



Cabinet decision notice

The following decision(s) were taken by Cabinet at its meeting held on **13 September 2021**. Decisions will (unless called-in) become effective at 5pm on 20 September 2021.

Agenda item no. 7

Adoption of the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan

(a) Decisions

Cabinet received a report on the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP). A supplementary report has also been issued to amend a minor error regarding a site area and to recommend that Council be asked to delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration, in consultation with the Service Director for Planning and Environment, to make further minor amendments that would not alter the implementation of the plan.

Following its submission in 2018, the appointed Inspector had completed his Examination of the plan and prepared his binding report setting out how the VALP should be modified in order to be sound. To fully enact the plan, as modified to accord with the Inspector's report, it had to be adopted by the Council. If the plan was not adopted, it would need to be withdrawn leaving the North and Central areas of the council without an up to date Development Plan.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Planning Inspector's report, Appendix 2 to the agenda, be accepted.
- (2) That the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan, as modified in accordance with the Inspector's report (Appendix 1), and updated to amend a minor error regarding a site area referred to in paragraph 2.1 of the supplementary agenda report, be submitted to Council with a recommendation that it be adopted.
- (3) That the final Sustainability Assessment report, detailed with the supplementary agenda, be noted.
- (4) That Council be recommended to delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration, in consultation with the Service Director for Planning and Environment, to make further minor amendments that will not alter the implementation of the plan.

(b) Reasons for decisions

In relation to the four key priorities of the Council, the VALP will strengthen communities by providing housing with associated infrastructure, improve the environment by securing well designed development and mitigating climate change, protect the vulnerable by providing affordable housing as well as housing for older people and it will increase prosperity by protecting and promoting employment opportunities.

The VALP will also improve the Council's performance in relation to climate change by encouraging the use of alternatives to the private motor vehicle such as walking, cycling and use of electric powered transport. Similarly, the VALP will enhance sustainability by focusing development in locations well served with infrastructure and avoiding the negative implications of dispersed development.

(c) Alternative options considered

Following publication of the report the Council must now decide whether to adopt the VALP as modified, or not. There are no other options open to the Council. Should the Council determine that the plan cannot be adopted for any reason then the plan must be withdrawn, and a new plan prepared. This would leave the council without an up to date plan to base planning decisions on for the plan area and decisions would have to be based on the severely outdated 2004 Aylesbury Vale District Local Plan (AVDLP) until the new Buckinghamshire Local Plan was in place.

Please note: this decision has been forwarded to full Council on 15 September, 2021, and, as such, is not subject to call-in.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None.

Agenda item no. 8

Extension to the role of the Virtual School Head - Allocation of Section 31 Grant Funding

(a) Decisions

Cabinet received a report on the increased responsibility of the Virtual School Head. On 16 June, 2021, the Department for Education had announced that from September 2021 Virtual School Heads would take a strategic leadership role in promoting the educational outcomes of the cohort of children with a social worker and for those who had previously had a social worker and were aged from 0 up to 18 years.

All local authorities were eligible to receive grant funding provided under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 to deliver the extended Virtual School Head role. The amount allocated to Buckinghamshire Council was £127,496.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the increased responsibility of the Virtual School Head be noted.
- (2) That it be agreed that grant funding provided to the Council under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 to deliver the extended Virtual School Head role be used for that purpose.

(b) Reasons for decisions

The Council had been allocated a grant under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 cited as the Extension of the Role of Virtual School Heads to children with a social worker grant (2021/22). Buckinghamshire Council had been allocated £127,496 for the 2021-22 financial year.

Ring-fencing the Extension of the Role of Virtual School Heads to children with a social worker grant to the Education and Children’s Services portfolio would enable statutory functions to be fulfilled, until such time as the grant ceased to be allocated by the Department for Education.

(c) Alternative options considered

The options considered are detailed at paragraphs 3.6 and 4 of the Cabinet report.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None.

Agenda item no. 9

Community Board Annual Report and Update

(a) Decisions

Cabinet received a report on the achievements of the Community Boards in their first year, 2020-21 and plans for the year 2021-22.

RESOLVED –

That the achievements of the Community Boards in their first year (2020-21) and plans for the year 2021-22 be noted.

(b) Reasons for decisions

As part of the review of the first year of the new Council, an annual report has been produced to recognise and reflect on the achievements of the Community Boards in launching a new service, establishing themselves within their communities and supporting

local initiatives. This review has also provided an opportunity to strengthen processes and ensure there is robust governance and transparency across processes and decision making.

(c) Alternative options considered

Not to produce an annual report. However, this option does not provide the opportunity to reflect and share the work that has been achieved over the last year.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None.

For further information please contact: Craig Saunders -
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