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Queen Victoria Road
High Wycombe
Bucks HP11 1BB

Council

Date: 11 April 2016
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: Council Chamber
District Council Offices, Queen Victoria Road, High Wycombe, Bucks

You are hereby summoned to attend the Meeting of the Council to be held in the Council Chamber, District Council Offices, Queen Victoria Road, High Wycombe on 11 April 2016 at 6.30 pm to consider the business set out in the Agenda below.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Satterford'.

Ms K Satterford
Chief Executive

Fire Alarm - In the event of the fire alarm sounding, please leave the building quickly and calmly by the nearest exit. Do not stop to collect personal belongings and do not use the lifts. Please congregate at the Assembly Point at the corner of Queen Victoria Road and the River Wye, and do not re-enter the building until told to do so by a member of staff.

Agenda

Item		Page
1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE To receive apologies for absence.	
2	MINUTES To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meetings of Council held on 25 February 2016.	1 - 32
3	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive any disclosure of disclosable pecuniary interests by Members relating to items on the agenda. If any member is uncertain as to whether an interest should be disclosed, he or she is asked if possible to contact the District Solicitor prior to the meeting.	

Members are reminded that if they are declaring an interest they

should state the nature of that interest whether or not they are required to withdraw from the meeting.

4 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive such communication as the Chairman of the Council may wish to make.

5 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Written questions may be asked of the leader or any Cabinet Member if submitted to the Head of Democratic, Legal and Policy Services no later than 12 noon on Monday 4 April 2016. Questions will be submitted in the order in which they were received.

A questioner will have a maximum of 1 minute to ask a question and the answer shall not exceed 3 minutes. Any questioner may put one supplementary question without notice within a maximum time of 1 minute and the answer may not exceed 2 minutes.

6 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

Questions to the Leader or any Cabinet members must be submitted by 12 noon on Monday 4 April 2016. Questions shall be taken first from the Group Leaders of the political parties who shall be entitled to ask one initial Leader's question each, including the right to adopt another Member's question from his/her Group, of which written notice shall have been given to the Head of Democratic, Legal and Policy Services prior to the meeting.

The order of questions shall then permit the first question from each other Councillor to be asked before any subsequent questions from the same Councillor. One question will be taken in turn from each Councillor and there shall be no consecutive questions from the same Councillor unless there are no other questions to be asked.

Every Member asking an oral question is permitted to ask one supplementary question without notice provided that it not substantially the same as a question that was put to a Council meeting during the past six months.

The appropriate member will respond to any questions remaining unanswered at the expiry of 30 minutes in writing. Any question remaining unanswered after 30 minutes will be answered within 10 working days in writing after the meeting by the appropriate Member and appended to the minutes of the meeting.

7 PETITIONS

- (i) Council to receive any petition from a member of the public who lives, works or studies within the district or from a Councillor on his/her behalf as notified by the deadline of 5pm on Monday 4 April 2016.
- (ii) Council to consider any petition already received that

Item		Page
	meets the required number of signatures to qualify for a debate by Full Council. (The petition organiser will have 5 minutes to present the petition and then the Council will debate the matter for a maximum of 15 minutes and decide how to respond to the petition)	
8	CABINET	33 - 40
	To receive the minutes of and consider any recommendations from the following meeting:	
	Cabinet 7 March 2016	
9	IMPROVEMENT & REVIEW COMMISSION	41 - 46
	To receive the minutes of and consider any recommendations from the following meeting:	
	Improvement & Review Commission 9 March 2016	
10	AUDIT COMMITTEE	47 - 50
	To receive the minutes of and consider any recommendations from the following meeting:	
	Audit Committee 3 March 2016	
11	HIGH WYCOMBE TOWN COMMITTEE	51 - 54
	To receive the minutes of and consider any recommendations from the following meeting:	
	High Wycombe Town Committee 1 March 2016	
12	PERSONNEL & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	55 - 56
	To receive the minutes of and consider any recommendations from the following meeting:	
	Personnel & Development Committee 9 March 2016	
13	PLANNING COMMITTEE	57 - 66
	To receive the minutes of and consider any recommendations from the following meetings:	
	Planning Committee 20 January 2016	
	Planning Committee 17 February 2016	
	Planning Committee 16 March 2016 (To Follow)	
14	REGULATORY & APPEALS COMMITTEE	67 - 70
	To receive the minutes of and consider any recommendations from the following meeting:	
	Regulatory & Appeals Committee 2 March 2016	

15 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 11.2

**16 URGENT ACTION TAKEN BY CABINET OR INDIVIDUAL
CABINET MEMBER**

(a) Approval of Revised Local Development Scheme

**For further information, please contact Iram Malik on 01494 421204,
committeeservices@wycombe.gov.uk**

Council Minutes

Date: 25 February 2016

Time: 6.35 - 8.35 pm

PRESENT: Councillor I L McEnnis (in the Chair)

Councillors Mrs J A Adey, K Ahmed, Z Ahmed, M C Appleyard, M Asif, D H G Barnes, Ms A Baughan, S Broadbent, Miss S Brown, H Bull, D J Carroll, M Clarke, Mrs L M Clarke OBE, A D Collingwood, M P Davy, R Farmer, R Gaffney, S Graham, A R Green, G C Hall, M Harris, M A Hashmi, A E Hill, A Hussain, M Hussain, M Hussain JP, D A Johncock, M E Knight, D Knights, Mrs J D Langley, A Lee, N B Marshall, H L McCarthy, R Newman, Ms C J Oliver, B E Pearce, S K Raja, R Raja, S Saddique, J A Savage, R J Scott, D A C Shakespeare OBE, N J B Teesdale, Mrs J E Teesdale, A Turner, P R Turner, Ms J D Wassell, D M Watson, C Whitehead, R Wilson, L Wood and Ms K S Wood.

Also present: Honorary Aldermen: J M Blanksby, Mr P Cartwright, Mrs P Priestley and Mr R Pushman

78 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Honorary Aldermen E H Collins, D Cox, M Oram and Mrs K Peatey MBE. Councillors: C Etholen, M Hanif, Mrs A Jones, G Peart and Mrs W Mallen.

79 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 14 December 2015, be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

80 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

81 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported upon some of the activities that he and the Vice-Chairman had attended since the last meeting of the Council, these included:

- i) Ribbon Cutting Event held at Wycombe Sports Centre on 5 January 2016
- ii) High Wycombe Guarantors Event held on 6 January 2016.
- iii) Armed Forces Returning Personnel Reception held on 27 January 2016.

- iv) Sea Cadets Awards held on 29 January 2016
- v) WDC'S Mayor's Civic Service held on 31 January 2016
- vi) Civic Dinner to mark 30 Year Renewal of Freedom of the Town to RAF HW held on 4 February 2016.
- vii) Chinese New Year Celebration
- viii) Marlow Town Mayor's Charity dinner held on 21 February 2016
- ix) Deputy Commissioner for Pakistan Celebration of his appointment held on 23 February 2016.

He also commented on the forthcoming events that he would be attending.

Wycombe Leisure Centre

The Chairman reported that, on 5 January 2016, he and colleagues had been one of the first people through the doors of the new Wycombe Leisure Centre and had enjoyed some of the activities on offer. He commented that we should all feel proud as the facility marked a great achievement for this Council. He also made mention of the increased footfall and the positive feedback from the public.

He reminded Members that, on 2 March 2016, his Royal Highness the Duke of Kent would return to officially open the Wycombe Leisure Centre, 38 years after he opened the previous Wycombe Sports Centre. He will be greeted by the five-time Olympic gold medallist, Wycombe district resident, and Deputy Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, Sir Steve Redgrave.

82 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(a) Question from Dr L Derrick to the Cabinet Member for Planning

"Last July my 3 year old granddaughter had an accident on a slide in a playground on Red Kite Way in Disraeli. The playground was provided by Miller Homes under a S.106 agreement with WDC.

Under the agreement, WDC should have inspected the playground before it was opened to ensure it was safe. WDC didn't.

Moreover, Miller Homes was allowed to undertake road building alongside the playground and store hazardous material by the playground. When the accident took place the playground was formally classified as an active construction site.

An independent inspection found the slide had a moderate risk of causing serious injury to children.

Why did WDC not inspect the playground?

Why did WDC allow Miller Homes to undertake construction work by the playground?

Why did WDC allow Miller Homes to put children at risk?"

Response from Councillor D Johncock (Cabinet Member for Planning)

"Thank you Doctor Derrick for your question, actually three questions. I will do my best to answer them all in the time I'm allowed.

IN RESPONSE TO THE FIRST QUESTION 'WHY DID THE COUNCIL NOT INSPECT THE PLAYGROUND?'

I have reviewed the Planning enforcement file and it is clear that the Officers had spent many hours responding to complaints, Freedom of Information requests and attending public meetings outside of office hours to answer questions in relation to the Play Area on the new estate on Garratts Way.

This Play Area first came to the attention of the Planning Enforcement Team last Summer after they received a report that it had not been constructed in accordance with the approved plans and was not safe. This followed an accident involving your Grand-daughter who had been playing on the slide. It is my understanding that, thankfully, she only received bruising as a result of this incident and that, since then, there had been no further injury accidents.

Anyway, following that report, Officers promptly visited the site and established that the play area and equipment within it had been laid out in accordance with the approved plans.

However, a safety report relating to the play equipment had not been provided to the Council as required by the Section 106 Agreement. Following a request by Officers, the developer commissioned a safety report which confirmed that the play equipment was safe and met the required standards. The report did however make some minor recommendation as to how some of the equipment could be improved to overcome some small risks that had been identified. These works have now been carried out and a new safety report has been provided confirming the moderate risk previously identified had been overcome.

The Council did not inspect the playground before this because there was nothing to indicate that the development was a high risk in relation to not complying with the permission. The Council has to ensure that its resources are targeted effectively.

Moving onto the next question:

'WHY DID WDC ALLOW MILLER HOMES TO UNDERTAKE CONSTRUCTION WORK BY THE PLAYGROUND?'

My understanding is that the properties within the estate have been completed and occupied for a couple of years with the playground also being available for residents to use since they moved in. Due to some contractual issues between the

house builder and the construction contractor, the road and pavements were left unfinished until autumn of last year.

As the road and pavements were unfinished, the whole estate officially remained classified as a construction site under HSE guidance. However, in reality it was not a construction site in the conventional sense but a place where people were living and going about their daily lives. The playground was also completed and was used by children living on the estate and from neighbouring roads.

The works needed to be carried out to the pavements and roads were in order for the development to be finally completed. These were no different than a Highway Authority relaying a pavement or resurfacing a road. Officers from the Health and Safety Executive visited the estate in the summer whilst these works were being undertaken and did not observe practices that warranted them to intervene and stop the works.

Finally:

'WHY DID WDC ALLOW MILLER HOMES TO PUT CHILDREN AT RISK?'

Two safety inspections have been carried out by suitably qualified independent professionals who have confirmed that the playground and equipment meets the required national standards and is safe to be used. The Health and Safety Executive investigated the construction of the road and pavement following a complaint and were happy for works to proceed. There is no evidence to suggest that children were put at risk by Miller Homes or anyone else."

Supplementary Question

"This playground was poorly designed, and poorly specified in the Section 106 agreement. It was not inspected nor certified as required. As a result the playground put children at serious risk and still puts children at risk. It is also uninspiring and unadventurous.

I have been trying to discuss these issues with officials for some months, through Councillor Ahmed, the local Councillor. However, officials have declined to meet him. I think this undemocratic.

I then asked for a meeting directly with the Head of Planning . She has referred my request to Stage 2 of the complaints procedure and will be carrying out a full investigation into – well I don't know what. I have asked if WDC could tell me what complaint I have made.

Councillor Johncock, will you invite me to a meeting, and quickly, to learn lessons and discuss what can be done to prevent children being at risk at this playground."

Supplementary Response

"Dr Derrick, I have explained the position, and as you have continued to write to the Head of Planning on this topic since you submitted your original question, it had

been decided to deal with the matter under the Council's Complaint Procedure. That being so, it would be inappropriate for me to meet with you or to comment any further at this time."

(b) Question from Mr T Snaith to the Cabinet Member for Housing.

"Could the Cabinet member advise the number of local people on WDC Social housing register and how many are securing properties in High Wycombe?"

How does Wycombe District Council police the Home Choice Programme to ensure local people are housed in properties in High Wycombe?"

Response from Councillor Mrs Langley (Cabinet Member for Housing).

"Following the Localism Bill Act 2011 Local Authorities were able to frame their own Allocations Policy. The Bucks Home Choice policy was adopted in May 2014, and has introduced a local connection criteria for applicants wishing to apply via Bucks Home Choice. Bucks Home Choice is for rented accommodation only. An applicant is deemed to have a local connection with a district if the applicant:

- a) Is living and has lived in a district continuously for at least 2 years immediately preceding the date of the application and/or
- b) Is working and has been in continuous employment in a district for at least two years immediately preceding the date of the application and has worked for a minimum of 24 hours per week throughout that period. Employment is described as having a permanent contract, or working under contract as temporary member of staff. The applicants' normal place of work must be based in the Council's area; the existence of a company office based in the Council's area will not by itself meet the criteria.

If an applicant does not meet criteria above, then the applicant will not be a qualifying person for Bucks Home Choice and not able to register for social housing. The only **exceptions** are set out in the criteria.

The numbers on the Bucks Home Choice are 1525 live applications of which 1407 reside in High Wycombe and have the 2 year local connection criteria.

117 applicants are not resident of which:-

- 17 household work in the Wycombe District and meet the local connection
- 19 households are forces or ex forces
- 9 Care Leavers currently displaced out of district
- 5 homeless applicants
- 66 seeking over 65 accommodation
- 1 right to move

Since 1st April 2014 557 properties have been advertised and let through Bucks Home Choice. There were 44 properties let to applicants who did not fulfil the residency qualification for Bucks Home Choice. These were:

- 30 aged persons accommodation
- 14 general needs accommodation of which 12 were accepted homeless cases and 2 qualified under the working qualification.”

Supplementary Question

“It has come to my attention that, in a particular area within the district, there is a family living in a Housing Association property from outside of the area. How has this happened and how is the programme policed.”

Supplementary Response

“As we all know, there is not enough housing to go round, the Council does not have a housing stock and we know that locally and nationally there is a housing shortage. Homelessness is increasing, and placements do sometimes come from London Boroughs. The Bucks Home Choice does have criteria to police the programme.”

FIRE DRILL

The meeting was adjourned at 18.55 whilst the Council Chamber was evacuated due to the fire alarm sounding. Upon confirmation that it was safe to enter the building, the meeting reconvened at 19.00.

83 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

(a) Question from Councillor R Raja to the Leader of the Council

“When Cllr Wood became Leader last May she made "finding homes for the young" one of her top priorities. She had now dropped that priority in the new corporate plan. Could she tell us what targets she set for this priority and how far she had been successful in achieving her modest targets? Could she also tell us why "finding homes for the young" is no longer a priority?”

Response given by Councillor Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council)

“Thank you for your question Cllr Raja. I would just like to point out that my priorities when elected last year were Housing and Youth, not just finding homes for the young. However I am pleased you have given me the opportunity to highlight some of our plans for the next four years which have just been published in our Corporate Plan.

The Plan focusses on Place, People and Pounds.

Within our people priority, we list our priorities for engaging with younger people to help meet their needs and aspirations locally. These include increasing access to facilities and spaces for young people, which encompasses all kinds of facilities. Also within that priority we state we would be working on identifying opportunities and developing options for the Council to become more active in enabling the

provision of homes which would of course include endeavouring to provide homes for young people.

I think you would therefore see Cllr Raja that it is very clear that we are prioritising housing in the district for all our residents including the young, via our Corporate Plan, the Local Plan, the Homeless Strategy and the day to day work of the officers in the housing service.

It is not something that could happen overnight, but we are putting all the plans in place to enable us to meet our priorities.

In addition, whilst we have been doing all this work, during the last year we have also assisted 97 households under the age of 30 between into permanent housing and that included 55 aged under 25. Equally we have prevented 94 households in which the main applicant was under the age of 30 from becoming homeless in the same period. So I disagree that finding homes for the young is no longer a priority.”

There was no supplementary question.

(b) Question from Councillor M Knight to the Leader of the Council

“Could the Leader outline the ways that Wycombe District Council works effectively with Bucks County Council and give examples of recent achievements as a result of collaboration, shared objectives and joint working?”

Response given by Councillor Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council)

“Thank you Cllr Knight for your question. We work very closely with a whole range of partners, including Buckinghamshire County Council, where we have mutual interest and benefit to help deliver the Council’s priorities, which are set out in our Corporate Plan. Just by way of example, the County Council’s support and involvement had been crucial to the delivery of our regeneration schemes, a number of which have recently come to fruition. The Handy Cross Hub development opened last month with the new sports and leisure centre, quickly followed by the coach way park and ride facility. Both of these projects involved close collaboration with the County Council because of their responsibilities for highway and traffic management. The opening of the Handy Cross Hub is a fantastic achievement for the Council and the District, increasing the District’s connectivity and providing state-of-the art sporting and leisure facilities, as well as providing us over £1m a year annual income. The enhanced park-and-ride facility serves 19 National Express coach services, making High Wycombe better connected. The Cabinet Member for Community would be giving a more detailed answer on the increased level of participation of the new Sports and Leisure Centre later.

And there is so much more to come, with £5m Waitrose Superstore opening its doors to the public next month, again delivering an income stream to the Council. The retailer had reported 500 people applying for the 100 jobs at the store. Phases two and three, estimated to open in 2017/18, would include a 150-bed hotel and

300,000sq ft of office space which we are working to attract blue-chip businesses to relocate their headquarters to Wycombe – creating hundreds of additional jobs.

We have also worked closely with Bucks CC and three other Town and Parish Councils on a presentation to the HS2 Select Committee regarding the A4010/A4129 and A40 through West Wycombe village, This resulted in an agreement that HS2 Ltd would not use the A40 as a specified construction route that could have taken many heavy lorries past listed buildings along the A40 through West Wycombe, and a sum of £480,000 to use TO install safety measures along the A4010/A4129

As you can see Cllr Knight we have ambitious plans for the future, of Wycombe and we continue to work closely with Buckinghamshire County Council and other partners accordingly.”

Supplementary Question

“I am impressed with the partnership working for the Handy X development, although I’m aware that there were problems with the syncing of the traffic lights and the condition of the road. In the East section of Wycombe, residents and Local Members had suggested a panoramic walkway through CIL funding, BCC had acknowledged clear benefits for the proposal. WDC have failed to support it, by not contributing CIL funding, and therefore left the project in doubt. This is just one example of how in my view the Councils’ in this area are not working together effectively. Another, more high profile example is our chaotic and poorly maintained High Street. As you have recently welcomed two of the biggest supporters of Unitary Authorities with open arms, perhaps your position on this had changed, but if it hasn’t what more could be done to resolve residents’ issues, in partnership with others?”

Supplementary Response

“We are separate independent organisations and, as my answer shows, this is not a barrier to successful collaboration and delivery.”

(c) Question from Councillor S Broadbent to the Cabinet Member for Community

“Has the opening of the new Leisure Centre increased the level of participation in physical activity and exercise by residents of Wycombe District?”

Response given by Councillor Mrs J Adey (Cabinet Member for Community)

“I am delighted to say that the new Wycombe Leisure Centre had been a phenomenal hit with residents. We are always looking at ways to encourage people to participate in exercise for their health and wellbeing and we have seen across the board increases in usage. I would just quote a few of the increases we have seen since the Centre opened at the start of January. Swimming is up across the board – adult swimming by 74%, family swimming by 177%; 50+ sessions by 59%; fitness classes by 45%; squash by 29%; swimming lessons by 60%. I could go on but you can see that everyone, young and old, is benefitting from the

Council's investment in state of the art sports and leisure provision. High Wycombe had greatly improved its retail offer over the past decade – with the new Wycombe Leisure Centre we are clearly showing our ambition to make the District a major destination for all and to provide an all-round great quality of life for our residents.”

Supplementary Question

“Thank you for your response. Had the opening of the new leisure centre improved links with clubs and the community?”

Supplementary Response

“The swimming club would be holding top level competition in March, the last opportunity for swimmers to qualify for British Olympic trials. 1,900 swimmers have so far expressed a desire to compete at Wycombe (not all could take part of course!). They have also used the improved facilities to start a section for disabled swimmers.

The 50+ club have been able to bring in many new members from their waiting list, with further additional applicants attracted by the new centre

The climbing wall was a whole new area of activity and had started a junior section.

Links have been established with local squash and badminton clubs to provide junior coaching

Junior gym sessions have also begun and tiny tots have a fantastic new bouncy castle type facility that had seen a big increase in Under 3's participation

Links have also been established with Wycombe Wanderers football club encouraging 5-a-side football and gym based training.”

(d) Question from Councillor A Hashmi to the Cabinet Member for Housing

“Three years ago WDC promised it would not use B&Bs for homeless families except in emergencies and then only for 1 week. It also promised not to use B&Bs outside Wycombe. It promised to set up a registration scheme for B&Bs in Wycombe and only use these B&B providers.

We now understand WDC is offering B&Bs outside Wycombe to homeless families causing them disruption to education, jobs and family support.

How many registered B&Bs in Wycombe does WDC have on its books for the homeless? How many homeless are in B&Bs and where are they? And how many families are being offered B&Bs outside Wycombe?”

Response given by Councillor Mrs J Langley (Cabinet Member for Housing)

“The ‘promise’ referred to by Councillor Hashmi relates to one action from our homelessness Strategy 2014-2019 which assisting us to meet our aims and objectives in preventing and resolving homelessness.

At present, we only use bed and breakfast accommodation if no other accommodation is available to us when a duty to provide accommodation is owed. At present, Saunderton Lodge; our main temporary accommodation unit; is operating at full capacity meaning we have had to access emergency accommodation for households who have become homeless from time to time. We have sourced accommodation in High Wycombe and now rarely use accommodation outside of the district unless the need arises due to lack of availability or due to the clients circumstances meaning it is unsafe for them to remain here.

We have met the statutory target of keeping use of bed and breakfast to less than 6 weeks for families and at present have 11 households placed in bed and breakfast accommodation at present, made up of 9 families and 2 single people. The longest stay for families currently in b&b had been 4 weeks. 5 of these households have been placed in the last 10 days with the most recent being this morning. With 4 households (3 families) placed in b&b in Slough due to a lack of availability in Wycombe. The longest stay out of district for families currently had been 2 weeks (one family) with the other two families being placed last Thursday and today. We have been creating vacancies at Saunderton to accommodate these households and would be moving them all in due course.

I cannot recall any promise to register b&b's in Wycombe, apart from our aim of sourcing one or more- which we have achieved.”

Supplementary Question

“In December 2015, there were 70 families in b&b accommodation and 1,500 on the social housing waiting list. As you know, with the proposed benefit cap in April this would only get worse. Following the cuts in April, could you provide an estimate number of how much accommodation WDC would need to provide?”

Supplementary Response

“I think it's worth drawing your attention to the fact that neighbouring authorities' figures are much higher than ours, Reading had 160, Slough approximately 60, and South Bucks have 20. The Council had relatively low numbers, by comparison, in b&b accommodation and I wish I could take the credit for that. Currently there are 11 households made up of 9 families & 2 single persons. The longest stay was 4 weeks. The Council had good management and dedicated staff. The Council would continue to utilise Saunderton Lodge which is the Council's main temporary accommodation Hostel. I'm pleased to say that the hostel is being considered for improvements as part of a feasibility study on potential options. I am aware that the numbers are likely to increase and this would be monitored.”

(e) Question from Councillor S Graham to the Cabinet Member for Housing

“When Wycombe's council homes were transferred to Red Kite in 2011, tenants were promised that Red Kite would invest £10.5 million to regenerate the Starblocks flats in Castlefield. The contract between Red Kite and WDC requires the redevelopment to be finished by the end of 2016.

Red Kite promised to keep local Councillors informed about what was happening. It hasn't.

What I have found out is that Red Kite plans to demolish the existing 69 social housing units at the Starblocks flats and replace them with 102 affordable units, 12 shared ownership units and 12 outright sale units - to be delivered by 2018/9. So redevelopment would be at least 2 years late and another 69 social homes would disappear from Red Kites books in addition to the 130 already gone.

Don't you agree that Wycombe needs more social homes not less? And if Red Kite is not going to build them, who will?”

Response given by Councillor Mrs J Langley (Cabinet Member for Housing)

“Red Kite made a number of promises to tenants and leaseholders prior to transfer in December 2011 including a promise to regenerate the Castlefield Starblocks and are making steady progress to achieve their aims including the redevelopment of this area.

If my maths are correct, Cllr Graham had stated that Red Kite are demolishing 69 units, replacing them with 102 units of which 90 would be considered affordable, thereby an increase of 21 units of new, affordable housing in an area in need of regeneration.

The 130 units lost, I would assume relate to right to buy sales since transfer, however I do not have these figures to hand and could only speculate as to the source of Cllr Graham's figures.

Red Kite are not the only housing association developing affordable housing in the district, with new affordable housing being delivered by, amongst others Home Group, Housing Solutions, Bucks Housing Association, Paradigm Housing, Thames Valley Housing Association, and High Town Housing group to name but a few.”

Supplementary Question

“Are you confident that Red Kite will fulfil their obligations by the end of the contract?”

Supplementary Response

“You could contact Red Kite directly for information at any time, in line with the agreed protocol for Member enquiries. I am also of the understanding that Councillor Hanif, Knight and yourself have been updated on events and were

invited to Red Kites drop in event in December 2015, but I understand that you were unable to attend. Just to advise you that the Audit Committee are regularly provided with an update on Red Kite's performance, as set out in the committee's minutes attached to the Council summons. I am confident that Red Kite is on progress to fulfil their obligations."

(f) Question from Councillor K Ahmed to the Leader of the Council

"Nearly two years ago, WDC proudly rolled out an ANPR system throughout its 19 car parks. However, the 'all singing all dancing' system had failed to deliver. Thieves and vandals have targeted the new pay machines 49 times, stealing nearly £50,000, causing over £100,000 of damage and depriving WDC of who knows how much lost revenue. 49 times!

Cabinet should have made sure the pay machines were vandal-proof before they installed such an expensive system. But they didn't. Cabinet should have made changes when the first theft took place - or the second - or even the third. But apparently not. To get targeted 49 times is beyond belief.

Would the Leader agree that her Cabinet had been negligent - or asleep - or both?

Would the Leader agree with me that her Cabinet had failed miserably and should consider taking up jobs that don't have such severe consequences for ill thought ideas?"

Response given by Councillor Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council)

"The ANPR system that was installed and had delivered many benefits to customers and businesses such as:

- enabling people to pay when they leave the car park and therefore only having to pay for the time that they have used
- not having to rush back to the car parks allowing people to spend more time shopping or on business
- as well as options to pay online and pay up to 24 hours after leaving the car park.

The system had enabled the council to make savings on overheads.

With the court case still pending in connection with the break-ins and vandalism, I need to be careful about commenting on the vandalism and robberies. However, the machines are robust, have good levels of security and comply with British Standards. Indeed, some of the break-ins failed due to the levels of security. Sadly, the sheer force and destruction that the machines were subjected to was immense.

Unfortunately, we have had robberies in the past, so it is not specific to these machines. Nor is it unique to Wycombe, but a nationwide issue. It is not uncommon in the industry and occurs across different car park operators and machine types.

Cllr Ahmed I take great exception to your comments that my Cabinet were negligent or asleep. As Councillors we work very hard for the benefit of the residents of the District. We make decisions based on information provided to us by our hard working officers who are the experts in their fields. We have just delivered a fantastic new Leisure Centre, and Waitrose at Handy Cross as I detailed earlier along with many other projects we are currently working on and I am sorry that by implication you are deriding the fantastic work our officers do advising and carrying out our vision and I would hope that you would see fit to withdraw those comments.”

Supplementary Question

“Whatever the Leader believes about the competence of her Cabinet, the financial implications of the failure of this system would cost residents dear.

The ANPR system cost £680,000 and was expected to save a minimum of £200,000 a year. Now Cabinet estimates that WDC would get about half a million less in revenue a year from the new system than it previously calculated.

In fact this loss of revenue would consume all of the new revenue to be raised from the proposed rate increases – and more. Money raised from the rate increases would go straight into paying for the failure of the ANPR system.

I know Cabinet is finding financial management difficult so I have a simple question.

The new system was brought in to effect in 2014. On the old calculations, it should have paid for itself by 2018. Can I ask when you know estimate the ANPR system would pay for itself?”

Supplementary Response

“There are many contributing factors with regards to less income in relation to ANPR, these include less footfall due to the internet shopping, and people now being able to pay for the time they use.”

(g) Question from Councillor B Pearce to the Cabinet Member for Housing

“Is the member concerned, like I am, that morale in the company carrying out maintenance work for Red Kite is very low.

Before Red Kite was set up, and the housing stock maintained by WDC, Mears, the company carrying out maintenance work had a logo on the side of the vans saying 'Invest in people'.

As you may recall I worked for Mears until the contract was not renewed so I have an interest to declare.

We are now on the 3rd company carrying out routine maintenance since Mears contract ceased and morale with the workforce seems to be getting lower as each company is removed from the contract.

Do you agree with me that this is of great concern because the tenants for Red Kite were once tenants of WDC? And the morale of the workforce had a direct effect on tenants.”

Response given by Councillor Mrs J Langley (Cabinet Member for Housing)

“I do not think it is appropriate for us to comment on another organisation’s staff morale. We would not wish to intervene in a matter for Red Kite and it’s contractor and would suggest that the Member contact Red Kite directly to discuss his concerns in accordance with the agreed protocol for Members enquiries.”

Supplementary Question

“Did you know that morale was that low?”

Supplementary Response

“I was not aware, obviously during the maintenance of properties it could be a very stressful time. You could contact Red Kite directly, or alternatively I would be happy to discuss this with you in more detail.”

Questions 8, 9, 10 and 11 were not put as the 30 minutes time period had expired. In accordance with Standing Orders, a written reply would be sent to the questioner by the appropriate Member within 10 working days, and would also be appended to the Minutes of the next meeting.

84 PETITIONS

No petitions were received.

85 CABINET

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 8 February 2016 be received, and the recommendations as set out at minute 60 be approved and adopted. The Leader of the Council presented the minutes of the Cabinet Meeting of 8 February 2016 with the exclusion of Minute 63 (Revenue Budget and Council Tax Setting 2016/17) which would be recommended to Council separately as part of the Council Tax Setting agenda item (item 9).

86 COUNCIL TAX SETTING 2016/17 AND PRESENTATION FROM LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

The meeting then specifically turned to the recommendation outlined in minute number 63 of the Cabinet Minutes of 8 February 2016 (Revenue Budget & Council Tax Setting 2016/17) along with the supplement issued to the item outlining the final Parish / Town, Buckinghamshire County Council, Thames Valley Police Authority and Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority precepts and confirmation of the Formula Grant figures required in order to set the Council Tax. An addendum to pages 9 and 12 of the supplement was tabled at the meeting.

The Leader of the Council in introducing the Cabinet Member for Finance to make his Budget presentation, referred to the challenging times we were living in. She commented that the focus from Government was changing from central support to local taxation and this would result in the Council losing its grants at a faster rate than previously anticipated. She explained that the Council would have gaps in its funding in the future, and we therefore had to consider not just the current year but future years when setting the budget.

She expressed her thanks to the Council's Improvement and Review Commission's Budget Task and Finish Group for their rigorous examination of the budget and the professional manner in which they conducted their task. The Leader then thanked the Chief Finance Officer and Chief Executive along with the Senior Management team and the many other officers involved in the budget preparation.

She concluded by saying that Councils were not allowed to predict a deficit and the need to approve a balanced budget was paramount. She emphasised that the work that had gone into producing the budget, especially with the changing information from Government, was time consuming and challenging and therefore she thanked everyone involved.

The Cabinet Member for Finance rose to give his budget speech starting with some background to this year's budget. He started by mentioning that the budget process had been challenging, and that over the last five years the Council had kept Council Tax at the same level. He then emphasised that he was pleased to be able to present a balanced budget to Council for 2016/17.

He said as with last year, the Council continued to work in extremely challenging times especially with the challenges detailed in the final version of the four year financial settlement. He informed Members that this included the reduction to zero of the Revenue Support Grant by 2018/19, and over a 50% decrease in New Homes Bonus funding. The Council would receive significantly less funding than had been originally projected, approximately 2.6m less. It was noted that a key reason for the reduction in funding was the assumption that Councils with lower quartile council tax, including Wycombe District Council would increase their share of tax by a maximum of £5 on Band D properties for 2016/17. The four year settlement could be revisited should the condition of the national finances significantly deteriorate. He commented that the government had assumed in its financial calculations that the council tax base would grow by 2%, although the recent trend had averaged around 1%.

The Cabinet Member also reminded Members of the many efficiencies and revenue generating projects that the Council was involved in, which would offset the 40% cumulative decline from the Revenue Support Grant. He continued by saying that the Council would continue to deliver sustainable efficiencies where it could, to increase other income streams.

He went on to say that there were continuing risks to the Council's budget, including the transfer of business rates income. However, he confirmed that the Council had

budgeted in detail for the forthcoming financial year, which included a Contingency Fund. He confirmed that the Council continued to have healthy reserves.

The Cabinet Member for Finance stated that he did not see any alternative but to recommend that the council tax be increased. He confirmed that the Council would continue to review income generation and possible cost reductions which had been identified by the Cabinet and the Improvement & Review Commission.

He then made mention of further improvements to facilities and services that would be possible due to the proposed increase, these included additional resources for the Local Plans for the District and Princes Risborough, reviewing the leisure facilities in Marlow and Princes Risborough, improving the provision of temporary accommodation, and continuing with the High Wycombe Town Centre Masterplan.

The Cabinet Member concluded by saying that any increase in tax, however modest, would be unwelcome news to our residents due to the challenging economic period. However, he confirmed that the Council would continue to have one of the lowest levels of Council Tax in the Country and in Buckinghamshire.

He then commended the Budgets to Council and asked for the recommendations to be approved.

The Leader of the Labour Group, Cllr Raja, rose to respond to the Budget speech, he commented on his Group's scepticism on the robustness of the budget estimates. He commented that his Group felt that budgets should be balanced and sound, based on realistic assumptions which would provide the Council with stability and sustainability.

He commented that based on previous incorrect budget assumptions with regards to the ANPR scheme, demolition of Wycombe Sports Centre and Handy X Hub, it was apparent that the Council struggled with forecasting expenditure.

The Leader of the Labour Group then stated that there was not much in the Conservative administration's budget that his group supported, given the financial challenges facing the nation in the future. However, he then stated, that future cuts proposed by the central Conservative Government would adversely affect the services that local authorities offer, with many people already using food banks, being evicted and young people struggling to find work. He then commented that there were areas of Council activity which needed to be strengthened and extended to meet the needs and expectations of its population.

He raised some concerns with regards to the condition of roads, footpaths, insufficient school placements and the lack of A&E provision within the District. He requested that dual role Members note these points and consider them during deliberations at Bucks County Council.

The Leader of the Labour Group also commented that in these difficult financial times the Council should be rigorous in ensuring that the best value for money was achieved for the tax payer.

The Leader of the East Wycombe Independent Group, Cllr M Knight, also rose to present his Group's comments on the budget proposals, he commended the work of the Head of Financial Services and officers for the way in which they had managed the Council's finances in an extremely difficult and testing time for the Council.

He acknowledged the challenging times facing the Council, in light of Central Government's austerity measures. He confirmed that he understood the deficit that the Council faced over the next 6 years and, therefore within this context, it was inevitable that taxes would need to rise. He welcomed the commitment that the Council had made by retaining the Council Tax Reduction for the most vulnerable within our community. He commented that his Group felt that the most vulnerable in society must be protected and that crucial charity and voluntary organisations, under increased pressure, should be supported in these difficult times.

He commented that the budget did not reflect the Leader's priorities of young people and housing. He mentioned that these priorities had not been reflected in the budget. He then made various suggestions to address the Council's housing needs. He stated that because of the rising costs and lack of suitable housing Wycombe District was becoming out of reach for vulnerable, young and low paid individuals.

The Leader of the East Wycombe Independent Group, concluded that, in principle, a tax rise was okay, but not for more of the same. His Group wanted to see a radical change of how the Council's assets and investments were used to ensure that the Wycombe District became a thriving place of opportunity for all.

Other Members made a number of remarks in respect of the Budget proposals, in particular the fact that the Council had managed to previously freeze Council Tax for a number of years was mentioned.

The Cabinet Member for Finance made some closing remarks and asked Members to support his proposed recommendations. His proposals were seconded by Councillor Miss K Wood, Leader of the Council.

The Budget was then put to the recorded vote.

In accordance with subsection (5) of the Council's Standing Order 16 (Voting) the voting of the Members in respect of these Council Tax setting decisions was recorded as follows:

In favour of the recommendations:-

Councillors J Adey, Z Ahmed, M Appleyard, D Barnes, S Broadbent, Miss S Brown, D Carroll, M Clarke, A Collingwood, R Farmer, R Gaffney, A Green, G Hall, A Hussain, M Hussain JP, Maz Hussain, D Johncock, D Knights, Mrs J Langley, T Lee, N Marshall, H McCarthy, I McEnnis, R Newman, Mrs C Oliver, B Pearce, S Raja, S Saddique, J Savage, R Scott, D Shakespeare, Mrs J Teesdale, N Teesdale, A Turner, P Turner, D Watson, C Whitehead, R Wilson, Miss K Wood and L Wood.

Abstentions:-

Councillors K Ahmed, M Asif, Ms A Baughan, H Bull, M Davy, S Graham, M Hashmi, M Knight, R Raja and Ms J Wassell.

In Favour:- 40

Against:- 0

Abstention:- 10

(Councillors Mrs L Clarke OBE, A Hill, and M Harris were not present in the meeting when the above vote was taken.)

RESOLVED: That (i) the recommendations contained in Minute 63 of the Cabinet Meeting held on 8 February 2015 be approved and adopted; and

(ii) it be noted that the following amounts have been calculated for the year 2016/17 in accordance with regulations made in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

(A)66,372.88; being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012 ("the Regulations") as its Council Tax Base for the year. In total for the District a £1 tax on a band "D" equivalent property will raise £66,372.88.

(B)

Parish / Town Area	Council Tax Base
Bledlow-cum-Saunderton	1200.31
Bradenham	226.09
Chepping Wycombe	6319.36
Downley	1969.52
Ellesborough	440.07
Fawley (Parish Meeting)	135.46
Great & Little Hampden	165.47
Great & Little Kimble cum Marsh	474.18
Great Marlow	717.92
Hambleton	835.11
Hazlemere	3975.22
Hedsor (Parish Meeting)	80.18
High Wycombe Town	21505.14
Hughenden	3934.44
Ibstone	144.52
Lacey Green	1235.65
Lane End	1385.10
Little Marlow	791.25
Longwick-cum-Ilmer	680.72
Marlow Bottom	1511.84
Marlow Town	6645.20
Medmenham	514.27
Piddington & Wheeler End	263.27
Princes Risborough	3483.90
Radnage	380.60
Stokenchurch	1916.00
Turville	218.33
WestW'- Parish Council	540.66
Wooburn and Bourne End	4683.10
Grand Total	66,372.88

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with the Regulations, as the amounts of its Council Tax Base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more of the special items relate;

- (ii) That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2016/2017 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 ("the Act").

(A) £87,018,017 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31(A)(2) of the Act; taking into account all precepts issued to it by parish councils as at the date of the meeting.

(B) £75,498,558 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31(A)(3) of the Act;

(C) £11,519,459 being the amount by which the aggregate at (ii)(A) above exceeds the aggregate at (ii)(B) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31(A)(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year.

(D) £173.56 being the amount at (ii)(C) above divided by the amount at (i)(A) calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31(B)(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year;.

(E) £ 2,758,897 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act;

(F) £131.99 being the amount at (ii)(D) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (ii)(E) above by the amount at (i)(A) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates:

(G)

Part of Council's Area	2016-17
Bledlow-cum-Saunderton	147.11
Bradenham	162.95
Chepping Wycombe	186.01
Downley	177.69
Ellesborough	176.57
Great & Little Hampden	147.61
Great & Little Kimble cum Marsh	195.26
Great Marlow	149.03
Hambleden	170.31
Hazlemere	194.25
High Wycombe Town	152.02
Hughenden	182.21
Ibstone	180.43
Lacey Green	152.22
Lane End	214.55
Little Marlow	191.53
Longwick-cum-Ilmer	165.62
Marlow Bottom	152.96
Marlow Town	180.57
Medmenham	169.15
Piddington & Wheeler End	207.96
Princes Risborough	227.2
Radnage	198.2
Stokenchurch	165.97
Turville	161.76
West Wycombe	212.63
Wooburn and Bourne End	184.96

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (ii)(F) above the amounts of each of the special items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the appropriate amount at (i)(B) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more of the special items relate.

(H)

Part of the Council's Area	Band A Charge	Band B Charge	Band C Charge	Band D Charge	Band E Charge	Band F Charge	Band G Charge	Band H Charge
Bledlow-cum-Saunderton	98.07	114.42	130.76	147.11	179.80	212.49	245.18	294.22
Bradenham	108.63	126.74	144.84	162.95	199.16	235.37	271.58	325.90
Chepping Wycombe	124.00	144.68	165.34	186.01	227.34	268.68	310.01	372.02
Downley	118.46	138.20	157.94	177.69	217.18	256.66	296.15	355.38
Ellesborough	117.71	137.33	156.95	176.57	215.81	255.04	294.28	353.14
Fawley (Parish Meeting)	87.99	102.66	117.32	131.99	161.32	190.65	219.98	263.98
Great & Little Hampden	98.40	114.81	131.20	147.61	180.41	213.21	246.01	295.22
Great & Little Kimble cum Marsh	130.17	151.87	173.56	195.26	238.65	282.04	325.43	390.52
Great Marlow	99.35	115.91	132.47	149.03	182.15	215.26	248.38	298.06
Hambleden	113.54	132.46	151.38	170.31	208.16	246.00	283.85	340.62
Hazlemere	129.50	151.08	172.66	194.25	237.42	280.58	323.75	388.50
Hedsor (Parish Meeting)	87.99	102.66	117.32	131.99	161.32	190.65	219.98	263.98
High Wycombe Town	101.34	118.24	135.12	152.02	185.80	219.58	253.37	304.04
Hughenden	121.47	141.72	161.96	182.21	222.70	263.19	303.68	364.42
Postone	120.28	140.34	160.38	180.43	220.52	260.62	300.71	360.86
Lacey Green	101.48	118.39	135.30	152.22	186.05	219.87	253.70	304.44
Lane End	143.03	166.87	190.71	214.55	262.23	309.90	357.58	429.10
Little Marlow	127.68	148.97	170.24	191.53	234.09	276.65	319.21	383.06
Longwick-cum-Ilmer	110.41	128.82	147.21	165.62	202.42	239.23	276.03	331.24
Marlow Bottom	101.97	118.97	135.96	152.96	186.95	220.94	254.93	305.92
Marlow Town	120.38	140.44	160.50	180.57	220.70	260.82	300.95	361.14
Medmenham	112.76	131.56	150.35	169.15	206.74	244.33	281.91	338.30
Piddington & Wheeler End	138.64	161.75	184.85	207.96	254.17	300.38	346.60	415.92
Princes Risborough	151.46	176.71	201.95	227.20	277.69	328.18	378.66	454.40
Radnage	132.13	154.16	176.17	198.20	242.24	286.29	330.33	396.40
Stokenchurch	110.64	129.09	147.52	165.97	202.85	239.73	276.61	331.94
Turville	107.84	125.81	143.78	161.76	197.71	233.65	269.60	323.52
West Wycombe	141.74	165.38	189.00	212.63	259.88	307.13	354.38	425.26
Wooburn and Bourne End	123.30	143.86	164.40	184.96	226.06	267.16	308.26	369.92

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (ii)(F) and (ii)(G) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

- (iii) That it be noted for the year 2016/2017 the Buckinghamshire County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner Thames Valley and the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Act for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

Precepting Authority	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Buckinghamshire County Council	773.46	902.37	1031.28	1160.19	1418.01	1675.83	1933.65	2320.38
Police and Crime Commissioner Thames Valley	111.31	129.86	148.41	166.96	204.06	241.16	278.27	333.92
Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority	39.8	46.43	53.07	59.7	72.97	86.23	99.5	119.4

- (iv) That having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (ii)(H) and (iii) above, the Council in accordance with Section 30 of the Act, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2016/2017 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below.

Part of the Council's Area	Band A Charge	Band B Charge	Band C Charge	Band D Charge	Band E Charge	Band F Charge	Band G Charge	Band H Charge
Bledlow-cum-Saunderton	1022.64	1193.08	1363.51	1533.96	1874.83	2215.71	2556.60	3067.92
Bradenham	1033.20	1205.39	1377.60	1549.80	1894.20	2238.59	2583.00	3099.60
Chepping Wycombe	1048.57	1223.34	1398.10	1572.86	1922.38	2271.90	2621.43	3145.72
Downley	1043.03	1216.86	1390.70	1564.54	1912.22	2259.88	2607.57	3129.08
Ellesborough	1042.28	1215.99	1389.71	1563.42	1910.85	2258.26	2605.70	3126.84
Fawley	1012.56	1181.32	1350.08	1518.84	1856.36	2193.87	2531.40	3037.68
Great & Little Hampden	1022.97	1193.47	1363.96	1534.46	1875.45	2216.43	2557.43	3068.92
Great & Little Kimble cum Marsh	1054.74	1230.53	1406.32	1582.11	1933.69	2285.26	2636.85	3164.22
Great Marlow	1023.92	1194.57	1365.22	1535.88	1877.19	2218.48	2559.80	3071.76
Hambleden	1038.11	1211.12	1384.14	1557.16	1903.20	2249.22	2595.27	3114.32
Hazlemere	1054.07	1229.75	1405.42	1581.10	1932.46	2283.80	2635.17	3162.20
Hedsor	1012.56	1181.32	1350.08	1518.84	1856.36	2193.87	2531.40	3037.68
High Wycombe Town	1025.91	1196.90	1367.89	1538.87	1880.84	2222.80	2564.79	3077.74
Hughenden	1046.04	1220.38	1394.72	1569.06	1917.74	2266.41	2615.10	3138.12
Ibstone	1044.85	1219.00	1393.14	1567.28	1915.56	2263.84	2612.13	3134.56
Lacey Green	1026.04	1197.05	1368.06	1539.07	1881.09	2223.09	2565.12	3078.14
Lane End	1067.60	1245.53	1423.47	1601.40	1957.27	2313.12	2669.00	3202.80
Little Marlow	1052.25	1227.63	1403.00	1578.38	1929.13	2279.87	2630.63	3156.76
Longwick-cum-Ilmer	1034.98	1207.48	1379.97	1552.47	1897.46	2242.45	2587.45	3104.94
Marlow Bottom	1026.54	1197.63	1368.72	1539.81	1881.99	2224.16	2566.35	3079.62
Marlow Town	1044.95	1219.11	1393.26	1567.42	1915.74	2264.04	2612.37	3134.84
Medmenham	1037.33	1210.22	1383.11	1556.00	1901.78	2247.55	2593.33	3112.00
Piddington & Wheeler End	1063.21	1240.41	1417.61	1594.81	1949.21	2303.60	2658.02	3189.62
Princes Risborough	1076.03	1255.37	1434.71	1614.05	1972.73	2331.40	2690.08	3228.10
Radnage	1056.70	1232.82	1408.93	1585.05	1937.28	2289.51	2641.75	3170.10
Stokenchurch	1035.21	1207.75	1380.28	1552.82	1897.89	2242.95	2588.03	3105.64
Turville	1032.41	1204.47	1376.54	1548.61	1892.75	2236.87	2581.02	3097.22
WestW'- Parish Council	1066.31	1244.04	1421.76	1599.48	1954.92	2310.35	2665.80	3198.96
Wooburn and Bourne End	1047.87	1222.52	1397.16	1571.81	1921.10	2270.38	2619.68	3143.62

- (v) That in accordance with sections 52ZB and 52ZC of the Act it is determined that the Council's relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2016/2017 is not excessive.

(l) Council Tax Reduction Scheme

The Council introduced its own scheme after the government abolished the national Council Tax Benefit system. The rules of the 2016/17 scheme are unchanged from the 2015/16 scheme.

87 STANDARDS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 5 January 2016 be received.

88 IMPROVEMENT & REVIEW COMMISSION

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Improvement & Review Commission held on 13 January 2016 be received.

89 AUDIT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Audit Committee held on 14 January 2016 be received, and the recommendations as set out at minute 45 be approved and adopted.

90 HIGH WYCOMBE TOWN COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the High Wycombe Town Committee held on 19 January 2016 be received.

91 SPECIAL PERSONNEL & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Special Personnel & Development Committee held on 17 February 2016 be received, and the recommendations as set out at minute 57 be approved and adopted.

92 PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 18 November 2015 and 16 December 2015 be received.

93 QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 11.2

No questions had been received.

94 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS/CHANGES

RESOLVED: That the following changes to Committee Membership as set out in the summons be noted in accordance with S.O.18(9):

Since the last meeting Councillors A Turner and G Hall had resigned as Members of the Independent Group. They were now Members of the Conservative Group.

Councillor B Pearce had resigned as a Member of UKIP and was now an independent Councillor.

As a result of these changes, the political composition of the Council was as follows:

Conservative Group	49	81.66%
Labour Group	6	10%
East Wycombe Independent Party (EWIP)	3	5%
Independent	1	1.67%
Liberal Democrat	1	1.67%

Committee Changes

As a result of the changes to the political composition, the Conservative Group had gained a seat on the Audit Committee, Standards Committee, Personnel & Development Committee, Regulatory & Appeals Committee, and the Improvement & Review Commission.

The shared seat allocated to EWIP and the Independent Group on the Audit Committee, Standards Committee and Personnel & Development Committee had been lost.

With regard to the Improvement & Review Commission, the seat held by the Independent Group had been lost.

With regard to the Regulatory and Appeals Committee, the shared seat held by UKIP and Liberal Democrat had been lost.

Councillor G Hall to continue on the Audit Committee as a Full Member but as a Conservative Group representative.

Councillor Ms J Wassell to be removed as a standing deputy of the Audit Committee.

Councillor Mrs W Mallen to replace Councillor Ms J Wassell as a Full Member on the Standards Committee.

Councillor A Turner to be removed as a standing deputy on the Standards Committee.

Councillor G Hall to continue on the Personnel & Development Committee as a Full Member but as a Conservative Group representative.

Councillor M Knight to be removed as a standing deputy on the Personnel & Development Committee.

Councillor A Turner to replace Councillor Ms A Baughan as a Full Member on the Improvement and Review Commission.

Councillor G Hall to be removed as a standing deputy on the Improvement and Review Commission.

Councillor M Clarke to replace Councillor B Pearce on the Regulatory and Appeals Committee.

Councillor R Farmer to be removed as a standing deputy on the Regulatory and Appeals Committee.

Councillor A Turner to replace Councillor Mrs G Jones as a Full Member on the Planning Committee.

Councillor C Whitehead to replace Councillor Mrs G Jones as the Deputy Cabinet Member for Planning.

Councillor Ms A Baughan to replace Cllr A Turner as a full Member of EWIP on the Planning Committee.

Councillor Ms J Wassell to replace Councillor Ms A Baughan as a full Member on the Regulatory & Appeals Committee

Councillor Ms A Baughan to replace councillor Ms J Wassell as a standing deputy on the Improvement & Review Commission

Outside Bodies

Councillor Miss S Brown to replace Councillor Mrs J Teesdale on the Red Kite Board.

95 POLLING PLACES

The report before Members sought delegated authority for the Head of Democratic, Legal and Policy Services, in consultation with the Chairman of the Regulatory & Appeals Committee to revise and bring into effect any changes to polling places that may be required. This would enable the Council to respond quickly to any changes arising at short notice, for example, a fire or lack of availability during the preparations for the forthcoming Police and Crime Commissioner Election and the EU Referendum.

Approval was sought for the proposed measures to be implemented for all future elections to ensure any issues that arose could be addressed promptly. This would negate the need for calling special meetings at short notice. Any proposed changes to a polling place would be made in consultation with the appropriate Ward Councillors.

The report highlighted that this delegation would not affect the statutory 4 year review of polling places that the Council was required to undertake and that this would continue to be processed through the Council's decision-making process.

RESOLVED: That the delegated authority be granted to the Head of Democratic, Legal & Policy Services, in consultation with the Chairman of the Regulatory & Appeals Committee to make any change to a polling place that may be required, for all future elections.

96 URGENT ACTION TAKEN BY CABINET OR INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER

The individual decisions published since the last meeting of the Council held on 14 December 2016 as set out in the summons were noted.

Chairman

The following officers were in attendance at the meeting:

- Ian Hunt - Democratic Services Manager
- Catherine MacKenzie - Principal Democratic Services Officer
- Karen Satterford - Chief Executive

COUNCIL

Thursday 25 February 2016

Agenda Item 6

Questions from Members

Unanswered Questions – Responses sent subsequent to Meeting

8. Question from Councillor Ms J Wassell to the Leader of the Council

Would the leader agree with me that the report by Muslim Women UK to the Labour Party raises important points. Is it time that all political parties locally examine the barriers that exist for women's participation, particularly those from minority groups?

Thank you for your question Cllr Wassell, I have read the newspaper reports regarding the Muslim Women UK claims, and I think it is a travesty in this day and age that women are still being prevented or feel they are being prevented, from being empowered and playing a full part in today's Society. I am proud to be Leader of a party that fully reflects all Society and welcomes anyone who shares our values.

I am the fourth female Leader of Wycombe District Council in recent years, following on from Kath Peatey, Pam Priestley and Lesley Clarke OBE and I am honoured to be able to try and follow in their footsteps and to have the opportunity to emulate the work they have done in the District. All very hard acts to follow.

My Cabinet also represents the diversity in our party and opportunities for women and as you can see we are dominating this question session this evening

I am also pleased that the Conservative party was successful in electing the first Muslim female Councillor to Wycombe District Council in 2011. This alongside having selected a number of Muslim female candidates in past elections.

Following on from this report I do urge my Labour colleagues to look and see they are not allowing prejudice to creep into their selection process.

9. Question from Councillor R Raja to the Cabinet Member for Finance

The proposed revenue budget for 2016/17, based on the 4 year local government financial settlement, under which the Council receives funding from Central Government, has been reduced by 17% in 2016/17 and by 48% over the next 4 years towards the costs of providing services. The proposed budget is full of caveats, which makes the Revenue Budget nothing more than a guesstimate.

Can the Cabinet member with responsibility for the budget assure WDC residents that he has got his sums right and we will have sufficient resources to effectively carry out the Council's statutory responsibilities under any circumstances which are possible to know? and what happens if some of the assumptions upon which the budget is based do not materialise?

As with all budgets it is necessary to make a number of assumptions and judgments around expenditure and income based on the best information available at the time. The 2016/17 revenue budget has been prepared by the Finance team working with budget holders and Cabinet Members. The draft budget has also rightly been subjected to detailed review and challenge by the Council's Improvement Review Commission (via the Budget Task and Finish Group).

The detailed budget report that was presented earlier this month to Cabinet set out the key risks within the 2016/17 budget and the measures put in place to manage these risks in the event that they should arise. The Council's Section 151 Officer has confirmed to Cabinet that the budget is robust and that the Authority has sufficient reserves to manage any unexpected or unplanned expenditure or shortfalls to income.

I am satisfied that every effort has been made to prepare a robust and realistic budget for the coming year.

10. Question from Councillor Ms J Wassell to the Leader of the Council

Would you join me in thanking the GPs from the Lynton House surgery for the service they have given to East Wycombe residents? They have had deteriorating working conditions. It is some consolation that a new premises will be provided at Wycombe General Hospital

Thank you for your question Cllr Wassell and I am happy to echo your positive words about the sterling work of the Lynton House surgery in serving the needs of the town's residents. I understand that the existing premises were privately rented and are unlikely to meet the high standards required for modern GP practises and unfortunately it is not financially viable to bring the building up to the standards needed. I applaud the practise in ensuring good patient care and value for money for the taxpayers were their primary concerns leading to considering this move to a new site within Wycombe Hospital. The move intends to offer improved services benefitting patients.

Whilst we have raised concerns about the relocation with regard to parking and location within the site, I understand that NHS England have confirmed that they are exploring plans for a volunteer patient transport service with Cressex Health Centre, which runs the services at both Hanover House and Lynton House.

I would therefore like to take this opportunity to wish all the staff the very best for the future and long may they continue to provide their excellent services locally

11. Question from Councillor Ms J Wassell to the Leader of the Council

What support will be given to Youth Enquiry Service now that the County Council is phasing their funding out?

Thank you Cllr Wassell for your question and I am pleased to be able to say that due to some extra funding they have received from the Government, Bucks County Council have been able to re-instate the grant for this year. The transitional funding received has now allowed Bucks CC to keep the full Budget for this year and then taper it for the following two years to enable the service to be in a better position to plan for its future. I also understand that the Cabinet member at Bucks CC will be meeting with them soon to try and assist them with researching other sources of funding and future support to enable the service to continue long-term. We are therefore hopeful that when the time comes the Service will be self-sufficient and able to support themselves.

Cabinet Minutes

Date: 7 March 2016

Time: 7.00 - 7.47 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Ms K S Wood (Executive Leader of the Council - in the Chair)

Councillor D H G Barnes	- Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Engagement and Strategy
Councillor D A Johncock	- Cabinet Member for Planning
Councillor Mrs J D Langley	- Cabinet Member for Housing
Councillor R Newman	- Cabinet Member for Youth
Councillor D A C Shakespeare OBE	- Cabinet Member for HR, ICT and Customer Services
Councillor Mrs J E Teesdale	- Cabinet Member for Environment
Councillor D M Watson	- Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources

By Invitation

Councillor S Broadbent	- Deputy Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration
Councillor Z Ahmed	- Deputy Cabinet Member for Community
Councillor R Gaffney	- Chairman of the Improvement & Review Commission
Councillor M E Knight	- Leader of the East Wycombe Independent Party
Councillor Mrs W J Mallen	- Deputy Cabinet Member for Environment
Councillor I L McEnnis	- Chairman of the Council
Councillor R Raja	- Leader of the Labour Group
Councillor S Saddique	- Deputy Cabinet Member for HR, ICT and Customer Services
Councillor C Whitehead	- Deputy Cabinet Member for Planning

Also present: Councillors A R Green

70 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Julia Adey (Cabinet Member for Community), D Carroll (Deputy Cabinet Member for Housing), A Hussain (Deputy Cabinet Member for Engagement & Strategy), G Peart (Deputy Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources) and R Wilson (Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Regeneration).

71 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 8 February 2016 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

72 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

73 REFERRAL FROM THE HIGH WYCOMBE TOWN COMMITTEE ON THE CASTLEFIELD ALLOTMENT SITE

Councillor A Green, Chairman of the High Wycombe Town Committee, presented the Committee's recommendations to the meeting and invited Cabinet to consider the Town Committee's recommendation to agree funding for a new allotment site.

The report before Cabinet set out the recommendation from the High Wycombe Town Committee, that funding from Special Expenses reserve be released to enable a new allotment site in Castlefield. The High Wycombe Town Committee had made the recommendation at its meeting on 19 January 2016.

The following decision was made as there was a statutory duty for High Wycombe Town Committee to provide allotments and the recent allotment review showed a need for more allotments.

RESOLVED: That, subject to receipt of a felling licence and the necessary amendment to the lease to Chiltern Rangers CIC of Castlefield Wood, the allocation of £47,000 from Special Expenses reserves be approved to create a new allotment site in Castlefield.

74 REFERRAL FROM HIGH WYCOMBE TOWN COMMITTEE - COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY FUNDING PRIORITIES

Councillor A Green, Chairman of the High Wycombe Town Committee, presented the Committee's recommendations in relation to the proposed local allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for 2016 - 2018. The High Wycombe Town Committee had considered and endorsed the recommendations at its meeting in November 2015.

The following decisions were made to enable projects supported by the High Wycombe Town Committee using the local allocation of CIL to be implemented over the next three years.

RESOLVED: That (i) the proposed 2016 to 2018 High Wycombe Town Committee Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Funding Priorities set out in Appendix A of the report be approved, with 15% of CIL collected in the unparished area (the local allocation) allocated towards these; and

(ii) delegated authority be granted to the relevant Head of Service in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member to implement the primary projects set out in Appendix A to the report identified for implementation in 2016/17.

75 BUCKS INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PLAN

The report before Cabinet sought approval to endorse the Buckinghamshire Infrastructure Investment Plan (BIIP), as a delivery mechanism for the strategic infrastructure investments required to enable sustainable growth to be successfully delivered over the next twenty years in Buckinghamshire. The report highlighted that the BIIP would evolve over time as existing investment priorities were met and new ones emerged.

The following decisions were made as the Buckinghamshire Infrastructure Investment Plan (BIIP) supported the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan and the emerging Local Plan.

RESOLVED: That (i) the Buckinghamshire Infrastructure Investment Plan (including the strategic principles and 'corridor' framework for infrastructure and growth) insofar as it relates to Wycombe District, be endorsed as the basis for joint-working and for consideration in the Local Plan process; and

(ii) the Council participate in joint-working arrangements to contribute to, and oversee the updating of the Buckinghamshire Infrastructure Investment Plan and the prioritisation process.

76 2015/16 QUARTER 3 SERVICE PERFORMANCE REPORT

A summary of the year to date position for the Council's performance at service level (local performance indicators), was presented to Cabinet for review, together with frontline facing key measures performance details. Cabinet also reviewed the report which detailed the exception and key issues for any performance measures which were not on target.

It was noted that the way in which the performance measures were presented to Cabinet was being reviewed and would be changed in April 2016. The proposed changes would ensure that the information reported to Members clearly showed the connection with the Council priorities outlined in the Corporate Plan.

The following decision was made to review the performance position as at 31 December 2015 to ensure that the Council was performing at the appropriate level.

RESOLVED: That the summary of the year to date outturns (October – December) for service performance be received.

77 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

The report before Cabinet and the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) outlined the framework that the Council would be adopting to manage its financial position over the coming 6 years to enable it to deliver its 3 priorities, whilst maintaining a financially robust position. It was recognised that the delivery plan was subject to significant risks having particular regard to the continuing economic climate and severe funding cuts.

Cabinet applauded the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Head of Finance & Commercial Services for all their hard work in producing the document.

A Member asked if the MTFP should cover a 4 year period rather than a 6 year period so as to mirror the financial settlement period from the Government and the Cabinet Member for Finance commented that he would note the request and consider the matter further.

The following decisions were made to enable the Council to set an overall financial management framework for delivering its priorities and services over the next 6 financial years and to agree a budgetary framework to enable this to be managed effectively.

RESOLVED: That (i) the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) covering the period 2016/17 to 2021/22 be approved and the financial and performance targets set out within the document be adopted.

(ii) the financial risks set out within the plan be noted and the budgetary management processes set out within the report be supported.

78 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY AND SECTION 106 ALLOCATIONS

Cabinet approval was sought for the release of Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 funds to the spending services to fund the proposed schemes for the forthcoming year. The proposals would address the impact of development and support the development of the area.

The following decisions were made to enable the S106 and CIL funding programmes to be implemented in order to address the impact of developments that had taken place and to improve the infrastructure of the District.

RESOLVED: That (i) CIL and S106 funding be allocated to the identified projects as set out in Appendix A of the report and the projects and funding added to the Council's Major Projects Programme;

(ii) Delegated authority be granted to the relevant Head of Service in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member to release funds for the implementation of the identified projects as set out in Appendix A of the report.

79 LOCAL PLAN TIMETABLE & BUDGET

Cabinet recalled that at its meeting on 2 March 2015, it had agreed the timetable for the Local Development Scheme for the Local Plan. It was considered that, with the Government's deadline of early 2017 for producing the Local Plans, there was no option but to approve a faster timetable for producing the Local Plan to accord with the proposed deadline. It was noted that development pressures at Princes Risborough meant that it was important that the Council progressed the Princes

Risborough Town Plan in advance of the main Local Plan to ensure the correct infrastructure and level of growth for the town.

Members' approval was sought to amend the existing timetables by granting delegated authority to the Head of Planning and Sustainability in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning & Sustainability to amend the Local Development Scheme as set out in the report. Cabinet were also asked to allocate additional budget provision to the delivery of the Local Plans, in order to enable the Local Plan and Princes Risborough Town Plan to be progressed in a timely manner.

The following decision was made to enable the New Local Plan and Princes Risborough Town Plan to be progressed in a timely manner, which included meeting the Government deadline for producing Local Plans.

RESOLVED: That (i) the timetable for preparing the New Local Plan and the Princes Risborough Town Plan set out in the report be agreed, and the statutory Local Development Scheme setting out more detail on the programme be amended by the Cabinet Member for Planning and Sustainability using his delegated powers; and

(ii) an additional budget provision of £175,000 be allocated to the project to deliver the Local Plan by 2018/19 from the Contingency Fund, with a further £90,000 made available in 2017/18 as a temporary cashflow drawdown if required to deal with the timing of expenditure and funding. The cashflow drawn down would be repaid in 2018/19.

80 FILE ON ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

Cabinet received the following files on actions taken under delegated powers:

Community C/11/16 – C/14/16
Finance F/03/16 – F/07/16
HR, ICT & Customer Services HITCS/01/16
Planning & Sustainability PS/03/16

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items as they contain exempt information as defined in Regulation 4(2)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, more particularly as follows:

Minute 81 - Visitor Information Services

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) (Paragraph 3, Part 1 of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972)

(The need to maintain the exemption outweighs the public interest

in disclosure, because disclosure could prejudice the Council's position in any future tender process or negotiations)

Minute 82 - File on Action taken under Exempt Delegated Powers

Economic Development and Regeneration sheet nos: EDR/12/16 – EDR/17/16

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) (Paragraph 3, Part 1 of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972)

(The need to maintain the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure, because disclosure could prejudice the Council's position in any future tender process or negotiations)

81 VISITOR INFORMATION SERVICES

Cabinet approval was sought to enable the provision of the Wycombe District Council information services provided in Marlow, Princes Risborough and High Wycombe to be fully integrated with the Buckinghamshire County Council Library Services in the aforementioned locations.

The following decisions were taken to enable service provision to continue from Marlow, Princes Risborough and High Wycombe libraries.

RESOLVED: That (i) approval be given to enter into a service level agreement with Bucks County Council Library Service to provide WDC information services from Marlow, Princes Risborough and High Wycombe libraries, for the amount specified in the report per annum for five years, with effect from early in 2016/17; and

(ii) the negotiation of the detailed terms be delegated to the Head of Community Services and District Solicitor in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Community Services.

82 FILE ON ACTION TAKEN UNDER EXEMPT DELEGATED POWERS

Cabinet received the following files on exempt actions taken under delegated powers:

Economic Development and Regeneration: EDR/12/16 – EDR/17/16

Chairman

The following officers were in attendance at the meeting:

- Ian Hunt - Democratic Services Manager
- Charles Meakings - Head of Democratic, Legal and Policy Services

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Improvement and Review Commission Minutes

Date: 9 March 2016

Time: 7.00 - 8.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillor R Gaffney (in the Chair)

Councillors Mrs S Adoh, K Ahmed, Miss S Brown, H Bull, A D Collingwood, M P Davy, M E Knight, D Knights, Ms C J Oliver, S K Raja, R Raja and A Turner, H L McCarthy* and L Wood*.

*Standing Deputies.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs L M Clarke OBE, C Etholen, M Harris, A Lee and J A Savage.

Also present by invitation Councillors Mrs J Langley (Cabinet Member for Housing) and Ms K Wood (Leader of the Council).

29. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Councillor A Turner to his first meeting as a Commission Meeting. He also thanked the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Housing and Chief Executive for their attendance and input into the Meeting.

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

31. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Improvement & Review Commission held on 13 January 2016, be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

32. HOUSING UPDATE

The Meeting was given a comprehensive presentation by Councillor Mrs Julia Langley (Cabinet Member for Housing) in respect of the Housing Service.

Councillor Mrs Langley referred to the Information Sheet 1/2016 issued alongside the agenda for the meeting. The Information Sheet outlined the Cabinet's current responses to the recommendations of the Commission's House in Multiple Occupation Task and Finish Group. Consideration of the recommendations was on

hold awaiting the Government's response to the recent consultation in respect of a possible extension of the mandatory licensing scheme to avoid any abortive work. Personally the Cabinet Member outlined her preference to extended registration given the need to ensure safe housing for the many disadvantaged and vulnerable tenants housed in such premises.

Members made a number of points and received clarification on a number of issues:

- From a planning perspective Members were noting a growing number of HMO's often with tenants from London Borough's within clusters within their wards, as the planning system could not effectively control their proliferation or standard;
- The extended mandatory scheme was seen as a far more effective means of enforcement than that which currently prevailed;
- The need for sufficient budget to cover any extended scheme was key to its success; and
- Members were keen to establish a Task and Finish Group in due course in respect of Housing as a whole, however, this would be after the work or recommendations of the Regeneration Delivery Task and Finish Group which would consider the merits of establishing delivery vehicles that could deliver on both commercial and housing development.

The Cabinet Member then updated the Meeting on the status of Saunderton Lodge, in that an agreement had just been signed to commission an options appraisal. This was being done by an outside consultant. Members were encouraged to visit the Lodge to see the current provision and scope for development, refurbishment etc. Members were asked to contact Mr B Daly (Housing Service Manager) to organise such a visit.

The appraisal was to be carried out over the next three months, with a final report to Cabinet in the summer, and the Cabinet Member agreed to update the Commission on progress at their next meeting in June.

Members again made a number of points and received clarification on a number of issues:

- The provision of temporary housing away from this site by another provider was highlighted as an option that should also be pursued;
- The site had provided much needed respite for many residents over many years and its success in this was much attributable to the staff some who had served at the hostel for many years; and
- Some members noted that the location though good for some residents did at times result in inability to retain employment for residents and disrupted

education for resident children. The need for the Council to look at best practice re: temporary housing as provided by other authorities was noted.

The Cabinet Member was thanked for her informative and comprehensive update on the work of her service. A revisit by the Commission to the subject matter in 6 months hence was agreed with a specific update on the Saunderton Lodge options appraisal at the next meeting in June 2016.

33. BUCKS INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN CABINET REPORT

The Meeting considered the Bucks Infrastructure and Investment Plan (BIIP) as submitted to Cabinet the previous Monday (7 March 2016).

Presented by the Leader of the Council (Councillor Ms Katrina Wood) and Chief Executive of the Council (Ms K Satterford), the BIIP was explained and its roles in underpinning the Buckinghamshire Strategic Economic Plan (SEP), these being achieved by setting out the key strategic infrastructure investments that Buckinghamshire required in order to enable sustainable growth to be successfully delivered over the next twenty years.

The Commission was being invited to identify any issues and projects that the Commission wished to see promoted as the Plan was implemented, bearing in mind that it would evolve over time as existing priorities were met and new ones emerged.

The Leader emphasised that all monies from central government for such infrastructure projects came through the LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) as a result the 5 local authorities in Buckinghamshire needed to have this document with agreed prioritised schemes featured. The Leader outlined her membership and input into the LEP whilst the Chief Executive outlined her role as a director of Buckinghamshire Advantage the delivery arm of the LEP.

The announcement of the criteria for Local Growth Fund 3 monies post Easter was explained and when known the appropriate worked up infrastructure schemes, highlighted in the Infrastructure Plan would be used to inform the projects that should be submitted for funding.

Again Members made a number of points and received clarification on a number of issues, as follows:

- Though a commendable list of well thought out schemes, the funding challenge was highlighted for major infrastructure schemes, for example the much needed ring road at Princes Risborough given planned development;
- The key linkage of the Plan to the Council's Local Plan was noted;
- The inclusion of sustainable transportation and both NEP (Natural Environment Partnership) and Health & Wellbeing Board input in the Strategic Economic Plan which overarched the BIIP was outlined; and

- The fear that development, as in the reserve sites would be allowed to go ahead without the need for adequate infrastructure, was expressed.

The Commission thanked the Leader and Chief Executive for their presentation and for answering Members queries, the Commission formally noted and commended the Plan.

34. COMMISSION'S WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD PLAN

The status of the current task and finish groups was considered and discussed.

Members agreed to set up a further Task and Finish Group to look into Members' ICT and the wider contract with Capita.

The purpose of the Group being to focus on IT support to Members; but to also look at support to the organisation as a whole and to consider the effectiveness of the current arrangements. Concerns were expressed regarding the Council's IT resilience in respect of the roll out of Windows / Microsoft 10 and the lack of backwards compatibility for previous products now being provided by the supplier, which was a new issue that had arisen since the current arrangements had been put in place.

It was agreed that Councillor L Wood would be the Chairman of the Task & Finish Group, and the timescales of the review provided for it to report back to the Commission in June. Councillors K Ahmed, H Bull, M Davy, D Knights & S Raja agreed to join the Group for which it was indicated daytime meetings would be scheduled.

Councillor A Turner agreed to join the Local Plan Task & Finish Group, the Chairman of Commission pointing out his invaluable knowledge of planning policy and particularly in respect of matters concerning Princes Risborough, which he would bring to the Group.

No topics were identified on the attached Cabinet Forward Plan for review by the Commission at future meetings.

RESOLVED: That

- (i) The update on the Work Programme and current task and finish groups be noted; and
- (ii) An ICT Support Task and Finish Group as outlined above be established, reporting back to the Commission at its meeting in June 2016.

35. INFORMATION SHEETS

The Commission noted the submission of following information sheets issued since the previous meeting:

- 1/2016 Houses in Multiple Occupation

36. COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION

There were no Councillor calls for action.

37. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chairman thanked all the Members, especially his Vice Chairman (Cllr Collingwood) and the officers, for their invaluable support and contribution during the Council year. He confirmed that he and Cllr Collingwood would be standing for election as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Commission respectively, next month for another term of office.

Chairman

The following officers were in attendance at the meeting:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Peter Druce | - Democratic Services |
| Charles Meakings | - Head of Democratic, Legal and Policy Services |
| Karen Satterford | - Chief Executive |

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Audit Committee Minutes

Date: 3 March 2016

Time: 7.00 - 7.50 pm

PRESENT: Councillor M C Appleyard (in the Chair)

Councillors A Lee and Ms C J Oliver, P R Turner and N J B Teesdale

Also present: (External Auditor, Ernst & Young)

49 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Saddique, G Peart, C Whitehead, M Hanif, G Hall and R Scott.

50 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

51 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

52 2015/16 SERVICE PERFORMANCE: Q3 (OCTOBER - DECEMBER)

The Committee were provided with an update on a selection of the corporate performance measures for Q3 (October – December 2015). At a previous Committee meeting a more detailed account of specific performance measures had been requested to be reported on a quarterly basis.

Information was provided on the house building numbers and associated revenue. It was reported that these figures were published in the Planning Annual Monitoring Report however as the figures only provided a snapshot of the completed applications during each year more detailed information was required and would be brought to a future Committee meeting.

The Committee were also provided with details of the LG Inform benchmarking data and noted that the scheme would be reported annually to the Committee.

The performance measures that were more than 5% away from target were considered and the Committee were provided with an explanation of the reasons. During the discussion confirmation was requested on whether the figure for the number of people prevented from becoming homeless reflected individuals or

families as a whole. The information was not available at the meeting and would be provided at a later date.

RESOLVED: That the summary of the year to date outturns (October – December 2015) for service performance be noted.

53 EY ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN 2015/16

The Committee received the EY Annual Audit Plan for 2015/16. Debbie Hanson EY Director, presented the plan and reported that one significant risk to the opinion on the financial statement had been identified (risk of management override), which is considered at all audits.

In response to a Member query it was noted that fees were set as per the Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) and should reflect the time taken to provide the audit.

RESOLVED: That the EY Annual Audit Plan for 2015/16 be noted.

54 EY ANNUAL FEE LETTER 2015/16 - UPDATE

The Committee noted that the Annual Audit and Certification Fees letter for 2015/16 was not yet available and this would be circulated to the Members at a later date.

55 HEALTH & SAFETY WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17

The Committee considered the Health and Safety Work Programme for 2016/17.

RESOLVED: That the Health and Safety Work Programme for 2016/17 be noted.

56 REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 (RIPA) ANNUAL REPORT 2016

The Committee received a report which provided an update on the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) Policy and the overall RIPA performance of the Council over the last year. The Principal Solicitor reported that there had been no RIPA activity at the Council since 2014 however the RIPA Policy and Procedures had been amended to reflect changes in government legislation. These were as follows:

8.13 This section is being replaced as the power to make urgent authorisations has been removed, because section 43(1)(a) of RIPA no longer applies to authorisations requiring a magistrate's approval. All authorisations, even if urgent, must be made in writing, and local authorities' RIPA policy documents should make this clear.

8.26 This clause is being amended to stress that the Commissioners consider that the best officer to apply to the magistrate for approval of an authorisation of

directed surveillance or CHIS is the Authorising Officer, though they recognise that this is not always practicable. Only s/he can answer questions about his/her reasoning on necessity, proportionality, collateral intrusion and risk.

10.2 The Central Record of authorisation should include reference to all the covert activities authorised by a prescribed officer of the authority.

Also reference to urgent authorisations had been deleted from the Directed Surveillance form at 15 and CHIS form at 19.

Members were asked to note that the new Senior Responsible Officer in place of Ian Westgate would be Paul Shackley.

In response to a Member query it was reported that RIPA procedures could be used to target housing tenants who were sub-letting properties fraudulently. However RIPA procedures would only be used as a last resort.

It was also queried whether the RIPA Policy would apply to parish councils and the Principal Solicitor confirmed that this would be investigated.

RESOLVED: That

- i) The proposed amendments to the Council's RIPA Policy and Procedures highlighted in Appendix A to the report be approved.
- ii) The replacement of the Senior Responsible Officer to be Paul Shackley be noted.
- iii) The present position with regards to the use of RIPA be noted.

57 ISSUES LOG

The Committee considered the issues log and issues completed. The three issues listed were discussed. The Committee agreed that the Review of Service Performance Indicators and Information on Performance Indicators had been completed and could be removed from the Log.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

58 AUDIT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Audit Committee work programme as appended to the agenda was reviewed by the Committee.

It was noted that as there were several items due to be considered at the meeting in June officers would review the work programme and if possible reschedule items to a later date.

The Committee noted that the next meeting was scheduled to take place on the 23 June. As the EU Referendum would be taking place on this date it was agreed that the next Audit Committee meeting would be rescheduled to take place on the 30 June.

RESOLVED: That

- i) The Audit Committee work programme be approved subject to amendments if required.
- ii) The next meeting of the Audit Committee would take place on the 30 June.

59 INFORMATION SHEETS

Debbie Hanson, EY Director provided the Committee with information on the Ernst and Young Value for Money Conclusion.

RESOLVED: That the following Information Sheets be noted

- i) 01/2016 Ernst & Young Value for Money Code of practice Information Sheet be noted:
- ii) 02/2016 Corporate Policy Performance Reporting

Chairman

The following officers were in attendance at the meeting:

Catherine Herries-Smith	- Principal Solicitor
Nisar Visram	- Financial Services Manager
Aisha Bi	- Policy Officer
Jacqueline Ford	- Corporate Policy Team Leader
Jemma Durkan	- Senior Democratic Services Officer

High Wycombe Town Committee Minutes

Date: 1 March 2016

Time: 7.00 - 9.15 pm

PRESENT: Councillor A R Green
(in the Chair)

Councillors K Ahmed, Z Ahmed, Ms A Baughan, H Bull, Mrs L M Clarke OBE, M Clarke, M P Davy, R Farmer, M A Hashmi, A E Hill, M Hussain JP, A Hussain, M Hussain, M E Knight, B E Pearce, R Raja, S K Raja, N J B Teesdale and Ms J D Wassell,

37 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Asif, S Graham and M Hanif.

38 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

39 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

It was noted that regarding minute 30 Councillor M Hashmi was the Chairman and Councillor R Raja was the Honorary Secretary of the Self Help Bereavement Society.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on the 19 January 2016 be agreed, subject to the amendments referred to above being made.

40 UPDATE ON THE MARKET

The Committee welcomed Charles Brocklehurst, Major Projects and Estates Executive to the meeting who gave an update on the High Wycombe Market.

The Committee were informed that proposals were being considered for a new way of working at the market. As the existing stalls were difficult and time consuming to set up work had been undertaken to consider options for the future. The current proposals included an option to provide new gazebos which were lighter to transport and provide a more uniform look to the market. The alternative option would be for a majority of traders to provide their own equipment with stalls provided for one-off traders. This option however would still require some forklift movement and would impact on the look of the market. During the discussion the

Committee expressed concern that the look of the market would be compromised. It was suggested that a themed market could be considered. However the Major Projects and Estates Executive responded that the type of market stalls was a result of public demand and there were no plans to provide themed market days.

He also informed the Committee of proposals to make Little Market House a more usable space by using structural glazing without compromising the fabric of the building. Initial ideas for this space could include a coffee shop or food court. Members were concerned that there could be damage to the flooring or structure of the building but were reassured that these factors would be taken into account.

The Committee also received a draft proposal on changes to be made to the Guildhall undercroft to create a lighter, brighter space. A semi-permanent installation could be considered providing a properly lit, attractive space which could be used to house the fruit and vegetable stall. Members were also provided with an update on the 4-5 Church Street retail property refurbishment project currently being undertaken. They were supportive of the proposal for sitting-out space opposite the property but pointed out the 'no alcohol' regulations.

Members thanked the Major Projects and Estates Executive for his presentation.

RESOLVED: That the Committee supports the option to replace the existing market infrastructure with new 'gazebos'.

41 PRESENTATION ON THE HIGH WYCOMBE TOWN CENTRE MASTERPLAN

John Callaghan, Team Leader (Environment and Infrastructure) provided a detailed update on the High Wycombe Town Centre Masterplan. The update included information on work already undertaken and proposed improvements to the highways infrastructure, public realm and opportunities to remake the River Wye through sections of the town centre.

The presentation covered the masterplan vision for High Wycombe town centre; progress on the implementation of the Alternative Route; Paul's Row / St Mary's Street improvements; Frogmoor improvements; and work to create opportunities to enjoy the River Wye.

The Committee heard that the vision for the town centre aimed to create a thriving economic centre; a focus for investments; a more pedestrian friendly town centre less dominated by roads and more connected; to create high quality public spaces; and create a feature of the River Wye.

In discussion Members welcomed the improvements, that had been put in place and those that were being proposed, particularly those that supported the future remaking of the river Wye in the town centre. They were provided with responses to various detailed questions. Members heard that the changes being promoted protect the opportunity for further changes in the longer term that could include the closure of Abbey Way flyover and removal of the flyover ramps – if this were deemed practicable and appropriate in the future. .

Members thanked the officer for his presentation.

(Any member wishing to receive a copy of the detailed presentation should contact Democratic Services.)

42 HIGH WYCOMBE TOWN COMMITTEE - FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee's draft work programme, looking ahead to January 2017 was presented for review.

It was noted that the date of the June 2016 meeting was 14th and not 21st as currently shown in the Programme.

RESOLVED: That the forward work programme be noted, subject to the June 2016 meeting date being amended to 14th June.

43 INFORMATION SHEETS

RESOLVED: That Information Sheet 01/2016 Budgetary Control Report be noted.

Chairman

The following officers were in attendance at the meeting:

Mr Ian Hunt	Democratic Services Manager
Mr Charles Brocklehurst	Major Projects and Estates Executive
Mr John Callaghan	Team Leader (Environment and Infrastructure)
Mrs Jemma Durkan	Senior Democratic Services Officer

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Personnel and Development Committee Minutes

Date: 9 March 2016

Time: 6.02 - 6.04 pm

PRESENT: Councillor L Wood (in the Chair)

Councillors: Mrs S Adoh, M Hanif, M Hussain, Mrs W J Mallen and S K Raja.

59 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G C Hall, M Harris, and G Peart.

60 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Personnel & Development Committee held on 17 February 2016 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

61 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

62 ACCEPTABLE USAGE GUIDELINES

A report was submitted which requested the adoption of the revised information Security and Acceptable Usage Guidelines document (attached at Appendix A to the report).

The report stated that the guidelines had been reviewed and updated in order to ensure that advice remained current with technologies and applications deployed and available and in the light of experience.

In particular the `General Principles` and `Personal Use` sections had been added to the guidelines to improve clarity. The Joint Staff Committee had discussed the proposed revisions to the document at its meeting on 17 February and had agreed to approve the document.

The report also stated that following approval of this committee, users would be advised of the changes to be implemented through various means including Talking Point, Members Update and publication of the document through Review Point.

Members considered the report before them. There was overall agreement to the document as it stood, and as such no questions were raised, nor any amendments suggested.

RESOLVED: That the revised Information Security & Acceptable Usage Guidelines be adopted.

63 JOINT STAFF MINUTES

The minutes of the Joint Staff Committee held on 17 February 2016 were received.

Chairman

The following officers were in attendance at the meeting:

Mr J McMillan - Head of HR, ICT and Shared Support Services
Mrs I Malik - Democratic Services

Planning Committee Minutes

Date: 20 January 2016

Time: 7.00 - 8.45 pm

PRESENT: Councillor P R Turner (in the Chair)

Councillors Mrs J A Adey, S Graham, C B Harriss, A E Hill, D A Johncock, A Lee, Mrs W J Mallen, N B Marshall, H L McCarthy, N J B Teesdale, A Turner, C Whitehead and L Wood.

Standing Deputies present: Councillors Ms C J Oliver.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: M Asif and Mrs G A Jones.

LOCAL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr J Savage

APPLICATION

15/07948/FUL

OBSERVING

Mr I Beck, WDC Planning Officer

90 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 16 December 2015 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

91 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

92 15/06700/FUL - LAND OPPOSITE BEECHES FARM, COLSTROPE LANE, HAMBLEDEN, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

This item was deferred prior to the meeting.

93 15/07521/FUL - THE FOX COUNTRY HOTEL, IBSTONE ROAD, IBSTONE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, HP14 3XT

Following a lengthy debate, concerns were raised regarding the displaced on-street car parking that resulted when functions were held at the venue, the potential frequency of these events and whether the proposed development would exacerbate this situation.

Concern was also raised in relation to several proposed car parking spaces which were indicated to be located over underground gas tanks and the practicality of this

was discussed. Members noted that safety matters regarding the LPG installation were controlled under other legislation and the applicant had indicated that they would take appropriate advice from a gas installer regarding any required modification or removal of the gas tanks to allow the car parking spaces to be provided.

The Committee voted in favour of the motion to approve the application subject to a revision to proposed Condition 8 to require the provision of all 29 car parking spaces indicated to be marked out and retained prior to the new development commencing trading.

RESOLVED: that the application be approved, subject to the amendment to condition 8 above

Councillor Whitehead requested it be noted that the Committee had reservations in relation to the proposed car parking arrangements.

The Committee was addressed by Councillor Whitehead, the Ward Councillor.

The Committee was addressed by Ms Kendra Gittus and Parish Councillor R Scott (Ibstone Parish Council) in objection and Mrs I Bogdanova on behalf of the applicant.

94 15/07651/FUL - LAND REAR OF 42 WYCOMBE ROAD, HOLMER GREEN, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, HP15 6RY

This item was deferred prior to the meeting.

95 15/07948/FUL - 22 SEDGMOOR GARDENS, FLACKWELL HEATH, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, HP10 9AR

This application was subject to considerable debate by Members.

Concerns were raised in relation to the property which was one of the most altered within the street and was therefore out of character and damaging to the street scene. It would become considerably wider and be of a different scale and bulk to the surrounding more uniform properties. Concern was also raised in relation to the neighbour at 16 Highlea Avenue who had grown vegetation to mitigate a first floor dormer window at the property and that the proposal to infill at first floor level and the rear facing dormer would produce an uncomfortable relationship given it was within the 25m window to window privacy guideline set out in Appendix 1 of the Local Plan, and in terms of outlook and privacy would exacerbate an existing poor situation.

On the balance of the information before them members came to a different view than that recommended by their officers and the Committee voted in favour of the motion to refuse the application for the following reasons –

- 1 In the opinion of the Local Planning Authority, the proposed development by virtue of the first floor roof extension and rear facing dormer would represent an un-neighbourly form of development in that it would be unduly dominant and overbearing in appearance as seen from the rear aspect and garden of 16 Highlea Avenue, which lies at a lower ground level, and would result in a loss of outlook and privacy.

This would be detrimental to the amenities of the occupiers of this neighbouring property and thus conflicted with Policies G8 (Detailed Design Guidance and Local Amenity) and Appendix 1 (Residential Design Guidance) of the Adopted Local Plan to 2011 (as saved, extended and partially replaced).

- 2 In the opinion of the Local Planning Authority due to its size and bulk the proposed extension, when considered cumulatively with the previous extensions, results in a substantial scale of development which collectively overwhelms the scale of the original bungalow. This results in an incongruous development out of keeping with and detrimental to, the uniformity of the character of existing street scene.

Thus the proposal fails to comply with Policies G3 (General Design Policy), G8 (Detailed Design Guidance and Local Amenity), H17 (Extensions and Other Developments within Residential Curtilages) of the Adopted Wycombe District Local Plan to 2011 (as saved, extended and partially replaced) and Policy CS19 (Raising the Quality of Place-Shaping and Design) of the Core Strategy DPD (Adopted July 2008).

RESOLVED: that the application be refused for the reasons set out above.

The Committee was addressed by Councillor J Savage, the Ward Councillor.

The Committee was addressed by Ms Julie Wright in objection and Mr Michael Tock on behalf of the applicant.

96 15/07008/OUT - OS PARCEL 9166 BOXER ROAD, LONGWICK, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

This item was deferred prior to the meeting.

97 PRE-PLANNING COMMITTEE TRAINING / INFORMATION SESSION

Members noted that on Wednesday 17 February 2016 at 6.00pm in Committee Room 1, Housing Solutions Ltd intended to present their proposals for a mixed use scheme including commercial on the ground floor at Collins House (corner of Desborough Road and Bridge Street).

98 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS FOR SITE VISITS

RESOLVED: That in the event that it was necessary to arrange site visits on Tuesday 16 February 2016 in respect of the agenda for the meeting on

Wednesday 17 February 2016, the following Members be invited to attend with the relevant local Members:

Councillors: Mrs J A Adey, S Graham, A E Hill, D A Johncock, T Lee, N B Marshall, H L McCarthy, N J B Teesdale, A Turner, P R Turner, C Whitehead and L Wood.

99 FILE ON ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

The file on actions taken under delegated authority since the previous meeting was circulated for the Committee's attention.

Chairman

The following officers were in attendance at the meeting:

Mrs L Hornby	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Ms T Krykant	Assistant Solicitor
Mr A Nicholson	Development Manager
Mrs S Nicholson	Principal Development Management Officer

Planning Committee Minutes

Date: 17 February 2016

Time: 7.00 - 10.40 pm

PRESENT: Councillor P R Turner (in the Chair)

Councillors Mrs J A Adey, S Graham, D A Johncock, A Lee, N B Marshall, H L McCarthy, N J B Teesdale, A Turner, C Whitehead and L Wood.

Standing Deputies present: Councillor Ms C J Oliver.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: M Asif, C B Harriss, A E Hill, Mrs G A Jones and Mrs W J Mallen.

LOCAL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr Z Ahmed
Cllr Mrs L M Clarke OBE

Cllr M Clarke
Cllr R Farmer
Cllr A R Green

Cllr J A Savage

APPLICATION

15/07424/FUL
15/07685/FUL &
15/08390/FUL
15/06592/FUL
15/06592/FUL
15/06859/FUL &
15/06860/FUL &
15/07247/FUL
15/08227/FUL

100 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 20 January 2016 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

101 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

102 15/06592/FUL - HOMEBASE, 300 LONDON ROAD, HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, HP11 1LJ

Members voted in favour of the motion to approve the application.

RESOLVED: that the application be approved.

The Committee was addressed by Councillors R Farmer and M Clarke, the Ward Councillors.

103 15/06859/FUL - TERRIERS HOUSE, 201 AMERSHAM ROAD, HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, HP13 5AJ

Members voted in favour of the motion that they were minded to Grant the application and that the Head of Planning and Sustainability be given delegated authority to determine the planning application subject to:

- a) Through a planning obligation seek the provision and implementation of the footpath/cycle link; and
- b) Amended plans showing the provision of the footpath/cycle link between plots 4 and 5, rather than 7 and 8 and an amendment to the house design to fill the gap between plots 7 and 8.

It was anticipated that any permission would be subject to the conditions set out in the report and update. Subject to any other changes or additions which were appropriate at the time the application was determined.

Or:

To refuse planning permission if an obligation or other agreement could not be secured.

RESOLVED: that the Head of Planning & Sustainability be given delegated authority to grant Conditional Permission provided that a Planning Obligation or other agreement was made to secure the matters outlined above.

The Committee was addressed by Councillor A R Green, the Ward Councillor.

104 15/06860/FUL - TERRIERS HOUSE, 201 AMERSHAM ROAD, HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, HP13 5AJ

Members voted in favour of the motion that the Head of Planning and Sustainability be given delegated authority to determine the planning application subject to:

- a) Through a planning obligation seek the provision and implementation of the footpath/cycle link;
- b) Through a planning obligation seek the maintenance of the open space;
- c) Through a Planning Obligation seek affordable housing, as appropriate in the light of the viability assessment currently being undertaken; and
- d) Amended plans showing the provision of the footpath/cycle link between plots 4 and 5, rather than 7 and 8 and an amendment to the house design to fill the gap between plots 7 and 8.

It was anticipated that any permission would be subject to the conditions set out in the report and update. Subject to any other changes or additions which were appropriate at the time the application was determined.

Or

To refuse planning permission if an Obligation or other agreement could not be secured.

RESOLVED: that the Head of Planning & Sustainability be given delegated authority to grant Conditional Permission provided that a Planning Obligation or other agreement was made to secure the matters outlined above.

The Committee was addressed by Councillor T Green, the Ward Councillor.

105 15/07247/FUL - 79 TOTTERIDGE LANE, HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, HP13 7QA

Members voted unanimously in favour of the motion to approve the application.

RESOLVED: that the application be approved.

The Committee was addressed by Councillor T Green, the Ward Councillor.

The Committee was addressed by Dr Nicholas Reidy in objection and Mr Nicholas Payne on behalf of the applicant.

106 15/07424/FUL - 25 NEW ROAD CLOSE, HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, HP12 4LE

Members voted in favour of the motion to approve the application subject to the inclusion of an additional condition requiring a dedicated space for bin storage along with soft landscaping to the front of the site.

RESOLVED: that the application be approved subject to the additional condition.

The Committee was addressed by Councillor Z Ahmed, the Ward Councillor.

The Committee was addressed by Mr Bernard Zend in objection and Mrs Watkinson, the applicant.

107 15/07685/FUL - 301 DESBOROUGH AVENUE, HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, HP11 2TL

Members voted unanimously in favour of the motion to refuse the application for the following reasons:

1. In the opinion of the Local Planning Authority the proposed intensification of use would unacceptably alter the established character of this part of Desborough Avenue by virtue of the unacceptable level of noise and disturbance and high levels of comings and goings. The current application by reason of its size would have an unacceptable impact on the intrinsic character of this part of Desborough Avenue which has retained its character as an area where single family dwellings dominate.

Therefore the proposed development would be contrary to policies G3 (General Design), G8 (Detailed Design Guidance and Local Amenity) H18 (Conversions) of the Adopted Wycombe District Local Plan Top 2011 (as saved, extended and partially replaced) as well as policy CS19 (Raising the Quality of Place Shaping

and Design) of the Adopted Core Strategy (July 2008).

2. In the opinion of the Local Planning Authority the proposal represented a cramped form of development that would fail to achieve a high standard of design and layout. The proposed development would therefore appear visually intrusive and fail to preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the area.

Symptomatic of this was:

- a) The poor outlook and quality of internal living environment and natural light available to the future occupants of apartment 3 due to the positioning and excavations works required to accommodate the single storey aspect to the rear.
- b) The relationship of the bin store to parked vehicles made it difficult to manoeuvre the bins to allow kerbside collection.
- c) Inadequate provision on site for parking and manoeuvring of vehicles.

As a result the proposal was considered to represent an excessive level of intensification which would result in an incongruous development, out of keeping with the character and appearance of the area.

As such the development failed to comply with Policies G3 (General Design Guidance), G8 (Detailed Design Guidance and Local Amenity), H18 (Conversions) and Appendix 1 (Residential Design Guidance) of the Adopted Wycombe District Local Plan to 2011 (as saved, extended and partially replaced), and Policy CS 19 (Raising the Quality of Place Shaping and Design) of the Core Strategy DPD (Adopted July 2008).

RESOLVED: that the application be refused for the reasons stated above.

The Committee was addressed by Councillor Mrs L Clarke OBE, the Ward Councillor.

108 15/08227/FUL - 27 STRAIGHT BIT, FLACKWELL HEATH, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, HP10 9LT

Members voted in favour of the motion to refuse the application for the following reasons –

In the opinion of the Local Planning Authority the proposed development, which replaces a single detached dwelling with two substantial detached houses, served by a joint access leading to an extensive hard standing, would represent an overdevelopment of the plot. The houses were excessive in size relative to the constraints of the site being located too close to the rear boundary of the plot with the park. Moreover, the lack of amenity space appropriate to serve dwellings of this size and failure to meet the Council's maximum parking standards, whilst nevertheless employing tandem parking arrangements on an a hard standing so large that it severely limited the opportunities for landscaping to soften the

appearance of the development in the street, were considered to be symptomatic of the overdevelopment of the site.

Accordingly, the proposal would appear cramped and dominated by built form to the detriment of the character and appearance of the locality. As a consequence the proposal was considered to conflict with Policies G3 (General Design Policy), H19 (Residents' Amenity Space and Gardens) and Appendix 1 (Residential Design Guidance) of the Adopted Wycombe District Local Plan to 2011 (as saved, extended and partially replaced) and Policy CS19 (Raising the Quality of Place-Shaping and Design) of the Core Strategy Development Planning Document (Adopted July 2008).

RESOLVED: that the application be refused for the reasons stated above.

The Committee was addressed by Councillor J Savage, the Ward Councillor.

The Committee was addressed by Parish Councillor Mrs Leonard on behalf of Chepping Wycombe Parish Council in objection and Mr M Rowles on behalf of the applicant.

109 15/08390/FUL - 74 MARLOW ROAD, HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, HP11 1TH

Following a lengthy debate Members voted in favour of the motion to approve temporary conditional permission for two years and limited to the benefit of the operating company only.

RESOLVED: that the application be approved for a temporary two-year condition and limited to the benefit of the operating company only.

The Committee was addressed by Councillor Mrs L Clarke OBE, the Ward Councillor.

110 15/07681/FUL - COMPUTER HOUSE, STATION APPROACH, MARLOW, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, SL7 1TB

Members unanimously in favour of the motion to approve the application.

RESOLVED: that the application be approved.

111 PRE-PLANNING COMMITTEE TRAINING / INFORMATION SESSION

Members noted that on Wednesday 16 March 2016 at 6.00pm in Committee Room 1, Bloor Homes, a developer, wished to present their proposals for a housing development in Princes Risborough.

112 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS FOR SITE VISITS

RESOLVED: That in the event that it was necessary to arrange site visits on Tuesday 15 March in respect of the agenda for the meeting on Wednesday

16 March, the following Members be invited to attend with the relevant local Members:

Councillors: S Graham, A E Hill, D A Johncock, T Lee, N B Marshall, H L McCarthy, N J B Teesdale, A Turner, P R Turner, C Whitehead and L Wood.

113 FILE ON ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

The file on actions taken under delegated authority since the previous meeting was circulated for the Committee's attention.

Chairman

The following officers were in attendance at the meeting:

Mrs E Crotty	Principal Development Management Officer
Ms G Hastings	Technical Planning Assistant
Mrs L Hornby	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Mr R Martin	Development Management Team Leader
Ms S Penney	Principal Development Management Officer

Regulatory & Appeals Committee Minutes

Date: 2 March 2016

Time: 7.00 - 8.15 pm

PRESENT: Councillor J A Savage (in the Chair)

Councillors M C Appleyard, S Broadbent, M Clarke, Mrs L M Clarke OBE, R Gaffney, D Knights and Ms J D Wassell, I L McEnnis and R Raja

16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A D Collingwood, C Etholen and M Hussain JP.

17 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings of the Regulatory and Appeals Committee held on 2 November and 7 December 2015 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

19 REVIEW OF THE COMMITTEE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members considered the Committee's Terms of Reference, which were being reviewed as part of an overall wider review of the Council's Constitution. A number of proposed amendments were suggested within the Terms of Reference document for the Committee, which was appended to the report.

The suggested changes to the original document were highlighted on pages 1-5. Text underscored represented proposed additions, whilst suggested deletions were struck through. The report sought Members' views and their agreement regarding the proposed changes to the document, which would then feed back into the wider review which would be considered later in the meeting at agenda item 5.

Members deliberated on the report before them. In general they were happy with the document as it stood. It was suggested however that under the N. B paragraph of section 5 under 'Appeals' that the stated wording relating to 'point (vii) above' and 'any matter under (vi) above being heard by an Appeals Panel' should be removed.

In addition, Members debated the issue under section 9 – ‘Planning Applications’. The overwhelming majority of Members agreed that this section should remain as is with the addition that there was a requirement for all Members undertaking determination of an application to receive the appropriate training.

(M C Appleyard withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.)

RESOLVED: That the terms of reference for the Committee be agreed as set out in the report, subject to

- (i) the removal of the text under the NB section of 5 – ‘Appeals’, to now read “Any matter under (i) to (v) above will be heard by an Appeals Panel comprising three members of the Committee”; and
- (ii) Under Section 9 ‘Planning Applications’, insert the necessity for all Members of the Committee to receive the appropriate training prior to determining any planning applications.

20 REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION

A report was submitted which stated that a full and detailed review of the Constitution had been undertaken following the May 2015 District Council Elections as agreed by this Committee during its consideration of other aspects of the Constitution in March 2014 and February 2015. As such the proposals to amend and update the Constitution were presented to Members which were recommended for agreement to become effective following the Full Council meeting in April 2016.

The report explained that in accordance with the decision to commence a detailed review, officers had met with the Leader of the Council and the Chairman of this Committee regarding the proposed review. Each Committee had been invited to undertake a review of its own terms of reference and each Head of Service had been requested to consider his/her own delegations to ensure their accuracy.

Appendix A attached to the report contained a headline summary of the proposed changes from the review, set out part by part. Appendix B to the report contained the new proposed definition of a Key Decision whilst Appendix C summarised the proposed changes for consideration appertaining to Contracts Standing Orders. Due to the size of the Constitution this was not attached in its entirety, but was available to view electronically on the website.

Members considered the report before them, and in relation to the proposed new definition of a Key Decision, it was felt that in the third bullet point, the word ‘land’ should be replaced with the word ‘assets’. Members also questioned whether a reference to intellectual property should be included within this point, in the event that assets did not adequately cover this aspect. There was concern that ‘assets’ may be viewed as being solely of a tangible nature. It was agreed that a reference should be added and that the District Solicitor be consulted to ensure this addition was permissible. It was agreed, therefore, that the third bullet point be amended to

read “the acquisition or disposal of assets (including any intellectual property), or any interest therein in excess of a value of £1,000,000.”

With regard to the proposed changes to Contract Standing Orders, set out at appendix C to the report, Members debated the issue of when and where the Council advertised its procurement opportunities. Currently, the proposal was to advertise all opportunities over £10000 as a minimum on the Council website. It was felt by some Members that this would be more appropriately set at a figure of £5000 when requiring mandatory advertising, proving beneficial for small local businesses. Members also queried the proposal to increase the threshold at which it would be mandatory for a Head of Service to be present at the opening of a paper tender. As a result of these queries, it was felt to be appropriate to defer any further consideration on the Contract Standing Orders to the next scheduled meeting. It was also agreed that an officer from the relevant service be requested to attend to assist to clarify matters.

Discussion also took place around the Public and Member questions process.

Some Members felt that there should not be multiple questions within one question when were asked at Full Council, and that a clause should be added to prevent this from happening, so as to avoid any unnecessary confusion. Others expressed the view that this was too prescriptive and that it was on occasion inevitable that another question would be posed as part of the original question to help set the scene whilst still within the time limit allocated.

Following detailed debate on the matter and a vote being taken it was agreed by the majority that the wording should be amended to state that multiple questions within a question would not be accepted and that only one question would be permitted.

RECOMMENDED: That

- (i) The proposed amendments to the Contract Standing Orders. As set out at appendix C to the report, be deferred until the next meeting of the Committee, and the Procurement Manager be invited to attend to answer any questions
- (ii) Subject to confirmation from the District Solicitor that the addition was permissible, the third bullet point in the proposed new Key Decision definition, as set out at appendix B to the report, be amended to read as follows “the acquisition or disposal of assets (including any intellectual property), or any interest therein in excess of a value of £1,000,000.”
- (iii) All other proposed amendments to the Constitution, as set out in the report be agreed.

- (iv) a new paragraph be added to Standing Orders 10 and 11 (Public and Member Questions) to read as follows.
“Multiple questions within a question will not be accepted. Only one question shall be permitted.”
- (v) Officers be authorised to make the amendments.

Chairman

The following officers were in attendance at the meeting:

- Ian Hunt - Democratic Services Manager
- Iram Malik - Democratic Services Officer

COUNCIL SEATING PLAN 2015/2016

		13 C Harriss					
		14 N Teesdale					
		15 M Clarke					
		16 Mrs S Adoh					
		17 A D Collingwood					
		18 H Bull					
		19 L Wood					
		20 R J Scott					
			42 Mrs C Oliver				
			43 T Lee				
			44 Sarfaraz Khan Raja				
			45 A Turner				
			46 G Hall				
12 Maz Hussain	41 N Marshall				47 H McCarthy		21 Mrs L Clarke OBE
11 David Knights	40 Miss S Brown				48 B Pearce		22 J A Savage
10 D A Johncock	39 Mrs G A Jones				49 R Farmer		23 P A Turner
9 Mrs J D Langley	38 D J Carroll				50 M E Knight		24 A E Hill
8 Mrs J A Adey	37 Z Ahmed				51 Ms A Baughan		25 C Etholen
7 Mrs J E Teesdale	36 Mrs W J Mallen				52 Ms J Wassell		26 M Harris
6 D H G Barnes	35 A Hussain JP				53 M Abdullah Hashmi		27 M Appleyard
5 Miss K S Wood	34 C Whitehead				54 M Asif		28 A R Green
4 D M Watson	33 G Peart				55 M Hanif		29 R H Gaffney
3 R Wilson	32 S Broadbent				56 K Ahmed		
2 D A C Shakespeare	31 S Sadiqqe				57 Rafiq Raja		
1 R Newman	30 M Davy				58 S Graham		

DSO						
DS Manager						
Chief Executive						
Chairman						
Councillor I L McEnnis						
Vice-Chairman						
Councillor Mahboob Hussain JP						
Corporate Director						
	59				60	

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