

SHADOW EXECUTIVE DECISION NOTICE

The following decision(s) were taken by Shadow Executive at its meeting held on **7 January 2020**. Decisions will (unless called-in) become effective at 5pm on 14 January 2020.

a) **Council Tax Base**

In accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and related Statutory Instruments, Buckinghamshire Council is obliged to set its Council Tax Base for the following financial year by 31st January 2020. The report sets out Buckinghamshire Council's estimated collection rate for the 2020/21 financial year. The report recommends to Shadow Executive the Buckinghamshire Council's tax base for the 2020/21 financial year in order to fulfil the Council's statutory duty.

RESOLVED: That Shadow Executive AGREE the Council Tax Base of 223,990.02 for Buckinghamshire Council for 2020/21.

a) **Draft Revenue Budget and Capital Programme**

This report sets out the draft revenue budget and capital programme for Buckinghamshire Council. This includes updates on the latest estimated funding position, service budget pressures and the key financial risks facing the Council in the future, along with a copy of the draft Corporate Plan. The Council Tax Resolution report will accompany this report and contain the final information from the other precepting authorities leading to the total Council Tax for the area, which the Shadow Authority is required to approve. This report will include special expenses where relevant. The budget has been prepared on the assumption that the current arrangements for special expenses will continue.

RESOLVED:

- **To approve the draft revenue budget and capital programme and the draft Corporate Plan.**
- **To note that a supplementary report, the formal Council Tax Resolution, will accompany the final Budget to Shadow Authority.**
- **To agree the delegation of decisions on Opt to Tax to the S151 officer (see section 9).**

a) **Fees and Charges**

The purpose of the report is to approve the recommendations for harmonisation of fees and charges and to approve the overall schedule of Fees & Charges for Buckinghamshire Council from 1 April 2020.

RESOLVED:

- **To approve the recommendations for harmonisation of fees and charges.**
- **To approve the Schedule of Fees & Charges for Buckinghamshire Council from 1 April 2020.**

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7

ARMED FORCES PROTOCOL

(a) Decisions

This report provides background information about the Armed Forces Covenant, the current setup for the district and county councils and a recommended approach for the new Buckinghamshire Council. This includes confirmation that the proposed HR policies for the new Council will be supportive of the Armed Forces Community and will be appropriately publicised.

RESOLVED:

- **To agree to add an agenda item to the first ordinary full Buckinghamshire Council meeting, seeking the new Council's agreement to sign the Armed Forces Covenant.**
- **To agree the proposed number of Armed Forces Champions and role description.**

(b) Reasons for decisions

Agreeing to the recommendations would ensure the new authority continues the supportive standard that the current five councils have developed and embedded in their respective organisations.

(c) Alternative options considered

An alternative option is to consider Armed Forces later down the line however this could have a number of impacts, i.e. reputational, Employer Recognition Scheme award achievement and maintaining good levels of support to the Armed Forces community.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8

KINGSBROOK COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

(a) Decisions

The Shadow Executive is invited to consider AVDC's General Purposes Committee's recommendations concerning proposed changes to the parishing arrangements for the Bierton-with-Broughton Parish area, Aylesbury, as a result of a Community Governance Review (CGR). The CGR was undertaken in response to a petition received from local electors in July 2019 requesting the review be completed in time for the May 2020 local elections.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That a new Parish Council be created for the Kingsbrook Ward of the Bierton with Broughton Parish area, and for the area as detailed at Map A, that was submitted with the Community Governance Petition.**
- (2) That the new parish be named Kingsbrook Parish.**
- (3) That, based on future occupancy levels, the new Parish Council should comprise 9 Parish Councillors.**
- (4) That the Broughton Hamlet Ward of the Broughton with Bierton Parish area become a Parish Meeting, to be named "Broughton Hamlet".**
- (5) That the remainder of the Bierton with Broughton Parish area which includes Broughton Crossing be renamed as "Bierton Parish", comprising a Bierton Ward and the Oldhams Meadow Ward.**
- (6) That the Bierton Parish Council should comprise 9 Parish Councillors, comprising 8 Parish Councillors for the Bierton Ward and one Parish Councillor for the Oldhams Meadow Ward.**
- (7) That Officers be authorised to make a Reorganisation Order under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, 2007, to implement the outcome of the Review.**
- (8) That Officers be authorised to take any further action that might be necessary to complete the Review and implement the new arrangements.**
- (9) That the proposed budget/precept for the new Parish of Kingsbrook for the year 2020/21 be approved as £35.00 (for Band D rated property) and as set out in the schedule forming part of the attached report.**

(b) Reasons for decisions

If the outcome of the CGR is not implemented in advance of the 2020 local elections then there will likely to be a delay before a new Kingsbrook Parish Council could be established. Based on future occupancy levels, it is projected that the current electorate of 931 (as at November 2019) will have increased to over 2,000 electors by 2023, and far overshadows the rest of the current Bierton with Broughton Parish area.

(c) Alternative options considered

The options that the Shadow Executive will wish to consider are detailed at Section 5 of the report but include the rationale for:

- (a) Agree the recommendations and implement from April 2020.
- (b) Agree but defer implementation until 2021.
- (c) Defer for the new Council to determine.
- (d) Do not agree.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9

HIGH WYCOMBE COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

(a) Decisions

This report is to provide an update on the on the progress of the Community Governance Review of the unparished area of High Wycombe.

RESOLVED:

- **To note the Community Governance Review report and the consultation report;**
- **To agree to Option 2 (defer taking a decision on the High Wycombe Community Governance Review until after the new Buckinghamshire Council is created, recognising that further consultation may be necessary at that stage).**

(b) Reasons for decisions

The Shadow Executive will make the final decision in relation to the Community Governance Review. Wycombe District Council is responsible for conducting the review and carrying out the consultation.

(c) Alternative options considered

Option 1: Establishes a parish council or parish councils for:

- 1A the whole of the unparished area of High Wycombe to become a Town Council in due course;
- 1B one or more of the wards of Micklefield, Sands or Totteridge, in conjunction with a Town Council for the remainder of the unparished area; or
- 1C one or more of the parishes of Micklefield, Sands or Totteridge leaving the remainder unparished;

AND waits to progress the Reorganisation Order until the transition has been completed and the new Buckinghamshire Council becomes operational as a unitary authority. Implementation of the Review may be delayed with the expectation that a

new local Council or Councils could be in place by May 2021 (recognising that there is significant work that would need to be undertaken);

OR

Option 2: Defers taking a decision until after the new Buckinghamshire Council is created, to enable the new Council to decide the arrangements, recognising that further consultation may be necessary at that stage;

OR

Option 3: Takes no action to create any further parish councils in the unparished area of Wycombe because other means of effective, convenient local governance reflective of community interests and identity will be established through the new Buckinghamshire Unitary Council and the creation of a Community Board and/or an Area Committee, and a further CGR will be undertaken following a Boundary Review of the new Buckinghamshire Council. It should be noted that the five options discussed in section 7 of the Review report are sub-options within the three main recommendations.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10

ENVIRONMENT POLICY

(a) Decisions

The purpose of this report is to provide the Shadow Executive with an update on work underway to inform the Environment and Climate Change Policy of Buckinghamshire Council. This includes a Carbon Audit of all existing authorities, gathering wider environmental information and developing policy options for the new authority to take a view on after vesting day.

RESOLVED:

- 1) The Shadow Executive notes that existing authorities continue to work to address climate change and it supports the continuation of that work prior to vesting day. When the new Council has responsibility for climate change it may resolve to take a specific policy position.**
- 2) The Shadow Executive agrees that further work be conducted ahead of vesting day to gather the necessary evidence to inform Buckinghamshire Council's policy decision, including a Carbon Audit on current emissions and producing a plan for developing Buckinghamshire Council's policy on wider environmental issues.**

(b) Reasons for decisions

The recommended options allow Buckinghamshire Council to be informed of baseline information, policy options and implications before adopting an Environment and Climate Change Policy.

(c) Alternative options considered

1. Do nothing – paper to be noted.
2. The Shadow Executive notes that existing authorities continue to work to address climate change and it supports the continuation of that work prior to vesting day. When the new Council has responsibility for climate change it may resolve to take a specific policy position **(Recommended)**.
3. The Shadow Executive agrees that further work be conducted ahead of vesting day to gather the necessary evidence to inform Buckinghamshire Council's policy decision, including a Carbon Audit on current emissions and producing a plan for developing Buckinghamshire Council's policy on wider environmental issues. **(Recommended)**

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11

SPENDING PROTOCOL - SOUTH EAST AYLESBURY LINK ROAD

(a) Decisions

This report sets out the background to the South East Aylesbury Link Road (SEALR) project and the reasons why an increase in the scheme budget is required.

RESOLVED:

- 1) **The Shadow Executive approve the change of budget for the South East Aylesbury Link Road from £24,683,000 to £35,493,283.**
- 2) **Note the opportunities the Project Team are currently seeking to reduce the cost of the scheme. This includes negotiations with HS2 over Surplus Excavated Material.**
- 3) **Note the Compulsory Order Process the Council will be entering for the scheme.**

(b) Reasons for decisions

The recommended option is to increase the budget of the scheme to the most likely scenario whilst noting the opportunities that the Project Team are exploring to reduce the cost of the scheme.

(c) Alternative options considered

- 1) To keep the budget the same within the Medium Term Financial Plan, this would cause significant deliverability issues.
- 2) To increase the scheme budget to the most likely scenario including an appropriate amount for risk on the project.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None

For further information please contact: Rachel Bennett on 01296 382343.