



Transport, Environment & Climate Change Select Committee Agenda

Date: Thursday 20 January 2022

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: The Oculus, Buckinghamshire Council, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury HP19 8FF

Membership:

B Chapple OBE (Chairman), R Carington (Vice-Chairman), K Ashman, P Brazier, M Caffrey, C Cornell, E Culverhouse, E Gemmell, S Guy, D King, A Poland-Goodyer, L Sullivan, M Walsh, W Whyte and A Wood

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Agenda Item	Time	Page No
1 Apologies for Absence		
2 Declarations of Interest		
3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting		5 - 10

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

4 Public Questions

Public Questions is an opportunity for people who live, work or study in Buckinghamshire to put a question to a Select Committee. The Committee will hear from members of the public who have submitted questions in advance relating to items on the agenda. The Cabinet Member, relevant key partners and responsible officers will be invited to respond.

Further information on how to register can be found here:
<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/your-council/get-involved-with-council-decisions/select-committees/>

No questions have been received.

5 East West Rail

10:10

11 - 14

The Committee will receive an update on the East West Rail project.

Contributors:

East West Rail Alliance

Mark Cuzner, Director

Mark James, Deputy Director

East West Rail Company

Will Gallagher, Strategy Director

Network Rail

Peter Hume, Senior Programme Manager

Buckinghamshire Council

Cllr Steven Broadbent, Cabinet Member for Transport

Cllr Peter Martin, Deputy Cabinet Member for Transport – HS2/East West Rail

Richard Lumley, Service Director for Strategic Transport & Infrastructure

Dr Laura Leech, Head of Major Projects

Gavin Jones, East West Rail Team Lead

6 Integrated Household Waste Recycling Centre Contract

11:10

15 - 32

The Committee will be advised of the new contract arrangements for Household Recycling Centres across the county.

Contributors:

Cllr Peter Strachan, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment

Martin Dickman, Service Director Neighbourhood Services

Gurbaksh Badhan, Head of Strategic Waste Management and Enforcement

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| 7 | Work Programme | 11:50 | 33 - 34 |
| | The Select Committee will consider the upcoming work programme. | | |

Contributors:

All Members

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| 8 | Scoping Document for Rapid Review - Pollution in Buckinghamshire's Rivers and Chalk Streams | 12:00 | 35 - 38 |
| | The Select Committee will consider a scoping document for a proposed Rapid Review on Pollution in Buckinghamshire's Rivers and Chalk Streams. | | |

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| 9 | Date of Next Meeting | | |
| | Thursday 10 March at 10am. | | |

If you would like to attend a meeting, but need extra help to do so, for example because of a disability, please contact us as early as possible, so that we can try to put the right support in place.

For further information please contact: Chris Ward on 01296 585807, email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

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Agenda Item 3
Buckinghamshire Council
**Transport, Environment &
Climate Change Select Committee**

Minutes

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE SELECT COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2021 IN THE OCULUS, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL, GATEHOUSE ROAD, AYLESBURY HP19 8FF, COMMENCING AT 2.00 PM AND CONCLUDING AT 3.25 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

B Chapple OBE, K Ashman, P Brazier, M Caffrey, R Carington, C Cornell, E Culverhouse, E Gemmell, S Guy, D King, L Sullivan, M Walsh, W Whyte and A Wood

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

S Broadbent, P Strachan, G Badhan, E Barlow, I Thompson, C Ward, S Winkels and R Zierler

Agenda Item

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor A Poland-Goodyer.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2021 were confirmed as an accurate record.

4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were none.

5 COP26

The Chairman invited Councillor P Strachan, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change, to update the Select Committee following the COP26 conference in Glasgow. The Cabinet Member summarised outcomes from COP26 which included:

- There were reasons to be hopeful following the Methane Pledge, Declaration of Forests and Land Use, the bringing forward of emission reduction targets and the Glasgow Climate Pact.
- International co-operation was crucial to climate change action as the UK accounted for around 1% of global emissions.
- Locally, Buckinghamshire accounted for 1% of the UK's emissions. Within the county, the

Council was responsible for around 0.3% of carbon emissions.

- Engagement and changing behaviour locally would be key to addressing climate change.

The following points were noted in the Committee's discussion:-

- Refuse arrangements currently in place were contracts set up by the legacy District Councils. A review could only be carried out at a contract break point and contractor performance was monitored on a daily basis.
- The current combined food and waste collection service arrangements in the Wycombe area had no negative environmental implications.
- Buckinghamshire's Strategy was aligned with the initial outcomes from COP26. Officers were still considering any further implications that the conference would have on the Strategy.
- Data on carbon dioxide emissions in Buckinghamshire by industrial sector and former District Council boundary would be circulated after the meeting.

ACTION: Ed Barlow

- The new Local Plan would have a site allocation process that could include renewable generation. The suitability of a site took multiple factors into account (e.g. local ecology and connection costs) so developing a suitable site template would be challenging. Outside the county, imported renewable energy may become more important with Government strategy focusing on offshore wind sites in north-east England.
- The council was drafting its Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy which would focus on maximizing charger availability through the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) grants and capital bids into the council's budget. The Strategy would also consider trialing on-street charging options. National investment would be required into the national grid and power supply infrastructure. Members hoped that the emerging strategy would be ambitious by delivering enough electric vehicle chargers to meet growing demand and also provide overnight on-street chargers that drew less power from the grid.
- Transport was a large contributor towards emissions within the county accounting for approximately half of local emissions; half of transport emissions were generated on the motorways. The haulage industry was considering hydrogen based vehicle alternatives.
- The Council could influence behaviours such as encouraging active travel, local walking and cycling plans to reduce car journeys. The driver of change would be at an individual level by changing attitudes and behaviours.
- Glasgow City Council was working towards a 2030 target to reach net-zero.
- Following COP26, the environmental charity CDP had published its 'Cities A List 2021' which recognized local efforts for climate action and ambition (<https://www.cdp.net/en/cities/cities-scores>).

The Chairman thanked the Cabinet Member for the update.

6 CLIMATE CHANGE & AIR QUALITY STRATEGY UPDATE AND CORPORATE CARBON REDUCTION

The Committee received a report from Councillor P Strachan, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change, on the Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy. The presentation also included an overview of how the strategy was impacting all departments and portfolios within Buckinghamshire Council. The Strategy had been adopted by Cabinet on 19 October and since then the council had successfully organized its Green Wheels in Motion event on 10 November. A working relationship had been established with Lunaz to recycle vehicles to electric equivalents with a specific focus on the waste fleet.

As part of the Queen's Green Canopy, 240 trees would be sent to schools and care homes across

Buckinghamshire and would be planted as part of National Tree Week (27 November – 5 December). A Roadside Tree Planting Process had been launched whereby residents could request tree planting on road verges. This process was addressing health and safety issues associated with planting by the roadside, ensured the right tree was planted in the right place and maintained during its early years. The Cabinet Member also highlighted how climate change was being addressed across all the council portfolios and services. The next area of priority would be how the council used contracts and procurement to further support its reduced climate change targets.

In response to questions, the following points were noted:-

- The Council was in the process of replacing the 189 trees that had been funded by the Climate Change budget and had made a medium term financial plan (MTFP) bid to replace unsafe trees on Highways.
- The Bus Service Improvement Plan, which aimed to improve connectivity, reliability and frequency of the service, had now been submitted to Government. One of the Plan's ambitions was for bus engines to be upgraded to Euro 5 and Euro 6 standards thereby reducing emissions. The service encouraged operators to improve their fleets and reduce emissions, and did monitor compliance with inspections. The council's recent agreement with Lunaz for recycle waste collection vehicles may also extend to buses in future.
- Members asked that consideration be given to ways that the Council demonstrated leading on high standards to address climate change. There was suggestion of an emissions spot check on buses and HGVs within the county as part of an Enforcement Programme.
- Members also suggested that the legacy webpages relating to energy efficiency for homeowners should be harmonized, updated and simplified to improve accessibility for residents looking to carry out improvements.
- The details of changes to OZEV charging guidance would not be known until after the New Year but it was hoped changes would allow for increased flexibility of electric vehicle charging point installations at car parks.
- The Bee Squared project, initially taken up in Hazelmere, was now being considered by a number of Community Boards. The Cabinet Member welcomed the project and encouraged other Community Boards to consider similar schemes depending on their locality. Members also commented that the Natural Environment Partnership (NEP) had carried out an historic bee pollination project in verges and Highways which Community Boards could look to emulate.
- The success of the NEP's Bucks Buzzing programme highlighted the importance of communication by encouraging residents to take part.
- The Bucks Best Kept Village competition was scheduled for next year and would include village conservation as part of its criteria.
- The Cabinet Member for Transport advised that the council's first Living Green Bus Shelter was scheduled to open on Bicester Road, Aylesbury, which aimed to encourage pollination and capture particulates.

The Chairman thanked the Cabinet Member for updating the Committee on the Strategy.

7 FLY TIPPING

The Committee received a report on Fly Tipping within Buckinghamshire which was introduced by Councillor P Strachan, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change. Fly tipping had risen during the pandemic period and was now reducing to pre-pandemic levels. The increase in demand had been a challenge to the resources of the service. Consistently over half of waste tipped in the county had been brought in externally, most notably from West London and

Slough. The Enforcement Team investigated illegal waste through examination for evidence, taking statements from eyewitnesses and surveillance. These operations continued during the lockdowns despite courts being unable to process cases between 19 March – 5 August 2020. 46 cases had been successfully prosecuted during 2020 compared to 47 in both 2018 and 2019. The backlog from the pandemic had now been cleared. In 2021 vehicles used for fly tipping had been seized in High Wycombe and Chesham. This power was a strong addition to the service following the council becoming a unitary authority.

The priorities for the service were outlined which included continuing enforcement responses and trying to influence London authorities, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Ministry of Justice and the Sentencing Council. A planned covert surveillance operation had been temporarily deprioritized during the pandemic and would now be reinstated. The Cabinet Member also highlighted the SCRAP fly tipping campaign, which was refreshed in September 2021, to target 'cash in hand' payments which made fly tipping easier through less traceability.

The following points were raised during the Committee's discussion:-

- The householder was legally responsible for waste that had been fly tipped so would be liable to pay Fixed Term Penalty Notices (FTPN). It was noted that a majority of waste that had been fly tipped would have been processed for free at the county's Household Waste sites.
- In conjunction with other local authorities, the Council was engaging with DEFRA to improve and streamline the service. The Sentencing Council had also been approached regarding sentencing measures as fines did not take into account costs the council incurred when clearing up fly tipped waste.
- The service had worked with the Ivers SmartVille Team to assist with two cases in Richings Park. This CCTV and ANPR initiative had been important with these investigations.
- Members suggested that the information highlighted in the report would be useful for Parishes, with particular note being that:
 - A significant proportion originated from outside Buckinghamshire and;
 - That the majority of fly tipped waste could have been recycled for free.
- Members had found Fix My Street to be a useful tool to report fly tipped waste.
- The Committee thanked all the officers for the work being carried out across the service.

The Chairman thanked the Cabinet Member for the service update.

8 WORK PROGRAMME

The Select Committee received a report detailing the upcoming work programme for the Committee. One item had been added to January's meeting regarding the Integrated Household Waste Recycling Centre Contract.

Following the last meeting, information had been circulated to the Committee regarding Personal Transport Budgets (PTBs) and it was suggested that this be considered as a future agenda item.

9 WASTE & RECYCLING CONTRACT UPDATE

This was an information only report. Members were invited to refer any questions to the Senior Scrutiny Officer via email following the meeting. The Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment advised that the refuse service in the south of the county was now provided by Veolia following a smooth transition of the contract from Biffa at the start of November.

- 10** **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
Thursday 20 January 2022 at 10am.

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Report to the Transport, Environment & Climate Change Select Committee

Date:	Thursday 20 th January 2022
Title:	East West Rail Progress Report
Cabinet Member(s):	Cllr Steven Broadbent Cllr Peter Martin (Deputy)
Contact officer:	Gavin Jones, EWR Team Lead

1. Introduction

Following confirmation of funding in the 2020 Spending Review, construction is underway of the section between Bicester and Bletchley, delivered through the East West Rail Alliance. This will allow EWR to run trains from Oxford to Milton Keynes by 2025.

The second year of construction has seen an increase in works on the Buckinghamshire region of the route. The line has required the remodelling of several bridges, significant earth works and the preparation of the site in Winslow for the new station to be built.

2. Progress update

- 2.1 A detailed update of the progress / construction of the project will be given by East West Rail Alliance (EWRA), during their presentation on the 20th January 2022.
- 2.2 Buckinghamshire Council have taken several steps this year to assist local communities with the disruption caused by a major national infrastructure project being constructed through the north of the county.
- 2.3 EWR have undertaken a number of initiatives to support the local community while construction is ongoing. EWR will update members during their presentation on the 20th January.

3. Issues that have arisen during construction

- 3.1 Councillors and residents have been concerned by the state of the roads in the north of the county. EWR have a significant number of HGV's using B roads and villages not designed for HGV traffic. This has caused a significant number of defects to roads. A recurrent problem is created by mud on the road from insufficient wheel washing and road sweeping at EWR depots.
- 3.2 Several diversions have been put in place for closed bridges in the area. This has led to a number of complaints from residents regarding increased traffic through villages, an increase in journey times for commuters and increased costs to residents and business of following lengthy diversions.
- 3.3 Several new bridges are under construction by EWRA. The new designs and construction have been a source of complaints for residents. The major example of this is the bridge on Sandhill Road. The completion of the bridge was delayed by several weeks. Once the asset had been handed back to the council, it was identified the new roadway is not sufficiently wide enough for passing cars. Temporary traffic measures have had to be put in place, on the grounds that it is potentially dangerous for 2 cars approaching the bridge at the same time. A permanent solution to the problem is still being sought.
- 3.4 During construction, a number of organisations have suffered a loss of earnings and the project has had a significant impact on local businesses. Small businesses have struggled with the impact of construction and have raised complaints regarding this. Residents have also raised complaints regarding compensation for the disruption they have endured. Most noticeably the residents of Comerford way in Winslow. They have raised over 30 issues to the local member of Parliament that remain unresolved.
- 3.5 Roads that have had work completed on them have remained closed for longer than necessary. Queen Catherine Road was closed for 2 months longer than scheduled due to a failure of EWR to complete the overlay on the project. Ox Lane remains closed due to significant damage caused by HGV's and exacerbated by flooding in the area.
- 3.6 Buckinghamshire Council supported the project on the understanding that EWR would include a rail link to Aylesbury. No budget has been agreed for this and it increasingly looks as though this link will not receive the go ahead from the Department for Transport. As the line was due to be constructed along HS2 routes, we are running out of time to construct this while EWR are constructing lines in the county.

3.7 On the 21st December 2021. Greg Smith MP posted a statement on his Facebook page, criticising several aspects of EWR's actions. Describing the significant amount of problems residents are having and calling out the safety concerns of mud on the road around EWR compounds. Greg Smith went onto to criticise EWR's unwillingness to step up resources and that the work has "therefore fallen to the Local Authority and my office to clean up after the Alliance, a perpetual burden which is unwarranted, unnecessary, and unfair". The Alliance has reached out to Greg Smith's office to arrange a meeting and discuss any issues that he has highlighted.

4. Actions taken by Buckinghamshire Council to support residents in the construction of the line

4.1 Over the course of the year Buckinghamshire Council have undertaken a number of steps to assist residents with the construction of the East West Rail line. New staff have been brought on board, community boards have been held and a new mailbox for dealing with complaints and issues has been instituted.

4.2 The council has invested (through work in kind funding from Network Rail) in 2 new officers dedicated to the EWR project. A new team lead has been brought in to coordinate the Council's response. A new community lead has joined the major projects team to reach out to the community and support Parish Council's and residents with issues faced by the construction works.

4.3 Buckinghamshire council has also invested in 2 new marshals to support residents with the construction of both HS2 and EWR. Marshals are on hand to go on site and investigate issues, meet face to face with residents and raise concerns with works relating to major projects in the county.

4.4 The Council has instituted 2 Community Boards (CALM and North Bucks Community Board) to support residents with issues they are dealing with. The boards are chaired by local councils and are attended by EWR and HS2 representatives to allow Parish Councils and residents to discuss issues with the major stakeholders.

4.5 The EWR and HS2 mailbox has been created to provide a central and tracked response to issues raised by the community. This has allowed officers to respond to issues quickly and we aim to respond to any enquiry within 24 hours.

5. Lessons learnt

In Q3/Q4 of 2021, Buckinghamshire Council and EWR undertook an exercise to identify and highlight some lessons that had been learnt. Some of the key findings were:

- 5.1 During the design phase, explore additional ways to involve communities and allow sufficient time for stakeholders to fully understand the impacts of designs.
- 5.2 A 6-month planning ahead process to review designs and agree communication plan for works.
- 5.3 A clear construction traffic management plan (CTMP) should be in place before moving to an implementation phase of the project. Local communities should be aware of the impact of the CTMP once the construction becomes real.
- 5.4 Ensure Community Liaison personal are in place prior to TWAO being granted, to allow them to build relationships and communicate upcoming activity.
- 5.5 Identify hot spot areas with local authorities using their experience of other projects in the local area.
- 5.6 There is no such thing as 'too much community comms'. A strategy for how to successfully coordinate communications and its content should be consistent and to make best use of resources rather than duplicating resources is required at the early stage of the project.
- 5.7 Prepare for the unexpected. The COVID pandemic has had an impact on face to face communications, the impact on local communities has been different from what was originally anticipated due to working from home arrangements.

6. Your questions and views

- 6.1 If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report, please get in touch with the author of this report. This can be done by telephone [07815 023950] or email [gavin.jones@buckinghamshire.gov.uk]



Report to Transport, Environment and Climate Change Select Committee

Date: 20th January 2022

Title: **Contract to award the Household Recycling Centre Service (HRC)**

Cabinet Member(s): **Peter Strachan**, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change

Author: **Martin Dickman**, Service Director Neighbourhood Services
Martin.Dickman@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

1. Background

- 1.1 This is a report to the Transport, Environment and Climate Change Select Committee on the details of the recently awarded Household Recycling Centre contract. It will set out the key components of the new contract and how it affects the current service and helps towards achieving the Council's Climate Change ambitions.
- 1.2 The Council has a legal duty under the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) 1990, to provide Household Recycling Centres within the administrative boundary. The Council currently provides nine Household Recycling Centres across the County. The service is contracted to FCC Recycling Ltd for the running of these sites, including operating the sites, managing waste onsite and transport of waste to end destinations.
- 1.3 The current contract is due to expire on March 31st 2022 and a new contract is needed to maintain the service and the Council's statutory duty.
- 1.4 The Council has, after a Competitive Dialogue process, decided to award the new contract, starting April 1st 2022 to FCC Recycling Ltd (FCC). The contract term will be five years with an option to extend up to a further five years (total term up to ten years up to 31st March 2032).

2. Existing Service

2.1 The Council has a service policy for the Household Recycling Centre (HRC) service - Waste Access and Acceptance Policy (WAAP) which will not change because of the new contract. In summary the policy sets the following:

- a) The number of sites – currently nine sites
- b) Opening and closing times -
 - i. Summer opening hours 9.00am-6.00pm (1st April - 30th September)
 - ii. Winter opening hours 9.00am-4.00pm (1st October - 31st March)
- c) All Buckinghamshire HRCs are closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.
- d) Six HRC's offer a 7-day service – Buckingham, Aston Clinton, Beaconsfield, Amersham, High Heavens and Langley
- e) Three HRCs offer a 5-day service - Aylesbury, Chesham and Burnham (close Wednesday and Thursday each week).
- f) Other services offered:
 - i. Trade waste disposal (Amersham, Aston Clinton, Aylesbury, Beaconsfield and High Wycombe sites only)
 - ii. Waste accepted from Town & Parish Councils, some charities and some kerbside collected waste including small quantities of fly tipped waste
- g) Non-household waste accepted for a charge (construction and demolition).
- h) Cross broader usage and administrative charges
- i) Vehicle and waste type restrictions via an e-permit
- j) Enforcement of the policy and use of electronic surveillance – CCTV, ANPR, body cameras
- k) The full policy can be found here:
<https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/4515713/wasteaccess-and-acceptance-policy-waap-apr-2021.pdf>

3. New Contract

3.1 HRC Service delivery

- a) Under the new contract there are no changes to the WAAP and all the key elements of the service will remain the same. There are additional benefits to the Council in the new contract set out below, including helping achieve

Climate Change ambitions. The majority of the service, as seen by residents and users will remain unchanged as a result of the contract.

- b) There is flexibility in the new contract for the Council to change aspects of the service, such as adding new sites or changing opening hours, if the Council wishes to make changes.

3.2 Recycling, re-use & composting targets

- a) The contract performance target is to achieve an overall minimum annual recycling, re-use, composting target of 68%. The last two years of the current contract (after charges for non-household waste were introduced) saw a 67% of waste recycled, re-used or composted.
- b) The Council aspires to increase recycling, re-use and composting performance over the future contract term, reaching a performance target of 73% or more. This will form part of ongoing MTFP considerations as this could be at an additional cost to the Council. Examples of recycling initiatives could be collections of new materials at HRCs for recycling or additional separation of waste on site. No initiatives are explicitly planned as yet.

3.3 Managing re-use

- a) All sites currently collect items for re-use, which are stored on site and then taken to the two charity re-use shops at Aston Clinton & High Wycombe HRCs. As part of the new contract FCC Recycling will be partnering up with South Bucks Hospice again. This means no change from current arrangements – status quo.
- b) As part of the new contract the re-use shop at High Heavens will be replaced in the early part of the contract, expected Q1 2022/23, subject to possible planning process. The current modular building requires a life cycle replacement. The building is not owned by the Council therefore the replacement costs are for FCC and South Bucks Hospice to meet. The re-use shop at High heavens will not be available whilst compliance and practicalities of disconnecting, removing, and installing a new building is undertaken. Further details, advice and communications will be provided nearer the time.
- c) Income from re-use is not guaranteed to the Council however, if there is an income opportunity, the Council will receive 25% of re-use income annually (before the deduction of any costs). An annual income of £420k is assumed of which the Council would expect to receive £105k.

3.4 Future capital changes to vehicles, plant & containers

- a) The Council currently owns the vehicles, plant, equipment, and containers on all nine HRCs and will continue to do so in the new contract. This includes:
 - i. 180+ containers used to store and transport waste
 - ii. Five roll-on-roll-off vehicles for transporting containers
 - iii. Nine excavators for moving and compacting waste on site
- b) The Council is responsible for replacing these vehicles and plant at the end of their life. The planned changes to vehicles and plant at HRCs already form part of capital MTFP commitments and are expected to commence in 2023/24. There are also two plant used to support kerbside teams to accept fly tipped waste at two HRCs. These will be replaced during 2022.
- c) Most of the current containers on sites are 10 years old and work in very harsh environments. New containers would cost more than £1million, therefore, as part of the new contract FCC will be undertaking a refurbishment programme. The refurbishment programmes and costs provide better value for money for the Council and forms part of the annual service contract costs. FCC would also be responsible for the cost of ongoing repair and maintenance. The refurbishment will be completed within the first 2 years of the contract.

3.5 Future contracting arrangements

- a) The Household Recycling Centre service could be affected by legislative change because of the recently published Environment Bill, Resources and Waste Strategy or other external factors. The future contract sets out how to manage changes, including change in law, which may occur at a future point in time. Both the Council and FCC will need to manage these changes by way of a contract negotiation to consider implications to the service and contract costs.
- b) As stated, above FCC have repair and maintenance obligations for HRC assets which include plant, equipment, and vehicles across the nine HRCs
- c) The contract provides flexibility to increase and decrease the number of HRCs operated and opening hours should the Council require at a future point in time. This mechanism will be used to facilitate a new site at Buckingham for example if approved by members.
- d) There is provision for optimising vehicle routing for all nine HRCs. Also, to consider minimising the carbon footprint of transporting numerous waste materials.

3.6 Customer service expectation

- a) It is a contractual requirement to provide and maintain a Customer Service Plan. FCC's Customer Service Plan will ensure an enhanced customer experience at all nine HRCs. It's expected that FCC's trained staff shall be knowledgeable in all elements of the contract, maintaining a high level of customer care. This will be achieved through:
 - i. Provision of 'Meet and Greet' service at all nine HRCs, ensuring on-site assistance to customers;
 - ii. Implementation of FCC's Customer Care Policy and Procedures;
 - iii. Mandatory Comprehensive Induction Training Programme for all new staff and Refresher Training where required for staff currently employed on the contract;
 - iv. Customer Care Training included in the Induction/Refresher Training Programme;
 - v. Monitoring customer satisfaction through regular customer surveys

3.7 Public interface

- a) How staff engage with visitors is important in a service with over a million visits per annum and a historically high level of customer satisfaction. FCC will ensure that their employees:
 - i. take reasonable steps to ensure all HRCs have a pleasant and professional appearance, along with an atmosphere which facilitates and encourages pride in the HRC and their role.
 - ii. be proactively courteous, approachable and helpful to customers, fellow contractors and the Council's employees.
 - iii. assist customers so that waste is deposited as safely and expeditiously as possible, including assisting with unloading vehicles and may help when not specifically requested.
 - iv. specifically help in cases where it is apparent that a customer is having trouble with unloading/depositing their waste.
 - v. ensure that the employees make reasonable endeavours to establish the nature of waste being delivered by customers in sacks, sealed receptacles etc. and, if appropriate, request the customer, politely, to separate the materials into the appropriate containers on-site for re-use, recycling and each waste stream.
 - vi. ensure that the employees undertake communications and customer care training and, as a minimum, utilise toolbox talks on a regular basis, with details provided within the Customer Service Plan.

- vii. comply with the Council process and timescales relating to complaints from customers.

3.8 Community Stakeholder Liaison Plan

- a) FCC will produce a community stakeholder liaison plan, to be agreed by the Council by 31st May 2022. The Plan will include the communications, tasks for FCC to complete, timescales and expected outcomes. The plan will also include relevant stakeholders, for example such as Local Area Forums and Community Groups and reflect wider policy developments (local and national). The plan will be updated on an annual basis to respond to public relationship and other stakeholder requirements.

3.9 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 and Community

- a) This a new aspect to the HRC contract and by complying with the Act FCC should ensure employment opportunities are promoted and made available. FCC are also expected to develop apprenticeships, with a focus on priority groups.
- b) FCC have committed to several social value items that would benefit the Buckinghamshire community. These initiatives will form part of the contract and will be monitored by the Council to ensure they are delivered. Further details on each of the activities are provided below;
 - i. Apprenticeships – 6 apprenticeships across the initial term of the contract (2 per year in 2022, 2024 and 2026).
 - ii. Career Workshops – 6 visits per year with a stretch goal of 10 visits per year.
 - iii. Working with local suppliers – including ASM for metal recycling, Fairport Containers for the refurbishment and maintenance of containers, Elite Lawns for grounds maintenance, and South Bucks Hospice will continue to provide the re-use provision at the HRCs.
 - iv. Charitable donations – committed to a ‘five-for-five’ policy that will see 5p donated to local causes for each tonne recycled for the five years of the contract.
 - v. Waste Awareness and Education Manager – provide a full-time position dedicated to liaising with site users and the community on matters related to the HRCs and waste in general. This position already exists in the HRC contract, so this represents a continuation.

3.10 Procurement Process and Evaluation Approach

- a) The procurement process was undertaken by a multi-disciplined project team with representatives from Council staff including Legal, Finance,

Property, Strategic Waste Management and Enforcement and Procurement. Due to the complexities of the project additional external advisors were also appointed; Sharpe Pritchard (legal), Resource Futures (waste technical) and New Networks (financial). The procurement was undertaken as a Competitive Dialogue (CD) process to identify the most economically advantageous solution. A detailed evaluation has been conducted.

- b) The CD process involved two-stages – pre-submission and final tender. Both stages enabled clarification dialogue meetings to be held with bidders and enabled bidders to raise clarification questions to the Council’s project team. The Council set out its positions on key commercial matters within the tender documents and concluded with acceptable commercial terms.
- c) The evaluation approach and methodology were agreed by the project executive in consultation with the project team. This remained the same throughout the tender documents. The total evaluation score for each bid is derived from adding the weighted Quality score and weighted Price score to provide a total score to identify the most economically advantageous tender (MEAT) and the preferred bidder. For further details see Appendix 1 and the financial evaluation methodology section below.

3.11 Evaluation Process

- a) The submitted tender documents were subject to compliance checks
- b) There were two separate evaluation teams - Quality Evaluation Team (QET) and Finance Evaluation Team (FET). Both evaluation teams raised clarification questions with bidders during the evaluation process which was managed through the Council’s e-sourcing system. The price submissions were not available to the QET to ensure that price did not influence the quality evaluation.
- c) Resource Futures, the Council’s external technical advisors, ensured that the quality evaluation process complied with the evaluation methodology. The process involved evidencing that the evaluation descriptors, the scoring and final moderation reflected the evaluation methodology.
- d) Buckinghamshire Council’s financial team, who were not part of the project team, ensured that the financial evaluation and process complied with the financial evaluation methodology.
- e) The Council’s external legal advisors ensured that the quality and financial evaluation process and methodology complied with Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

3.12 Extension periods

- a) The contract term will be five years with an option to extend up to a further five years (total term up to ten years). The contract commencement date is 1st April 2022, with options to extend up to 31st March 2032.
- b) The first extension period, year six of the contract, is at the sole right of the Council to extend.
- c) The following extension periods, after year six and up to year 10, are by mutual agreement. The contract will be monitored and managed in line with the Council's requirements. Extension periods will be considered as part of wider considerations to optimise VfM which will be monitored and reviewed as part of the Council's MTFP

3.13 Key opportunities and risks

- a) The Council has opportunities and risks to consider and manage as part of its normal business and budget planning cycles:
 - i. Housing growth
 - ii. Tonnage volume increases and decreases
 - iii. Aspirations to increase recycling, re-use and composting performance over the future contract term, reaching a performance target of 73% or more.
 - iv. Life cycle replacements of plant, vehicles, containers, equipment and all the HRCs themselves 'the property'
 - v. Service and/or compliance changes including to increase and decrease the number of HRCs operated, opening hours and change in law which may occur at a future point would need to be managed as a contract negotiation. This mechanism will be used to facilitate a new site at Buckingham if approved by members. This is to help fully consider the implications including requirements for additional plant, vehicles, containers, equipment and all the HRCs themselves 'the property'
 - vi. There are complex commercial arrangements due to material value volatility. Material prices can be influenced by regional, national and global supply and demand which can be beyond reasonable control of any contracting party. The income associated with materials annually and over the contract term is used to consider service costs and deliver VfM. The commercial arrangements are summarised as follows:
 - there is a 60/40 income/risk sharing mechanism, with 60% to FCC Recycling Ltd and 40% to the Council

- with an annual 'true up' approach by way of a set percentage change framework (referred to as a Cap, Collar and Floor). The risk profile may change (increase /decrease) by the end of any given contract year
- the final year-end position is then used as the starting position for the subsequent contract year.

3.14 Financial implications

- The Net Present Cost (NPC) of the contract value over the five-year contract period for FCC Recycling Ltd is £15,045,707. The estimated contract value over a potential ten-year contract period for FCC Recycling Ltd would result in an NPC of £28,546,979, with contract years 6-10 based upon inflation of 2.5% p.a. from contract year 5.
- All costs assumed include a baseline service, forecast waste volumes and contract inflation. Should the Council require additional services from time to time (additional people, containers etc) then there will be further costs. These should be monitored and reviewed as part of the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP).
- Despite the rigorous procurement process the new contract costs more per annum than the previous contract. The original contract was let in Oct 2011 and was very competitive at the time. Whilst delivering the same services and similar specification 10 years later, the small increase to the costs is a validation to the way that the procurement was handled. This pressure is being managed via the MTFP process, summarised below.

Table 1 - MTFP Summary

New Growth / Base budget pressures		2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Commentary
Service area	Reason for / description of change	£000's	£000's	£000's	
Household Recycling Centres	Waste: HRC new service contract (range £300k - £500kpa).	250	275	300	Increased contract costs due to the current contract costs being competitive. New contract costs assume a baseline service cost, forecast waste volumes and contract inflation

- The Council is likely to need to invest in plant, equipment and vehicles as part of life cycle replacements to continue to deliver VfM. If the Council considers

it appropriate to deliver higher aspirational performance targets for re-use, recycling and composting, for example but not limited to climate change, there are envisaged service cost changes which may require the Council to invest. This will be monitored and reviewed as part of the Council's MTFP.

3.15 Legal implications

- a) Specialist legal advice to support the project has been provided by external legal advisors, Sharpe Pritchard, alongside the Council's in-house legal advisor, who confirm:
 - i. The Council, as the Waste Disposal Authority, has a duty under the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) 1990, to provide HRCs within the administrative boundary.
 - ii. The Council has conducted the procurement for the management for the HRC service in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended) ("2015 Regulations") using the Competitive Dialogue procedure, under which the Council entered into dialogue with bidders, in order for the Council to identify solutions capable of meeting its needs.
 - iii. The contract has been drafted by Sharpe Pritchard with the input from the wider Council team and some amendments agreed with bidders through clarifications. The Council's external legal advisors, Sharpe Pritchard will work with the Council and its wider team to confirm commitments and terms submitted in the final tender of the preferred bidder and finalise the terms of the contract as permitted under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 Reg 30. Sharpe Pritchard will prepare the contract documents for the Council and FCC to execute.

3.16 Corporate implications

- a) Property - a lease agreement including repair and maintenance obligations will be in place for all sites.
- b) HR - Not directly for Council employees, there may be indirect implications through contracted services.
- c) Climate change – This contract includes re-use, recycling, and composting at least 68% of waste managed as one of its goals. This helps reduce the carbon emissions resulting from household waste disposal. This is a core business-as-usual requirement in the management and operation of the HRC service.

FCC is required to record and report the measurement of performance against agreed carbon metric baselines, which will be established during the contract mobilisation period. FCC is required to demonstrate agreed

improvement against targets over the contract period. This includes any changes to environmental legislation.

- d) Sustainability - There is a requirement for FCC to reduce the environmental impact of the services provided during the contract term. The solutions align with both the proximity principle and reducing vehicle emissions therefore reducing transportation requirements i.e. carbon, including optimising vehicle routing and how the various waste materials are managed.

FCC should also manage recyclable and non-recyclable waste delivered to the HRCs through the most appropriate route. FCC is required to deliver performance through re-use, recycling, composting and diversion from disposal (landfill and treatment).

- e) Equality - Equalities requirements in relation to the FCC’s own employees is a legal obligation to comply with.
- f) Data - A Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) full assessment will be undertaken. There are no envisaged implications, however a full assessment and specific associated assessments (CCTV) will be undertaken during the mobilisation period.
- g) Value for Money (VfM) - A competitive procurement process has been undertaken. The new contract provides an acceptable balance between VfM and service provision requirements compared to alternatives.

4. Next steps and review

Next Steps	Indicative Date
Contract Mobilisation and Demobilisation (including confirmation of final commitments and contract execution)	24 th December 2021 – 31 st March 2022
Contract Commences	1 st April 2022
Contract Monitoring & Management	Ongoing
Regular review of the Contract as part of Contract Management (ongoing)	Minimum annual health check review

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Report to Transport, Environment and Climate Change Select Committee - Appendices

Author: Martin Dickman

Date: 20th January 2022

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Appendix 1

The total evaluation score for each bid is derived from adding the weighted Quality score and weighted Price score to provide a total score to identify the most economically advantageous tender (MEAT) and the preferred bidder. For further details see Table 1, Table 2, Table 3

Table 1: Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation Area	Weighting
Quality	60%
Finance	40%
Total	100%

Quality Evaluation Methodology

The Method Statement Questions all had weightings attached to them to reflect their relative importance (Table 2) to the Council (including the project team). This information was provided to bidders.

Table 2: Method Statement weightings

Criteria weighting (%)	Sub-Criteria Weighting (%)
Method Statement 1 – Contract Management - 20%	MS 1.1 Staffing and sub-contractors - 6%
	MS 1.2 Contract Management Portal (CMP)/Information and data management - 6%
	MS 1.3 Liaison with the Council and Stakeholders - 2%
	MS 1.4 Business Continuity including Emergency Closure and Opening Plan - 6%
Method Statement 2 – Health and Safety - 5%	Not applicable
Method Statement 3 – Contract Mobilisation & Expiry Plan – including Early Termination - 5%	Not applicable
Method Statement 4 – HRC Management - 30%	MS 4.1 Management of HRCs - 9%
	MS 4.2 Security of the HRCs and associated Plant, Equipment - 2%
	MS 4.3 Provision, repair and maintenance of Vehicles, Containers, Plant and Equipment - 6%
	MS 4.4 Transportation and transport management - 8%
	MS 4.5 Operation of HRCs' WAAP - 5%
Method Statement 5 – Materials Management Plan – including Recycling/increased Diversion and Treatment & Disposal - 25%	MS 5.1 –Materials marketing and end destinations of all Waste streams and on- going management of the agreements/arrangements - 6%
	MS 5.2 – Management and minimisation of

	Contamination of the Waste streams - 4%
	MS 5.3 –Recycling and Reuse through operational Diversion Incentive/s and other methods and for maximising Diversion from Disposal - 7%
	MS 5.4 –Adherence to Producer Compliance Schemes and other relevant Legislation - 4%
	MS 5.5 –Disposal and Treatment of Non-Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Wastes - 4%
Method Statement 6 – Customer Care - 5%	Not applicable
Method Statement 7 – Communications - 3%	Not applicable
Method Statement 8 – Social Value - 3%	Not applicable
Method Statement 9 – Environmental Management - 4%	Not applicable

In addition to the weightings there was an agreed scoring methodology used to evaluate the bidders Method Statement responses. Table 3 provides the scoring methodology.

Table 3: Summary of Scoring Methodology

Rating	Definition	Score
Excellent	The response provides sufficient information to assess the quality of the answer, with excellent Evidence provided within the response. The Bidder will provide an excellent quality service against this criterion being assessed, with no concerns regarding delivery. The response demonstrates activities and methods that will be certain to provide Added Value. The answer is excellent in all respects.	5
Good	The response provides sufficient information to assess the quality of the answer, with good Evidence provided within the response. The Bidder will provide a good quality service against this criterion being assessed, with no concerns regarding delivery. The answer is good in all respects.	4
Acceptable	The response provides sufficient information to assess the quality of the answer with some reasonable Evidence provided within the response. The Bidder will provide an acceptable quality of service against this criterion being assessed, but with three or fewer minor concerns.	3
Minor Concerns	The response provides sufficient information to assess the quality of the answer but with a lack of provision of Evidence and /or contains several minor concerns regarding the Bidder's response. The answer provides only a low level of confidence that the Bidder will provide an acceptable quality of service against this criterion.	2
Major Concerns	The response provides sufficient information to assess the quality of the answer but with a significant lack of provision of Evidence and one or more major concerns regarding the Bidder's response. The answer does not give confidence that the Bidder will provide an acceptable quality of service against this criterion.	1

Unacceptable	The response does not meet the requirements of the specific individual criterion being assessed. It does not provide sufficient information and there is a significant lack of Evidence and / or the response contains several major concerns. The answer does not give confidence that the Bidder has the ability, understanding, experience, skills, resources or quality measures required to provide the service.	0
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Each sub-criterion (or criteria where there was no sub-criteria) was evaluated using the 0-5 scoring system. The weighted quality score for each criterion was calculated as:

$$\text{Method Statement score} / \text{maximum criterion score (i.e. 5)} \times \% \text{ criterion weighting} = \text{weighted quality score}$$

Each weighted quality score for each criterion was added together and multiplied by 60% to provide the overall weighted quality score.

Financial Evaluation Methodology

The tender documents published how bidders would be scored related to their price submissions.

The nominal Annual Service Costs includes, but not limited to the following: management of all HRCs, all transport movements, brokering of contract waste, some additional services including Bill of Quantity rates, and income is included as a net figure of the total cost of the service. The Net Present Cost is calculated by discounting the Annual Service Costs of the evaluated services for each Contract Year from 1st April 2022 using the nominal Treasury Discount Rate of 6.09%.

- a) Each bidder's price score was obtained by dividing the lowest Net Present Cost of all bidders by the bidder's Net Present Cost being evaluated. The result was then multiplied by 100 to obtain the price score for the bidder being evaluated. This approach is represented by the equation below:
 - i.
$$\text{Price score for Bidder} = (\text{Lowest price} / \text{Bidder price being evaluated}) \times 100$$
- b) Each bidder's price score was multiplied by 40% to provide the weighted price score for each bidder.

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Transport, Environment and Climate Change Select Committee (Chairman: Bill Chapple, Scrutiny officer: Chris Ward)

Date	Topic	Description & Purpose	Lead Officer	Contributors
20 January 2022	East West Rail	To be provided with the updated position on the EWR projects and impact on Buckinghamshire.	Dr Laura Leech Reps from: EWR Alliance EWR Company Network Rail	CM Steven Broadbent DCM Peter Martin
	Integrated Household Waste Recycling Centre Contract	For Members to hear the new contract arrangements.	Martin Dickman Gurbaksh Badhan	CM Peter Strachan
	Scope for Rapid Review	Members will consider the draft scope for a rapid review on pollution in Buckinghamshire’s rivers and chalk streams.	Chris Ward	Chairman Bill Chapple
10 March 2022	HS2 Update	Update from HS2 and Bucks council officers.	Dr Laura Leech	CM Steven Broadbent DCM Peter Martin
	Sustainable Transport	To provide information on schemes to improve the road network and encourage sustainable travel in Buckinghamshire e.g. electric vehicles, active travel options and area transport strategies.	Joan Hancox / Rob Smith	CM Steven Broadbent
	Climate Change Strategy Update	To receive an update on the Climate Change Strategy.	Ed Barlow	CM Peter Strachan

June 2022 (Date TBC)	Local Nature Recovery Plan	For members to hear and feedback on the work to develop and produce a plan to help mitigate the impact of climate change.	David Sutherland	CM Peter Strachan
	Tree Planting Update	To provide members with details on the tree planting initiative including tree maintenance.	Ed Barlow / David Sutherland	CM Peter Strachan

Other potential items:

Later in 2022 (meeting TBC):

- Parking Strategy update (in context of post-Covid)
- Flooding

Rapid Review Scope

Title	Pollution in Buckinghamshire's Rivers and Chalk Streams
Select Committee Chairman	Cllr Bill Chapple OBE Transport, Environment & Climate Change Select Committee
Scope reviewed and signed-off by	Kelly Sutherland, Scrutiny Manager
Author	Chris Ward, Senior Scrutiny Officer
Date	20 January 2022
Rapid Review Group Membership	TBC
Lead Cabinet Member	Cllr Peter Strachan, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change
Lead Service Officer	Karen Fisher, Strategic Flood Manager Other representatives: Ecology Estates Public Health Transport for Bucks (Highways)
What is the problem that is trying to be solved?	<p><i>National context</i></p> <p>The Government's Environment Bill was granted Royal Assent on 9 November 2021. Key provisions in the Bill include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish new Office for Environmental Protection; • Increase local powers to tackle sources of air pollution; • Protect nature and improve biodiversity by working with developers; • Extend producer responsibility, ensure a consistent approach to recycling, introduce deposit return schemes, and introduce charges for specified single use plastic items; • Secure long-term, resilient water and wastewater services, including through powers to direct water companies to work together to meet current and future demand. <p>During the course of the Bill's adoption, the Government changed its stance on the issue of wastewater following public reaction to reports of raw sewage being pumped into natural habitats. The Bill now states that companies must deliver a 'progressive reduction' in sewage discharges by number, volume and adverse impacts on people and nature.</p> <p>In 2019 water treatment operators discharged raw sewage into English rivers on more than a combined 55,000 occasions, totalling nearly 400,000 hours. In 2021, the Environment Agency reported that untreated sewage was discharged 403,171 times, for over 3 million hours, across England in 2020.</p> <p><i>Local context</i></p> <p>Buckinghamshire has a number of rivers which include: Chess, Great Ouse, Misbourne, Thame and Wye. The county is also home to six chalk streams, which are rare and important habitats for wildlife and biodiversity, and a chalk</p>

	<p>aquifer in the Chilterns. Instances of the discharge of pollution into the rivers and chalk streams have been reported over the years with fines being issued by the Environment Agency to water utility companies. The most recent fine issued was to Thames Water for £2.3m in February 2021 for a pollution incident in 2016. In 2017 Thames Water were fined a record £20m after pumping 1.9 billion litres of untreated sewage into the River Thames in incidents in 2013 and 2014. There were also incidents of detergent being released into the River Ouse in 2018 and sewage was released into the Chess on at least 36 days in 2020.</p> <p>Members of the Transport, Environment & Climate Change (TECC) Select Committee have expressed concerns on the topic since their first meeting in June 2021 and careful consideration has been given to how this can be effectively considered in a rapid review.</p> <p>At Buckinghamshire’s full Council on 24 November 2021, an e-petition was introduced which asked that the TECC Select Committee question relevant water utility companies regarding discharge into local rivers and streams. The petition closed on 14 December with 1,221 signatures. At the same full Council meeting, an amendment to a notice of motion was passed resolving that the Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment write to express concerns to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs • All Buckinghamshire MPs • The Chief Executive(s) of water companies across Buckinghamshire and seek assurance that they will pursue a programme of capital investment that will ‘demonstrate improvements in the sewerage systems and progressive reductions in the harm caused by untreated sewage discharges’ per the Lords’ Amendment.
<p>What might the Rapid Review achieve?</p>	<p>The overarching aim of the rapid review is to better understand the issue of discharge into rivers and chalk streams; the roles and responsibilities of the Council and external organisations; acknowledge work being carried out; and identify opportunities for improvement and/or greater collaboration.</p> <p>It is proposed to hold evidence gathering sessions from February 2021 onwards which would conclude with recommendations being developed and reported to Cabinet and other key partners.</p> <p>The in-depth review would look to address the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To work with partners and water utility companies to understand the extent of sewage discharge into Buckinghamshire’s rivers and chalk streams. • To understand the wider picture of pollutants in rivers including runoff from roads and agricultural estates. • To understand the legal parameters of discharge that is permitted and its impact on the county’s rivers and chalk streams. • To invite water utility companies and the Environment Agency to discuss and explore closer partnership working between them and the Council. • To consider what make recommendations can be made to the water utility companies and the Environment Agency regarding sewage discharge.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand lessons learnt and actions taken to mitigate incidents following enforcement action by the Environment Agency. • To consider how the 'progressive reductions' referenced in the Environment Bill could be monitored by the Council and/or the TECC Committee.
Is the issue of significance to Buckinghamshire as a whole and is the topic within the remit of the Select Committee?	Yes – there have been instances of high-profile incidents in Buckinghamshire with enforcement action and fines issued. The topic is of concern to members of the public and Councillors as demonstrated by the petition and notice of motion at full Council (mentioned above).
Is the topic of relevance to the work of Buckinghamshire Council?	<p>To some extent however the Council has no statutory requirements in this area other than those required as part of duties on a land owner; have no powers, have no resources (staff nor financial) to be able to follow up on any actions. Work in following through this topic may take staff away from business as usual statutory duties and valuable work to mitigate flooding through projects</p> <p>The Council does not have enforcement powers on this topic but seeks to facilitate discussions between the Environment Agency, water utility companies and stakeholders where necessary.</p> <p>The involvement of Environmental and/or Public Health would be required and a representative from our Estates team to identify the measures we take on our own property and land management to reduce pollution and runoff.</p>
What work is underway already on this issue?	<p>Partnership meetings take place every four months where strategic discussions are had on a range of topics including progression on flood investigations and updates on projects. The Environment Agency and water utility companies attend these meetings and also provide partner updates on their work in Buckinghamshire. The partners also seek feedback on any new strategies or plans being developed.</p> <p>The water companies are developing Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans (DWMPs) and the Strategic Flood Management team has been involved in helping to shape these from a Flood Management viewpoint but not on the water quality perspective, where there is no expertise within the team.</p> <p>Thames Water has initiated a Smarter Water Catchment Project with three pilot areas with aims to raise the quality and improve the habitat of the pilot catchments. The River Chess catchment is one of those pilot catchments and Buckinghamshire Council is partnering on this project and are leading on an Urban Road Runoff study and developing stakeholder engagement on the project. The engagement work is linked to similar work on the DEFRA funded Groundwater Resilience and Community Engagement (GRACE) project although the GRACE project does not deal directly with pollution issues. The GRACE project is working in Chesham and the Chalfonts and is looking at groundwater flooding and infiltration of groundwater into sewer pipes which causes both flooding and pollution issues.</p>
Are there any key	Parliament's Environmental Audit Committee has an ongoing inquiry into

changes that might impact on this issue?	water quality in rivers with a focus on the water industry and urban diffuse pollution. The Council has a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy which is scheduled to be reviewed in April 2022 although this will not have a focus on water quality or pollution.
What are the key timing considerations?	The review would take place as we approach Spring 2022 so any flooding events during the preceding Winter may be taken into account.
Who are the key stakeholders & decision-makers?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Agency • Thames Water • Anglian Water • The Rivers Trust • Chilterns Conservation Board • Any VCSs e.g. River Chess Association • Landowner associations
What are the resource implications in doing this piece of work?	Attendance at evidence gathering meetings – TECC Inquiry Group and Senior Scrutiny Officer, service officer(s) and expert witnesses. Meeting preparation, research and report writing – TECC Inquiry Group and Senior Scrutiny Officer.
What is out of scope?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and development. • Air pollution.

Outline Project Plan

Stage	Key Activity	Dates
Scoping	Agreed by Select Committee	20 January 2022
Evidence-gathering	Anticipated over 4 meetings (estimate)	To commence in February and last through March and April
Reporting	Final Group report/letter with recommendations (signed off by the Select Committee Chairman)	TBC
	Select Committee agree report is submitted to decision-maker(s)	
	Cabinet/Partner considers recommendations. Response reported back to Select Committee.	