



Title:	Committee options paper
Committee date:	6 December 2013
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Report signed off by Cabinet Member:	n/a
Electoral divisions affected:	n/a

Purpose of this paper:

This paper refers to the document 'Select Committee Information Paper on Hydraulic Fracturing (Fracking)' and presents the committee with a set of outline options for next steps.

Background:

Currently, fracking is not an area of policy where Buckinghamshire County Council has direct influence or responsibility. Buckinghamshire is unlikely to be a candidate for the extraction of Shale Gas. However, from media coverage over the summer of 2013 it is evident that fracking is an extremely controversial issue yet there is a lack of widely understood clarity surrounding the process.

An information paper has been produced (attached) in order to develop an enhanced understanding of fracking realities, benefits and risks and to identify any actions for BCC to consider.

Related papers:

- Select Committee Information Paper on Hydraulic Fracturing (Fracking)
- ETL Select Committee information paper from 25th September 2013



Options:

The committee are asked to consider the following options to decide next steps:

1. The committee resolves to do no further research on fracking and to pass the information paper on to Cabinet for their consideration.
2. The committee do no further research and pass the information paper on to Cabinet with a covering letter of committee recommendations (for example, that the redrafted Minerals Plan reference fracking, and that any further in-depth research is led by the Cabinet Member at the appropriate time).
3. The committee receive further information from the service area (currently scheduled for the February committee) then at that time decide whether to commission any further research on fracking and subsequently pass any views or recommendations on to the Cabinet Member.