



Cabinet decision notice

The following decision(s) were taken by Cabinet at its meeting held on **7 December 2021**. Decisions will (unless called-in) become effective at 5pm on 10 December 2021.

Agenda item no. 8

Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021- 2024

(a) Decisions

Cabinet received a report which explained, in background information, that one in 20 adults were estimated to experience domestic abuse every year equating to almost 21,000 people a year in Buckinghamshire or 57 people every day. It was a crime which disproportionately affected women, however it could happen to anyone anywhere irrespective of sexuality, religion, gender, ethnicity, income or age.

The impact of domestic abuse was far-reaching and long lasting, and could be devastating on physical and mental health with serious consequences for children witnessing domestic abuse. The pandemic had had an immeasurable impact and had been branded as an “epidemic beneath the pandemic”.

Buckinghamshire had many excellent statutory and voluntary sector services working well together but there was always more that could be done. The Domestic Abuse Act had placed new duties on local authorities, one of which was to establish a local Domestic Abuse Board. In Buckinghamshire this fell under the umbrella of the Safer Buckinghamshire Board. This multi-agency Board had helped co-design a strategy and would oversee an action plan to commission and deliver support to victims and their children within safe accommodation services. In drafting the strategy, the Board had considered research from the 2021 Director of Public Health’s annual report, the 2021 needs assessment and consultation feedback.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Buckinghamshire Domestic Abuse Strategy be approved.**
- (2) That the allocation of domestic abuse grant funding, as detailed at Appendix 2 to the Cabinet report, be approved.**

(b) Reasons for decisions

All Councils are required under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 to publish a

Domestic Abuse Strategy.

(c) Alternative options considered

The production and delivery of the strategy is a statutory duty set out under section 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. By agreeing and publishing a Strategy on the Council's website before January 2022 will ensure the Council is compliant with the duty.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None.

Agenda item no. 9

Adoption of the Statement of Community Involvement

(a) Decisions

The Council was required to produce and keep an up-to-date Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) to ensure effective community involvement at all stages in the planning process. The Council had consulted on a draft SCI from February to April 2021. The SCI had been updated to respond to the feedback from the consultation and this updated version was submitted to Cabinet for adoption by the Council. It set out the main issues raised and the Council's response to those issues.

The SCI explained when, how, and for what reasons the community would be able to participate in planning issues. These included plan making (local plans), Supplementary Planning Documents, neighbourhood plans, planning applications, and planning enforcement.

The main aim of the SCI was to make consultation and involvement in planning more transparent, accessible, collaborative, inclusive and consistent. As a minimum, the Council would comply with any legislation that was currently in force or came into force in the future. These legal requirements were therefore included as actions that 'we will' do in the SCI as opposed to ones that 'we may' do. It was however recognised that there needed to be a flexible approach to engagement depending on the scale, subject matter and sensitivity of the matter in hand.

RESOLVED –

That the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) be adopted.

(b) Reasons for decisions

The SCI is a statutory document that sets out how the Council will consult the public and other bodies on how they can get involved in planning issues, including the Local Plan and planning applications. Section 17 (8) (a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that the SCI be adopted by resolution of the local planning authority as a local development document.

(c) Alternative options considered

Not to adopt the updated Statement of Community Involvement. However, it is currently a statutory requirement to prepare and keep up to date an SCI, and review it every 5 years. Without adopting a new SCI, the Council would have to continue to rely on the old SCIs from the legacy Councils, some of which were more than 5 years old. The Council would therefore not be complying with the law. Secondly, the lack of a single SCI would fail to meet the Council's aim of moving forward as a single Council and single Local Planning Authority.

It is not yet clear whether the Government's proposed planning reforms will abolish the requirement for an SCI, or change its form and role. Since these reforms still appear to be some way off, it is prudent for the Council to adopt an SCI that is compliant with the current system.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None.

Agenda item no. 11

Contract to award the Household Recycling Centre Service (HRC)

(a) Decisions

The new contracting arrangement for the Household Recycling Centre Service needed to be in place for the service commencement date of 1 April, 2022. The contract would consolidate numerous waste materials and service into a single contract.

The procurement process had been undertaken by a multi-disciplined project team with representatives from Council staff including Legal, Finance, Property and 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 had been undertaken as a Competitive Dialogue (CD) process in order to identify the most economically advantageous solution. The contract term would be for five years with an option to extend up to a further five years (total term up to ten years). Year six of the contract is the sole right of the Council to extend thereafter by mutual consent.

Following a detailed evaluation of all tenders and subsequent clarifications raised by the Council and bidders, Bidder B (confidential appendix) had been selected as the preferred bidder as their solution had been identified as the most economically advantageous in accordance with the published evaluation, criteria, weightings and methodology.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the contract for the management of the Household Recycling Centre Service be awarded to the preferred bidder (Bidder B), as detailed in the confidential appendix.**
- (2) That the Service Director of Property and Assets, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources, Property and Assets, be authorised to finalise, agree, exchange and complete the lease documentation.**
- (3) That the Head of Strategic Waste Management and Enforcement be authorised to undertake all necessary appropriate steps in relation to the award and execution of the contract.**
- (4) That it be noted that funding for the HRC new service contract of £250,000 in 2022, going up to £300,000 by 2024/25, have been included within proposals for the current 3 year Medium Term Financial Programme.**

(b) Reasons for decisions

Contracting arrangements for the management of the Household Recycling Centre Service includes management of waste materials, haulage, management of associated assets are required to be in place to meet business critical activities which Buckinghamshire Council currently undertakes to discharge its legal compliance duties.

(c) Alternative options considered

Other options considered are detailed at Section 4 of the Cabinet report.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None.

For further information please contact: Craig Saunders -
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