



Cabinet decision notice

The following decision(s) were taken by Cabinet at its meeting held on **11 October 2022**. Decisions will (unless called-in) become effective at 5pm on 18 October 2022.

Agenda item no. 8

Director of Public Health Annual Report 2021-2022: Hearts and Minds

(a) Decisions

Each year the Director of Public Health produced an annual report on the health of their population. The report focussed on the importance of the prevention of cardiovascular disease for Buckinghamshire's population. It served as a baseline against which progress in improving cardiovascular disease prevention and outcomes for our population could be measured. It highlighted the opportunities that the Council, the NHS, the voluntary sector and residents had to reduce the risks of cardiovascular diseases in the County by working together on this agenda.

The aim was to support a strategic approach for the Council and partners to address the cardiovascular health and risk factors of our population. The report summarised the many risk factors for cardiovascular disease. The risk factors include behavioural, clinical and environmental risk factors. It provided recommendations on how residents could reduce their risk of cardiovascular disease and what partners, including the Council, could do to reduce these risk factors. The environmental risk factors include stress at work, the quality of housing and poor air quality.

Differences in cardiovascular disease between different groups were a significant driver of health inequalities across Buckinghamshire. This made cardiovascular disease a key concern for levelling up health outcomes in Buckinghamshire. The report highlighted a range of programmes in Buckinghamshire designed to address the main behavioural and clinical risk factors for cardiovascular disease. A multi-agency plan to address inequalities in cardiovascular disease across Buckinghamshire was being developed and implemented. It would be overseen by the Buckinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022 be NOTED.**
- (2) That the recommendations within the Annual Report and the draft Action Plan be ENDORSED.**

(b) Reasons for decisions

The Director of Public Health is required to produce an annual report on the health of Buckinghamshire's population. The report provided an overview of the impact of cardiovascular disease on the health and wellbeing of Buckinghamshire residents. Cardiovascular disease is one of the largest drivers of poor health and death in the county and the biggest contributor to the gap in life expectancy between residents.

The report highlighted the need for a renewed focus on preventing cardiovascular disease and the risk factors that lead to it. This meant tackling the key social, economic, and environmental risk factors. The Council had a key role in this agenda through its day-to-day services and the Opportunity Bucks programme. Addressing the key risk factors would improve health in a variety of other ways including reducing the risk of cancer, diabetes, dementia, musculoskeletal problems, and poor mental health and produce many other societal and economic benefits, making Buckinghamshire an even better place to live.

(c) Alternative options considered

The options considered are detailed at Section 3.1 of the Cabinet report.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None.

Agenda item no. 9

Safer Buckinghamshire Board Annual Report 2021/22

(a) Decisions

The Safer Buckinghamshire Plan 2020-23 was approved by the Safer Buckinghamshire Board (SBB) in July 2020, with the aim that Buckinghamshire continued to be one of the safest places to grow up, raise a family, live, work and do business. The Plan set out the five priorities explaining how, through working in partnership, it would reduce crime and disorder and protect vulnerable people in Buckinghamshire.

The annual report provided an overview of the Partnership and SBB activity and impact during 2021/22. It covered a demanding time for the Partnership, following a review of the SBB processes and Delivery Plans, the introduction of Priority Sponsors, and a restructure within the Council's Community Safety Team.

RESOLVED –

That the Safer Buckinghamshire Board Annual Report, which provides an update on the activities and outcomes of the Community Safety Partnership in Buckinghamshire during 2021/22, be NOTED.

(b) Reasons for decisions

The Council is a statutory member of the Buckinghamshire Community Safety Partnership known as the Safer Buckinghamshire Board - the Board is legally required to produce a Community Safety Plan which is called the Safer Buckinghamshire Plan. The Council has a Duty to consider the crime and disorder implications of all its functions and activities. The Safer Buckinghamshire Plan and its delivery plans provide the framework for the Council to meet its obligations.

(c) Alternative options considered

None.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None.

Agenda item no. 10

Buckinghamshire Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2022-2023

(a) Decisions

The Buckinghamshire Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2022-2023 provides details of progress made against agreed outcomes for Children and Young People. It outlines priorities, alongside potential future challenges for the partnership over the coming year. It also highlights the partnership arrangements and budget position for the Youth Offending Service Partnership.

The Buckinghamshire Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2022/2023 was produced in consultation with strategic partners. This was done through a series of focus groups which were held with representatives from the police, probation, magistrates, health, and Buckinghamshire Council services, including Children's Social Care, Education and Community Safety, as well as representatives from voluntary organisations such as Barnardo's and 'SAFE!'. The plan was produced in line with guidance published by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and must be submitted to the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales and published in accordance with the directions of the Secretary of State.

RECOMMENDED—

That the Buckinghamshire Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2022-2023 be adopted following its endorsement at Cabinet.

(b) Reasons for decisions

The Council is required under Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to produce a "youth justice plan" each year, after consultation with the relevant persons and bodies, and

setting out:

- (i) How youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded; and
- (ii) How the Youth Offending Team (YOT) or teams established by them (whether alone or jointly with one or more other local authorities) are to be composed and funded, how they are to operate, and what functions they are to carry out.

(c) Alternative options considered

None.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None.

Agenda item no. 11

Little Marlow Lakes Country Park

(a) Decisions

Cabinet received a report relating to the land between Globe Park/A404 Marlow and Bourne End, bounded to the south by the River Thames and to the north by the A4155. The area was covered by Green Belt designation, and most of it - including the former Gravel Yard at Spade Oak Lake (and the proposed Marlow Film Studios site at Westhorpe) – was former landfill, or former gravel pits. The area was dominated by Thames Water’s large sewage works (which used the Council’s Muschallick Road, which also served the former Gravel Yard, for frequent HGV access).

The report included proposals to develop a scheme for a Country Park which as a minimum would be a Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) compliant facility. The proposals to create a Country Park in the area had been first made in the 1960s and there was a lot of background including previous actions/decisions taken, or not taken, by the former Wycombe District Council. The background was detailed in paragraphs 2.1 to 2.24 of the Cabinet report.

Cabinet took into account the detailed representations which had been submitted by residents, the parish council and local members which were published on 10 October 2022. The Director of Legal and Democratic Services outlined the independent Counsel advice received which confirmed that the essential elements of the Countryside and Right of Way Act 1968 had not been met by the former Council’s earlier decision. During discussion the Deputy Leader asked all Cabinet Members to confirm that they had read the detailed representations that were included with the supplementary agenda papers. All Cabinet Members confirmed that they had done this.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the lack of formal designation for Little Marlow Lakes Country Park be NOTED.**

- (2) That the Service Director of Culture, Sport and Leisure be authorised, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Accessible Housing and Resources, and Culture and Leisure, to develop a scheme and pursue formal designation of land within the Council’s ownership as a Country Park which as a minimum would be a Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) compliant facility.**
- (3) That it be agreed not to pursue formal designation to regularise the status of the whole area allocated in the Wycombe Local Plan (RUR4) as a Country Park as part of the initial phase of delivery but instead to retain a commitment to the wider Country Park as and when circumstances and resources permit.**
- (4) That the Service Directors of Property and Assets, and Culture, Sport and Leisure, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Accessible Housing and Resources, and Culture and Leisure, be delegated authority to agree a suitable business plan and operating model for the Country Park which ensures the facility is delivered as a cost neutral enterprise. The business plan to be brought back to Cabinet for approval.**
- (5) That the Service Directors of Property and Assets, and Planning and Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources, be delegated authority to negotiate and agree a suitable restoration plan in consultation with Natural England for the Spade Oak Lake site which would be SANG compliant.**
- (6) That the planning and enforcement strategy that may be required in order to protect the Local Planning Authority position and to facilitate an amended restoration plan at Spade Oak Lake be NOTED.**
- (7) That the Service Director of Property and Assets in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources and the S151 Officer be delegated authority to negotiate and agree funding for the Country Park from S106 monies as set out in the Cabinet report.**
- (8) That the Service Director of Property and Assets, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources, be delegated authority to enter into negotiations with the Thameside Preservation Trust on terms that would see the Country Park proposed in the Cabinet report to include both pieces of land set out in the Appendix.**

(b) Reasons for decisions

To explore proposals to develop a scheme and pursue formal designation of land within the Council’s ownership –concerning land between Globe Park/A404 Marlow and Bourne End, bounded to the south by the River Thames and to the north by the A4155 – as a Country Park which as a minimum would be a Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) compliant facility.

(c) Alternative options considered

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

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None.

Agenda item no. 12

E-scooter trial extension (until May 2024)

(a) Decisions

Cabinet received a report which sought approval for Buckinghamshire Council to extend the current e-scooter rental trial schemes in Aylesbury, High Wycombe and Princes Risborough. This would extend the trial period from November 2022 to May 2024.

The continuation of the e-scooter trials would support the Council's ambitions to be a 'living lab' for innovation. The scheme would also support the Council's Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy by promoting sustainable low-carbon transport alternatives for shorter trips. The e-scooter trial was managed at zero cost to the Council as they were run as a private business by an operator.

The e-scooter trial was facilitated by the Department for Transport and the Council was therefore required to inform Department for Transport of its decision by 31 October 2022.

There had been over 191,000 rides in Buckinghamshire since the trials began in 2020. In contrast, there had been only four reported health and safety incidents across the Buckinghamshire schemes, equating to 0.002% of all rides. However, it was acknowledged that a handful of these incidents had received media attention, which had resulted in mixed opinions on the safety of e-scooters.

The extension of the trial would enable the Department for Transport to gather additional usage data post-COVID, which would provide a better understanding of 'normal' use patterns. The extension would also allow the Department for Transport time to finalise legislation making all e-scooters road-legal, whether privately owned or part of a hire scheme.

Subject to agreement to extend the e-scooter trial, the Council would continue using Zipp Mobility as its preferred operator for e-scooters. The Council continued to have a good relationship with this supplier, and they had proven fundamental to the success of the trial schemes so far. This scheme was zero cost to the Council financially. Due to the overall value of this concession contract, the intention was to use a waiver to extend the contract which was already in place with Zipp to May 2024.

RESOLVED –

That it be AGREED to extend the end date for the e-scooter trials taking place in Aylesbury, High Wycombe and Princes Risborough until May 2024, as part of the national trial.

(b) Reasons for decisions

The Department for Transport (DfT) has extended the national e-scooter trial to continue their assessment of impacts and allow legislation to be put in place to legalise e-scooters. The Council therefore needs to decide whether to extend its trials as part of the national trial.

(c) Alternative options considered

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

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None.

Agenda item no. 13

Cost of Living Support for Buckinghamshire Residents

(a) Decisions

The Council recognised the growing pressures being faced by residents linked to the increases in the cost of living. The Cabinet report summarised the wide range of support that had been developed this year, together with new initiatives which had been put in place in anticipation of growing hardship over the forthcoming winter.

Confirmation had been received of the third tranche of Household Support Fund allocation for the period from 1st October 2022 – 31st March 2023. This had been built on the funding the Council had received from Government since 2020, initially through the Winter Grant and Local Support Grant, and subsequently through the Household Support Fund.

For the period 1st April to 30th September 2022, Buckinghamshire was 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. The Cabinet report summarised how the previous funding allocation was used, and set out a proposed use of the additional fund between now and the end of March that would ensure this would be targeted to residents in need of support and in line with the Government guidance.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the range of support provided by the Council for individuals experiencing hardship across the county be NOTED.**
- (2) That the arrangements for deploying the new Household Support Fund allocation for the period from October 2022 to March 2023 be APPROVED.**

(b) Reasons for decisions

The Government announced draft allocations for the Household Support Fund on 22 September 2022. The Cabinet report set out proposals for use of the funding to ensure it provided support for Buckinghamshire residents through to the end of March 2023 in line with Government guidance.

(c) Alternative options considered

Not applicable.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None.

Agenda item no. 14

Climate Change & Air Quality Strategy 2021-22 Progress Report

(a) Decisions

The Climate Change & Air Quality Strategy 2021-2022 Progress Report provided an update on the significant progress made against the aims, objectives, and actions set out in our Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy within the year following its adoption on 19th October 2021. Details of 51 activities were provided, many of which addressed several actions in the Strategy. These have contributed to greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) decreasing by 10.61% from 2019 to 2020 and nitrogen dioxide concentrations staying within the annual mean value in the last two calendar years in Buckinghamshire; and, the Council's GHG emissions being 70% lower in 2021/2022 compared to its emissions from 1990.

The Council was responsible for 6,095 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions (TCO₂e) in 2021/2022. The Council had kept comfortably within the Council's carbon budget for 2021/2022 (7,407 TCO₂e) and were on track to reduce the Council's carbon emissions by at least 75% by 2030.

RESOLVED –

That the progress made in 2021-2022 against the aims, objectives and actions in the Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy be NOTED.

(b) Reasons for decisions

Action 9 in the Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy commits the Council to 'Report annually on progress made against actions and reducing emissions'.

Addressing climate change and poor air quality is relevant to all Council Corporate Plan

2020-2025 priorities.

(c) Alternative options considered

The option to not produce Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy 2021-2022 Progress Report was considered as not being viable due to the commitment to 'Report annually on progress made against actions and reducing emissions' (action 9 in the Climate Change & Air Quality Strategy).

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None.

Agenda item no. 15

Children's Services Update

(a) Decisions

The work of Children's Services had always been diverse, demand led and challenging. The impact of Covid-19 had increased levels of demand and need that could not have been predicted. The child population continued to increase as do the levels of poverty being experienced by children and families. Furthermore, the lasting impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the ongoing cost of living pressures had added an additional layer of complexity to the work of Children's Services. The performance information available to the Service demonstrated that the unprecedented surge in demand began at the end of 2020 and had continued through to the present day. There were currently no indicators to suggest a return to pre pandemic demand levels.

Given the complex demand challenges within the system there was a need to address increasing financial pressures and ensure affordability and financial sustainability through delivery of better outcomes that cost less. Whilst there had and continued to be a significant focus on improving outcomes for children and young people, the Service wanted to refresh its evidence base to fully understand the root causes of the current demand coming into the system. This would inform the way in which services were developed and delivered in the future, especially as the Service looked to build stronger relationships with partners. To support the Service with this work, IMPOWER have been commissioned to develop a single programme of change based around a clear profile of demand, with a plan for delivery. The aim of this plan was to help maximise the impact and effectiveness of early intervention and prevention, alongside our intention for more locality-based support.

In addition to the local challenges, there were a number of national policy developments planned to be introduced that would impact on the way in which services were delivered to the children and young people of Buckinghamshire. Whilst many of the reforms currently lacked detail, the Council was in support of the Government's proposals. The Service continued on its improvement journey and the number one priority was to strengthen services for children, young people and their families. Whilst there was more to do, the

Service was confident in its understanding and knowledge of what needed to be done.

RESOLVED –

That the national and local developments across the Children’s Services Directorate be NOTED.

(b) Reasons for decisions

To keep Cabinet informed of the national and local developments across the Children’s Services Directorate.

(c) Alternative options considered

Not applicable.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None.

Agenda item no. 16

Adult Social Care Update

(a) Decisions

Adult social care had been at the frontline of the Covid pandemic response for the past two and a half years. Whilst guidance for businesses and the public had relaxed, adult social care was still responding to significant demand, part of which had built up during the pandemic. In addition, during the past 7 months the Government had published a number of reforms, white papers and legislative changes which required a different response to the delivery of adult social care services. The Cabinet report provided an update on the current position of adult social care services in Buckinghamshire.

RESOLVED –

That the latest developments in relation to adult social care both locally and nationally be NOTED.

(b) Reasons for decisions

To keep Cabinet informed of the latest developments in relation to adult social care both locally and nationally.

(c) Alternative options considered

Not Applicable.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None.

For further information please contact: Ian Hunt - democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk on 01296 382343, email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

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