

SHADOW EXECUTIVE DECISION NOTICE

The following decision(s) were taken by Shadow Executive at its meeting held on **28 January 2020**. Decisions will (unless called-in) become effective at 5pm on 4 February 2020.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6

TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

(a) Decisions

The draft Treasury Management Strategy for the new Buckinghamshire Council is presented to the Shadow Executive for consideration and comment.

RESOLVED: Shadow Executive is asked to CONSIDER and APPROVE the draft Treasury Management Strategy for the new Council.

(b) Reasons for decisions

The Council is legally obliged to produce an annual Treasury Management Strategy.

(c) Alternative options considered

N/A

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7

REVENUES AND BENEFITS POLICIES AND SCHEMES

(a) Decisions

The Revenues & Benefits Service collects Council Tax, Business Rates and administers claims for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction. Whilst much of the service is prescribed there is some local discretion. This report sets out the final set of policies where local discretion exists that need to be in place for Vesting day. The policies are required to ensure that a fair and consistent approach is taken for decision making across the Council's area, and to ensure the correct legal framework is in place.

RESOLVED: That Shadow Executive agrees

1. To recommend to the Shadow Authority that effective from 1 April 2020, 100% of all income from War Disablement or War Widows Pension be disregarded when calculating entitlement to Housing Benefit in line with the resolution at Appendix A

2. To adopt the Discretionary Housing Payments & Discretionary Award Policy set out at Appendix B & B(ii)
3. To adopt the attached Council Tax Discretionary Discount Policy at Appendix C
4. To adopt the Business Rates Revaluation Support Scheme set out at Appendix D
5. To adopt the Business Rates Hardship Relief Policy set out at Appendix E
6. To adopt the Local Business Rates Discretionary Relief Policy set out at Appendix F.

(b) Reasons for decisions

To ensure that a consistent approach is taken in relation to the award of discretionary awards, discounts, payments and reliefs.

(c) Alternative options considered

The Policies and schemes have been drawn up based on the existing policies & schemes of the current District Councils. These policies can be amended if required by Members.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8

LEARNING DISABILITY STRATEGY

(a) Decisions

To seek agreement to a strategy for adults with learning disabilities in Buckinghamshire.
RESOLVED: To agree the Adults with Learning Disabilities Strategy.

(b) Reasons for decisions

n/a

(c) Alternative options considered

n/a

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9

CAPITAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

(a) Decisions

A draft Capital and Investment Strategy for the new Buckinghamshire Council is presented to the Shadow Executive for approval.

RESOLVED:

1. CONSIDER and APPROVE the Capital and Investment Strategy.
2. APPROVE the MRP Policy set out in Section 7.

(b) Reasons for decisions

N/A

(c) Alternative options considered

N/A

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10

ALL AGE MENTAL HEALTH STRATEGY

(a) Decisions

To gain agreement for the All Age Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which will:

- Align two previously separate strategies (Adult mental health and dementia) whilst incorporating the key priorities of our Local Transformation Plan, creating an all age approach.
- Communicate a single vision of how statutory bodies and partners will work together to address the mental health and wellbeing needs of the county
- Highlight the demographic needs of Buckinghamshire through data analysis and consultation and engagement.

RESOLVED: Members are asked to agree the All Age Mental Health Strategy

(b) Reasons for decisions

In the past Buckinghamshire has published a number of separate strategies covering Mental Health; specifically the Buckinghamshire Adult Mental Health Strategy (2015-19) and the Buckinghamshire Dementia Strategy (2015-18). In addition to this, each year the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) produces an updated Local Transformation Plan for Children and Young People's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing which is submitted to NHS England in line with national requirements. This All Age Mental Health Strategy for Buckinghamshire will replace the Adult Mental Health and Dementia Strategies, and reference the key priorities set out in our Local Transformation Plan. Alignment of these three documents signals a refreshed, all age approach designed to set out a clear vision for mental health in Buckinghamshire. The strategy reflects the expectations for mental health services as set out by the Government in documents such as the NHS Long Term Plan and the Five Year Forward View for Mental Health whilst also applying weight to issues that are key to the people of Buckinghamshire.

(c) Alternative options considered

1. Option to continue with the previous separate strategies. However, the all age approach set out in this strategy supports a more holistic and coordinated mechanism for addressing mental health.
2. Option to not publish a mental health strategy – the reputational risk to the Council is felt to be high due to the expectation that has been set through the preparatory engagement and consultation undertaken to date.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11

A PROPOSED SINGLE HOUSING ENFORCEMENT, IMPROVEMENT GRANTS AND ADAPTATIONS APPROACH FOR BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

(a) Decisions

This report summarises the current position in the four districts with regard to Private Sector Housing Enforcement, related housing fees and charges and Housing Grants Policy matters, and the options for harmonising these arrangements looking forward to vesting day and beyond. This report has previously been to CIG on 11th December 2019 and takes note of comments made.

RESOLVED:

- (i) A single Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy is agreed by the Shadow Executive for the new Authority to be adopted for vesting day (in addition to the proposed overarching Regulatory Enforcement Policy) (see Appendix A)
- (ii) HMO licence fees and housing enforcement charges are agreed by the Shadow Executive for the new Authority to be harmonised for vesting day adopting the model currently used by Wycombe District Council (see Appendix B)
- (iii) A single Housing Improvement and Adaptations Policy is agreed by the Shadow Executive for the new Authority to be adopted for vesting day (see Appendix C)
- (iv) A decision is made and agreed by the Shadow Executive for the new Authority to remove the separate grant offerings currently provided by Chiltern District Council and South Bucks District Council for measures funded by them separately and outside of the proposed harmonised Housing Improvement and Adaptations Policy (see Appendix D).

(b) Reasons for decisions

Delayed harmonisation would have the potential for an inconsistent approach, which may be subject to legal challenge and reputational risk.

(c) Alternative options considered

Harmonisation of enforcement policies and the adoption of a single Housing Improvement and Adaptations Policy could be delayed to 2022 as per Transitional Arrangements, but following legal advice this is NOT recommended.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

Councillor Angela Macpherson declared an interest in this item and left the meeting for this item as she is a paid member of the Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12

SPEND PROTOCOL - HIGH WYCOMBE NEW CEMETERY

(a) Decisions

This report seeks the consent of the Shadow Executive to proceed with the Penn Road cemetery project, as described in Appendix 1 – Report to Wycombe District Council’s Cabinet of 3rd February 2020.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Shadow Executive notes the content of this report.
2. That the Shadow Executive:
 - (a) Consents to a project budget increase of £253,210.
 - (b) Consents to the release other project funds of £389,790.
 - (c) Consents to the grant of delegated authority to enter into a build contract for the project.
 - (d) Consents that the £50,000 annual maintenance cost of the new facility will be contained within the Special Expenses Reserve (SER) precept.
3. Notes that this matter is also being reported to Wycombe District Council’s Cabinet on February 3rd 2020.

(b) Reasons for decisions

Wycombe is running out of burial capacity, and the project is needed to meet the legal requirement to be able to provide burials for the High Wycombe Town area.

(c) Alternative options considered

The Shadow Executive may not wish to proceed with the cemetery project, however there is a need for new burial spaces as the existing cemetery is reaching full capacity, and it should be noted that there is a legal obligation for a Burial Authority to provide burial spaces.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None.

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