



## Cabinet decision notice

The following decision(s) were taken by Cabinet at its meeting held on **10 May 2022**. Decisions will (unless called-in) become effective at 5pm on 17 May 2022.

### **Agenda item no. 7**

#### **Community Board Rapid Review**

##### **(a) Decisions**

Cabinet was asked to consider the recommendations of the rapid review into Community Boards undertaken by the Communities and Localism Select Committee.

##### **RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the Community Board Rapid Review Group, as well as the supporting officers, be thanked for their work and subsequent recommendations.**
- (2) That Cabinet's responses to the review and recommendations, as set out and circulated to Members, be noted.**

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

##### **(b) Reasons for decisions**

For Cabinet to consider the recommendations of the Community Board's Rapid Review group.

##### **(c) Alternative options considered**

None. Cabinet was asked to consider these recommendations and provided a response which can be found [here](#).

##### **(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations**

None.

### **Agenda item no. 8**

#### **Early Help Partnership Strategy 2022 - 2025**



### **(a) Decisions**

The Early Help Partnership Strategy for 2022-25 documented what was known about the need for early help, why it was important and what action would be taken to make progress and deliver the Council's vision for children, young people, and families in Buckinghamshire. It had been jointly produced and was owned by the Children and Young People's Partnership Board and all its member organisations. The Strategy set out what was already being done (previous Early Help Strategy 2019-2022) and what was planned to develop together in Buckinghamshire to ensure that children and their families received early help when they needed it. The document would steer and enable the priorities detailed in the Strategy to be delivered, while also reflecting the priorities set out by Children's Services.

### **RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the achievements made since the Early Help Strategy 2019-2022 was adopted in 2019 be NOTED.**
- (2) That the priorities identified for the Early Help Partnership Strategy 2022-2025 be noted, and the Strategy be ADOPTED.**

### **(b) Reasons for decisions**

To ensure that the Council continues to make progress and deliver on the vision for children, young people, and families in Buckinghamshire, which includes receiving early help when this is needed.

### **(c) Alternative options considered**

None.

### **(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations**

None.

## **Agenda item no. 9**

### **Participation Strategy for Young People 2022-25**

#### **(a) Decisions**

Cabinet received a report on the first Participation Strategy for Young People 2022-2025 which signalled the Council's intention to ensure it provided opportunities to engage with children and young people in Buckinghamshire so that their voices were heard, responded to, and acted upon.

The Council's ambition was to provide the best services possible to support children and young people and their families in Buckinghamshire. In doing so the Council was striving to continually develop services and how they were delivered so they were relevant and

appropriate. Children and young people had valuable contributions to make in helping the Council to understand what they needed.

The strategy provided a clear framework for Children's Services to use in an inclusive manner, actively listening, acting, and responding to the issues which children and young people informed the Council were important to them. This included involving them in identifying and providing creative solutions.

During the December 2021 Ofsted re-inspection, inspectors had commented that the inclusion and participation of children in helping to shape improved practice and services was underdeveloped. The implementation of the Strategy formed part of the response to those finding.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the ambitions set out within the Strategy be NOTED.**
- (2) That the Participation Strategy for Young People 2022-25 be AGREED.**

#### **(b) Reasons for decisions**

To ensure that opportunities were provided to engage with children and young people so that their voices were heard, responded to, and acted upon, which in turn aimed to make sure that the best possible support and services were provided to children, young people, and their families.

#### **(c) Alternative options considered**

Not applicable.

#### **(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations**

None.

### **Agenda item no. 10**

#### **Moving Traffic Offences**

##### **(a) Decisions**

The Department of Transport (DfT) had invited local authorities with Designation Orders for parking enforcement to apply to enforce moving traffic offences. This would help improve road safety, reduce congestion, and promote active traffic and clean air policies. Enforcement of moving traffic offences outside of London and Cardiff was currently undertaken by the Police.

Across England, all authorities were now permitted to apply and enforce parking and bus lane contraventions. This was by way of an application for a Designation Order.

Buckinghamshire Council currently had five Designation Orders, which in their entirety cover the whole of the Buckinghamshire county. The number of Designation Orders was largely due to the timing when legacy Councils respectively applied for civil parking enforcement powers covering on and off street, and bus lanes.

The powers would enable the Council to enforce certain moving traffic offences such as, no entry, yellow box junctions, banned turns, and environmental weight limits. The powers also allowed stopping on school keep clears to be enforced by camera, as long as they were supported by a valid Traffic Regulation Order. A full list of contraventions that could be enforced utilising these powers is provided at Appendix A of the report.

The new powers did not allow the Council to enforce structural weight limits; these had not been included on the final list and enforcement of these restrictions would remain with the Police. The difference between an environmental weight restriction and a structural weight restriction was provided at Appendix B of the report.

The Cabinet report also contained information:

- On the key benefits of the Council adopting the new powers.
- On the conditions that a local authority must meet and commit to in respect of bringing forward moving traffic enforcement sites.
- That to support the application and make sure local authorities progressed and implemented the new powers in a timely manner, the DfT had requested that specific sites were identified on the applications and enforcement was then introduced to ensure the Order was used. A list of the specified sites was detailed at paragraph 2.19 of the Cabinet report.
- That enforcement was carried out using an approved device. This was a camera with automatic number plate recognition that had been certified by the VCA (Vehicle Certification Agency).
- That the aspiration was to undertake a review of the initial locations approximately 12 months following installation of the cameras. This would enable sufficient time to pass following the six-month period of warning notices to first offenders. In the meantime, compliance levels would be regularly monitored.
- That all new locations, after the initial period, would be agreed in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport. This would include the requirement for a minimum 6 week consultation for every new location, although further approvals from the DfT would not be required.
- That to publicly engage with Members, local businesses, residents, and visitors a consultation had taken place from 21 February 2022 to 4 April 2022. The outcome had resulted in 477 responses, of which 63% supported enforcement of moving traffic offences in Buckinghamshire. A large number of responders also supported the initial locations. A summary of the responses from the consultation could be found in Appendix C to the Cabinet report.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (1) That approval be granted for an application to be submitted to the Department for Transport for Buckinghamshire Council to apply for a Designation Order to enforce**

**moving traffic offences.**

- (2) **That the cost of the cameras including the processing system, estimated at £276,000, be met from within the existing capital programme.**

**(b) Reasons for decisions**

These powers would enable the Council to directly influence driver behaviour and assist with the operational performance of the highway network. It would also enable the Police to concentrate their time on dealing with other matters.

**(c) Alternative options considered**

To not apply for the powers. The police would retain the powers to enforce moving traffic contraventions, however none of the benefits set out in the Cabinet report would be realised.

**(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations**

None.

**Agenda item no. 11**

**Business Improvement District (BID) Ballots: High Wycombe Town Centre (HWBIDCo) and Cressex Business Park BID**

**(a) Decisions**

Cabinet received a report and was informed that the Business Improvement District (BID) operating in High Wycombe Town Centre (HWBIDCo) would come to an end on the 30 September 2022. HWBIDCo had served notice of its intent to instruct the billing authority (Buckinghamshire Council) to put a new BID proposal to ballot to enable a third five-year term from 1 October 2022. Notice had also been served by the Cressex BID Steering Group of its intent to instruct Buckinghamshire Council to carry out a ballot on a proposal to create a new BID on Cressex Business Park from 1 October 2022.

Legislation required the Council to put ballot arrangements in place and, on receipt of a successful ballot outcome, make arrangements for the billing and collection of a levy payment. The Council was also required to work with the BID proposers to develop baseline service and operating agreements to ensure that activities carried out by the BID was additional to that provided by the local authority and that reasonable charges for levy billing and collection were agreed.

The importance to both the town centre in High Wycombe and Cressex Business Park in achieving BID status was that each BID, over the period of 2022 – 2027, would generate c £1.2m and £1.45m business-led investment to support their respective trading environments and would enable the delivery of a targeted range of improvements to benefit businesses and the local economy.

The Cabinet report set out the Council's statutory obligations in this process along with an overview of the activity carried out by HWBIDCo and the Cressex BID Steering Group to provide assurance that this had been carried out as per the requirements of the 2004 Regulations.

**RESOLVED –**

- (1) That it be NOTED that the Buckinghamshire Council has received two notices of intent to ballot for HWBIDCo (High Wycombe Town Centre) and the Cressex BID Steering Group (Cressex Business Park).**
- (2) That it be NOTED that arrangements are being put in place for a postal ballot and for the Returning Officer, with the support of the Economic Development Manager, to appoint Civica to undertake this.**
- (3) That Cabinet confirms its full support to the creation of a new Business Improvement District on Cressex Business Park and for the continuation of High Wycombe Town Centre BID (HWBIDCo).**
- (4) That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director for Planning, Growth and Sustainability, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration, to vote 'Yes' in the HWBIDCo ballot and the Cressex Business Park ballot, subject to ballot offers being satisfactory.**
- (5) That, subject to a 'Yes' vote, authority be delegated to the Corporate Director for Planning, Growth and Sustainability, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Members and Services areas, to agree the detailed service level agreements in line with the business plans submitted and any operational decisions required to enable both BIDs to commence from 1 October 2022.**

**(b) Reasons for decisions**

To ensure the Council is ready to discharge its duties to as set out in Part 4 of the Local Government Act 2003 and supplemented by the Business Improvement Districts (England) Regulations 2004. This included arrangements for ballot and, if successful, arrangements for levy billing and collection and ensuring Operating Agreements were in place.

**(c) Alternative options considered**

The other options considered are detailed in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 of the Cabinet report.

**(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations**

None.

**Agenda item no. 12**

**Government funding supporting Buckinghamshire Residents**

**(a) Decisions**

Government had released funding to support residents in Buckinghamshire since 2020, initially through the Winter Grant and Local Support Grant, and subsequently through the Household Support Fund. For the period November 2021 to March 2022, Buckinghamshire had been awarded £2.4m of funding from the Household Support Fund to provide support for residents in need of help with food, fuel and other essential household costs.

In the Spring Statement 2022, the Chancellor confirmed that the Household Support Fund would be extended, and this equated to a further £2.4m for Buckinghamshire to use to support residents between 1 April and 30 September 2022.

Cabinet received a report summarising how the previous funding allocations were used and setting out a proposed use of the additional fund between now and the end of September 2022 that would ensure it was targeted to residents in need of support and in line with the Government guidance.

**(b) Reasons for decisions**

The proposed approach for use of the additional Household Support Fund had been modelled to ensure it provided support for Buckinghamshire residents through to the end of September 2022 in line with Government guidance.

**(c) Alternative options considered**

None.

**(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations**

None.

**Agenda item no. 13**

**Outcomes from the Affordable Housing Task and Finish Group**

**(a) Decisions**

An affordable housing Member Task and Finish Group had been initiated in August 2021 led by the Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Regulatory Services. The group had met on a number of occasions to discuss the issues and challenges around the delivery of affordable housing in Buckinghamshire and to develop an affordable housing 'position statement', with the aim of reporting back to the Leader and Cabinet.

The draft position statement was intended to set out the Council's interim approach and immediate commitment to bringing forward a development on a Council owned site that provided affordable housing, potentially with an element of specialist affordable and key worker housing. The interim approach was intended to cover the period while the Homelessness & Rough Sleeping and overarching Housing Strategies were being developed and was expected to provide early tangible progress for the key Council priority of

increasing the delivery of affordable housing.

Paragraph 1.2 of the report set out the immediate objectives for the Task and Finish Group. Some of the longer term objectives of the Member-led TFG were to provide input into the development of the Council's overarching Housing Strategy and to identify learning from completed pilot projects to inform future schemes, thereby maximising delivery, and also complementing existing delivery that occurred through the planning process and registered provider partnerships.

**RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the findings of the Affordable Housing Member-led Task and Finish Group, including the proposed interim position statement on affordable housing be NOTED.**
- (2) That the Affordable Housing Position Statement be ADOPTED, and the required activities be taken forward by Officers.**

**(b) Reasons for decisions**

To ensure that the Council was responding to the issues and challenges around the delivery of affordable housing in Buckinghamshire, which included developing proposals on how to best provide affordable housing in Buckinghamshire and bringing forward a Council owned site on which to deliver additional affordable (potentially specialist) and key worker housing.

**(c) Alternative options considered**

Do nothing, which was not an option.

**(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations**

None.

For further information please contact: Ian Hunt on 01494 421208, email [democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk).

You can view upcoming decisions to be made and all decisions taken on the Council's website [here](#).