



Cabinet decision notice

The following decision(s) were taken by Cabinet at its meeting held on **1 March 2022**. Decisions will (unless called-in) become effective at 5pm on 8 March 2022.

Agenda item no. 8

Member engagement in planning - Select Committee report

(a) Decisions

Cabinet was asked to consider the recommendations of the Growth, Infrastructure and Housing Select Committee, following a rapid review undertaken into Member engagement in planning. During November and December 2021, the review group had collected evidence through meetings and by conducting a survey of elected Members and planning staff. The review group had then met in January 2022 to discuss and agree its key findings and recommendations that were detailed at Appendix 1 to the report to Cabinet.

Cabinet considered their responses to the scrutiny review and it was agreed that the Member Development Working Group should take a lead in actioning some of the recommendations, particularly on guidance notes for Members and Officers, Meet the Planner 'informal' events and on political awareness training. It was also commented that other areas such as planning enforcement and planning engagement with Town and Parish Councils would benefit from similar review by scrutiny.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Select Committee and Review Group, as well as the supporting Officers, be thanked for their work and subsequent recommendations.**
- (2) That Cabinet's responses to the review, as detailed at the meeting be noted.**

Note: a complete breakdown of the scrutiny recommendations and Cabinet's responses can be found [here](#).

(b) Reasons for decisions

To improve Member engagement in planning.

(c) Alternative options considered

Other options considered are detailed at Section 2 of the Cabinet report.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None.

Agenda item no. 9

Corporate Plan Refresh 2022

(a) Decisions

Buckinghamshire Council's Corporate Plan set out what the Council wanted to achieve and how this would be done, addressing the challenges faced and harnessing opportunities as they presented themselves.

The current plan had been approved in February 2020. A light-touch review of it been undertaken to reflect key events and changes in priorities since the drafting of the plan in 2019/20. The revised plan reflected the impact of the pandemic on the Council's priorities, together with other key developments such as new national legislation.

A draft of the refreshed corporate plan was attached at Appendix 1 to the Cabinet report. The plan was intended to cover the period until 2025, in accordance with the current Council term, and would continue to be subject to an annual refresh. It was proposed that following consultation on the draft with Select Committee Chairmen (recommendation 1 of the 2022 Budget Scrutiny Inquiry had been to review the Corporate Plan prior to the end of the financial year) the refreshed corporate plan 2020-25 would be submitted to full Council for approval and then published on the website. The statistics at the 'Buckinghamshire in numbers' page of the plan would also be updated, where necessary, before the plan was submitted to Council. It was also requested that at the 'Moving forward together: valuing partnerships' page that the dot point on 'Increase our overall contribution to HM Treasury' be moved to be the last of the 6 points.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the refreshed Corporate Plan 2022 be AGREED for submission to Council.**
- (2) That the Leader be authorised to make further amendments to the draft in light of feedback from Select Committee Chairmen, prior to submission of the Corporate Plan Refresh 2022 to Council.**

(b) Reasons for decisions

To ensure an updated version of the Corporate Plan was approved for publication.

(c) Alternative options considered

Do nothing – if the Corporate Plan was not refreshed it may be deemed out of date.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None.

Agenda item no. 10

Ofsted Inspection Outcome

(a) Decisions

Children's Services in Buckinghamshire had been judged to be inadequate by Ofsted in August 2014 and November 2017. Following the November 2017 'Inadequate' judgement, Ofsted had recently conducted their reinspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers. As part of the inspection, inspectors evaluated:

- overall effectiveness of the service
- the experiences and progress of children in need of help and protection
- the experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers
- the impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families

This inspection had found that Buckinghamshire was no longer 'Inadequate', and the overall judgement of Children's Services was 'requires improvement to be good'. The report had been published on Friday 11 February 2022 and could be accessed [here](#).

Members thanked staff for the work that they had done over a number of years, including during the pandemic, that had resulted in the latest Ofsted rating. It was stated that there was no room for complacency, and it was the aspiration for the Council that Children's Services be rated at least good at the next Ofsted inspection.

RESOLVED –

That the positive outcome of the Ofsted re-inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers be NOTED.

(b) Reasons for decisions

To update Cabinet on the positive outcome of the recent Ofsted reinspection of services for children.

(c) Alternative options considered

Not applicable.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

Other.

Agenda item no. 12

Consilio Property Ltd Business Plan 2021-23

(a) Decisions

Consilio Property Limited was a company limited by shares founded in September 2017 by South Bucks District Council. In April 2020 100% ownership of Consilio had transferred from South Bucks District Council to Buckinghamshire Council. The aims and objectives of Consilio had been reviewed and revised to align with its shareholder objectives of enabling the new development of residential property on surplus land on the council's existing estate to:

- Increase the amount of good quality affordable and key worker housing stock for Buckinghamshire's residents.
- Increase the supply of private housing to meet the Councils housing needs under the adopted Local Plan.
- Promote and showcase by delivery Buckinghamshire Councils affordable Housing aspirations.
- Provide a financial return to the Council for the benefit of its residents, where viability allows.

Consilio would have a positive impact on the county's economic development and help influence economic performance by helping to increase the County's housing supply. The company currently held a portfolio of property assets comprising of two commercial buildings and a development of 34 flats, including 14 of which were allocated to affordable housing. Future Freehold development proposals were currently under consideration by Consilio as evidenced in the Consilio Business Plan, detailed in the confidential part of the agenda.

To be compliant with regulations surrounding the supply and management of Social Housing, Consilio was building the appropriate structure to secure Registered Housing Provider (RP) status as soon as possible. Funding in the new Consilio landscape would require ongoing discussion and agreement with shareholders. There might additionally be grant funding available from Homes England, especially once RP designation was achieved, that could be secured on a project specific basis to support future residential investments.

In 2021, Consilio Property Ltd had appointed a new Directorship team to enhance good governance and transparency and to take the company forward. In summary, Cabinet was informed that Consilio Property Ltd was well structured with both good governance and internal and external professionals in place to support ongoing management. Consilio was now well placed to deliver the aims and objectives shared with Buckinghamshire Council.

RESOLVED –

- (1) **That it be NOTED that the Business Plan attached to the Cabinet report represented a true and accurate reflection of Consilio Property Limited's past and current position.**
- (2) **That the Business Plan be AGREED, noting that Consilio Property Limited was**

expected to continue to generate net returns even with no additional investment.

(b) Reasons for decisions

Consilio Property Ltd was well structured with both good governance and internal and external professionals in place to support its ongoing management. The business plan attached to the Cabinet report (confidential) detailed that the Company was making a consistent profit and was ready to expand with future projects.

(c) Alternative options considered

Other options considered are detailed at Section 3 of the Cabinet report.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None.

For further information please contact: Craig Saunders -
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