified 5/12/18
Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment				
Isle of Wight Farm, Denham - Proposed minimum 20MWh Gas Peaking Storage Project	Isle of Wight Farm has been identified by BCC's property consultants Carter Jonas as a site suitable for Gas Peak Power Generation Scheme. After a successful marketing exercise, a suitable Developer has been selected who at their cost will apply for planning permission and if planning consent is achieved will sign a 25 year lease with the Council. This proposal will generate an income stream for the Council for 25 years	Denham	Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment / Joanna Mitchell	First notified 19/12/18 May contain confidential appendices

Item	Description	Local Members	Member(s) / Contact Officer	Comments
Memorandum of Understanding to support the management of Unauthorised Encampments in Buckinghamshire	Memorandum of Understanding to support the management of Unauthorised Encampments in Buckinghamshire between: Aylesbury Vale District Council Buckinghamshire County Council Chiltern District Council South Bucks District Council Wycombe District Council Thames Valley Police		Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment / David Sutherland	First notified 28/3/18
Planning Performance Agreements fee schedule and increase in charges for Pre-Application Advice in relation to Planning development management function	Planning Performance Agreements fee schedule and increase in charges for Pre-Application Advice in relation to development management and BCC's role as County Planning Authority		Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment / David Sutherland	First notified 21/9/18
Rights of Way Enforcement Policy	To review and update the existing Rights of Way Enforcement Policy The document will outline the legislative powers available to the authority regarding enforcement, give details of what action our customers may expect the authority to take on illegalities found on the rights of way network.		Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment / David Sutherland	First notified 28/3/18

Item	Description	Local Members	Member(s) / Contact Officer	Comments
<u>Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment and Cabinet Member for Resources</u>				
Denham Quarry Northern Extension – Summerlease Limited	The agreed form of Lease appended to the 2010 Option Agreement allows for the continuation of working via the lateral, northern extension which is to be demised for a term of a further 8 years. This arrangement will serve to provide continuity of the revenues payable to the Council under the current tenancy for the same period. With reference to the previous decision of 15/03/2018 approval is sought from Cabinet Members on the decision reached between Summerlease and BCC on how to regularise the situation	Denham	Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment, Cabinet Member for Resources / Marion Mayhew	First notified 16/10/18 May contain confidential appendices
<u>Cabinet Member for Resources</u>				
Budget Amendments to the Approved Capital Programme	To agree budget adjustments to the Approved Capital Programme		John Chilver / Sue Palmer	First notified 20/12/18
Disposal of 9 & 9A Pineapple Road, Amersham	9 & 9A Pineapple Road, Amersham are a pair of semi-detached houses combined by BCC for use as a single care facility. The property is now surplus to the Council's requirements and agreement has been reached for disposal.	Little Chalfont & Amersham Common	Cabinet Member for Resources / Marion Mayhew	First notified 17/10/18 May contain confidential appendices
Transfer of Land at Spade Oak, Marlow	The transfer of land held by Buckinghamshire County Council as Trustee of the Thameside Preservation Trust to new Trustees. The land was purchased with monies raised by public subscription and is to be preserved for the benefit and recreation of the public.	Marlow	Cabinet Member for Resources / Jamie Hollis	First notified 6/4/17
Winslow Centre Demolition Project	To demolish the existing Winslow Centre building (and its related buildings) to enable redevelopment of the site.	Winslow	Cabinet Member for Resources / Martin Connor	First notified 14/12/18

Item	Description	Local Members	Member(s) / Contact Officer	Comments
<u>Cabinet Member for Resources and Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transportation</u>				
Budget Adjustments to the Approved Capital Programme	To approve budget amendments to the Council's Approved Capital Programme		Cabinet Member for Resources, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation / Sue Palmer	First notified 2/11/18
<u>Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transportation</u>				
A412 Uxbridge Road / Black Park Road junction	Consultation to implement changes to the existing road layout to reduce collisions by a 'No Right Turn' ban from Black Park Road, a 'No U turns' ban for southbound traffic on the A412, a reduction in the existing speed limit for northbound vehicles on A412 from 60mph to 50mph with a reduction to one lane through the Black Park Road junction.	Iver; Stoke Poges & Wexham	Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation / Trevor Bonsor	First notified 28/11/17
Asset Management Strategy 2018	Update to the existing Asset Management Strategy to include ISO55001 recommendations, reference to the Highway Services Policy and a section on innovation.		Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation / Keith Carpenter	First notified 28/11/18
Beaconsfield cycleway	Proposed shared cycleway. Upgraded of existing footway, between Grenfell Road and Ledborough Lane.	Beaconsfield	Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation / Adrian Lane	First notified 28/2/17
Berryfields Proposed Waiting Restrictions	Berryfields Proposed Waiting Restrictions at Aylesbury Vale Academy School & The Berryfields Primary Academy School & The Green Ridge Primary Academy School.	Stone and Waddesdon	Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation / Kirk Adams	First notified 22/3/18

Item	Description	Local Members	Member(s) / Contact Officer	Comments
George Street & Market Square, Aylesbury Traffic Movement Restriction	The report will cover making the current experimental traffic regulation order into a permanent traffic regulation order.	Aylesbury North	Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation / Kirk Adams	First notified 13/12/18
High Wycombe Proposed Junction Protection (no waiting at any time) restrictions	Results of statutory consultation exercise on proposals to introduce 'highway code test' no waiting at any time double yellow line restrictions at a number of sites across High Wycombe	Downley; Ryemead & Micklefield; Totteridge & Bowerdean; West Wycombe	Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation / Rob Smith	First notified 22/11/18
Little Chalfont Phase 2 Parking Restrictions	Additional parking restrictions have been developed to address residents' concerns relating to commuter / inappropriate parking within Little Chalfont. These proposals have been subject to a recent statutory consultation and the results of that consultation have been collated and reviewed.	Little Chalfont & Amersham Common	Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation / Paul Ahluwalia	First notified 9/1/19
Noise reduction options for Wendover	Following the local consultation in Wendover the project team is seeking a key decision on the preferred option, and to progress the project.	Wendover, Halton & Stoke Mandeville	Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation / Ian McGowan	First notified 4/12/18
Reclassification Order, Bellingdon Road and Townsend Road, Chesham	A short section of Bellingdon Road and Townsend Road in Chesham are classified as B Roads. It seems that this is a historic issue which was not correctly dealt with at the time the A416 St Marys Way was constructed. This order resolves this historic issue	Chesham	Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation / Keith Carpenter	First notified 2/8/17
Winter Service Policy	An overarching Policy setting out the County's approach to providing winter service in Buckinghamshire.	All Electoral Divisions	Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation / Keith Carpenter	First notified 28/11/18

Item	Description	Local Members	Member(s) / Contact Officer	Comments
<u>Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transportation and Cabinet Member for Resources</u>				
2018/19 Developer Funded Infrastructure Programme	Approval of Section 106 / Community Infrastructure Fund programme for the 2018/19 financial year.		Cabinet Member for Resources, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation / Jack Mayhew	First notified 24/5/18
February 2019 Cabinet Member Decision				
<u>Cabinet Member for Education and Skills</u>				
Determined Admission Arrangements 2020 entry	To determine the admission arrangements for community and Voluntary Controlled schools for 2020 entry. To agree the coordinated schemes for 2020 entry. To set the Relevant Area for 2021 entry. All are currently the subject of a formal consultation which closes on 31 January 2019.		Cabinet Member for Education and Skills / Debbie Munday	First notified 11/1/19

Item	Description	Local Members	Member(s) / Contact Officer	Comments
<u>Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment</u>				
Buckinghamshire County Council Culvert Policy	<p>The Culvert Policy discourages the culverting of watercourses and encourages the opening up of existing culverts.</p> <p>The policy requires applicants to consider alternatives to culverting; only applications that provide evidence that there is no reasonably practicable alternative will be granted land drainage consent (under the Land Drainage Act 1991).</p> <p>Buckinghamshire County Council are opposed to the culverting of watercourses because of the associated increased risk of flooding, maintenance requirements, difficulty in pollution detection and various other environmental impacts.</p>		Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment / Jessica Dippie	First notified 10/1/19
BMWLP Local Aggregate Assessment 2017	To approve the Local Aggregate Assessment 2017 document for publication		Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment / Ismail Mohammed	First notified 8/1/19
Pednormead End flood management scheme	Business case for the Pednormead End Flood Management Project which will provide management and mitigation of the flood risk to properties in the historically flood prone area of Pednormead End, Chesham.	Chess Valley	Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment / Martin Dickman	First notified 21/1/19
Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2	Key decision seeking approval of Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2		Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment / David Sutherland	First notified 10/1/19

Item	Description	Local Members	Member(s) / Contact Officer	Comments
<u>Cabinet Member for Resources</u>				
Renewal of Estates and Asset Management Services	Renewal of Estates and Asset Management Services		Cabinet Member for Resources / Marion Mayhew	First notified 21/1/19 May contain confidential appendices
<u>Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transportation</u>				
Chesham Town Parking Review Phase 2	Following requests Chesham Town Council, Transport for Buckinghamshire has been commissioned to address safety and parking concerns at some junctions and along some roads in Chesham. After consideration of the responses obtained from the Informal Consultation that was undertaken in July 2018, proposals for a number of restrictions such as 'No waiting at any time' (double yellow line) and shared use of "1 hour waiting" bays have been developed to assist with the concerns and we undertook the Statutory Consultation on these proposals.	Chess Valley; Chiltern Ridges	Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation / Vanessa Silva	First notified 11/1/19
Contracting for the provision of Integrated Transport Services for pupil referral units ("PRUs"), Social Care (children and adults), Mainstream school and post-16 and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)"	Procurement of a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for a contract duration of 5 years with an option to extend for a further 2 years for the sourcing and purchasing of Integrated Transport Services, including mini-competitions, individual and block contracts		Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation / Gill Harding	First notified 18/1/19 Decision to be taken under General Exception provisions

Item	Description	Local Members	Member(s) / Contact Officer	Comments
March 2019 Cabinet Member Decisions				
<u>Cabinet Member for Children's Services</u>				
Short Breaks for Children with Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome of public consultation on draft Short Breaks Service Statement • Approval of business case and decision to go out to tender for a children's short breaks offer 		Cabinet Member for Children's Services / Caroline Hart, Matilda Moss	First notified 11/1/19
<u>Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing</u>				
Care Market Pressures	Annual response to care market pressures from providers		Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing / Jane Bowie	First notified 29/3/18
Short Breaks Policy for Adults	Approval of finalised short breaks policy for ASC post consultation		Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing / Jane Bowie	First notified 21/12/18 May include confidential appendices
<u>Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transportation</u>				
Pound Lane, Marlow existing speed table extension	As part of the development of Riverpark House, Pound Lane, Marlow it is proposed to extend the existing raised table by approximately 15.5m West bound and 6.5m East bound to enable level vehicular access to the properties' driveways	Marlow	Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation / Christine Urry	First notified 2/1/19

Item	Description	Local Members	Member(s) / Contact Officer	Comments
April 2019 Cabinet Member Decisions				
<u>Cabinet Member for Education and Skills</u>				
Proposal by Chartridge School to admit 3 year old children	The governing board of Chartridge Combined School are holding a public consultation from 10 September on a proposal that from September 2019 the school admits 3 year old children into a pre-school class they are proposing to open.	Chiltern Ridges	Cabinet Member for Education and Skills / Paula Campbell-Balcombe	First notified 10/9/18
<u>Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transportation</u>				
A4010/A4129 HS2 Safety Mitigation Schemes	Delivery of the HS2 Safety Mitigation scheme as agreed with the A4010 petitioning group along the A4010 and A4129 in Buckinghamshire following detailed design and consultation.	Ridgeway East; The Risboroughs; West Wycombe	Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation / Joshua Tomlinson	First notified 12/12/18 May contain confidential appendices
May 2019 Cabinet Member Decisions				
<u>Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Public Health</u>				
Tobacco Control Strategy	A new strategy for Buckinghamshire currently in development on Tobacco Control.		Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Public Health / Jane O'Grady	First notified 17/1/19
June 2019 Cabinet Member Decisions				
<u>Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transportation</u>				
Appointments to Outside Bodies 2019/20	To approve the list of outside bodies to which the County Council appoints representatives. They will be detailed in Appendix 1 to the report		Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation / Claire Hawkes	First notified 6/11/18

Buckinghamshire County Council

Visit democracy.buckscc.gov.uk for councillor information and email alerts for local meetings

Please note the following information since the report included in the previous Cabinet agenda:-

- 2 decisions have been published but not yet taken
- 7 decisions have been taken
- 24 decisions on the forward plan are pending for January

DECISIONS TAKEN

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

15 Jan 2019

ED01.19 - Denham Village Infant School (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member:

AGREED that as the governing board has followed the statutory guidance set down by the DfE for changes in age range, the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills **AGREED** to Denham Village Infant School changing its age range from 1 September 2018 from 4-7 years of age to 4-11 years of age

23 Jan 2019

ED02.19 - School Competition: Kingsbrook School, Aylesbury (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member:

AGREED to Buckinghamshire County Council's preferred bidder, namely Inspiring Futures Partnership Trust, to run the 420 place primary school and 52 place nursery on the Kingsbrook development in Aylesbury

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and Cabinet Member for Resources

11 Jan 2019

ED06.18 - Capital Grant – Healthy Pupils Capital Funding (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Members:



AGREED to the inclusion of the Healthy Pupil Capital Funding of £441,855 within the Schools Capital Programme; and **APPROVED** the proposed distribution of the funding as set out in Option 3 of the report

Cabinet Member for Resources

31 Dec 2018

R07.18 - Tendercare Nursery, Denham (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member:

1. **APPROVED** further formal due diligence and negotiations with the Purchaser;
2. **APPROVED** amendment of the overage provisions, removal of restrictive user condition and that the minerals rights are disposed of on the terms set out in the confidential appendix securing for the Council an appropriate share of the uplift in value and reflecting the value and benefit accruing to the Purchaser for such consents.
3. **AUTHORISED** the Director of Property & Assets in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources and Executive Director for Resources to conclude negotiations, agree a binding agreement by the 31st December 2018 and complete on the contract with the Purchaser on the terms or better highlighted in the confidential appendix.

Please note that this decision is being taken under the Council's Special Urgency provisions as detailed in the constitution. This is due to the Purchaser's offer being time limited.

22 Jan 2019

R02.19 - Winslow Centre Demolition Project (Decision taken)

The Leader, on behalf of the Cabinet Member for Resources:

APPROVED the demolition [and clearance] of the existing Winslow Centre building (and its related buildings) to enable redevelopment of the site

Cabinet Member for Resources and Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation

21 Jan 2019

R01.19 - Budget Adjustments to the Approved Capital Programme (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Members AGREED:

1. To increase the Strategic Highway Maintenance budget for 2018/19 by £4,654k, allowing the Council to meet the deadline for spending the additional grant allocated by Central Government in the October 2018 budget.

2. To delay £2,250k of the existing programme of works within the Strategic Highway Maintenance budget funded from the Council's corporate resources into 2019/20 as part of the 2019+ MTFP which will be delivered as a further addition to the Devolved Plane and Patch Programme.
3. To add to the capital programme £291k to cover the cost purchasing and installing replacement modular building at Amersham Depot to ensure that essential winter gritting operations can continue to operate from the depot. This expenditure will be financed from a ring-fenced reserve of £126k created specifically for this project and a virement from unallocated Strategic Highway Maintenance budget of £165k

Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation

17 Jan 2019

T01.19 - Cressex Business Park, Waiting, loading and parking Restrictions (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member:

- **AUTHORISED** the Executive Director Transport, Economy, and Environment to make permanent the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order.
- **AGREED** that responders to the Statutory Consultation be informed of the Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation Decision.

DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN

Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

25 Jan 2019

HW01.19 - Winter Funding Plan (Decision to be taken)

Recommendation

The Cabinet Member is asked to **APPROVE** the Winter Funding Plan for Buckinghamshire.

A. Narrative setting out the reasons for the decision

Cabinet Member for Resources

29 Jan 2019

R03.19 - Disposal of 9 & 9A Pineapple Road, Amersham (Decision to be taken)

Recommendation

- **To approve the freehold sale of the property at 9/9a Pineapple Road, Amersham to the preferred bidder for a consideration (value) being the best that can reasonably be obtained**
- **To arrange to sign, seal and enter into any legal agreements and any other ancillary agreements or documents required to give effect to the disposal.**

For further information please contact: Rachel Bennett on 01296 382343

Select Committee Combined Work Programme

About our Select Committees

This work programme sets out all formal meetings of the Council's Select Committees.

The purpose of Select Committees is to carry out the Council's overview and scrutiny function. Their role is to support public accountability and improve outcomes for residents through scrutinising the work of decision-makers.

Select Committees can carry out this function either through an in-depth Inquiry or one-off item at Committee meetings.

A scrutiny Inquiry is an investigation on a topic that will lead to a report and evidence-based recommendations for change to decision-makers. The key difference between one-off committee items that are not part of an inquiry and scrutiny inquiries is that Select Committees normally only make recommendations to Cabinet as a result of an in-depth Inquiry.

Evidence for scrutiny Inquiries may be gathered in different ways depending on the topic, this includes taking evidence at formal Select Committee meetings and/or informal meetings, visits or external research. Prior to any work commencing the Select Committee will agree an Inquiry scoping document which will outline the terms of reference, the methodology and inquiry timeline.

For more details about Select Committee Inquiries and guidance please see <http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/council-and-democracy/scrutiny/>

[Finance, Performance & Resources Select Committee](#)

[Children's Select Committee](#)

[Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee](#)

[Transport, Environment & Communities Select Committee](#)

Date	Topic	Description and purpose	Lead Service Officer	Attendees
Finance, Performance & Resources Select Committee				
26 Mar 2019	Budget Scrutiny 2018 - 12 month progress report	The Committee will examine a progress report on the implementation of the recommendations from Budget Scrutiny 2018 after 12 months. Members will have the opportunity to question the Cabinet Member and the Director of Finance and Procurement, before discussing and allocating a RAG (Red, Amber, Green) status for the progress of each recommendation.	Richard Ambrose, Director of Finance & Procurement	Mr John Chilver, Cabinet Member for Resources, Mr Richard Ambrose, Director of Finance and Procurement
26 Mar 2019	Business Rates Retention - Change Implications	Members will review the changes to business rates retention and how these will impact the Council and small businesses in Buckinghamshire.	Richard Ambrose, Director of Finance & Procurement	John Chilver, Cabinet Member for Resources Richard Ambrose, Director of Finance & Procurement Matthew Strevens, Corporate Finance Business Partner, Resources

Date	Topic	Description and purpose	Lead Service Officer	Attendees
26 Mar 2019	Customer Update	Details to be confirmed.	Lloyd Jeffries, Director of Operations	Mr John Chilver, Cabinet Member for Resources Mr Lloyd Jeffries, Director of Customer Ms Kelly Page, Customer Experience Head of Service
26 Mar 2019	Work Programme Update	For Members to discuss the Committee's work programme.	Fazeelat Bashir, Committee & Governance Advisor	Committee Members

Date	Topic	Description and purpose	Lead Service Officer	Attendees
Children's Select Committee				
12 Mar 2019	Working together to reduce the number of Permanent Exclusions from School - 6 month recommendation monitoring	For the Committee to examine progress of the implementation of recommendations from the Permanent Exclusions Inquiry after six months. Members will have the opportunity to question the Cabinet Member and the Service Director, Education before discussing and allocating a RAG (Red, Amber, Green) status for the progress of each recommendation.	Sarah Callaghan, Service Director Education	Mr M Appleyard, Cabinet Member for Education & Skills Miss S Callaghan, Service Director, Education Mrs V Trundell, Education Entitlement Manager

Date	Topic	Description and purpose	Lead Service Officer	Attendees
Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee				
29 Jan 2019	Bucks Healthcare Trust - Quality and Priorities	The Hospital Trust's Quality Account for 2017/18 highlighted a number of areas for improvement. This item will provide Members with an opportunity to challenge the progress being made in these areas and understand, in more detail, the priority areas for the Hospital Trust.	Liz Wheaton, Committee and Governance Adviser	Natalie Fox, Chief Operating Officer, Bucks Healthcare Trust Carolyn Morrice, Chief Nurse Tina Kenny
29 Jan 2019	Local medicine supplies	Following receipt of a letter from the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee to the Government's Health Select Committee, this item will be an opportunity for Members to receive an overview of the potential impact of Brexit on local medicine supplies.	Liz Wheaton, Committee and Governance Adviser	Representatives from the Local Pharmaceutical Council have been invited.
29 Jan 2019	Support for Carers - draft report	For Committee Members to discuss the key findings and recommendations in the Support for Carers in-depth review and to agree for the report to be presented to Cabinet in March.	Liz Wheaton, Committee and Governance Adviser	Brian Roberts, Chairman of the Review Group Anita Cranmer Lesley Clarke OBE David Martin

Date	Topic	Description and purpose	Lead Service Officer	Attendees
19 Mar 2019	Adult Social Care Transformation - Tier 1	For Members to examine the progress of Tier 1 Adult Social Care Transformation programme.	Jane O'Grady, Director of Public Health	Lin Hazell, Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing Gill Quinton, Executive Director, Communities, Health & Adult Social Care Jane O'Grady, Director of Public Health
19 Mar 2019	Health & Care Planning at locality level	Item to be developed	Liz Wheaton, Committee and Governance Adviser	Lou Patten, Chief Officer, Clinical Commissioning Group Neil Macdonald, Chief Executive, Bucks Healthcare Trust
19 Mar 2019	Mental Health services	Item to be developed	Liz Wheaton, Committee and Governance Adviser	
25 Jun 2019	Adult Social Care Transformation - Tier 2	For Members to examine the progress of the Tier 2 Adult Social Care Transformation programme.	Karen Jackson, Service Director (ASC Operations)	Lin Hazell, Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing Gill Quinton, Executive Director, Communities, Health & Adult Social Care Karen Jackson, Director of Operations

Date	Topic	Description and purpose	Lead Service Officer	Attendees
25 Jun 2019	Child Obesity Inquiry - 6 months on	For Members to receive an update on the progress on implementing the recommendations made in the Child Obesity Inquiry report.	Liz Wheaton, Committee and Governance Adviser	Lucie Smith, Public Health Practitioner
24 Sep 2019	Adult Social Care Transformation - Tier 3	For Members to examine the progress on Tier 3 Adult Social Care Transformation programme.	Jane Bowie, Director of Joint Commissioning	Lin Hazell, Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing Gill Quinton, Executive Director, Communities, Health & Adult Social Care Jane Bowie, Service Director (Integrated Commissioning)

Date	Topic	Description and purpose	Lead Service Officer	Attendees
Transport. Environment & Communities Select Committee				
5 Mar 2019	DEFRA: 25 Year Environmental Plan	Members will examine the implications of the DEFRA 25 Year Environmental Plan for the council, its services and the county.	David Sutherland, Head of Planning & Environment	Bill Chapple, Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment David Sutherland, Head of Planning and Environment Nicola Thomas, Natural Environment Partnership Manager
5 Mar 2019	Safer Stronger Bucks Partnership Plan	As the dedicated Crime and Disorder Committee, Members will undertake the annual review of the draft priorities within the partnership community safety plan. Members will identify community safety topics for inclusion within the Committees' annual work programme.	Faye Blunstone, Community Safety Co-Ordinator	Noel Brown, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Public Health Nigel Sims, Head of Strategic Commissioning Faye Blunstone, Community Safety Coordinator
5 Mar 2019	Sustainable School Travel Inquiry Recommendation Progress Update	Members will review progress towards implementation of the recommendations that had not been fully implemented at the 12 month review in September 18.	Joan Hancox, Head of Transport Strategy, James Silvester, Lead Growth and Strategy Officer	

Date	Topic	Description and purpose	Lead Service Officer	Attendees
5 Mar 2019	TEE Annual Business Unit Plan	Members will examine the key areas of priority, challenge and opportunities within the business unit and its services for the year ahead. Members will be able to use the discussion to help identify areas of focus for the Committees' annual work programme.	Neil Gibson, TEE Executive Director	Martin Tett, Leader Bill Chapple, Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment Mark Shaw, Cabinet Member for Transportation Neil Gibson, Executive Director Gill Harding, Director Commercial Development Martin Dickman, Director Environment Services Rob Smith, Director Growth and Strategy

SCRUTINY INQUIRY WORK PROGRAMME – OVERVIEW OF SELECT COMMITTEE LIVE INQUIRIES

Inquiry Title	Inquiry Chairman	Lead Officer	Nov 18	Dec 18	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19
Budget Scrutiny 2019	David Watson	Kelly Sutherland					
Support for Carers	Brian Roberts	Liz Wheaton					



Scoping



Evidence gathering



Committee Approval Report



Cabinet / NHS

For further information on scrutiny work please contact Kelly Sutherland, Committee & Governance Manager on 01296 382343.
www.buckscc.gov.uk/democracy. Last updated on 22 Jan 2019

Follow us on twitter @BucksDemocracy

Report to Cabinet

Title:	Direct Care and Support - Future of Thrift Farm
Date:	4 February 2019
Date can be implemented:	12 February 2019
Author:	Jane Bowie (Director of Joint Commissioning)
Contact officer:	Elizabeth Saunders Head of Integrated Commissioning Adult Social Care (01296 674909)
Local members affected:	All
Portfolio areas affected:	Health & Wellbeing

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

Executive Summary

Thrift Farm is a 52-acre Council owned farm in North Buckinghamshire, close to the border with Milton Keynes. It has functioned as a rural supported employment service for adults with learning difficulties since the early 1980s.

Thrift Farm has operated as a traditional social care service which does not readily support people to move on from the service to increased independence. A large number of service users have remained at the Farm for a considerable period of time.

There are a number of challenges in relation to Thrift Farm including accessibility of the location; health and safety risks; and financial viability.

On 23rd April 2018 Cabinet approved a programme of work to transform Direct Care and Support services. This included the requirements that:

- Plans for individual services will be subject to particularised consultation so projected future models are based on officer proposals following their consideration of options and could be revised through due process.
- Plans for Direct Care and Support services are designed to achieve the best solution and the greatest value for service users.

This Cabinet meeting provided the direction for the service to explore and consult on future options for the adult social care and support offer at Thrift Farm and for the users of the service.

The County Council has explored a number of possibilities for the future of Thrift Farm and has concluded that there are three options:

1. Do nothing
2. Identify an alternative provider or providers to take over the adult social care operations and functions of the farm in a financially viable and sustainable way.
3. Decommission the adult social care service

The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) identifies Transformation Programme savings of £2,487 for 2019/20, of which £124,000 is linked to Thrift Farm, either through transfer to another service provider or through decommissioning.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to approve the six-week consultation on the future of Thrift Farm, and note approval of final decision by the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing.

A. Narrative setting out the reasons for the decision

Thrift Farm is a 52 acre Council owned farm in North Buckinghamshire, close to the border with Milton Keynes. It has functioned as a rural supported employment service for Adults with Learning Difficulties since the early 1980s. It is also a popular visitor attraction, split into three main areas:

- Horticulture
- Animal farm park and picnic area
- Café

The site contains a house, a number of outbuildings, animal paddocks and meadow.

Between April 2013 and December 2016, Thrift Farm was managed by Buckinghamshire Care Local Authority Trading Company. During this time, significant investment was made in order to improve the Farm as a commercial visitor attraction e.g. building a new café. When the Council took the decision to close Buckinghamshire Care, staff and services at Thrift Farm were transferred back in house in order to continue operating.

Like other ex-Buckinghamshire Care Services, Thrift Farm has operated as a traditional type of social care service which does not readily support people to move on from the service to increased independence. A large number of service users have remained at Thrift Farm for a considerable period of time, some having attended for over 30 years. There are currently 69 service users(November 2018) at Thrift Farm, 36 are Buckinghamshire County Council service users, with the

majority of the remainder from Milton Keynes and others from other local authorities or privately funded.

The location of Thrift farm creates transport difficulties for many Buckinghamshire service users, as it is really only accessible by car. Most service users are taken by Client Transport and being located in the far north east of the county proves to be an issue for service users from the south who may wish to access it.

The 2018-19 budget for Thrift is £432,000. Despite considerable investment between 2013 and 2016 in the catering facilities, the commercial income and out-of-county placement income are such that Thrift Farm had an operating overspend in 2017-18 of £304,000. To develop Thrift Farm into a viable commercial venture the Council would need to invest further significant capital.

In addition, there are always risks associated with health and safety elements of the farm including hygiene risks around biological contamination for vulnerable adults and visitors, and around use of heavy machinery. This is currently managed with suitable staff numbers, but any growth in visitors or client numbers to increase income would again require significant capital investment.

On 23rd April 2018 Cabinet asked commissioners to explore opportunities for alternative providers to take over the running of Thrift Farm, whilst remaining mindful of savings requirements in the Medium Term Financial Plan, prior to commencing any consultation on the future of the Farm.

In the difficult financial climate it is not viable to continue to operate services with overspends. There are substantial financial pressures on the Council with overall Medium Term Financial Plan saving requirements of £14.457m for 2019-20 and on adult social care with savings requirements of £2.470m for 2019-20. The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) identifies savings of £2,487 for 2019-20, of which £124,000 is linked to Thrift Farm, either through transfer to another service provider or through decommissioning.

Buckinghamshire County Council has kept Milton Keynes Council appraised of possible plans for Thrift Farm, as the authority has 19 service users at the Farm. Buckinghamshire County Council officers met with counterparts from Milton Keynes Council and held a number of discussions with them during the period of market-testing to see if they would be able to offer any solutions. No proposal was received from Milton Keynes Council. The Council had expressed interest in operating the service but with the purchase of the site and minimal restrictions on any future sale. Given the savings requirements for 2019-20 and the County Council's interest in securing best value from any negotiation, this idea has not been pursued. Officers will continue to brief Milton Keynes Council on developments.

B. Other options available, and their pros and cons

Option 1: Do Nothing

Thrift Farm was operating at an overspend of £351,000 at the start of 2018-19. The model at Thrift Farm is outdated and would require considerable investment and

development to offer best practice support and to help service users to move through the service. The potential Health and Safety risks would also require significant capital investment.

The Do Nothing option is therefore not a viable option for the Council.

Option 2: Alternative Provider

The service has undertaken significant work to identify an alternative provider to take over the adult social care operations and functions of the farm in a financially viable and sustainable way.

Two rounds of invitation were held: a Request for Information and two subsequent formal opportunities advertised via the South East Business Portal.

The Request for Information attracted interest from two providers, neither of which submitted sufficiently robust business plans to result in an award. One of these (provider A) subsequently put forward their amended business plan and was the only respondent to the second invitation. This second business plan again failed to reach the tender thresholds on both quality and finance.

An evaluation was undertaken of the responses provided during the two requests for business plan submission, with a view to taking over the operations at Thrift Farm. An evaluation report highlighted areas of concern within the proposed business plans.

Careful consideration has been given as to whether commissioners could work with provider A over the next 3 – 6 months to resolve the issues identified and reach a position where provider A could take on and run Thrift Farm as a sustainable service. However, even with this additional support, there remains a significant risk that the service would not be sustainable over a 12-month period and would incur significant officer time and capital costs.

Adult social care has not been able to identify any alternative providers that could run the Farm sustainably, efficiently and effectively.

Option 3: Decommission Thrift Farm

Commissioners have explored and been unsuccessful in identifying an alternative organisation to sustainably run Thrift Farm. Given the out-dated care model and the significant investment needed detailed in Option 1, together with the savings required for the service, commissioners are of the view that the only viable option is to decommission adult social care services at Thrift Farm.

If Thrift Farm is decommissioned, Buckinghamshire service users will receive a comprehensive assessment of their needs and suitable alternative placements will be identified as part of a new care package. Where these needs are currently funded by Buckinghamshire County Council, it is likely their future needs will be funded by the County Council in line with our Choice and Top Up Policy.

The recommended option considered in this paper is to consult on the future of Thrift Farm, including the decommissioning of the service and to seek views on any other viable and sustainable proposals.

C. Resource implications

In the event that the service requires decommissioning, a redundancy consultation would be undertaken and all opportunities for redeploying staff be explored.

Part year savings for 2019-20 based on 5 month operation of the current service are anticipated to be in the region of £141,000 after redundancy liabilities, pension strain, costs to vacate site, and termination of leases. In addition, there will continue to be a cost per client for their alternative service provision.

Full year effect savings for 2020-21 are estimated to be £270,000, including assumptions of costs of reprovision for service users.

D. Value for Money (VfM) Self-Assessment

Buckinghamshire County Council has a duty to ensure that it delivers services that are sustainable and value for money. This will not be achieved if the Council continues to support the ongoing underlying overspend required to operate the current provision at Thrift Farm. Similar services are operating within the county which could provide suitable alternative day opportunities and supported employment for service users which should present better value for money.

E. Legal implications including Equality Impact

A local authority must make provision to meet eligible needs identified under the Care Act 2014, and where a service is no longer available must find an alternative way of meeting those needs.

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed which identifies that the needs of services users could be met by other similar services within the County. The Council would continue to meet its statutory duty in relation to the clients affected, reviewing and assessing clients' needs and developing suitable care plans with alternative care providers in relation to individual needs.

F. Property implications

In the event that the service requires decommissioning, the site would be cleared and returned to the management of the Council.

G. Other implications/issues

Unitary Council

There are no particular implications or future commitments for the new Unitary Council and there are no opportunities to develop a solution with District Councils.

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

Both the Cabinet Member and Local Member have been involved in discussions about potential outcomes and options for Thrift Farm. The Local Member has been central particularly in discussions about use of assets associated with the service and has been briefed on responses and evaluations from both expressions of interest to the market.

The Local Member does not support the recommendation to Cabinet.

I. Communication issues

Communication will be managed using a robust Consultation Plan, prepared in partnership with the Council and CCG Communications Team.

A draft Consultation Plan has been developed and sets out how stakeholders will be engaged and will be able to give their views during the relevant consultation period. A variety of consultation methods will be used to ensure that all stakeholder groups are able to respond, including adult service users.

J. Progress Monitoring and Review

The delivery of this programme will be reported and monitored through internal governance routes within both Buckinghamshire County Council and as part of the wider Adult Social Care Transformation Programmes.

Appendix 1: Equalities Impact Assessment

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 Democratic Services Team by 5.00pm on 1 February 2019. This can be done by telephone to 01296 381343 or e-mail to democracy@buckscc.gov.uk

Equality Impact Assessment

Part 1: Basic details

Project title	Direct Care and Support day services – approval to progress to public consultation in the future of Thrift Farm
Is this a new or existing document/service?	Review of previous EIA
Responsible officer	Adam Willison
Job title	Commissioning Manager
Contact no.	01296 387691 / 07766 697828
Team	Integrated Commissioning
Service	Integrated Commissioning
Business Unit	CHASC
Date started	April 2018, review January 2019
Date completed	January 2019 - updates will continue through development of scheme

Part 2: Purpose and Objectives

2.1	What is the purpose of the project or change?	<p>The Adult Social Care Transformation Programme contains the work stream relating to the review of Direct Care and Support services. The purpose of this work stream is to review or re-model in-house services to ensure these are effective, outcomes-focussed and support people to maintain or achieve the greatest degree of independence of which they are capable. The remodelled services must represent value for money and be financially sustainable.</p> <p>Across adult social care we want to support people to live well at home, maintaining or recovering their independence, and to fulfil their potential, partaking in meaningful day opportunities and supported employment. We want any services we commission to help achieve these aims, to reflect local need now and in the future and to draw on best practice models emerging across the country that offer best value for money. This means our service models need re-thinking.</p> <p>Thrift Farm has been a Council owned and run horticultural / farm day service for service users with a learning disability since the early 1980s. The service is not financially sustainable.</p> <p>In addition, running a farm requires specialist knowledge, which appears to have led to a number of other local authorities with this type of service to de-commission, or re-provide in a different way. Thrift Farm is not a statutory</p>
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Equality Impact Assessment

service and there are no proximal local authorities known to us with provisions combining Adult Social Care services and Council owned farms locally, although some exist further afield e.g. Nottinghamshire County Council.

Whilst there is a market for leisure farms in the local private sector, they do not appear to combine supported employment as part of their business model. Service users attend sessions at Thrift Farm on a daily basis. Placements are also provided for students from Special Schools and other local care establishments. Service Users work on the farm with the help and guidance of a small, experienced staff team.

There are a number of alternative community based horticultural services in Bucks for example Lindengate, Missenden Walled Garden and a number of alternative animal focused out door provisions for example Animal Antiks

The proposal is to consult on the future of Thrift Farm with the preferred option to decommission Thrift Farm and if agreed we would support the 36 Buckinghamshire County Council service users, undertaking a review or reassessment of their individual needs and identify suitable alternative day service provision. We would then decommission the services and return the farm to corporate landlord.

Milton Keynes Council, a local authority neighbouring the farm places approximately 19 clients at Thrift Farm and we have maintained a regular contact to appraise them of the planning regarding the proposed changes.

In 2017 we requested information from the market about the potential to run such a concern with limited response but the information obtained didn't provide sufficient clarity on how a service may be operated. The subsequent recommendation from procurement colleagues was to invite submission of business plans for the continued operation of the service via the South East Business Portal.

Two such rounds of invitation were held and the first attracted two providers, neither of which had sufficiently robust business plans to result in an award. One of these was the only respondent at the second invitation with an amended business plan. This second business plan precipitated some concerns and did not result in the decision to award, failing to reach the thresholds again on both quality and finance.

Whilst there has been some limited interest from the social care market in taking on the running of the farm with adult social care activities, due diligence demonstrated very limited confidence in the plans submitted in terms of financial viability and ongoing sustainability.

Equality Impact Assessment

The financial cost of running the service with an underlying overspend is unsustainable and doing nothing is not an option. Having exhausted options in relation to identifying a 3rd party to take on the running of the farm, the recommended option is to progress to decommissioning the service, following a period of consultation. If the proposal to consult is agreed, consultation with Thrift Farm stakeholders will commence. This is scheduled for 13/2/19 – 27/3/19.

Formal consultation with staff regarding plans to decommission the service would be required.

Thrift Farm is a 52 acre Council owned farm in North Buckinghamshire, very close to the border with Milton Keynes. It has functioned as a rural supported employment and day opportunity service for Adults with Learning Difficulties since the early 1980's. It is also a popular visitor attraction, split into three main areas:

- Horticulture
- Animal farm park and picnic area
- Café

The site contains a house, a number of outbuildings, animal paddocks and meadow.

Between April 2013 and December 2016, Thrift Farm was managed by Buckinghamshire Care Local Authority Trading Company. During this time, significant investment was made in order to improve the Farm as a commercial visitor attraction e.g. building a new café. When the Council took the decision to close Buckinghamshire Care, staff and services at Thrift Farm were transferred back in house in order to continue operating.

Thrift Farm has operated as a traditional type of social care service. This has resulted in a large number of service users remaining there for a considerable period of time, some having attended for over 30 years.

The location of the farm creates transport difficulties for many Buckinghamshire service users, as it is not accessible by public transport, and is only accessible by car. Most service users are taken by Client Transport and being located in the far north east of the county creates to be a barrier for service users from the south who may wish to access it.

Thrift Farm has operated as a rural a day opportunities and supported employment service for adults with Learning Difficulties since the early 1980s and continues to provide a traditional type of day service which does not readily support

Equality Impact Assessment

		people to move on from the service to increased independence. Despite significant investment between 2013 and 2016 in the catering facilities, the commercial income and out-of-county placement income are such that the running costs for Thrift Farm make it financially unsustainable. To develop Thrift into a viable commercial venture the Council would need to invest significant capital.
2.2	What are the key objectives of the project or change?	<p>The objective of this project is to remove the financial pressure of operating adult social services at the Farm from the Adult Social Care budget, either through decommissioning or by identifying an alternative provider who has a viable and sustainable proposal. Ultimately we want to ensure that service users are able to access suitable services to meet their identified needs, whilst promoting independence and engagement in meaningful activities.</p> <p>The objectives of this project are aligned with those of the wider Direct Care & Support Services Transformation Programme which aims to supports people to access the most appropriate type of support to meet their needs within sustainable and value for money services.</p> <p>Decommissioning the service would contribute to sustaining adult social care provision in Buckinghamshire within defined budget.</p>
2.3	Which other functions, services or policies may be impacted?	Staff and resource required from Communications, HR, Finance, Direct Care & Support, Operations, Property and Transport.
2.4	Who are the main stakeholders impacted by this project or change?	Existing clients of Thrift, potential service users, including funded by other local authorities (mainly Milton Keynes Council), members of staff, carers/families, Talkback, Carers Bucks, members of the public, volunteers and community alternative providers.
2.5	Which other stakeholders may be affected by this project or change?	Local Members

Part 3: Data and Research

3.1	What data and research has been used to inform this assessment?	Running a farm that provides adult social care support requires specialist knowledge, which appears to have led to a number of other local authorities with this type of service to de-commission, or re-provide in a different way. Thrift Farm is not a statutory service and there are no proximal local authorities known to us with provisions combining Adult Social Care services and Council owned farms locally, although some exist further afield e.g. Nottinghamshire Special Schools and other local care establishments. Service
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Equality Impact Assessment

Users work on the farm with the help and guidance of a small, experienced staff team.

There are a number of alternative community horticultural services in Buckinghamshire including Lindengate, Missenden Walled Garden and a number of alternative services which provide day opportunities with animals e.g Animal Antiks, Equicate, Thomley

The service has been running at a significant underlying overspend (£351,000 at the start of 2018-19) which is not sustainable. It has not been possible to identify a provider with a robust business plan evidencing how the farm can be operated to break even.

Many of the clients who attend Thrift Farm have been attending to service for many years. The cohort is generally static and there is a lack of move on and this means that capacity to take on new clients is very limited. The service has not generally been successful in enabling individuals to move on, to other activity options or to greater independence. Some current service users may have become dependent, remaining at Thrift Farm for considerable length of time.

This proposal is part of the Direct Care & Support Transformation Programme, which does not have targeted or intentional impact on any single or specific group of service users.

Thrift Farm provides services to people predominantly with learning disabilities and some with mental health difficulties. There are currently 69 people attending the service, 36 (52%) are Bucks clients, 19 clients (28%) are from Milton Keynes and the remaining 14 clients are from other local authorities or self-funders (20%).

Buckinghamshire Service users are predominantly male (2/3rds) Most service users live in Aylesbury or the north of the county although there are a small number who do travel from the south of Aylesbury.

The age range is considerable, the youngest service user is 22 to 69 years. With the following break down.

Age range	Numbers
22 - 29	19
30 - 39	13
40 - 49	11
50 - 59	7
60+	5

Equality Impact Assessment

		The cohort who access services at Thrift Farm is generally static, with few people moving out of the service and no capacity to take on new clients. Some people have been at the Farm for many years.
3.2	Have any complaints on the grounds of discrimination been made in relation to this project?	No tbc
3.3	Please provide evidence of these.	N/A
3.4	What <u>positive</u> impacts have been established through research findings, consultation and data analysis?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other similar services are available within the county that will be able to provide similar and stimulating opportunities • Some other services are more accessible using public transport • Adult Social Care would be able to support people in accessing suitable cost effective services, whilst addressing the underlying overspend • There would be more opportunity to address the potential for move on for individuals who have remained in traditional services such as Thrift for very long periods of time. Service Users will have the opportunity for new and meaningful experiences
3.5	What <u>negative</u> impacts have been established through research findings, consultation and data analysis?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thrift Farm is not accessible by Public Transport and is generally only accessible via car • Many service users have been at Thrift Farm for many years and would be anxious about a move. The Transition Plans and the support we provide would be very important. • Carers would be anxious about moving their cared for person who is accustomed to the Farm experience and may be unsettled by change • The service is well regarded and used by service users and the wider community and its decommissioning would reduce the extent of choice • The travel implications of the proposed move are yet to be fully understood until clients have been reviewed and suitable placements found. • Some service users may elect to access placements which are more expensive than those which social care can source to meet identified need and may be required to pay a top up.
3.6	What additional information is needed to fill any gaps in	Work is commencing to match home location, needs and likely interests of existing clients; to further work with providers of potential alternative services to look at how

Equality Impact Assessment

knowledge about the potential impact of the project?	<p>needs could be met in a way which supports people to develop their independence.</p> <p>Detailed travel planning would need to take place as part of the transition planning for both services and for individuals.</p>
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Part 4: Testing the impact

<p>Within this table, please indicate (✓) whether the project will have a positive, negative or neutral impact across the following nine protected factors and provide relevant comments.</p> <p><i>Note 1: Listing a negative outcome does not mean the project cannot continue.</i></p> <p><i>Note 2: This is an opportunity to identify and address issues for improvement</i></p>						
		Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	What evidence do you have for this?	Improvement Actions Required
4.1	Age			✓	There are service users across the age range using this service	Ensure market place is developed to be able to provide suitable alternatives to meet individual needs.
4.2	Disability		✓		Potential reduction of day support and supported employment choices for clients with a learning disability or autism	Ensure market place is developed to be able to provide suitable alternatives to meet individual need. Refer individuals through to supported employment where appropriate
4.3	Gender			✓		
4.4	Marriage / Civil Partnership			✓		
4.5	Pregnancy / Maternity/ Paternity			✓		
4.6	Race			✓		
4.7	Religion/ Belief			✓		
4.8	Sexual Orientation			✓		

Equality Impact Assessment

4.9	Transgender			✓		
4.10	Carers		✓		Potential reduction in day support and supported employment could lead to more pressure on carers with potential for difficulty accessing the new service location	The project will need to ensure people's needs are appropriately met and that carers needs are considered as part of the assessment process.

Part 5: Director / Head of Service Statement

<p>I am fully aware of the duties required of Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) under the Equality Act 2010 and I have read our Equality Strategy.</p> <p>I am satisfied that this Equality Impact Assessment shows that we have made every possible effort to address any actual or potential unlawful discrimination.</p>	<p>Name Jane Bowie</p>
	<p>Signature</p>
	<p>Date</p>