



Cabinet agenda

Date: Monday 25 January 2021

Time: 11.00 am

Venue: Via MS Teams Video Conference, available to the public at <https://buckinghamshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

Membership:

M Tett (Leader), A Macpherson (Cabinet Member Adult Social Care) (Deputy Leader), K Wood (Cabinet Member Resources) (Deputy Leader), S Bowles (Cabinet Member Town Centre Regeneration), B Chapple OBE (Cabinet Member Environment and Climate Change), J Chilver (Cabinet Member Property & Assets), A Cranmer (Cabinet Member Education and Skills), I Darby (Cabinet Member Housing & Homelessness), T Green (Cabinet Member Youth Provision), C Harriss (Cabinet Member Sports and Leisure), P Hogan (Cabinet Member Culture), D Martin (Cabinet Member Logistics), N Naylor (Cabinet Member Transport), M Shaw (Cabinet Member Children's Services), W Whyte (Cabinet Member Planning and Enforcement), G Williams (Cabinet Member Communities & Public Health) and F Wilson (Cabinet Member Regulatory Services)

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Agenda Item**Page No****1 Apologies****2 Minutes**

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 January 2021.

5 - 14**3 Declarations of interest****4 Hot Topics****5 Question Time**

The following question has been received and will either be responded to during the meeting or a written response will be included in the minutes:-

1. Question from Councillor Cameron Branston to Councillor Martin Tett

As a Councillor for the Grendon Underwood Ward, I am writing to put forward the views of residents in Edgcott and Grendon Underwood, the villages most affected by this proposed expansion.

Both villages are under significant strain managing traffic from HS2 and EWR projects, can the villages manage more traffic to the prison site? Once the prison is operational, traffic movements will continue. None of this is environmentally sustainable. As a Council, we have agreed to some significant targets in line with national carbon reduction targets by 2050. Daily movements from 500 - 600 coupled with visitors will only increase carbon footprint in Buckinghamshire. A brand-new bus stop will not encourage more people to use public transit.

The proposal will increase the prison population to 1,400, which is larger than both Grendon Underwood and Edgcott and several residents have argued that this development moves away from organic growth to a point of being intrusive even artificial given its location in the countryside. Moreover, it is difficult to understand how trees could camouflage four story buildings with jarring colours in the open countryside, nor does it seem possible that trees and shrubbery will contain light pollution emanating from these large edifices at night.

Several major infrastructure projects have been viewed with scepticism in part because they are deemed expensive and offer little value locally and instead are perceived to harm the countryside. Can Cabinet assure residents living in the countryside, especially those living in Edgcott and Grendon Underwood, that it will do all it can to protect the

environment and the countryside allowing residents to enjoy the amenities in the countryside?

- | | | |
|-----------|--|----------------|
| 6 | Forward Plan (28 Day Notice) | 15 - 32 |
| 7 | Buckinghamshire Council corporate response to the proposed new prison at HMP Grendon/Springhill, Grendon Underwood | 33 - 40 |
| 8 | Exclusion of the public (if required)
To resolve that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1975 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Paragraph 3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding the information) | |
| 9 | Confidential Minutes from the Cabinet Meeting held on 5 January 2021 | 41 - 44 |
| 10 | Date of next meeting
Tuesday 16 February 2021 at 10am. | |

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For further information please contact: Catherine Mackenzie on 01494 421206, email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

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Cabinet minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday 5 January 2021 in Via MS Teams Video Conference, available to the public at <https://buckinghamshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>, commencing at 10.00 am and concluding at 12.30 pm.

Members present

M Tett, A Macpherson, K Wood, S Bowles, B Chapple OBE, J Chilver, A Cranmer, I Darby, T Green, C Harriss, P Hogan, D Martin, N Naylor, W Whyte, G Williams and F Wilson

Apologies

M Shaw

Agenda Item

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mark Shaw, Cabinet Member for Children Services.

Leader's Statement

Martin Tett, Leader of the Council, wished all members of the Cabinet, all members of the Council and everyone within Buckinghamshire a happy new year. With regards to the announcement of the lockdown which was made yesterday evening, the Leader explained that Cabinet would be meeting informally to discuss the implications for the Council as an organisation and the implications for the running of Council services. The Leader stated that following this, he would then update residents accordingly.

2 Minutes

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2020 be agreed as an accurate record.

3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Hot Topics

Bill Chapple, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change, explained that household waste recycling centres would remain open during the lockdown as they were included on the list of essential permitted businesses. However, he

encouraged residents to only use the centres when really necessary.

Isobel Darby, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness, reiterated that any rough sleepers would be offered, as they have been throughout the pandemic, accommodation to keep them safe. She encouraged residents to contact the Council if they know of any rough sleepers so that the Outreach Team can provide support to them.

Warren Whyte, Cabinet Member for Planning and Enforcement, commented that the Burnham Beeches Special Area of Conservation Supplementary Planning Document had been approved and was now formal policy. This gives special protection and strict protocol to the Burnham Beeches area for up to a three and a half mile boundary. He also paid tribute to the Enforcement Team for securing compliance with a High Court injunction to restore land to open countryside in Great Horwood.

5 Question Time

Question from Councillor Robin Stuchbury to the Cabinet Member for Transport.

In light of recent flooding in Buckingham, I would like to ask if Buckinghamshire Council would consider investigating the proposals from the Environment Agency's feasibility study to consider improved flood defences in Buckingham (2003), in particular to provide a catchment basin to alleviate flooding within Buckingham? The proposals had not been taken forward following the completion of the study due to funding criteria changes in this period. There was now an obvious need to prevent flooding within the community of Buckingham, as global warming was likely to make such events occur frequently in the coming years.

Verbal reply given by Councillor Nick Naylor, Cabinet Member for Transport.

The responsibility for main river flooding such as the River Ouse lies with the Environment Agency. The flooding experienced in December 2020 to Buckingham, Milton Keynes, Bedfordshire and further downstream does highlight the risks that are faced from flooding and climate change. Buckinghamshire Council along with neighbouring authorities will be speaking with the Environment Agency to voice our concerns over the flood risk in the Upper Great Ouse catchment and encouraging the Environment Agency to relook at what can be done in the catchment to alleviate and manage flooding through Buckingham and the downstream communities.

Buckinghamshire Council are playing their part to investigate and implement flood management schemes in the very upper parts of the catchment such as on the River Leck Natural Flood Management project where the watercourse are ordinary watercourses and fall under the remit of the Local Authorities and Internal Drainage Boards. Buckinghamshire Council are also now managing the Buckingham Natural Flood Management project, which has recently begun appraising possible small-scale Natural Flood Management measures that could provide some limited reduction in flood risk to Buckingham Town Centre.

Question from Councillor Warren Whyte to the Cabinet Member for Transport.

Given the very late official Flood Warning from the Environment Agency for the River Great Ouse flood in Buckingham and North Bucks on 23 December, will Buckinghamshire Council ask the EA for an explanation as to what went wrong with the Floodline Service on that day, why reports to the EA flood incident line on that evening didn't get a timely response or trigger action, and what will be done to reassure residents and businesses that the Flood Warning System will be made fit for purpose?

Can I also be assured that the Council will promptly review the incident to see if a Section 19 report can be expedited and that any outcomes from that review may inform the many stakeholders on any improvements that need to be considered to the management of the river catchment.

Verbal reply given by Councillor Nick Naylor, Cabinet Member for Transport.

The Council are currently following up with the Environment Agency (EA) on the questions of the Flood warnings in Buckingham on 23rd and 24th December, the response by the EA to issues of flooding reported to their Floodline Service and their operational response to flooding in Buckingham. These questions will form part of the discussions with the EA to review the incident, starting this week.

The events of 23rd and 24th December were predominantly flooding from the main River Ouse which falls under the responsibility of the Environment Agency. Buckinghamshire Council, through Transport for Bucks, were responding on the ground to the flood incidents by closing roads and delivering sandbags where they were requested. Resources were stretched, as Transport for Bucks are staffed and responsible for responding to highways flooding and drainage issues, not main river flooding. Buckinghamshire Town Council also delivered sandbags and were involved in the follow up and clear up. Local Authorities are required and resourced to deal with strategic flood management issues, not operational flood incidents, although support was provided to the operational effort by the Strategic Flood Management team. The scale and extent of this sort of main river flooding requires Environment Agency co-ordination, expertise and leadership. The question of resourcing for responses to flood incidents is something which will be followed up with Central Government.

I assure you that the Strategic Flood Management Team will carry out Section 19 flood investigations into this dreadful flooding event wherever the criteria laid out in the Buckinghamshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy are met.

There are currently around ten formal Section 19 Investigations that are likely to be required for the August and October events alone, and this workload is likely to increase substantially given this recent flooding. I will therefore review with the team how best to deploy the available resources to carry out both these existing

investigations and those that arise from the events in the Buckingham area just before Christmas.

A higher priority is given to incidents where the consequences were more severe (e.g. a high number of properties flooded, critical infrastructure affected) and where there are clear issues or actions that should be addressed as a priority by stakeholders. We can assure you that the key section of any Section 19 report, including any that are undertaken for the Buckingham area, will comprise a set of recommendations for the various authorities, landowners and residents to help move forward with management of the flood risk in the area in the future.

Timescales for publication of a Section 19 report are typically within 10 months of the flood event, though this is dependent on workload and the number of other investigations required. This criteria has been set and agreed in the Buckinghamshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (p.23) and by the Strategic Flood Management Committee chaired by the cabinet member and attended by other Council members from across the county.

[\[Buckinghamshire Council Local Flood Risk Management Strategy\]](#)

6 Forward Plan (28 Day Notice)

Angela Macpherson, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care reported on a new public consultation on a potential new prison in Buckinghamshire. In line with the government's commitment to create four new prisons by the mid-2020s, the Ministry of Justice had been looking at potential new prison sites which have space available to develop and in locations where forecasted future demand for places would be the greatest. The MoJ believed that the land adjacent to the current HMP Grendon/Springhill may be an appropriate location for one of these new prisons. Because of the timescale an additional cabinet would need to be held at the end of January. The Leader reported that not only would a response need to be given by the Council on the public consultation, the Council would also need to consider a planning application for the potential new prison.

Bill Chapple, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change reported that an item needed to be included on the agenda for 16 February on the Climate Change Strategy.

RESOLVED: Cabinet NOTED the Forward Plan.

7 Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2019/20

Cabinet received the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual report 2019/2020. A review to consider new local safeguarding arrangements resulted in the implementation of the Buckinghamshire Multi-agency Safeguarding Arrangements which were agreed and signed off by the Statutory Partners in June 2019, changing the Safeguarding Children Board into the Safeguarding Children Partnership. One of the main significant changes was that the decision making for the Partnership was now under the three statutory partners; the Police, the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group.

Sir Francis Habgood was introduced as the Independent Chair for Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership. In August 2019 the business functions of the Safeguarding Adults Board merged with the Safeguarding Children Partnership to form one business unit and one Joint Independent Chair. This had not only streamlined processes but also had improved the focus on family. In terms of how the partnership functioned it was important that there was a clear business plan; there was a new style of Annual Report which was shorter, more focussed and accessible, a good quality assurance framework (embedding audit work) and learning and development. There were five sub-groups. Many of the actions in the Plan had already been carried out including a new website for adults and children which was more accessible.

As Independent Chair, Sir Francis Habgood provided leadership, vision, quality assurance, challenge and support and provided accountability for the work undertaken by the partnership by way of reports to relevant strategic committees such as Adults Board, Health and Wellbeing Board and Safer Stronger Bucks Board and the new Domestic Abuse Board. This ensured good co-ordination.

In terms of case reviews, there was a robust process in place to ensure that each review contained strong recommendations with a timeframe and an accountable person in order to make certain that this learning was embedded and monitored.

The Leader referred to the two different years 2019 and 2020 and the impact of the covid-19 pandemic, particular with an increase in child abuse incidences in the first lockdown. He asked about the learning from the first lockdown, which could be applied to the third lockdown, particularly looking at the partnership's priorities of domestic abuse, neglect and child sexual exploitation. The Independent Chair reported that when the first lockdown happened everyone had to work in a different way, in terms of the meeting structure and contact with young people. Using social media was very effective and there had been an improvement in attendance for case reviews which had been held digitally. The mental challenges for residents and not feeling in control was a concern e.g. domestic abuse could increase in a confined environment. The Corporate Director reported that during the lockdown, they had refreshed their practice standards and they were grateful to the social care staff who had gone the extra mile to ensure that children were safe. The strength of the partnership was impressive and they had been working closely with schools and health bodies and there was a clear understanding about the risks involved.

RESOLVED: That the progress made by the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership during the last year be noted.

8 Council Tax Base Setting 2021/22

Cabinet received a report on the Council Tax Base Setting 2021/22.

The Head of Finance reported that there was a requirement to set the Council Tax

Base which was the number of Band D properties which informs the number of receipts the Council and other major preceptors would receive such as police and fire. The numbers were based on the collection rate and the numbers involved in council tax support. The guidance informed that the rate should be based on the current year which was a collection rate of 98.1% which gave a Council tax base of 222,433.04. This was a reduction from last year of 0.7% which was due to the number of people on council tax support. A council tax increase of 3.99% would still generate additional receipts of £11.3 million compared to last year and this was included in the draft budget report.

The Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services asked whether the council tax base reduction of 0.7% was an average and if the reduction varied from parish to parish. He referred to the reduction for the Chiltern area, as set out on page 45 of the agenda pack, which was 1.12%, and questioned whether this was due to the fact that the collection rate in Chiltern has historically been one of the top three collection rates in the Country. The Head of Finance reported that this was an average and that the overall collection rate applied equally to all of the parishes, but the numbers differed slightly because of those residents on council tax support.

RESOLVED: That Buckinghamshire Council's tax base for the year 2021/22 is 222,433.04 and that the collection rate for the year 2020/21 is 98.1%.

9 Draft Revenue Budget and Capital Programme

Cabinet received a report on the draft revenue budget and capital programme. Given the levels of uncertainty around government funding levels beyond 2021/22 and the difficulties with accurately forecasting the longer-term implications arising as a result of the pandemic the revenue budget proposed within the report is for 2021/22 only. This ensures that the Council does not make decisions based on assumptions which are impossible to estimate at this stage given the international, national and local fiscal impact of the pandemic.

The Leader introduced the report and referred to the impact of the covid-19 pandemic which had heavily influenced the structure of the budget including income generation and expenditure. Therefore for the first time a one year revenue budget had been produced rather than three of four years because of the uncertainty. The government had also only produced a one year spending review. The Local Government Settlement was only received on 17 December 2020. The budget set out two categories of expenditure, revenue (day to day expenditure) and capital (invest in one off assets). On the revenue side this had been impacted by covid-19 with income generation (e.g. car parking, commercial property, leisure services and council tax and business rate income) and also the need to support residents and businesses in the County. There have been additional government grants to help with the budget. There has been a loss of rental income, parking income (£5.3 million less), reduction on council tax and business rates (£5 million each) and leisure (£2 million less). The costs have gone up quite significantly in areas such as home to school transport (£4.5 million) and adult social care. The Council were hoping to make significant savings as a result of becoming unitary. The proposal was

to have a normal council tax increase of 1.99% which covered the basic increase in costs but the government had also advised that the Council could raise an extra 3% for an adult social care precept to cover the increased costs; this needed a national solution. However, because of the recent pandemic Cabinet Members had considered that only a 2% increase should be proposed with a 1.99% basic increase. This left a small gap which would be covered by general reserves.

Finally on the capital programme the Leader thanked the Deputy Leader Katrina Wood for her work on this area and outlined the following highlights:-

- £161 million over the next four years for schools
- £128 million on highways including £17.4 on plane and patch
- £20 million on waste (new vehicles)
- £16 million on housing and homelessness
- £15 million on leisure services
- £39 million on economic recovery

The risks involved were outlined in the report. The Head of Finance added that this draft budget would be scrutinised by Budget Scrutiny from 11 January 2021 with a revised budget being considered by Cabinet on 16 February and Council 24 February 2021. The public were welcome to submit questions to budget scrutiny.

During discussion the following points were noted:-

- The Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health emphasised the severe pressures on adult social care and that combined with childrens services the two areas accounted for 65-70% of the budget and the Council was constantly trying to find savings across the portfolios to help with this demand. The Leader reported on the £30 million savings which had been generated by becoming a unitary council and some of these saving would be redeployed to help with additional pressures.
- The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care reported it was important to put residents first and the Council was seeing increasing demand and complexity of cases and commended the Adult Social Care Team for balancing the budget every year. She also mentioned the impact of provider failure on the Council which was a big risk for the Council.
- The Cabinet Member for Youth Provision reported on the new unitary council and the savings expected. Unfortunately, with the impact of Covid-19 these were uncertain times which would impact on the council longer term. On the consultation he commented that less than 900 people responded. Social media had reached 0.5 million people. In response to a question regarding the cost of consultation, the Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health reported that it was a statutory requirement and he would check the total cost including staff time. The Leader referred back to previous years and the drive to increase the response rate e.g. by giving out paper copies at railway stations but even then the response rate was no more than 1500. Residents priorities usually were roads and pavements and the cost of

adult and childrens services should be emphasised.

- The Cabinet Member for Planning and Enforcement welcomed the one-year budget and referred to the capital programme which helped fund some of the main priorities for resident's such as roads, school places and local schemes such as the Winslow Centre. There was a four-year capital programme. The Leader hoped this would help support the local economy.
- The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources reported that the team had worked hard on a robust capital programme. The Leader also referred to the work being undertaken on regenerating town centres across Buckinghamshire and to help support the reduction in the retail sector.
- The Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change referred to the capital programme and £20 million for waste. This was not just related to new vehicles. He referred to the need to purchase a new bulk shredder which cost £0.5 million and explained that vehicles tended to last seven years. The new vehicles would arrive in March 2021.
- The Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness explained that the budget for Housing and Homelessness was a smaller budget but was very important nonetheless. The Cabinet Member explained that there was no alternative to this budget and that it should be supported. The Leader reported that whilst quite a few councils were going for the full council tax increase, this Council was only going for 3.99% to help support the vulnerable and tackle the economic pressures faced.

RESOLVED: That the draft revenue budget and capital programme be approved and it be noted that a supplementary report, the formal Council Tax Resolution, will accompany the final Budget to Full Council.

10 Support to the Provider Market as a result of Covid-19

Covid-19 has created a number of challenges in the care market, including rising costs around staffing and PPE; a changing profile of clients for bed-based care, with clients presenting with more complexity; and disruption to the self-funder market. A specific request has been received to provide financial support during the covid-19 crisis. This decision seeks approval for short term financial support in order to come to a planned and sustainable solution in the longer term. The request was considered in confidential session as it contained information relating to financial or business affairs.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care reported that one of the key corporate risks for adult social care was provider failure in the care market and covid-19 has impacted this considerably and it was very sad that clients had been lost to covid-19 and others had chosen not to come into the care setting. Care providers were operating below optimum capacity. The implications of provider failure were significant to the Council and under the Care Act 2014 the Council had to provide continuity of care to all clients in those settings which included self-funders of which there were a significant number in the market place. A provider was facing financial difficulties and had contacted the Council for short term help and officers were working hard to ensure that there were longer term sustainable options and a

further report would be brought back to Cabinet in March.

RESOLVED: That Cabinet agree a package of immediate short-term financial support and to commit to ongoing negotiations with a view to reaching an overall conclusion by March 2021.

11 Exclusion of the public

RESOLVED: That pursuant to Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Minute No 12, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act as defined as follows:

Minute 12 Support to the Provider Market as a result of Covid-19

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 process or negotiations)

12 Support to the Provider Market as a result of Covid-19

This item was undertaken in confidential session as part of Minute item 10 and details of the public discussion and the decisions taken are included within Minute number 10.

13 Confidential Minutes from the Cabinet meeting held on 15 December 2020

RESOLVED: The confidential minutes from the meeting held on 15 December 2020 be agreed as an accurate record.

14 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 16 February 2021 at 10.00am (including the additional meeting at the end of January).

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Buckinghamshire Council Cabinet/Cabinet Member forward plan

The local authorities (executive arrangements) (meetings and access to information) (England) regulations 2012

This is a notice of an intention to make a key decision on behalf of Buckinghamshire Council (regulation 9) and an intention to meet in private to consider those items marked as 'private reports' (regulation 5).

A further notice (the 'agenda') will be published no less than five working days before the date of the decision meeting and will be available via the [Buckinghamshire Council website](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk).

All reports will be open unless specified otherwise.

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Cabinet 25 January 2021				
Buckinghamshire Council response to the proposed new prison at HMP Grendon/Springhill, Grendon Underwood Corporate consultation response to be discussed and agreed ahead of response deadline on 29th January.	Grendon Underwood	Councillor Martin Tett Hannah Thynne		14/1/21 Taken under general exception

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Cabinet 16 February 2021				
Budget Scrutiny 2021 Report To consider the budget scrutiny report from the Budget Scrutiny Inquiry Group.		Councillor Ralph Bagge Kelly Sutherland		14/1/21
Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy To consider the draft Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy.	All Wards	Councillor Bill Chapple OBE Steve Bambrick		5/1/21
Final Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan For Cabinet to recommend the final budget to Council		Councillor Martin Tett Richard Ambrose		1/10/20
Grants Review Grants review update		Councillor Gareth Williams Nick Graham	Part exempt <i>(para 3)</i>	15/12/20

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p>High Wycombe Transport Strategy - Public Consultation To agree to proceed with a six week public consultation on the draft High Wycombe Transport Strategy.</p>	<p>Abbey; Booker, Cressex & Castlefield; Downley; Flackwell Health, Little Marlow & Marlow South East; Hazlemere; Ryemead & Micklefield; Terriers & Amersham Hill; Totteridge & Bowerdean; Tylers Green & Loudwater; West Wycombe</p>	<p>Councillor Warren Whyte, Councillor Nick Naylor</p> <p>Joan Hancox</p>		14/1/21
<p>Improvement Plan Progress Update For Cabinet to note the continued impact of COVID-19 on the service and the current progress against the Ofsted Improvement Plan.</p>		<p>Cabinet Member Children's Services</p> <p>Tolis Vouyioukas</p>		14/1/21
<p>Lancaster Road, Cressex Industrial Estate The acquisition of the long-leasehold interest at Lancaster Road, Cressex Industrial Estate, High Wycombe</p>	Abbey	<p>Councillor John Chilver</p> <p>Jaswinder Boom</p>	Part exempt (para 3)	5/1/21

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p>Large Scale Tree Planting on Buckinghamshire Council land holding Progress and next steps</p>		<p>Councillor Bill Chapple OBE</p> <p>Steve Bambrick</p>	Part exempt <i>(para 3)</i>	14/1/21
<p>Overview of Aylesbury Vale Estates (AVE) and draft business plan 2021-2024 To provide an overview of the AVE joint vehicle and invite comments from cabinet on the draft business plan for 2021-2024. These will be reported back to the AVE Board for together with any comments received from the Select Committee.</p>	Aylesbury North; Aylesbury North West	<p>Councillor John Chilver</p> <p>Ian Thompson</p>	Part exempt <i>(para 3)</i>	15/12/20
<p>Princes Risborough Expansion Supplementary Planning Document To approve the Princes Risborough Expansion Supplementary Planning Document (PRE SPD) for adoption.</p>	Ridgeway East; Ridgeway West; The Risboroughs	<p>Councillor Warren Whyte</p> <p>Steve Bambrick</p>		15/12/20
<p>Q3 Budget Monitoring Report 2020-21 Quarterly report</p>		<p>Councillor Katrina Wood</p> <p>Richard Ambrose</p>		1/10/20
<p>Q3 Performance Report 2020-21 For information</p>		<p>Councillor Katrina Wood</p> <p>Matthew Everitt</p>		15/12/20

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p>Vale Retail Park – Capital Works and New Lease To recommend to Cabinet the use of up to £1.8m from the Prudential Borrowing facility to deliver the enabling works and enter into a lease with the proposed tenant in order to deliver a high-quality covenant, reduce existing budget pressure by creating a secure income stream and raise the profile of the Retail Park.</p>	Aylesbury North	Councillor John Chilver John Reed	Part exempt <i>(para 3)</i>	5/1/21
Cabinet 2 March 2021				
<p>Assets of Community Value An update on assets of community value and agree harmonised policy</p>		Councillor Gareth Williams Claire Hawkes		16/11/20
<p>Buckinghamshire Council Voluntary & Community Sector Strategy To agree the Voluntary & Community Sector Strategy which sets out how the council will work together with the voluntary and community sector.</p>		Councillor Gareth Williams Kama Wager, Claire Hawkes		25/8/20
January 2021 Leader Decisions				
<p>A355 Amersham Road, Beaconsfield Layby Prohibition of Motor Vehicles To prevent the fly tipping of hazardous materials on two laybys located on A355 Amersham Road, Beaconsfield</p>	Beaconsfield	Councillor David Martin Ricky Collymore		2/11/20

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p>A4157 Douglas Road, Aylesbury - No Right Turn into Stocklake (Urban) Traffic Regulation Order Buckinghamshire Council as traffic authority intends to make the above ETRO. This will prohibit any vehicle (other than a vehicle in emergency use for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes) proceeding in a south-easterly direction in A4157 Douglas Road to turn right into Stocklake (Urban)</p>	Aylesbury East	Councillor Nick Naylor David Cairney		19/3/20
<p>Adoption of the IHRA working definition of Antisemitism The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism and its contemporary examples are a widely adopted non-legally binding definition of antisemitism. The UK government has adopted the definition and has recommended its adoption to local government. The paper recommends adoption by the Buckinghamshire Council of the non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism and all of its illustrative examples.</p>		Councillor Martin Tett Natalie Donhoumorley		14/1/21 To be taken under general exception
<p>Allocation of Grants for Children's Social Care purposes The government has provided grant funding for specific purposes to the Council but these were not ring-fenced grants. This decision report is to ring-fence these grants for the Children's Social Care Portfolio to use in the intended way.</p>		Councillor Mark Shaw Elizabeth Williams		5/3/20

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p>Allocation of Grants for Education purposes The government has provided grant funding for specific purposes to the Council but these were not ring-fenced grants. This decision report is to ring-fence these grants for the Education Portfolio to use in the intended way.</p>		Councillor Anita Cranmer Elizabeth Williams		5/3/20
<p>An Approved List for Children's Domiciliary Care To agree an approved List for Children's Domiciliary Care</p>		Councillor Mark Shaw Stuart Kelly	Part exempt <i>(para 3)</i>	9/4/20
<p>Aston Clinton - Traffic Calming Vertical traffic calming and speed limit reduction</p>	Aston Clinton & Bierton	Councillor Nick Naylor Zunara Aslam		19/3/20
<p>Aylesbury Electricity Grid Works Procurement Options To agree the procurement options for delivering the Aylesbury Electricity Grid HIF project</p>		Councillor Warren Whyte Edward Barlow		6/8/20
<p>Biodiversity Net Gain Scheme in Buckinghamshire Next steps towards implementation of a biodiversity net gain scheme in Buckinghamshire</p>		Councillor Bill Chapple OBE David Sutherland		5/10/20
<p>Budget Amendments to Approved Capital Programme To approve changes to the budgets in the approved capital programme</p>		Councillor Katrina Wood Sue Palmer		28/7/20

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Budget Adjustments to the Approved Capital Programme To approve changes to the Approved Capital Programme		Councillor Katrina Wood Sue Palmer		14/9/20
Choice and Charging Policies Adult Social Care policies		Councillor Angela Macpherson Tracey Ironmonger		17/9/20
Commissioning of Direct Payment Support Service The following 4 contract will be commissioned to support the Councils Direct Payment Offer.		Councillor Angela Macpherson Lisa Truett	Part exempt (<i>para 3</i>)	3/12/20
Community Asset Transfer to agree the community asset transfer list for devolution.		Councillor Gareth Williams Marco Dias		13/7/20
Countywide Consolidation of Traffic Regulation Orders Countywide Consolidation of Traffic Regulation Orders for On-street parking, off-street parking, traffic movement (prohibition of movement) and speed limits.	All Wards	Councillor David Martin Ian Thomas		15/12/20
Court Lane and Marsh Lane, Dorney, Proposed Waiting and Loading Restrictions (Amendment 1030) This report summarises the results of the statutory consultation for formalising the “No Waiting at any time” restrictions on Court Lane and Marsh Lane, Dorney.	Cliveden	Councillor David Martin Ryan Curtis		19/3/20

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p>Developer funded schemes Approval of release of funding for transport works programme using section 106 funds</p>		<p>Councillor Nick Naylor Joan Hancox</p>		20/5/20
<p>Devolution Pilots To agree the list of devolution pilots.</p>		<p>Councillor Gareth Williams Marco Dias</p>		13/7/20
<p>Haydon Hill Cycleway Extension of Waddesdon Greenway</p>	Aylesbury North West	<p>Councillor Nick Naylor Joan Hancox</p>		20/5/20
<p>Interim Tree Risk Management Strategy Approval of an interim tree risk management strategy with respect to trees that Buckinghamshire Council manages</p>		<p>Councillor Bill Chapple OBE David Sutherland</p>		5/10/20
<p>Knights Templar Way, Daws Hill - No Waiting and No Loading Parking Restrictions S106 Scheme for the provision of a parking TRO in Knights Templar Way / Daws Hill Lane in mitigation of parking related concerns as a result of residential development in the nearby vicinity. The proposal relates to the introduction of waiting and loading restrictions.</p>	Abbey	<p>Councillor David Martin Tom McCarthy</p>		19/3/20

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p>Little Missenden Vent Shaft access Schedule 4 HS2 Ltd has submitted a Schedule 4 (highways approval) under HS2 Hybrid Act 2017 to the Council to construct a roundabout at Keeper's Lane to facilitate access to the vent shaft at Little Missenden. The solution identified in the HS2 submission has raised concerns locally which HS2 Ltd is aware of. A decision needs to be made less than 28 days after submission otherwise the approval deems.</p>	Chiltern Ridges; Great Missenden	Councillor Nick Naylor Joan Hancox		23/12/20
<p>New Secondary school on Kingsbrook development in Aylesbury Buckinghamshire Council is building a new 1080 place secondary school on the Kingsbrook development in Aylesbury. The school will open in September 2022 with an initial intake of students of 6 forms of entry (up to 180 students) and then build up over time to its full capacity. Section 6A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 states that where a Local Authority identifies the need to establish a new school it must, in the first instance, seek proposals to establish an Academy. The Local Authority holds the competition and decides on its preferred bidder to run the new school, however the final decision on the successful bidder is made by the Department for Education (DfE) and Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC). After the end of the competition when the LA have decided on their preferred bidder, we will forward details of our preferred bidder and details of all other bids received to the DfE and RSC.</p>	Aston Clinton & Bierton	Councillor Anita Cranmer Andrew Tusting		1/10/20

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p>Prohibition of Motor Vehicles - Stocklake and Broughton Lane, Bierton</p> <p>To formalise the new carriageway layout at Stocklake and Broughton Lane, Bierton. The carriageways have been realigned and now has sections where motor vehicles are physically unable to access. The proposed Traffic Regulation Order will formalise the restrictions on motor vehicle movement.</p>	Aston Clinton & Bierton	Councillor David Martin Ricky Collymore		2/11/20
<p>Reclassification Order, Bellingdon Road and Townsend Road, Chesham</p> <p>A short section of Bellingdon Road and Townsend Road in Chesham are classified as B Roads. It seems that this is a historic issue which was not correctly dealt with at the time the A416 St Marys Way was constructed. This order resolves this historic issue</p>	Chesham	Councillor Nick Naylor Keith Carpenter		19/3/20
<p>Revenues & Benefits system procurement</p> <p>To combine existing 4 legacy District systems into a single software system that will act as a catalyst for service transformation</p>		Councillor Katrina Wood Dave Skinner	Part exempt <i>(para 3)</i>	29/6/20
<p>Richings Park Waiting Restrictions Review</p> <p>Decision to be made regarding the proposals put forward and recommended after a Statutory Consultation on waiting restrictions in Richings Park.</p>	Iver	Councillor David Martin Ricky Collymore		17/9/20

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p>Rights of Way Enforcement Policy To review and update the existing Rights of Way Enforcement Policy The document will outline the legislative powers available to the authority regarding enforcement, give details of what action our customers may expect the authority to take on illegalities found on the rights of way network.</p>		<p>Councillor Nick Naylor David Sutherland</p>		19/3/20
<p>Sandelswood Waiting Restrictions Cabinet Member Decision for Sandelswood Waiting Restrictions, following Statutory Consultation and the objections received.</p>	Beaconsfield; Penn Wood & Old Amersham	<p>Councillor David Martin Shane Thomas</p>		19/3/20
<p>Supported Living Procurement Vehicle Decision to go out to tender to procure supported living services for adults in Buckinghamshire.</p>		<p>Councillor Angela Macpherson Matilda Moss</p>	Part exempt <i>(para 3)</i>	27/10/20
<p>The disposal and acquisition of land and buildings on / adjacent to the Wycombe Air Park The disposal and acquisition of land and buildings on / adjacent to the Wycombe Air Park and budget adjustment to the approved capital programme to allow the transactions to proceed</p>	Chiltern Villages	<p>Councillor John Chilver Sue Palmer</p>	Part exempt <i>(para 3)</i>	15/12/20
<p>Town & Parish Charter To agree the Town and Parish Charter</p>		<p>Councillor Gareth Williams Kate Walker</p>		15/10/20

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p>Westhorpe Interchange - Globe Park access Decision to progress the Westhorpe junction improvement project from feasibility through to detailed design and construction. Purchase land required for the scheme.</p>	<p>Flackwell Health, Little Marlow & Marlow South East; Little Chalfont & Amersham Common; Marlow</p>	<p>Councillor Nick Naylor, Councillor John Chilver Ian McGowan</p>	<p>Part exempt <i>(para 3)</i></p>	<p>19/3/20</p>
February 2021 Leader Decisions				
<p>Buckinghamshire Biodiversity Accounting Supplementary Planning Document This supplementary planning document sets out the council's approach for a net gain in biological diversity on development sites. It provides a 'biodiversity' accounting process to calculate current and post development biodiversity and where there is a net loss sets out a hierarchy of compensatory measures.</p>		<p>Councillor Warren Whyte Simon Meecham</p>		<p>21/12/20</p>
<p>Consultation on draft Statement of Community Involvement To approve a draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) for public consultation. The SCI is a statement of the Council's policy towards engaging local communities and other interested parties in planning matters. These include producing the Local Plan and determining planning applications.</p>		<p>Councillor Warren Whyte Steve Bambrick</p>		<p>23/12/20</p>

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Recommissioning of Community Equipment Service Decision to go out to tender for the re-commissioning of a community equipment service.		Councillor Angela Macpherson Matilda Moss	Part exempt <i>(para 3)</i>	27/10/20
March 2021 Leader Decisions				
Highways Development Management commuted sums Highways Development Management last updated our commuted sums in 2006, this is a proposal to update these not only in line with inflation but to use a slightly different format.		Councillor Warren Whyte Lee Steadman		15/10/20

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p>Overstone School</p> <p>The governing board are proposing that from 1 April 2021 the school's age range is changed from 3-11 to 4-11 and that the nursery provision is then run by a joint governor and staff committee. Under Department for Education (DfE) section 27 regulations schools are required to hold a public consultation if they wish to run their nursery provision under these regulations. The school is therefore consulting its parents, staff, nearby schools, child minders and the local community on the proposed change. The governing board will review the outcome of the consultation and if there is support for the proposal they will then publish a statutory notice. This will enable people to comment on, support or object to the proposal. The notice period runs for 4 weeks and after the period expires the LA has 8 weeks to decide on whether to agree to the proposal.</p>	Wing	Councillor Anita Cranmer Andrew Tusting		16/11/20

Individual cabinet member decisions are not discussed at meetings – a report is presented to the cabinet member and they will decide whether to sign the decision. Cabinet members can take key decisions that only affect their portfolio area and can also take joint cabinet member decisions. However, if a decision crosses portfolios, this generally should be agreed by cabinet.

If you have any questions about the matters contained in this forward plan, please get in touch with the contact officer. If you have any views that you would like the cabinet member to consider please inform the democratic services team in good time ahead of the decision deadline date. This can be done by telephone 01296 382343 or email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk. You can view decisions to be made and decisions taken on the council's website.

The council's definition of a 'key decision' can be seen in part 1 of the council's [constitution](#).

Each item considered will have a report; appendices will be included (as appropriate). Regulation 9(1g) allows that other documents relevant to the item may be submitted to the decision maker. Subject to prohibition or restriction on their disclosure, this information will be published on the website usually five working days before the date of the meeting. Paper copies may be requested using the contact details below.

*The public can be excluded for an item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt (private) information as defined in part I of schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972. The relevant paragraph numbers and descriptions are as follows:

Paragraph 1 - Information relating to any individual

Paragraph 2 - Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual

Paragraph 3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

Paragraph 4 - Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority

Paragraph 5 - Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings

Paragraph 6 - Information which reveals that the authority proposes:

(a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or

(b) to make an order or direction under any enactment

Paragraph 7 - Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

Part II of schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 requires that information falling into paragraphs 1 - 7 above is exempt information if and so long, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. Nothing in the regulations authorises or requires a local authority to disclose to the public or make available for public inspection any document or part of a document if, in the opinion of the proper officer, that document or part of a document contains or may contain confidential information. Should you wish to make any representations in relation to any of the items being considered in private, you can do so – in writing – using the contact details below.

Democratic services, Buckinghamshire Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP19 8FF 01296 382343
democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

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Report to Cabinet

- Date:** 25 January 2021
- Title:** Buckinghamshire Council consultation response to the proposed new prison at Her Majesty's Prison (HMP) Grendon/Springhill, Grendon Underwood
- Relevant councillor(s):** Angela Macpherson, Cameron Branston, Michael Rand & John Chilver
- Author and/or contact officer:** Roger Goodes, Service Director for Policy & Communications / Hannah Thynne, Head of Policy
- Ward(s) affected:** Grendon Underwood
- Recommendations:** The Council's draft response to the Government consultation is set out in Appendix 1. The recommendation is to agree the draft response and to delegate responsibility for submission of the final response, incorporating any further changes after the Cabinet meeting, to the Corporate Director (DCE) in consultation with the Cabinet Member/Leader of the Council.
- Reason for decision:** To ensure Buckinghamshire Council's views are submitted for consideration prior to the Ministry of Justice's consultation deadline on the 29th January 2021

1. Background

- 1.1. On 2 December the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) launched a public consultation on 'The New Prisons Programme' which outlines their proposal to build a new prison to house up to 1680 additional prisoners in a category C resettlement environment in Buckinghamshire.
- 1.2. The MOJ is seeking the views of residents and businesses on their plans which are part of the programme to deliver the commitment by Government to create 18,000 additional prison places across the prison estate by the mid-2020s.

1.3. The site of the proposed new site is adjacent to the existing HMP Grendon and HMP Springhill site in Grendon Underwood, Buckinghamshire.

1.4. The closing date for responses to the consultation is 29 January 2021.

2. Our response

2.1. Appendix 1 to this report sets out the draft response to the MOJ's consultation. This has been formulated by seeking input and views from relevant departments across the Council as well as local councillors. Feedback from local residents and key partners has also been taken into consideration.

2.2. Responding on behalf of the council, we believe the location is unsuitable for the proposed prison and would likely have a negative impact on the quality of life of local residents.

3. Other options considered

3.1. Not to respond to the consultation – due to the significance of the proposals on Buckinghamshire services and local residents, this option is not recommended.

4. Legal and financial implications

4.1. In relation to financial implications there may be some increase in business rates receipts. The Council would retain 50% of any increase in business rates.

4.2. The consultation response itself has no direct legal implications.

4.3. It should be noted that the Council in its capacity as planning authority will have a role in determining any planning applications arising from the proposed prison. This is distinct and separate from the local authority's role in responding to the consultation on the merits of the proposed prison.

5. Corporate implications

5.1. This consultation response itself has no direct corporate implications.

6. Consultation and communication

6.1. We have consulted with relevant local Councillors and the relevant Community Board when collating this response.

6.2. We have also had discussions with Thames Valley Police in order to collate this response.

7. Next steps and review

7.1. Subject to the views of Cabinet, the response will be finalised and submitted prior to the deadline for responses of 29th January 2021.

8. Background papers

8.1. The MOJ's consultation document can be found here:

8.2. https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/potential-new-prison-in-buckinghamshire/supporting_documents/newprisonprogramme Buckinghamshire.pdf

9. Your questions and views (for key decisions)

9.1. If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report please get in touch with the author of this report. If you have any views that you would like the cabinet member to consider please inform the democratic services team. This can be done by telephone 01296 382343 or email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

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**Leader of the Council**

Martin Tett
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Martin.Tett@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
Westminster
London
Sw1H 9AJ

29 January 2021

To whom it may concern,

Re: The New Prisons Programme Public Consultation: Proposal for a New Prison in Buckinghamshire

We are writing in response to your public consultation which is seeking views on your plans to create a new Prison in Buckinghamshire and to express our objections as the local authority where the new site would be developed. This response is in no way linked to our planning process and as such will avoid discussing matters that would legally sit with the planning committee.

Context of the proposal

The proposals outlined in the initial consultation document and the subsequently amended document propose a prison complex to house either 1,440 (6 new blocks) or 1,680 (7 new blocks) prisoners in a Category C resettlement environment. It would be one of the largest in England and Wales, with prison population figures only superseded by HMP Oakwood and HMP Berwyn.

If the new site proposed in Buckinghamshire has 7 new blocks, as the consultation suggests may be the case, it will be the same size, in terms of prisoner population as the Category C HMP Five Wells which is currently under construction in Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, just 40 miles away from the proposed site in Grendon Underwood.

The proposed new site is in a rural area of open countryside, adjacent to the existing HMP Grendon & HMP Springhill site, which currently houses approximately 500 prisoners. The site immediately borders the community of Springhill, the village of Edgcott and the village of Grendon Underwood is less than one mile away.

Scale and Local Resident Impact

The total prisoner population of the combined newly developed prison site would be up to 2,180 prisoners, this would equate to an over 400% increase in the prisoner population. The consultation document notes that additional options are being considered to expand HMP Springhill site as well; this would obviously further increase the prisoner population of the combined site. The current

combined populations of the 2 nearby villages, Grendon Underwood and Edgcott is approximately 1000 residents. The scale of the proposal and new development is therefore vast and is likely to have a significant impact on local residents and surrounding infrastructure.

The consultation document notes that substantial demand for new prison places is expected in the South East of England. It states that detailed feasibility work has been carried out that has led to the identification of the land adjacent to HMP Grendon and HMP Springhill as a suitable location for this proposal, particularly as the land is already owned by the MOJ. Other than a reference to HMP Bullingdon being excluded as the MOJ does not already own adjacent land, details of the feasibility work carried out and any other sites considered have not been included. We would welcome and appreciate further details on other sites considered and the reasons this location is preferred over other areas in the South East where the impact, particularly on an open countryside location, may be less.

Whilst we appreciate proposals are continuing to evolve, we have concerns with regards to the visual element of the new prison and how it will fit in within its immediate and wider setting – local residents are very vocal that the current prison building is a blight on the local landscape and an eyesore in what is otherwise a tranquil and remote location. It is unlikely that a collection of even taller buildings will be seen as an improvement by those who live nearby.

There is likely to be a significant noise impact on local residents from delivery of the proposal due to demolition and construction work as well as potential light pollution. Furthermore traffic movements and footfall around the site is likely to increase considerably, particularly around the entrance and exit to the site, creating more road safety issues for local residents.

We also perceive that public concerns regarding personal safety and the security of both personal and business properties are likely to grow should the proposal go ahead. Grendon/Springhill continues to have a number of prison absconders which create worry and fear amongst local residents. Whilst the new site is a category C there will be concerns about increased footfall in the area generated by visitors to the prison.

Labour Market & Housing Affordability

Should the proposal go ahead, we have concerns that the majority of jobs promised will be through short term construction and will not lead to high numbers of long term roles. We are concerned that roles may not be given to local companies and instead will be contracted out to large, national corporations. We would seek assurances apprenticeships and other training schemes are utilised and that the promises of economic benefits for local people, particularly to residents of the immediately local communities of Springhill, Edgcott and Grendon Underwood, are realised. We would appreciate more detail on how the proposals will deliver a comprehensive set of ongoing social and community benefits, as well as how they plan to build on and improve community relations in the local area.

It should also be noted that staff at the new prison would have to earn a significant salary to be able to afford house prices in the local area; the average house price in the local areas is currently £371,704. With a similar category C being built in Wellingborough, a well-connected market town with a population of over 76,000 people where average house prices are £232,844, we feel that having two very large prison sites so close geographically would likely mean potential prison staff more likely to want to work and live in Wellingborough where salaries are likely to go further.

Competing for potential staff in overlapping labour markets could also further exasperate prison staffing rates and could lead to difficulties in recruiting staff for the Buckinghamshire site.

We anticipate there will be a negative impact on house prices in the local vicinity should the proposal go ahead - current residents have raised concerns about the security at the current Springhill site, and we would argue that the assessment within the consultation document which anticipates house price increases to be incorrect. We are aware that some local residents have already had issues with house sales since the launch of the consultation as they have contacted us directly and foresee the attractiveness of the area will be negatively impacted to those seeking quiet village life should the proposal proceed, especially whilst construction is under way.

Transport & Infrastructure

Due to the location of the site and the affluence of the local area, we anticipate that the majority of staff would need to travel by car to the site which does not align with the low carbon agenda and of course would have a long-term impact on local traffic and environmental noise and pollution. There is also likely to be further impact from additional visitors traveling to the site which is considered hard to reach via public transport.

There is a concern that the already extended local infrastructure will be overburdened, including water and sewerage systems which are already suffering from problems that severely affect local residents and its road system which is made up of minor and unclassified roads.

The construction of HS2 and EWR is also currently commencing in the area which is also causing much disruption locally already and will be for a number of years to come. Further construction in the area would add to the problems already being experienced by residents such as increases in HGVs causing damage to the road network, lengthy road diversions causing delays, mud on roads, vibration and light pollution. All of these issues are adding to the detrimental mental health and wellbeing of some residents.

The project, should it go ahead, needs to take into account the highways powers imposed by the HS2 Hybrid Act and EWR TWA0 when it produces its construction management plan to both facilitate its construction and limit its disruption.

Impact on Public Services

We work vigorously with local partners to reduce and mitigate the risks of rough sleeping with Buckinghamshire and we have concerns that additional prisoner releases from custody may lead to increased presentations to our housing services from those without a local connection. Historically many rough sleepers are known to have gone straight to the street following prison release and whilst this is something we know the MOJ is keen to improve, we have concern about how this might impact local services. There is a very high demand for social housing across the county and we have limited direct access hostels and supported housing provision. Should the proposal proceed we would seek assurance of the commitment to work in partnership between our services through duty to refer, commencing in advance of launch. This would ensure efficient and effective processes are adopted and monitored and that the best outcome for anyone released into the Aylesbury or broader Buckinghamshire Council area is planned for and achieved.

It should also be noted that delivering the proposal is also likely to incur a number of ambulance and police call outs, adding to the strain of our already stretched emergency services. It is also likely to produce a huge uptake of local resources in addition to impacting on local services including social care, mental health services and the NHS, although none of these are demonstrated in the socio-economic assessment for the proposal.

Concern regarding extension of current provision

Finally, we have concerns regarding the potential extension of HMP Grendon/Springhill and how this decision is likely to be consulted on separately from the new build proposal but will also further stretch the local infrastructure as mentioned previously.

As such we would like you to note our objections - we do not believe the site at Grendon Underwood is the correct location for the proposed new prison and believe it would negatively impact on the quality of life of residents in the surrounding area.

Yours faithfully,

Martin Tett
Leader of the Council

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