

### Cabinet agenda

Date: Tuesday 6 December 2022

Time: 10.00 am

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

#### Membership:

M Tett (Leader), Cllr A Macpherson (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing), G Williams (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment), S Bowles (Cabinet Member for Communities), S Broadbent (Cabinet Member for Transport), J Chilver (Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources), A Cranmer (Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services), C Harriss (Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure), P Strachan (Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration) and M Winn (Cabinet Member for Homelessness and Regulatory Services)

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Agenda Item Page No

1 Apologies

2 Minutes 5 - 22

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2022.

#### 3 Declarations of interest

#### 4 Hot Topics

#### 5 Question Time

## Question from Cllr Robin Stuchbury to Cllr Angela Macpherson Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

From October 2023, the Government will introduce a new £86,000 cap on the amount anyone in England will need to spend on their personal care over their lifetime. In addition, the upper capital limit (UCL), which is the point at which people becoming eligible to receive some financial support from the local authority, will be raised to £100,000 from the current £23,500. As a result, people with less than £100,000 of chargeable assets will never contribute more than 20%. I understand in introducing this change, the Government will need to introduce an amendment to the Care Act 2014 and the way people will be means tested which is subject to Parliamentary approval.

Under the Care Act 2014, charges must not reduce people's income below a certain amount but local authorities can allow people to keep more of their income if they wish. This amount is known as the Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG). This would allow people receiving means tested support to keep more of their own income for those receiving care in their home and personal expenses allowances for care residence. It was indicated the cap will cover daily living costs for people in care homes and people will remain responsible for their daily living costs throughout their care journey, including after they reach the cap. These are very large changes to the way the local authority will work in a caring environment to support vulnerable adults. It is obvious that a large percentage of the councils funding is penultimately through the social care precept, which is and has grown close to 12% of the council tax Buckinghamshire Council collects.

As we enter the financial year 2023/2024 what is the financial planning in respect to these changes in legislation? The purchasing of four Wood Place care homes could be more financially challenging in the fiscal years, 23, 24,25, then they were in the previous years of both the legacy County Council and the early years of Buckinghamshire Council. What modelling is being undertaken and is the ability of the council to collect increases in social care allowance/social care precept being considered by Cabinet or does Cabinet not agree with undertaking any rises in the social care precept due to their political stance? This is an important question due to the cost of living crisis many of our

constituents find themselves in across a broad income spectrum within Buckinghamshire.

# Forward Plan (28 Day Notice) Select Committee Work Programme For Cabinet to note the Select Committee Work Programme. Aylesbury Link Roads, Housing Infrastructure Fund negotiation and South East Aylesbury Link Road Phase 1 and 2 - Project update, delivery and funding

#### 9 Exclusion of the public (if required)

To resolve that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Paragraph 3	Information relating to the financial or business
	affairs of any particular person (including the
	authority holding that information)

#### 10 Confidential appendix to Aylesbury Link Roads, HIF and SEALR 71 - 112

#### 11 Date of next meeting

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – 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.

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#### Cabinet minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday 15 November 2022 in The Oculus, Buckinghamshire Council, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury HP19 8FF, commencing at 10.00 am and concluding at 12.10 pm.

#### Members present

M Tett, Cllr A Macpherson, G Williams, S Bowles, S Broadbent, J Chilver, A Cranmer, P Strachan and M Winn

#### Others in attendance

M Bracken, R Carington, S Kayani, D King, J MacBean, P Martin and R Stuchbury

#### Agenda Item

#### 1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cabinet Member, Clive Harriss and Rachael Shimmin Chief Executive.

#### 2 Minutes

**RESOLVED -**

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 October 2022 were agreed as a correct record

#### 3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 4 Hot Topics

The following hot topics were raised:-

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing
The impact of the Autumn Statement 2022 would need to be looked at following the
announcement on Thursday including social care reforms. Social Care was a big part
of the cost pressures which Councils were facing nationally.

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment An award was received from Chiltern Rangers to the Council on the outstanding contribution to conservation. The Council had worked very hard on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and other areas such as tree planting (140,000 trees) and improving chalk streams. The Team were congratulated by Cabinet Members.

#### Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources

The new County-wide Revenue and Benefits System went live on 20 October 2022 which covered benefits, council tax and business rates. The new system should deliver significant savings and residents were encouraged to register for an online account so that they could view and update their details easily and quickly.

https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/council-tax/

#### **Cabinet Member for Transport**

Reference was made to traffic issues on A413 coming into Aylesbury which was due to failed lights, an officer had been called to resolve the traffic management issue from the utility company who had to resort to stop and go boards. There was also some emergency work being undertaken near Stoke Mandeville by utilities which also impacted the area.

He also referred to being successful in the largest ever single bid for electric vehicle charging. The Office for Zero Emission Vehicles had fully funded the bid of £400,000 which allowed the service area to push forward on their EV Strategy to have a 1,000 publically accessible points. The Leader welcomed this and commented that the UK had the biggest sales of electric vehicles out of any European Country. It was therefore important for Councils to help facilitate the provision of infrastructure to reduce the number of carbon producing vehicles.

#### Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services.

The Service Area had won a national award for the best local offer. The National Association of Family Information Services presented the award which was a digital based offer to help families trying to access information about services, including special needs. The Team were congratulated by Cabinet Members.

#### **Cabinet Member for Communities**

25<sup>th</sup> November would mark White Ribbon Day to end male violence against women. Communication around the campaign would include advertising on the radio and the success of the campaign would be analysed by the take up of support services on the Council and partnership websites.

#### Leader

The Leader also made reference to the Autumn Statement which would impact on the Council's planning assumptions with regard to building the budget for next year and years beyond that. Normally the Council would have some clarity around budget setting but this year there was uncertainty about the impact of the Autumn statement, particularly in the area of social care reforms. Officers would be analysing the impact on the Council. In addition the Leader made reference to the cost of living crisis and the Council was helping the Government in rolling out their local support which included the Helping Hand Programme to help residents who

https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living/

#### 5 Question Time

The following responses to the Cabinet questions were noted:-

Question from Councillor Michael Bracken to Councillor Peter Strachan, Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration

"My question follows a period in which I have been seeking to advise and assist a number of residents impacted by construction and planning issues in a particular location. The underlying issues are complex and clearly difficult to address and include:-

- prolonged and delayed construction project including multiple changes of contractors and project managers;
- repeated disruptions to access residences either because of deliveries or of inconsiderate behaviour and the parking of vehicles blocking access;
- poor site management practices which took no account of their impact both causing detritus, dust and noise through to outright damage to neighbouring properties and possible planning breaches requiring investigation;
- additional wear and tear to public roads and pavements including damage caused by deliveries and equipment;
- noise disruption including construction work at unreasonable hours such as weekends and bank holidays; In particular residents were dismayed at around the time of public examinations where students had their ability to study and work on revision harmed or constrained; and
- light pollution at the site including through the night directly into neighbouring properties. This arose from both construction lighting as well as what appears to be a permanent feature of the new property which was not considered at the time of planning.

May I ask you to consider reviewing the impact of problematic construction projects on residents and in particular:-

- consider the instances of problematic construction projects and whether
  this may be a category which should receive additional attention. For
  example, consider the tracking of issues which are reported to our various
  departments, functions and to the extent that we are aware, external
  agencies; and
- as we look to continue to improve our Website to review the advice and guidance available to residents when faced with a problematic construction project. Specifically it can be difficult for residents to know to which department or function either in the council or separate government agencies they should properly raise issues and the mechanism to do so."

**RESPONSE from Councillor Strachan** 

The Council provides a number of services which investigate issues occurring at construction sites in its area and have powers to pursue formal action where such issues breach either local requirements (such as planning permission details) or national legislation (such as highways). Due to the large array of potential issues that could occur at a construction site (planning, highways, noise, light, dust, Health & Safety), and therefore the complexity of legislation involved, it would be difficult to address all the possible scenarios within a single team. Therefore whilst I acknowledge that the issues you raise are likely to cause local concern, it is our job to ensure we provide a joined up response across the teams that are involved. It would be unfair to expect residents to know who within the Council to report their concerns to without us trying to provide some assistance, so we have already commenced internal team liaison meetings where we will seek to provide a guide to reporting issues with the correct team on our website.

In the meantime and in addition, I can also report that the Planning Enforcement Team have recently commenced a series of pro-active monitoring of planning conditions on larger construction sites. We are piloting a series of development sites across Buckinghamshire of 10 or more units and will be investigating the compliance with pre-commencement conditions. This will include desktop investigations as well as our on-site presence to monitor and enforce compliance with imposed planning conditions such as the provision of wheel washing facilities, hours of operation, on-site parking provision, delivery of materials etc. If we can continue to bear down on these issues with the support of local members like yourself, we can continue to make a positive difference to local communities.

Question from Councillor Robin Stuchbury to Councillor Anita Cranmer, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services

"Many of our secondary schools are oversubscribed, I understand that this includes The Buckingham school with classes containing over 30 pupils. Are there any figures available for Buckinghamshire regarding school places by catchment area/secondary school to better understand how the education authority is managing the growth within the community?

If these figures are available, do they include any children who have to travel out of their catchment area to obtain a school place which could be detrimental to the Council's aspiration to lower its carbon footprint and which also incurs a cost to parents and/or the Council's home to school transport budget?

Members would also benefit from understanding capacity and vacancy figures for primary schools given the significant growth in Buckinghamshire, particularly the north of the county."

#### **RESPONSE from Councillor Cranmer**

In most year groups the Buckingham school is below their planned admission number of 210. In two year groups they have exceeded that number, this is due to pupils arriving in catchment outside of the normal admission point in Year 7. In both these year groups the school has admitted children above their normal number due to Fair Access requests from the local authority. Buckingham School would normally be asked to take under Fair Access where it is the nearest school, as we try to place the children as close to home as possible to minimise the need for home to school transport.

The school place planning team use an established methodology to ensure that there are enough school places in each planning area, and with only very rare exceptions, schools have been able to accommodate the first choices of all parents who have chosen a catchment school for transfer to secondary school.

We review the school capacity of all our planning areas across the county on an annual basis, and whilst there are peaks and troughs in the predicted and actual figures, we have strong relationships with schools so that we can work with them to create capacity as required. Where significant capacity is required, such as with the development of the Kingsbrook Estate in Aylesbury Vale, we have worked with developers to bring a brand new secondary school on line. In the next ten years, the highest number of pupils that we have modelled is 335, 25 above the capacity of 310 that upper schools in the area would normally take, this is not until 2029 and we are confident that we can work with schools to find a solution for this.

Question from Councillor Sophie Kayani to Councillor Anita Cranmer, Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services

The Q2 Budget Monitoring and KPI Reports on Education & Children's Service demonstrates a service in crisis and a portfolio without a firm grip, namely:

- £9.2m adverse on its operating budget (worsening by £5.3m in Q1) due to placement budgets (£3.2m), agency staff (£1.9m), client costs (£2.9m), adoption and special guardianship allowances (£0.5m), and care leavers' accommodation and allowances (£0.9m).
- The portfolio is failing to deliver its planned savings with a shortfall of 35% (£0.3m) due to these agency staff commitments, even with the Social Worker Academy.
- The contingency for Children's Services' demography (£1.4m) will be fully used up, but High-Cost Children's Placements contingency (£0.5m) is seemingly not being deployed in spite of the shortfall noted above.
- This contingency has been proven to be wholly inadequate although categoric reassurances were given by the Cabinet Member during Budget Scrutiny.
- It is failing to deliver its capital projects, such as school places (£3.4m),
   SEND projects (£1.5m), and Children's Homes (£0.5m)
- There is "£0.6m pressure in Legal & Democratic Services from increased demand linked to Children's and Adult cases".
- KPIs show worsening Red ratings on Re-referrals within 12 months, EHCPs issued within 20 weeks, Family Support Plans issued within 31 days, repeat Child Protection Plans, Children In Need seen within 4 weeks

The Report provides no confidence, stating that "a detailed review of the budget and forecast expenditure is taking place in order to identify actions that can be taken to reduce spend. An action plan is being drawn up as a result of this review identifying priority actions, timelines, and estimated savings. This plan will be monitored by Children's SLT and Children's Budget Board and the potential financial impact included in the forecast in future months as actions are agreed and implemented." This 2022-23 revised forecast and 2023-24 Budget will clearly need to be the subject of detailed scrutiny through the Budget process.

Can the Cabinet Member provide a categorical reassurance that this is the worst-case financial position for 2022-23; how spend can be possibly reduced in a so-called "dysfunctional" Children's services market where demand is increasing, even with all the substantial demography assumptions made in the 2022-23 budget; confirm when this detailed review will be completed and subject to scrutiny by the appropriate Select Committees; and that this portfolio is not creating a further reputational and financial risk to Buckinghamshire Council through inferior or inappropriate placements for children ending up in unnecessarily traumatic and costly legal disputes?

#### **RESPONSE from Councillor Cranmer**

This Council, like every local authority in the country, has a significant challenge in securing sufficient placements for looked after children, especially older adolescents. The placement 'market place' nationally does not work for children and young people and requires a national approach in order to address the problems. This is a well-publicised problem that to date has no solutions in play. All staff in the service are fully focused on the implications to the Council of having to purchase external placements at extremely high cost and having to use placements that are unregulated. Officers keep Ofsted, the Department for Education and the Children and Families Courts fully appraised of all unregulated placements. Significant work takes place on a daily, weekly and monthly basis to drive down costs and devise solutions for all high cost placements. The current projections for this financial year and future costs will influence Medium Term Financial Planning (MTFP) discussions. This is a national challenge facing all local authorities and meeting our statutory obligations to children and young people in a demand led environment means that no cast iron guarantees can ever be given.

In addition to the above, the recruitment and retention of social workers is also a significant challenge for the service and whilst having a permanent workforce and reducing reliance on agency staff is one of the main priorities for the service, the size of the national social care workforce is not keeping up with demand. This, coupled with demand challenges are impacting the service's ability to maintain consistently high performance across all indicators. The actions of the service to ensure that children and young people are being protected in line with their presenting risk and that drift and delay does not become a strong feature of casework continue to be effective. In our drive towards delivering the council's ambition to achieve

consistently good services, the service will continue to follow a cycle of improvement, reviewing and testing our practice and oversight to ensure that the service is making progress and creating actions to address our priority areas.

On the subject of capital projects, the service has not failed to deliver its capital projects and the capital programme is progressing as planned. The favourable variances detailed within the Q2 Budget Monitoring relate to the associated costs to complete the work or where future projects have not yet started. Whilst there have been some minor slippages due to building work, all school places have been delivered as planned. In addition, SEND projects remain on track and at present, will be delivered within the initial time frame. The investment of £0.5m in Children's Homes was quite rightly been put on hold as the service continues to review its strategic response to the increasing the availability of provision, including both in county and regional options, for our children and young people that meet their needs and provides them with a safe place to live and thrive.

The Leader of the Council spoke in support of the service area and highlighted that they were doing an excellent job under particularly difficult circumstances which were being faced by Council's nationally.

#### 6 Forward Plan (28 Day Notice)

The Leader introduced the Forward Plan and commended it to all Members of the Council and the public, as a document that gave forewarning of what Cabinet would be discussing at forthcoming meetings.

#### **RESOLVED -**

That the Cabinet Forward Plan be noted.

#### 7 Select Committee Work Programme

The Leader introduced the Forward Plan and commended it to all Members of the Council and the public, as a document that gave forewarning of what Select Committees would be discussing at forthcoming meetings.

#### **RESOLVED -**

That the Select Committee Work Programme be noted.

# 8 Transport, Environment & Climate Change Select Committee Review of Pollution in Buckinghamshire's Rivers and Chalk Streams

The Transport, Environment & Climate Change Select Committee agreed to set up a Rapid Review of Pollution in Buckinghamshire's Rivers and Chalk Streams at its meeting on 22 January 2022. The Review Group was chaired by Cllr Robert Carington and thanks were given to the Members which comprised of Cllrs Bill Chapple OBE, Peter Brazier, Mick Caffrey, David King and Adam Poland-Goodyer. The Chairman also thanked the two Cabinet Member involved Cllr Gareth Williams and Peter

Strachan, stakeholders and officers particularly Karen Fisher and Chris Ward.

Between March - June 2022, the Review Group collected evidence through meetings both in person and on Teams. The Review Group then met in June to discuss and agree its key findings and recommendations, which were presented in the report found at Appendix 1. The report was presented to the Transport, Environment & Climate Change Select Committee on 3 November 2022.

The Chairman in his presentation made the following points:-

- Chalk streams were unique as they provided pure, clear water from underground chalk aquifers and springs where wildlife could grow and thrive. These environments were rare, with an estimate of 85% of the known chalk streams in the world being located in southern and eastern England; nine significant chalk streams alone could be found in the Chilterns Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).
- The Government's Environmental Audit Committee recently concluded that every single river in England was contaminated by chemicals and made recommendations on how to overhaul the situation. Buckinghamshire's rivers and chalk streams, like many others across England, were impacted by a range of different factors. This included pollution from sewage, highways, agriculture, water abstraction and flooding. The Environment Agency stated that the majority of the county's rivers have a moderate status – none have a good or high status. The Select Committee was especially concerned to hear of reports of increased discharge events by water companies and HS2 work potentially polluting the chalk aquifer beneath the Misbourne Valley. As a result, Members were keen to undertake a cross party Rapid Review to gain a better understanding of the current health of Buckinghamshire's waterways and areas of responsibility, understand concerns, and hear how these were being addressed. In addition, the Rapid Review wanted to identify areas for potential improvement through, for instance, increased partnership and collaborative working.
- A number of meetings were held with voluntary sector organisations and stakeholders such as Chilterns Chalk Stream Project & Chilterns Conservation Board, Chiltern Society, National Farmers Union, River Chess Association & Impress the Chess, and the River Thame Conservation Trust. Other meetings were held with the Strategic Flood Team, Highways, the Water Services Regulation Authority, Thames Water, Anglian Water and Natural England. Affinity Water and the Environment Agency were both unable to attend and sent in written answers to the Committee's questions.
- There were three main areas that the Committee felt should be prioritised and were also areas where the Council could have the most impact; water pollutants and run-off, communications and engagement and education.
- With regard to water pollutants and run off the urban and transport sector accounted for 20% of the poor river water quality in the Thames River Basin. It was reported that diffuse urban pollution was a significant issue for most of the chalk streams in Buckinghamshire due to surface water from road run-

off carrying pollutants directly into watercourses. These pollutants included decomposing plant and animal matter (humus) and by-products from vehicles such as hydrocarbons, oil, brake dust, tyre fragments, hydraulic fluids, and anti-freeze. Therefore the first two recommendations were directed to the Cabinet Member for Transport when considering gully technology and cleaning.

- With regard to communication and engagement, whilst the Council did not have responsibility for water quality, the Council did work in partnership with the Environment Agency and the water companies. This covered recommendation 3-9, recommendation 5 being considered the most important recommendation asking the Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs regarding the Council's concern with engagement from the EA with regard to the discharge of their statutory function. Further work should also be carried out with water companies and improvements could be made with the Council website.
- With regard to education a communications campaign should be promoted through existing channels (e.g. newsletters and planning informatives) to encourage residents to ensure that their builders/contractors connect the right drain to the right place on works that were exempt from checks by Building Control.

Cabinet was asked to consider the recommendations of the Select Committee Review of Pollution in Buckinghamshire's Rivers and Chalk Streams and made the following points:-

- The Leader thanked the Review Group for an important piece of work which impacted greatly on Buckinghamshire residents. It was concerning that Buckinghamshire did not have any rivers that were good or excellent. The Leader confirmed that he was happy to write to the Secretary of State. He expressed disappointment that the Environment Agency were unable to attend the Committee in person.
- A Cabinet Member asked if a response had been received from Thames Water. As part of the Smarter Water Catchment Programme they had been quite proactive in this area. The Chairman of the Review Group reported that Thames Water had been very helpful through the Review process and had responded to a number of questions and illustrated areas of improvement. However, a holding response had been given to the Review but there was no timeframe when a response would be received.
- A question was asked about tributaries and how important they were e.g.
  the Bearbrook ran through Aylesbury and had its own tributaries and the
  River Thame fed into the River Thames. The Chairman of the Review Group
  reported that they were considered as part of the report but the main focus
  was on the overall catchment areas of the streams and rivers, questions
  were aligned with the relevant water companies.
- A Cabinet Member reported that he was happy that Affinity Water had been involved in river improvement projects across its region over the past few years, including the Smarter Water Catchment Plan, and had also halted

water abstraction from the Chess thereby improving natural water flow and quality. He also asked a question regarding the difference of opinion held by HS2 and whether there was any consideration regarding East-West Rail and its proximity to the River Ouse. The Chairman of the Review Group reported that Affinity Water were the only company to mention that they had halted water abstraction and Thames Water went into a lot of detail about planned works in their catchment areas. On the Environment Agency point there was a particular incident which had been investigated and they had concluded that it was not caused by HS2. East-West Rail had not been part of the considerations.

The Cabinet Member for Climate Change and the Environment thanked the Chairman of the Review Group for his report and commented that the recommendations impacted on a number of areas and that Members and local action groups had been proactive for a number of years with regards to the River Chess and other streams in the local area. There was good partnership working with the Smart Water Catchment Area and although the Council did not have responsibility for water quality as an Authority it was a good vehicle for scrutiny and public interaction with the utilities companies, particularly with storm discharge events. The Environment Agency were a critical partner and it was important to engage with them on a regular basis.

#### **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 and recommendations, as set out and circulated to Members, be AGREED.

Note: a complete breakdown of the scrutiny recommendations and Cabinet's responses can be found here.

#### 9 Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee Inquiry report on Development of Primary Care Networks

The Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee agreed to set up an Inquiry into the development of primary care networks in Buckinghamshire in September 2021.

A small group of councillors volunteered to participate in the Inquiry. Evidence gathering meetings, with a number of stakeholders, took place between January 2022 to June 2022. Following the evidence gathering meetings, the Inquiry Group then met to discuss and agree its key findings and recommendations, which were presented in the report found at Appendix 1.

As the focus of this Inquiry was on the development of primary care networks, the majority of recommendations were aimed at the Integrated Care Board, Integrated Care Partnership and Place-based Partnership. Representatives from the Integrated Care Board have been asked to respond to the recommendations relevant to them. Cabinet was asked to consider the recommendations of the Select Committee which

were aimed at the Council.

The Chairman of the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee made the following points in presenting the Committee's report:-

- In July 2019, as part of the NHS Long-Term Plan, around 7,000 general practices across England came together to form more than 1,250 Primary Care Networks. In Buckinghamshire there were 13 PCNs.
- The regulations around PCNs have been incorporated into the contract that each GP practice had with the NHS through NHS England.
- To support PCNs, the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS)
  provided funding for 20,000 additional roles to create bespoke multidisciplinary teams, including pharmacists, physiotherapists, paramedics,
  mental health practitioners and social prescribing support workers.
- NHS England also introduced a statutory requirement for every surgery to set up a Patient Participation Group to allow patients to work with their surgeries to enhance and improve the service they offer.
- Since 2019, the HASC Select Committee had, over the past few years
  received presentations on PCN development. It was fair to say that the PCNs
  were developing at very different rates and their success in recruiting to the
  additional roles and reorganising was varied.
- The Inquiry was set up to look at the different working practices of 13 PCN's and Patient Participation Groups to understand the key challenges they faced. In addition, the Inquiry Group wanted to collate examples of good practice and discuss areas of improvement with key partners.
- Evidence gathering took place between January and June of this year and the Chairman thanked all those who gave up their valuable time to talk to the Committee. In particular, the Chairman thanked the Inquiry Group for their hard work, which comprised of Cllrs Phil Gomm, Carol Heap, Howard Mordue, Alan Turner and Julia Wassell. She also thanked Liz Wheaton who supported the Group from the Scrutiny Team.
- The report contained 17 areas of recommendation based on what the Committee heard during the evidence gathering. The majority of the recommendations were aimed at health partners.
- In July, clinical commissioning groups were abolished and Integrated Care
  Systems became legal entities. The Integrated Care Board, Integrated Care
  Partnership and Place-based Partnerships have been formed and the
  Committee hoped that the findings and recommendations in the report
  would ensure that the delivery of successful Primary Care Networks was a
  priority and appropriate resources were allocated to help deliver this.
- Philippa Baker, the newly appointed Place-based Director, attended the Select Committee meeting when the inquiry report was discussed and has worked with the Head of PCN Delivery and Development in responding to the recommendations. 14 of the recommendations were for external partners and 3 related to Council services; two for the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing and one for the Cabinet Member for Communities.
- Progress in implementing the recommendations would be monitored by the

- Select Committee at 6 months and again at 12 months, although one of the recommendations was around preparing an annual report for the HASC on the performance of PCNs, including resourcing, staffing and outcomes.
- The HASC Select Committee would also be inviting all those who were responsible for overseeing the delivery of the recommendations to a Select Committee meeting in April.

The Leader thanked the Chairman for an excellent report and commented on the different stages of development of PCN's referring to table 1 in the report. He emphasised the importance of Patient Participation Groups in understanding the experience of customers to PCN services.

During discussion the following points were made:-

- In response to a question about how external partners were going to highlight this to their patients, the Chairman reported that nationally there was a lot of reorganisation being undertaken in terms of integrated care systems and place based partnerships. The local partnership was still in its infancy but with the newly appointed Place-based Director this should develop at pace. The Chairman had been concerned at the development of PCN's over previous years and also that Patient Participation Groups were a statutory requirement of every GP practice but some still had not had any Group meetings or they were meeting but not being as effective as they should be. The pandemic had been an incredible strain on GP surgeries but there had been a lot of good work to transition into new ways of working and there was a lot of funding to recruit to these new roles and GP surgeries should group together in their PCN's to take advantage of this funding. Funding was decided year on year which did not give GP surgeries enough continuity which needed to be addressed. Buckinghamshire was a very diverse county with large rural areas and densely populated urban areas and the PCN's were very different in nature. There were some examples of best practice and health partners should encourage the sharing of information across Buckinghamshire e.g. technology and expertise. The NHS should provide further support. There were also a number of professionals at GP surgeries that could help patients other than GPs and this needed to be communicated more widely. Other GP surgeries needed to recruit more non-GP service professionals.
- The Leader commented that it must be difficult for residents to understand the reorganisation changes locally and how it impacted on them. The Chairman reported that explaining acronyms was key including understanding the new complex structure. From 1 July 2022, the new BOB Integrated Care Board (ICB) gained the commissioning responsibilities of the area's three Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs which dissolved on 30 June), together with some current national functions, including pharmacy, optometry and dentistry. The BOB Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) whose statutory members were the ICB and the five upper tier local authorities would develop an overall strategy by the end of 2022 which would set out

how to improve health and care outcomes for the local population. The new system should bring economies of scale, new ways of working and centres of excellence but it could have implications for how far residents needed to travel to access services. The Chairman reported that an informal meeting had been held with partners including the five authorities to look at the emerging picture and to scrutinise new services to ensure that there were good outcomes for residents.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing responded saying that the report was excellent and forensic in nature. With the implementation of the Health and Care Act earlier this year the NHS had undergone significant change and it was important to look at how these changes had been delivered on the ground. The Inquiry had provided great scrutiny into one of the most fundamental building blocks of NHS services locally. The recommendations provided a focus for NHS commissioners in the ICS system to ensure that all residents should be able to expect the same quality services from primary care. It was important to highlight the need for an active and engaged network of Patient Participation Groups. Two of the recommendations related to adult social care and although the portfolio area would not be taking the approach proposed by the Committee for reasons of practicality and capacity, there was agreement about the importance of having effective and close working relationships with PCN's.

In relation to Recommendation 13 and a named social worker, Adult Social Care have restructured their operational teams into four geographical areas of the County aligning them more with PCN's and providing direct telephone numbers and email addresses to make sure issues were picked up in a timely manner. Service Managers would be making contact with PCN's regularly over the next few months to make sure this was working effectively.

In relation to recommendation 14 multi-disciplinary meetings were taking place when necessary to help individual patients and clients which was the most efficient use of time. There was also a process for more complex cases which could be requested by partners. The Cabinet Member reported that she was looking forward to the development of the place-based partnership and the opportunities this would bring for even more integrated working at a neighbourhood level in Buckinghamshire.

In terms of recommendation 15 which related to the Cabinet Member for Communities it was important to build relationships with Community Boards and PCN's and Public Participation Groups to tackle inequalities. Opportunity Bucks would provide support to 10 wards in Buckinghamshire targeted at the specific needs of the community.

#### **RESOLVED**

1) That the Select Committee and Inquiry Group, as well as the supporting officers, be thanked for their work and subsequent recommendations.

## 2) That Cabinet's responses to the Inquiry and recommendations, as set out and circulated to Members, be AGREED.

Note: a complete breakdown of the scrutiny recommendations and Cabinet's responses can be found here.

#### 10 Council Resilience Framework and Standards (CRF&S)

At Vesting Day, the Council put in place an interim Civil Contingencies Policy to discharge its duties under the Civil Contingencies Act (CCA). Since then the Government had developed a national strategy for resilience and the new Council Resilience Framework and Standards Policy (CRF&S) at Appendix 1 would ensure that the Council complied with these new national standards together with its duties under the CCA.

The CRF&S policy had been discussed at a range of presentations to Members, including the Select Committee for Communities and Localism in April 2022.

The new Council Resilience Framework and Standards Policy was the overarching policy document and this included 3 'sub' policies covering Emergency Resilience; Place Resilience and Organisational (Council) Resilience. The CRF&S Policy incorporated the detail covered in the interim Civil Contingencies Policy, so allowing that Vesting Day policy to be replaced.

The Cabinet Member for Communities reported that the draft Policy had already been considered by the Select Committee for Communities and Localism and also presented to other Members, Service Directors, Parish Clerks and Community Boards. Feedback from the consultation process was extremely positive and that the new framework brought a range of resilience within the Council. The Policy would be reviewed annually.

In response to a question it was noted that a Member briefing would be held to communicate the new Policy. The Team had held community workshops with Chepping Wycombe, Wexham and Iver and Marlow and further workshops would be held with town and parish councils including the unparished area in Wycombe. The aim would be for local parishes to develop their own local emergency resilience plans. Another question was raised by the Leader about the multi-disciplinary approach and buy-in from partners to the new framework. In response it was noted that the service area had engaged with the Thames Valley Resilience Forum and the draft Policy was presented at their Annual Conference. The Bucks Resilience Group which mainly included local partners and responders had also been included in the process. Other authorities had contacted Buckinghamshire to follow their good practice.

RESOLVED that the new Buckinghamshire Council Corporate Resilience Framework and Standards Policy be endorsed and it be noted that this replaces the interim Civil Contingencies Policy agreed prior to Vesting Day.

#### 11 Q2 Budget Monitoring Report 2022-23

This report sets out the Revenue and Capital outturn position for Buckinghamshire Council for the financial year 2022/23 as at Quarter 2. The Council was continuing to experience significant financial pressures due to the current economic situation and the high levels of inflation. In Adults and Children's social care, pressures continued to be experienced due to increased demand and complexity and in Children's Services the market had become dysfunctional with a lack of suitable placements driving up unit costs.

The Revenue outturn position as of Quarter 2 was a forecast adverse variance of £1.8m, which was a reduction of £2m from the adverse variance of £3.8m reported at Quarter 1. This reflected the Council's prudent financial management, successive delivery of targeted savings and strong processes in place to manage risk. There was an adverse variance on portfolio spend of £15.7m (£10.4m forecast at Quarter 1) offset by £13.9 m (£6.6m forecast at Quarter 1) of corporate mitigations which included the use of contingencies and corporate funding, such as interest and a one-off legal settlement of £4.4m.

Appendix 1 provided detailed information on the revenue forecast outturn by Portfolio. £19.2m of savings were incorporated into the approved 2022-23 Revenue budgets. The £15.7m adverse variance in portfolios included £4.7m in Health and Wellbeing from demand pressures, £9.5m in Children's Services, including £3.2m in placement budgets due to the national lack of available placements and increased demand and complexity of need and staffing costs, £2.1m in Accessible Housing and Resources of which £1.1m was attributable to inflation on energy costs in Property and Assets and £1m of new pressures in Legal and Democratic Services and Insurance, £2m adverse variance in transport services due to increased contract costs and a favourable variance of £3.3m in Climate Change and Environment from additional income from the sale of electricity from the EfW site. Cabinet was being asked to transfer £15m of income arising from this to an earmarked reserve.

Work was ongoing to understand the impact of inflation and how this would affect the capital programme. The current exceptional rates of inflation might have a significant impact on what can be delivered within the approved budget for the year. There was a forecast slippage of £13m which was 8% of the total budget which was within 10% target. The biggest spend was in Education and Children's Services much of which related to savings against budget and a delay in delivery. Table 3 in the report showed that the Council was on track to deliver 98% of its targeted savings in the current financial year.

The Leader reported that the Council had robust financial management and referred to two other Councils who were facing financial difficulties due to increased demand pressures. The underlying pressure on this Council was currently at £16m which was a serious concern going forwards but was currently being managed through corporate mitigations. Savings on the capital programme was due to savings achieved on the Kingsbrook School.

#### **RESOLVED -**

- 1) That the report and the risks and opportunities contained within it be NOTED.
- 2) That the following reserve movements be APPROVED:
  - A contribution to a corporate earmarked reserve of £15m of income arising from Energy for Waste electricity sales.
  - A contribution to a corporate earmarked reserve of £4.4m from income arising from a legal dispute regarding third party waste and metals income, and a corresponding contribution from reserves of £4.4m into corporate budgets.
  - A drawdown of £0.15m from the "Mitigating Future Financial Risks" reserve to create an employee hardship fund as approved by the Senior Appointments & Pay Committee (SAPC).

#### 12 Q2 Performance Report 2022-23

Cabinet received a performance report which detailed the key performance measures reported through the Corporate Performance Framework for 2022/23. Cabinet also received the performance scorecard, which provided information on four key elements of performance for the Council covering Finance, Customer Service, Performance and Human Resources indicators.

Within the performance report and performance scorecard, outturns which were performing at or better than target were classified as Green, those which were within 5% of the target were Amber and those which were more than 5% of the target were Red. At the end of Quarter 2, 92 indicators had outturns reported with a Red, Amber or Green status. Of these, 62 are Green (67%), 12 are Amber (13%) and 18 are Red (20%).

Cabinet Members then provided comprehensive explanations for the performance marked as red (shown below) where performance was more than 5% off the target for each of their portfolio's, these were as follows:-

#### Leader

Buckinghamshire unemployment rate as a percentage of National unemployment rate – the Leader reported that this was higher than it should be. However, many businesses in Buckinghamshire were desperate for staff such as Pinewood and Silverstone and a whole variety of other businesses. The Council was working with businesses to address this issue. A number of Deputy Cabinet Members were working on skills with employment workshops and also through the Opportunity Bucks programme where they were collaborating with key partners to ensure direct engagement with community groups in the worst affected wards.

#### Accessible Housing and Resources

Percentage of phone calls answered in the Customer Service Centres and Average Call Wait Time

The Service Area were outside target but an improvement had been made on Quarter 1. They had been impacted by the waste service reorganisation and also the £150 energy and council tax rebates. Mitigating actions were detailed in the report which included the recruitment and training of new starters and the development of a flexible workforce that could be brought in to deal with surges in demand. Last week the average wait time was below three minutes which was within target.

Average time for processing new Housing Benefit claims (days)/ Average time for processing Housing Benefit change claims (days)

This had been impacted by the new Revenues and Benefits System. The system was closed for a number of weeks so no changes could be made and they were now addressing the backlog. The service area should be back on target by the year end.

Number of sickness absence days per FTE annually (rolling 12-month period)

This was marginally over target but there was an improvement on Quarter 1. If excluding the impact of Covid the Council was within target. The Council did provide targeted support to employees on health and wellbeing across the Council.

Climate Change and Environment

% of Missed Bin Collections

The Council was now back to the levels prior to the round reorganisation. There was an occasional day with a 100 missed bins and the service area had nearly completed a week below 100. There should be an improvement for the next quarter and the service continued to look for ways to improve the service. There had been an issue with the contractor but officers and members had been working hard to drive improvement. The Leader complimented the Cabinet Member on the good work on climate change and the environment which were covered by other performance indicators.

#### **Education and Childrens Services**

% of re-referrals within 12 months

% new Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) issued within 20 weeks (excluding exceptions)

% of initial Family Support Plans completed within 31 working days

% children who became the subject of a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time within 2 years

% of Children in Need seen within 4 weeks

The Cabinet Member referred to an increase in demand including complexity of cases. The Cabinet Member reported that there was only one area that was concerning which was the number of re-referrals within 12 months and the most common reason for this was domestic violence. They were working in partnership to reduce the number of re-referrals through the Multi agency safeguarding hub.

#### Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

% of births that receive a face-to face New Birth Visit within 14 days by a health visitor in the quarter

There has been a slight dip which was due to team capacity across Aylesbury and Wycombe. 25 people have received no visit and staff had checked to see if they were vulnerable. Some of the reasons why the visit had not occurred was due to people refusing visits, babies in ICU, parents being on holiday or moving out of

county.

% of service users due an annual review that receive their review

The service area was working hard to bring this on target. However there were over 1700 people to review and also staffing challenges.

Number of older people (65+) admitted to permanent residential or nursing care homes per 100,000 population

There were huge pressures around nursing care and the numbers admitted had increased particularly with the impact of covid.

% of carers who report that they have been included or consulted in discussions about the person that they care for.

The Service area were undertaking transformation work; they recognised that the carers offer needed to improve. The Cabinet Member was confident that they would meet targets by year end. It was important to involve carers and hear their voice.

The Cabinet Member reported that she had set challenging targets for her service area which exceeded CIPFA partners by some considerable way. There were also issues nationally.

Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration

% of Building Control applications checked within 21 days

There was a change of legislation in July which slowed down the system since then the service area had increased resources and they continued to monitor the situation. The target had been set at a high level and the Cabinet Member expected to see an improvement the next quarter.

**Cabinet Member for Transport** 

Highways capital programme % spend against forecast

This was due to a number of issues such as inflationary pressures regarding work programmes, working on designs and also the weather (both hot and wet weather) which slowed down delivery. The Cabinet Member expected to be on target year end.

#### **RESOLVED -**

- 1) That the Council's performance for the Quarter 2 period 2022-23 be NOTED.
- 2) That the actions being taken to improve performance, where required, be NOTED.

#### 13 Date of next meeting

6 December 2022 at 10am



## Buckinghamshire Council Cabinet/Leader forward plan

The local authorities (executive arrangements) (meetings and access to information) (England) regulations 2012

This is a notice of an intention to make a key decision on behalf of Buckinghamshire Council (regulation 9) and an intention to meet in private to consider those items marked as 'private reports' (regulation 5).

A further notice (the 'agenda') will be published no less than five working days before the date of the decision meeting and will be available via the Buckinghamshire Council website (<u>Cabinet agendas</u> / <u>Leader decisions</u>).

All reports will be open unless specified otherwise.

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Cabinet 6 December 2022				
SEALR (South East Aylesbury Link Road) Update Project update for the South East Aylesbury Link Road.	Aylesbury South East; Wendover, Halton & Stoke Mandeville	Councillor Martin Tett Richard Lumley	Part exempt (para 3)	25/5/22
Cabinet 5 January 2023				

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Adoption of Local Heritage List Adoption of a Buckinghamshire-wide Local Heritage List (Phase 1)		Councillor Peter Strachan  Ian Thompson		26/10/22
Buckinghamshire Education Strategy 2022 - 2027 The Buckinghamshire Education Strategy is a refresh of the Education and Skills Strategy that was approved in 2018. Following initial collaboration and engagement and a public consultation process, the Education Strategy has been shaped and developed with a focus on 5 key priority areas in order to further improve educational provision for children and young people in Buckinghamshire.		Councillor Anita Cranmer Simon James		8/6/22
Council Tax Base 2023-24 To set Buckinghamshire Council's Council Tax Base for the following financial year		Councillor Martin Tett  Dave Skinner		7/11/22
Council Tax Second Home Premium Council Tax Second Home Premium		Councillor John Chilver  Mark Preston		23/11/22
Draft Revenue budget and Capital Programme To agree the draft budget		Councillor Martin Tett  Dave Skinner		7/11/22
High Wycombe Asset Disposal Strategy  To review a report proposing site disposal in High Wycombe.	Chiltern Villages	Councillor John Chilver John Reed	Part exempt (para 3)	26/10/22

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Highways Frameworks 1 & 2 Award  To agree the award for the frameworks of the Highways Services.		Councillor Steve Broadbent Kevin Goad	Part exempt (para 3)	8/9/22
Key Worker Definition Policy A report proposing a definition of 'key worker' groups to be considered for allocations to affordable housing built on Council sites in Buckinghamshire		Councillor Mark Winn  Michael Veryard		7/11/22
Cabinet 14 February 2022				
Budget Scrutiny 2023 Report  To consider the budget scrutiny report from the Budget Scrutiny Inquiry Group.		Councillor Ralph Bagge Chris Ward		23/11/22
Customer Access Points (CAP) Review Customer Access Points (CAP) Review		Councillor John Chilver Lloyd Jeffries		23/11/22
Kingsbury & Market Square, Aylesbury The regeneration of two historic town centre spaces. The aim is to make these spaces more accessible and attractive, giving priority to pedestrian use.	Aylesbury North	Councillor John Chilver, Councillor Peter Strachan Lisa Michelson	Part exempt (para 3)	22/4/22
Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Programme For Cabinet to recommend the final budget to Council		Councillor Martin Tett  Dave Skinner		7/11/22

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Q3 Budget Monitoring Report 2022-23 Quarterly report		Councillor John Chilver  Dave Skinner		7/11/22
Q3 Performance Report 2022-23 Quarterly report		Councillor John Chilver  Matthew Everitt		7/11/22
Safer Buckinghamshire Plan 2023-26 To ratify the Safer Buckinghamshire Plan for 2023-26.  Buckinghamshire Council is a statutory member of the Safer Buckinghamshire Board which is the statutory Community Safety Partnership for Buckinghamshire.  A key responsibility of the Safer Buckinghamshire Board is to maintain the Community Safety Plan for Buckinghamshire, based upon the strategic assessment of crime and community safety in the county, public engagement and other insight into crime and the causes of crime in Buckinghamshire.		Councillor Steve Bowles  Dr Jane O'Grady		7/10/22
Woodlands In Principle CPO Seeking authority to proceed with an In-Principle CPO (compulsory purchase order) process	Aston Clinton & Bierton	Councillor John Chilver John Reed	Part exempt (para 3)	17/1/22
Woodlands strategy for negotiated acquisition Recommendations to Cabinet regarding the freehold interest in the Woodlands development site.	Aston Clinton & Bierton	Councillor John Chilver John Reed	Part exempt (para 3)	17/1/22

Wards affected	contact officer	(relevant para)	notified
i	Councillor Angela Macpherson Gill Quinton		8/6/22
Flackwell Heath, Little Marlow & Marlow South East	Councillor Steve Broadbent John Pateman		26/10/22
Denham; Gerrards Cross	Councillor Steve Broadbent John Pateman		12/7/21
Marlow	Councillor Steve Broadbent John Pateman		26/10/22
Wendover, Halton & Stoke Mandeville	Councillor Steve Broadbent John Pateman		26/10/22
	Little Marlow & Marlow South East  Denham; Gerrards Cross  Marlow  Wendover, Halton & Stoke	Macpherson  Gill Quinton  Flackwell Heath, Little Marlow & Marlow South East  Denham; Gerrards Cross  Councillor Steve Broadbent  John Pateman  Marlow  Councillor Steve Broadbent  John Pateman  Marlow  Councillor Steve Broadbent  John Pateman  Councillor Steve Broadbent  John Pateman  Councillor Steve Broadbent  John Pateman  Councillor Steve Broadbent  Mandeville	Macpherson  Gill Quinton  Flackwell Heath, Little Marlow & Marlow South East  Denham; Gerrards Cross  Councillor Steve Broadbent  John Pateman  Marlow  Councillor Steve Broadbent  John Pateman  Marlow  Councillor Steve Broadbent  John Pateman  Wendover, Halton & Stoke Mandeville  Mardover

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<b>22 Queens Square, High Wycombe</b> To approve the purchase of the freehold of 22 Queen Square, High Wycombe, as part of the Future High Streets programme.	Abbey	Councillor John Chilver Charles Brocklehurst	Part exempt (para 3)	7/10/22
Adult Social Care Travel Assistance Policy To agree the travel assistance policy for Adult Social Care		Councillor Angela Macpherson Tracey Ironmonger		22/9/22
Assets of Community Value  To agree the changes to procedure for managing Buckinghamshire Council's Assets of Community Value and Community Right to Bid Process		Councillor Steve Bowles Nick Graham		8/9/22
Aston Clinton - Traffic Calming Vertical traffic calming and speed limit reduction	Aston Clinton & Bierton	Councillor Steve Broadbent Simon Glover		19/3/20
Aylesbury Grid Reinforcements - New Primary Decision relating to progressing the Aylesbury Grid Reinforcement scheme design in South West Aylesbury.	Aylesbury South East; Wendover, Halton & Stoke Mandeville	Councillor Martin Tett  David Johnson	Part exempt (para 3)	3/5/22

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Bierton Traffic Calming Public consultation is to be carried out on a traffic calming scheme along the A418 through Bierton. The proposals include; narrowings, chicanes, build-outs, and pedestrian, cycle, and bus stop improvements. Public consultation and the delivery of a traffic calming scheme was secured as a s106 obligation of the nearby Kingsbrook development.	Aston Clinton & Bierton	Councillor Steve Broadbent Christine Urry		25/5/22
Buckingham School - Emergency Access To install various measures outside The Buckingham School including:  - Emergency Access - Bus Stand clearway restriction - No waiting at any time restrictions	Buckingham West	Councillor Steve Broadbent Daniel Pearson		7/11/22
Buckinghamshire Combatting Drugs Strategy To agree the Buckinghamshire Multi-Agency Combatting Drugs Strategy.  This will support delivery of the government's 10 year strategy to reduce drug use, drug-related crime, deaths and other harms.		Councillor Angela Macpherson Dr Jane O'Grady		8/9/22
Budget Adjustments to the Approved Capital Programme To approve changes to the Approved Capital Programme		Councillor John Chilver Sue Palmer		14/9/20

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Business Case for the recommissioning of The Vines (respite service for Children and Young People)  To agree the Business Case for the recommissioning of The Vines - a six bedded unit providing residential short breaks to disabled young people aged 11 – 19 years old with behaviours that challenge which is due for renewal on 1st April 2022. This is for a 2 year contract with one year extension.		Councillor Anita Cranmer Tracey Ironmonger	Part exempt (para 3)	18/8/21
Calvert Parking Restrictions Recommendations:  a. To approve the making of the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for the scheme outlined in this report.  b. That responders to the Statutory Consultation be informed of the Cabinet Member for Logistics Decision.  c. The TRO be made as advertised as made at set out in the statutory consultation:  Introduce two bus stop clearways on Brackley Lane, Calvert and double yellow lines ("No Waiting at any Time") at the junction of Brackley Lane and Werner Terrace, opposite the bus stop clearways, and across vehicular accesses.	Grendon Underwood	Councillor Steve Broadbent Tara Rutland		26/10/22
CYP Integrated Therapies  Recommission of the Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Integrated Therapies service		Councillor Anita Cranmer  Marie-Claire Mickiewicz	Part exempt (para 3)	30/6/22

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<b>Denham Local Priority</b> Key Decision Report for the S106 Denham Local Priority Scheme.	Denham	Councillor Steve Broadbent Daniel Pearson		28/9/22
Future Commissioning of Supported Living Contracts  Decision on the future commissioning intentions for  Supported Living Block contracts and decision to go out to advert for multiple Supported Living services following the upcoming expiry of existing contracts.		Councillor Angela Macpherson Tracey Ironmonger	Part exempt (para 3)	18/10/22
Haddenham Parking Restrictions Scheme proposing to introduce parking restrictions on Tibbs Road, Haddenham.	Bernwood	Councillor Steve Broadbent Daniel Pearson		24/3/22
Harmonisation of Pest Control Fees The harmonisation of policy and fees regarding which residents are able to access subsidised pest control treatment.		Councillor Mark Winn  Jacqui Bromilow		30/8/22
Horns Lane, High Wycombe Delivery options for development of 50 residential houses	Booker, Cressex & Castlefield	Councillor John Chilver John Reed	Part exempt (para 3)	30/6/22

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Hyde Heath Puffin Crossing Recommendations:	Chiltern Ridges	Councillor Steve Broadbent		26/10/22
1. The Leader approves the making of the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for the scheme outlined in this report.		Tara Rutland		
2. That responders to the Statutory Consultation be informed of the Decision.				
3. The TRO be made as set out in the statutory consultation:				
- To revoke the existing Traffic Regulation Order for the School Keep Clear Markings as they will be replaced with the new crossing markings.				
- Introduce double yellow lines at the entrance of St Andrew Church to prevent unsafe parking.				
Legacy Capital Maintenance Programme  Maintenance of non-standard and long-standing legacy assets		Councillor Steve Broadbent	Part exempt (para 3)	7/11/22
		Kevin Goad, Lisa Michelson		
Prestwood Recreation Ground The granting of a lease of Prestwood Recreation Ground to the Parish.	Great Missenden	Councillor John Chilver John Reed	Part exempt (para 3)	7/11/22

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Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Russet Street/Worcester Street, Berryfields, Aylesbury – Prohibition of Motor Vehicles Traffic Regulation Order Proposal to introduce a 'Prohibition of Motor Vehicles' Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) on Russet Street/Worcester Street, Berryfields, Aylesbury.	Stone & Waddesdon	Councillor Steve Broadbent David Cairney		16/6/22
Station Road, Quainton - Proposed Traffic Calming Build Out Barwood Homes propose to fully fund and construct a Traffic Calming Build Out on Station Road, Quainton. This is to facilitate the widening of the existing footway to 1.5m beside No.17 Station Road. Works would be carried out via a Section 278 Legal Agreement.	Great Brickhill	Councillor Steve Broadbent Darryl Bonsor		22/10/21

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Stoke Mandeville Parallel Crossing Recommendations:	Wendover, Halton & Stoke Mandeville	Councillor Steve Broadbent		26/10/22
To proceed to the implementation of the Stoke Mandeville Parallel Crossing scheme as set out in the statutory consultation.		Tara Rutland		
The local people are concerned with traffic not slowing down as they approach the existing zebra crossing outside Stoke Mandeville school. As part of these works, we will be upgrading the existing zebra crossing to a parallel crossing to include cyclists. As part of these works, we will also be including relevant improvements so that the crossing is more conspicuous, this will be achieved with LED beacons and coloured anti-skid road surfacing.				
Tree Planting Programme, Part of Burcott Hall and part of Soulbury Road Farm, Wing Tree Planting Programme on Council owned land	Wing	Councillor Gareth Williams  David Johnson	Part exempt (para 3)	22/9/22
Ukraine Resettlement – Housing Options  To set out proposals for use of funding to mitigate the emerging pressure on demand for accommodation.		Councillor Martin Tett  Matthew Everitt		10/11/22

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Westbury Puffin Crossing Recommendations:	Buckingham West	Councillor Steve Broadbent		26/10/22
To proceed to implementation of the A422 Brackley Road, Westbury Puffin Crossing scheme as set out in the statutory consultation.		Tara Rutland		
There is currently an uncontrolled crossing point on the A422 Brackley Road near the junction of Main Street, Westbury; a puffin crossing linking both sides of the village would provide pedestrians a safe route to these amenities.				
January 2023 Leader Decisions				
Chilterns Beechwoods Mitigation Strategy Report to consider the recreational disturbance mitigation strategy for Ashridge Commons and Woods.	Amersham & Chesham Bois; Aylesbury South East; Chesham; Chess Valley; Chiltern Ridges; Great Missenden; Ivinghoe; Little Chalfont & Amersham Common; Penn Wood & Old Amersham	Councillor Peter Strachan Simon Meecham		18/10/22

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Hicks Farm Rise, High Wycombe - Proposed Traffic Calming Public consultation is to be carried out on a vertical traffic calming scheme along Hicks Farm Rise between Baring Road and Gayhurst Road. The proposals include; advance warning signs and speed cushions.	Totteridge & Bowerdean	Councillor Steve Broadbent Bestman Agu		26/10/22
Public Spaces Protection Order extensions Four Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO's) are due to expire in March/April 2023 and will be extended for a further three years. Public and members consultation will begin shortly.	Abbey; Amersham & Chesham Bois; Booker, Cressex & Castlefield; Chalfont St Giles; Chalfont St Peter; Chesham; Chess Valley; Chiltern Ridges; Chiltern Villages; Cliveden; Great Missenden; Little Chalfont & Amersham Common; Penn Wood & Old Amersham; Ridgeway East; Ridgeway West; Terriers & Amersham Hill	Councillor Steve Bowles Stuart McNair		7/11/22

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Shenley Park Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Buckinghamshire Council has been developing a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to guide development of the Shenley Park allocation from the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (Policy D-WHA001). This report seeks agreement of the draft SPD for public consultation.	Winslow	Councillor Peter Strachan Charlotte Morris		23/11/22
Stablebridge Road, Aston Clinton - 30mph Speed Limit T.R.O Decision regarding the introduction of a 30mph speed limit restriction on a section of Stablebridge Road.  A decision will only be required if there are objection/s during its statutory consultation period.	Aston Clinton & Bierton	Councillor Steve Broadbent Bestman Agu		26/10/22
February 2023 Leader Decisions				
All-age Autism Strategy To agree the All-age Autism strategy for Buckinghamshire		Councillor Angela Macpherson Simon Brauner-Cave		11/5/22
Award of Consultancy Services via ESPO (Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation) Framework Lot 2d General Finance To award the Financial consultancy contract to provide support across Neighbourhood Services		Councillor Gareth Williams Gurbaksh Badhan	Part exempt (para 3)	23/11/22

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Award of Consultancy Services via ESPO (Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation) Framework Lot 8b Environmental and Sustainability To award the Engineering consultancy contract to provide support across Neighbourhood Services		Councillor Gareth Williams  Gurbaksh Badhan	Part exempt (para 3)	23/11/22
Award of Consultancy Services via ESPO (Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation) Framework Lot 8h Waste and Recycling To award the Technical consultancy contract to provide support across Neighbourhood Services		Councillor Gareth Williams Gurbaksh Badhan	Part exempt (para 3)	23/11/22
CYP Integrated Therapies Strategy Sign off of CYP Integrated Therapies Strategy		Councillor Anita Cranmer  Marie-Claire Mickiewicz	Part exempt (para 3)	30/6/22
Domiciliary Care Procurement Vehicle Decision to go out to tender to procure domiciliary care services for adults in Buckinghamshire.		Councillor Angela Macpherson Erica Taylor	Part exempt (para 3)	2/3/22

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Market Sustainability Plan  To agree the Market Sustainability Plan.  As part of its adult social care reform programme, the government requires local authorities to submit a Market	All Wards	Councillor Angela Macpherson Tracey Ironmonger		26/10/22
Sustainability Plan in February 2023. The Market Sustainability Plan requires councils to identify the key risks to the adult social care market and plans to address those risks, including how the council will move towards a fair cost of care over the next 3 years.				
The Courtyard, High Wycombe Disposal options for surplus land in High Wycombe.	Abbey	Councillor John Chilver John Reed	Part exempt (para 3)	10/11/22

Individual Leader decisions (in consultation with the Cabinet Member) are not discussed at meetings – a report is presented to the Cabinet Member and the Leader will decide whether to sign the decision.

If you have any questions about the matters contained in this forward plan, please get in touch with the contact officer. If you have any views that you would like the cabinet member to consider please inform the democratic services team in good time ahead of the decision deadline date. This can be done by telephone 01296 382343 or email <a href="mailto:democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk">democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk</a>. You can view decisions to be made and decisions taken on the council's website.

The council's definition of a 'key decision' can be seen in part 1 of the council's constitution.

Each item considered will have a report; appendices will be included (as appropriate). Regulation 9(1g) allows that other documents relevant to the item may be submitted to the decision maker. Subject to prohibition or restriction on their disclosure, this information will be published on the website usually five working days before the date of the meeting. Paper copies may be requested using the contact details below.

\*The public can be excluded for an item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt (private) information as defined in part I of schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972. The relevant paragraph numbers and descriptions are as follows:

Paragraph 1 - Information relating to any individual

Paragraph 2 - Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual

Paragraph 3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

Paragraph 4 - Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority

Paragraph 5 - Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings

Paragraph 6 - Information which reveals that the authority proposes:

(a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or

(b) to make an order or direction under any enactment

Paragraph 7 - Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

Part II of schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 requires that information falling into paragraphs 1 - 7 above is exempt information if and so long, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. Nothing in the regulations authorises or requires a local authority to disclose to the public or make available for public inspection any document or part of a document if, in the opinion of the proper officer, that document or part of a document contains or may contain confidential information. Should you wish to make any representations in relation to any of the items being considered in private, you can do so – in writing – using the contact details below.

Democratic services, Buckinghamshire Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP19 8FF 01296 382343 <a href="mailto:democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk">democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk</a>

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# **Select Committee Work Programmes 2022/23**

### Children's and Education Select Committee (Chairman: Cllr Julie Ward, Scrutiny Officer: Katie Dover)

Date	Topic	Description & Purpose	Lead Officer	Contributors
26 January 2023	Education Standards Report	For the Select Committee to receive the assessment outcomes for the years 2021/22 for children and young people in Buckinghamshire	Simon James	Simon James Anita Cranmer John Macilwraith
	Education Strategy 2022-27	To receive an update on the agreed Strategy	Simon James	Simon james Anita Cranmer John Macilwraith
	Update on Children's Mental Health (CAMHS to present)	To receive an update on service provision following the increased demand post-Covid	Richard Nash/John Macilwraith	CAMHS representatives – Donna Clarke? Grant Macdonald/Nick Broughton Anita Cranmer John Macilwraith
	Update on progress of recommendations on Social Worker recruitment &retention report	For the Select Committee to receive an update on departmental progress against the recommendations in the rapid review group's report	Richard Nash	Richard Nash Anita Cranmer
	Update on Progress of SEND Written Statement of Action	The first update following the report to 30 <sup>th</sup> June 22 Select Committee on the SEND inspection	Richard Nash	Richard Nash John Macilwraith
23 March 2023	Fostering and Adoption Service	To receive an overview of the service and hear progress through 2021/22	Palvinder Kudhail	Anita Cranmer Richard Nash John Macilwraith

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MacAlistair report – independent review of children's social care	Information report update	Palvinder Kudhail	Palvinder Kudhail
Out of County Placements	To update the committee on the current challenges	Richard Nash/John	John Macilwraith
	with regards to out of county placements	Macilwraith	

# Communities and Localism Select Committee (Chairman: Mimi Harker, Scrutiny officer: Kelly Sutherland)

Date	Topic	Description and Purpose	Lead Officer	Contributors
November date	HS2	A discussion with HS2 focussing on their engagement with communities impacted by construction and the opportunities available through their	Laura Leech	Peter Martin
postponed – New date TBC		community investment funding.		
TBC	Community Board Review – 6-month progress report	The Select Committee will review the progress of work on implementation of recommendations made in the Community Board review report which was presented to Cabinet on 10 <sup>th</sup> May 2022.	Roger Goodes/ Wendy Morgan- Brown	Steve Bowles
8 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	Violence against Women and Girls	The Select Committee will review how the Council and Partner organisations are working together to prevent violence against women and girls.	Gideon Springer	Zahir M for Public Health
	Devolution (TBC)	The Select Committee will receive an update on devolution of services and assets and assess how effectively the Council has delivered devolution at pace.	Matt Everitt/ Tim Weetman	Steve Bowles
	Film Office	Members will learn about the work of the newly established Buckinghamshire Film Office.	Ruth Bryant	Clive Harriss, Sophie P, Ruth Bryant
19 April 2023	Community Resilience Update (TBC)	Members will receive an update from the Resilience Service on their work with town and parish councils to strengthen community resilience.	Vince Grey	Steve Bowles, Vince Grey, Lloyd Jeffries
	Town and Parish Charter	Members will receive an update on the implementation of the Town and Parish Charter Action Plan.	Simon Garwood	Steve Bowles, Roger Goodes, Simon Garwood

# Finance and Resources Select Committee (Chairman: Ralph Bagge, Scrutiny officer: Chris Ward)

Date	Topic	Description & Purpose	Lead Officer	Contributors
9 – 13 January 2023		Budget Scrutiny	All Corporate and Service	Cabinet Members, Deputies,
			Directors	Corporate and Service Directors
23 February 2023	Budget Inquiry 2022 Recommendations: 12- month review	To receive an update on the process of the budget scrutiny recommendations made in January 2022	David Skinner	Martin Tett
	Budget Performance Monitoring Q3	To review the Quarter 3 Budget Monitoring Report	David Skinner	John Chilver
	Q3 Performance Report 2022-23	To review the Quarter 3 Performance Report	Matthew Everitt Holly Pedrick	John Chilver
	Work Smart Programme	To receive an update on the programme and the Estates Strategy	Sarah Murphy- Brookman John Reed	John Chilver
6 April 2023	External Property Companies	Report on the performance and business plans of the Council's companies: AVE, Consilio, London Road Management Company, and Buckinghamshire Advantage	John Reed	John Chilver
	External Company Governance Annual Update	To receive a report following one year of the new governance arrangements with the external property companies	John Reed	John Chilver

# **Growth, Infrastructure and Housing Select Committee** (Chairman: David Carroll, Scrutiny officer: Tom Fowler)

Date	Topic	Description & Purpose	Lead Officer	Contributors
15 December 2022	Call-in Item	Call-in of the Little Marlow Lakes Country Park Decision	Steve Bambrick	Peter Strachan
	Member Engagement in Planning – 6-month progress update	The Select Committee will review the progress of work on implementation of the 6 recommendations made in the Member Engagement in Planning review which was presented to Cabinet on 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2022.	Steve Bambrick/Chrissy Urry	Peter Strachan, Steve Bambrick
	Aylesbury Garden Town Update	The Select Committee will receive an update on progress with Aylesbury Garden Town. An opportunity for members to be updated on progress with the Aylesbury Regeneration Framework.	Lisa Michelson	
16 February 2023	Local Plan, LTP and Infrastructure Plan – How do these crucial plans link together? **	An opportunity for members to understand and discuss the synergies between the emerging Local Plan, Local Transport Plan and Infrastructure Plan.	Steve Bambrick, Darran Eggleton, Richard Lumley,	Peter Strachan, Steve Broadbent, Martin Tett?
	Planning Enforcement Plan review and update	The Select Committee will review the effectiveness of the Planning Enforcement Plan in light of an up to date performance report.	Darran Eggleton	Gary Hall, Darran
6 April 2023	Member Engagement in Planning – 12-month progress update	The Select Committee will review the progress of work on implementation of the 6 recommendations made in the Member Engagement in Planning review which was presented to Cabinet on 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2022.	Steve Bambrick/Chrissy Urry	Peter Strachan

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# Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee (Chairman: Jane MacBean, Scrutiny officer: Liz Wheaton)

Date	Topic	Description & Purpose	Lead Presenters	Contributors
9 February 2023	South Central Ambulance Service	A recent CQC inspection report rated the overall service as "inadequate" (published in August 2022). An improvement plan has been developed and the Committee will review this plan and evaluate the service improvements.	TBC	
	Maternity Services	Following the publication of the Ockenden report, the Committee received assurances from Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust in relation to the findings. This item provides an opportunity for Members to receive an update on this service.	TBC	
20 April 2023	PCN Inquiry – 6 month recommendation monitoring	For the Committee to receive a progress report on the implementation of the recommendations made in the HASC's Inquiry into Primary Care Development in Buckinghamshire.	TBC	

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Dementia Services	This issue has already been identified as part of Adult Social Care's refreshed Better Lives Strategy. The Committee will hear about the progress made in developing services to meet the needs of people with dementia and their carers and review how this delivers against the national agenda.	TBC	
Adult Social Care – Quality Assurance Framework	The Committee will hear from adult social care colleagues about the quality assurance framework which underpins service delivery.	ТВС	

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

Date	Topic	Description & Purpose	Lead Officer	Contributors
2 February 2023	East West Rail	To receive an update on the project	Dr Laura Leech Richard Lumley Susan Browning	Steve Broadbent Peter Martin EWR Reps
	Public Transport	To receive a report including progress on Demand Responsive Pilots	Richard Barker Lindsey Vallis James Loader	Steve Broadbent
	Waste Options Appraisal & Strategy *	To provide Members with information regarding: the work being undertaken to assess the future operational arrangements relating to waste collection & street scene services; and the planned approach regarding the Council's future Waste Strategy.	Richard Barker Martin Dickman Claire Oakins	Gareth Williams
30 March 2023	HS2	To receive an update on the project	Dr Laura Leech Richard Lumley	Steve Broadbent Peter Martin HS2 Reps
	New Highways Model	To hear details regarding the mobilisation of the new Highways model	Richard Barker Kevin Goad David Farquhar	Steve Broadbent
	Air Quality Monitoring in Buckinghamshire	To provide an overview of air quality monitoring across the county	Ben Coakley	Gareth Williams

<sup>\*</sup> This item is subject to waste performance improvement



### Report to Cabinet

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> December Cabinet

Title: Aylesbury Link Roads, Housing Infrastructure Fund

negotiation, and South East Aylesbury Link Road (SEALR) Phase 1 and 2 - Project Update, Delivery and

Funding

**Relevant councillor(s):** Leader of the Council

Author and/or contact officer: Richard Lumley, Service Director, Strategic Transport &

Infrastructure

Ward(s) affected:

Aylesbury South-East; Aylesbury South West; Aylesbury West; Aylesbury North West; Aylesbury North; Aylesbury East; Aston Clinton & Bierton; Wendover, Halton & Stoke

Mandeville; Stone & Waddesdon

#### **Recommendations:**

#### **Cabinet is recommended to:**

- Note and endorse the approach the Council is taking to negotiate with Homes England, HS2 and the Department for Transport to use external funding to help deliver the Aylesbury link roads. This includes negotiating extra flexibility of the £172m Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) to ensure delivery continues.
- 2. Delegate authority to the Corporate Director, Planning Growth & Sustainability in consultation with the Leader and s151 officer to:
  - a. finalise the budget for the project (and HIF programme), following further target cost considerations, and subsequently varying HIF financial contributions in conjunction with Homes England.
  - b. agree the HS2 funding contract for the Bridge Assurance in Phase 1 of works.

- c. subject to a and b above, award contracts in 2023 for the phased construction of works, subject to the target cost and all other project related forecast costs being within the budget. This would commence with work on new junctions on Wendover Road and Lower Road. These contracts include detailed design fees, utilities costs, main construction contracts and land acquisition costs.
- 3. Approve the draft budget and release of funding for the delivery of Phase 1 and Phase 2 of SEALR to a combined value of £112.8m. This is subject to the final budgets (which may increase or decrease as detailed in recommendation 2a.), agreements of request to vary HIF funding, and external funding. Details are set out in confidential Appendix B & C.

#### 1. Executive summary

- 1.1 In Aylesbury, the scale of development as set out in the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) will result in cumulative impacts that require link roads spread across a range of sites and which are not readily deliverable by a single landowner or developer. For this reason and to address cash flow issues a wide-ranging package of infrastructure to support housing delivery and funded by HIF was agreed.
- 1.2 The scale of the link roads delivery and the need to coordinate multiple developers and other external funding is proving extremely challenging. Cost inflation, energy prices and unseen issues means that cost estimates have risen substantially over the past year, and there is now not enough funding to meet all our infrastructure commitments.
- 1.3 The Council is engaged in negotiation with Homes England regarding reallocation and reprofile of HIF funding. This will also require agreement of DfT, DLUHC and The Treasury. The Council is in discussions with all parties. It should be noted that the funding sources proposed are all external and therefore this project does not require any further Buckinghamshire Council funding.
- 1.4 The next link road to be delivered is the South East Aylesbury Link Road a strategically important dual carriageway link road that will provide part of the link road network around Aylesbury. The project will provide a new route connecting the new Stoke Mandeville Relief Road, Lower Road, Wendover Road, and the new Southern Link Road in the Hampden Fields development. The road can be delivered if government departments agree with the proposals that the council is putting forward.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1 The Council is taking a lead role in enabling link roads to unlock housing delivery:
  - a) Co-ordinating and requiring the provision of relevant new roads by developers in its role as local planning authority.
  - b) Delivering new roads to mitigate HS2 and accommodate increased traffic in the future.
- 2.2 Resource costs have particularly burdensome as they provide the base costs for the project eg bitumen prices up almost 30% since February, and steel prices are now 200% higher than in early 2020 (steel section prices £1400 per tonne).
- 2.3 The Council is not alone in this, it is a nationwide issue. For example the Carlisle Southern Road Link has doubled in price from £75m in 2020 to £150m today.
- 2.4 Senior Council Officers met with Homes England in June 2022 to highlight the cost escalation, and also to propose a way forward that will ensure that the new link roads can still be delivered at no extra cost to the Council. It was agreed with Homes England that the Council cannot commit more of its own funds to these projects.
- 2.5 The Council approached Homes England to provide additional funding for the projects due to the inflationary cost pressures. Homes England have stated that they are not currently in a position to provide any further funding and have stated that any savings must be used first to support any underfunded projects.
- 2.6 Figure 1 shows progress to date in delivering the link roads, and current estimated completion dates. These are subject to a combination of planning consents, securing funding, and / or developer delivery.

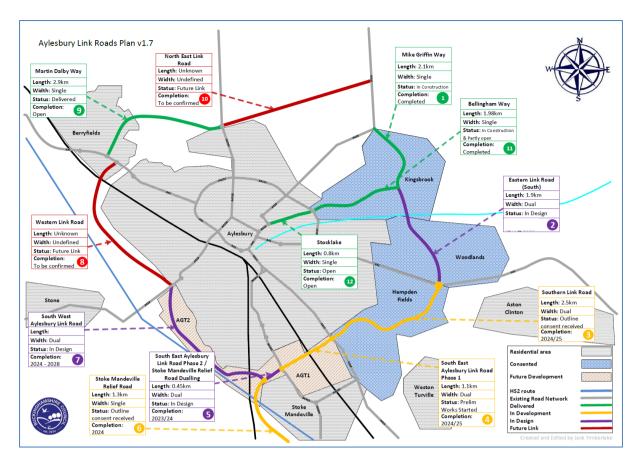


Figure 1: Link Roads map. Completion dates are current estimates, subject to change.

#### 3. South East Aylesbury Link Road

3.1 The South East Aylesbury Link Road (SEALR) project is the construction of approximately 1.7 kilometres of dual carriageway including 3 new roundabout junctions. The project is being delivered as one project but in two phases. This new road will join the A413 Wendover Road with the B4443 Lower Road (SEALR Phase 1) and the B4443 Lower Road to a new roundabout junction (Phase 2) with both the Stoke Mandeville Relief Road (SMRR) and the South West Aylesbury Link Road (SWALR). This is shown in the plan below (fig.1).

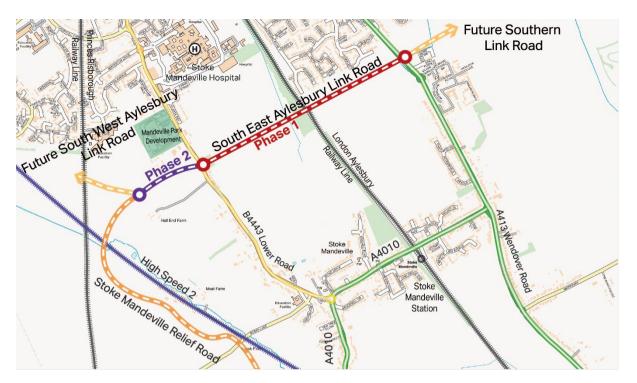


Figure 2: Approximate SEALR route

- 3.2 Both phases of the SEALR form part of the Aylesbury Orbital Link Road as identified in the Aylesbury Transport Strategy and the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan. The delivery of SEALR in its entirety will complete a significant section of the Aylesbury Orbital Link Road.
- 3.3 On 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021, Buckinghamshire Council's Cabinet agreed with HS2 Ltd. to deliver SEALR Phase 2. SEALR Phase 2 will replace a section of the single carriageway Stoke Mandeville Relief Road with a dual carriageway road and a new roundabout providing access to the future South West Aylesbury Link Road (SWALR).
- 3.4 **Design update (Phase 1):** The SEALR Phase 1 detailed design was completed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021.
- 3.5 **Design update (Phase 2):** For Phase 2, the preliminary design was recently completed and the detailed design started in October 2022 with planned completion due in February 2023.
- 3.6 **Planning update (Phase 1):** SEALR Phase 1 received planning permission in July 2021. A total of 22 planning conditions were put in place, which are being actively managed to ensure compliance. Pre-commencement conditions were signed off by the planning authority prior to early works beginning on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022.
- 3.7 **Planning update (Phase 2):** The Phase 2 main planning application submission was 18 October 2022, with a decision expected to be taken in early 2023.

- 3.8 In order to progress the UKPN ducting for Phase 2, planning permission for only this element of the diversion work was obtained on 7 July 2022 A licence was recently agreed to undertake these works with the landowner and these works have started.
- 3.9 Land update (Phase 1): The Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO), Side Roads Order (SRO), and the replacement public open space (POS/Section 19 application) inquiry took place from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at The Gateway offices. All the proceedings are available via the Buckinghamshire Council webcast page (available here).
- 3.10 Land update (Phase 2): There is no Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) in place for SEALR Phase 2. There are two landowners on the Phase 2 scheme. The project team is in active dialogue with both landowners and is seeking to acquire the land by agreement and negotiations to this end are continuing in a positive manner.
- 3.11 **Early works undertaken to date:** The following early works have been completed on Phase 1 to date:
  - a) Archaeological investigations and vegetation clearance in the fields east of Wendover Road.
  - b) Archaeological investigation and vegetation clearance along the 25m wide corridor required for the UK Power Networks to allow the undergrounding of the 33kV cables.
  - c) The central island on A413 Wendover Road has been removed to allow for the creation of the works access into the SEALR site and to minimise the impact of temporary traffic management on traffic flows.
  - d) Site accesses into the fields east and west of Wendover Road and to the field east of Lower Road have been created and site compounds established.
  - e) Ducting for the UK Power Networks underground cable has been installed underneath B4443 Lower Road & A413 Wendover Road with completion of the cables being installed, powered and the switch from overhead to underground expected to be in December 2022
  - f) An existing, derelict structure in a plot of land to the east of Lower Road has been cleared of asbestos and demolished.
  - g) Haul roads and associated hardstanding has been installed from Wendover Road and Lower Road to the site of the new railway bridge to facilitate the under-track crossing (UTX)

- h) The UTX for the 33kV cable diversions has successfully been completed with the ducting at depths of up to 12m.
- i) Ducting to the remainder of the UKPN corridor is nearing completion for Phase 1.
- j) Archaeological investigation of the remaining areas of Phase 1 is continuing.

#### 4. Legal and financial implications

- 4.1 The scale of the delivery and the need to coordinate multiple developers and other external funding is extremely challenging. Cost inflation, energy prices and unseen issues means that cost estimates have risen substantially over the past year, and there is now not enough funding to meet all our infrastructure commitments.
- 4.2 Resource costs have particularly burdensome as they provide the base costs for the project eg bitumen prices up almost 30% since February, and steel prices are now 200% higher than in early 2020 (steel section prices £1400 per tonne).
- 4.3 Financial implications: these are set out in Appendix B.

#### 5. Corporate implications

5.1 Corporate Implications are set out in the confidential appendices.

#### 6. Consultation with local councillors & community boards

6.1 The SEALR project team has met with local elected members on a number of occasions. The chair of the Aylesbury Community Board regularly attends local member briefings with the project team.

#### 7. Communication, engagement & further consultation

- 7.1 SEALR Phase 1 held 2 public consultation events in 2017 and 2018 and the public were consulted as part of the planning process for Phase 1. SEALR Phase 2 held an online public consultation throughout February 2021. A statutory consultation period will take place when the SEALR Phase 2 planning application is submitted. No further public consultation events are scheduled to take place.
- 7.2 E-bulletins for the project are produced and distributed to a mailing list. These e-bulletins inform on project progression and key events. These e-bulletins started in 2018 and, to date, 36 e-bulletins have been produced and distributed, the latest in November 2022. There are over 400 subscribers to the e-bulletins.

7.3 The project has a dedicated webpage that is updated regularly. This is available <u>here</u>.

#### 8. Next steps and review

8.1 If Cabinet agrees to delegate authority to the Leader, s151 officer and Corporate Director then they will review the target costs in early 2023 and Spring 2023 and, subject to those reviews, will confirm award of the contracts or not.

#### 9. Background papers

Appendix 1 (Confidential SEALR paper)

Appendix A (Equalities Impact Assessment)

Appendix B (Confidential financial information)

Appendix C (Confidential HIF finances)

#### 10. Your questions and views (for key decisions)

If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report please contact the author of this report. If you have any views that you would like the Cabinet Member to consider please inform the democratic services team democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.



Template reviewed Nov 2021

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) was introduced as part of the Equality Act 2010, which protects people from discrimination in the workplace, in the provision of services and in wider society.

The duty requires all public bodies to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations between different people

Public bodies demonstrate this due regard in different ways, including producing robust equality impact assessments when considering changes to policies and services.

An EqIA enables us to check the potential impacts on residents and employees of our policies, services and projects. It's an opportunity to challenge how we currently do things.

Carrying out an EqIA should not create extra work; it should be part of your normal service planning process. Most of the information required should already be available to you through other work already undertaken e.g. service user monitoring, analysis of complaints and national research.

The purpose of an EqIA is to *take account* of equality as plans develop, to promote and assist the consideration of equalities issues arising in plans and proposals and to ensure that where possible adverse or disproportionate impacts are minimised and positive impacts are maximised. As such where possible an EqIA should be started at the outset of a project/proposal and continually be developed and reviewed until a final proposal is adopted. An EqIA should be used to ensure decision makers have all the information they need regarding potential impacts to ensure they have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty when making judgements.

Carrying out EqIAs should be an integral part of policy or service development/change and larger projects may need more than one EqIA if different areas are impacted by the change.

Any project that requires consultation will automatically require an EqIA.

All approved and signed EqIAs are recorded in a central register. Please email your completed draft EqIA to equalities@buckinghamshire.gov.uk. Previous EqIAs can be made available for information upon request. For any questions or if you require support in completing your EqIA please contact Maria Damigos and Natalie Donhou Morley directly.



Template reviewed Nov 2021

Part A (Initial assessment) - Section 1 - Background

Proposal/Brief Title: South East Aylesbury Link Road (SEALR) Phase 2

OneDrive link to report/policy:

Related policies:

**Date**: 22/11/2022

Type of strategy, policy, project or service: Strategic Planning & Infrastructure

Please tick one of the following:

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New or proposed

☐ Changing, update or revision

☐ Other (please explain)

This assessment was created by:

Name: Bradley Taylor

Job Title: Assistant Project Manager

Email address: Bradley.taylor@aecom.com

#### Briefly describe the aims and objectives of the proposal below:

SEALR Phase 2 Detailed Design (the Proposed Scheme) is the dualling of approximately 450 m of the SMRR (Stoke Mandeville Relief Road) between the roundabout junction for the future Southwest Aylesbury Link Road (SWALR) and a new roundabout provided by SEALR Phase 1 at the B4443 Lower Road Roundabout. This proposed Dualling will travelling through current private/agricultural land. This project forms part of the Orbital Route Strategy of Aylesbury, which is a key infrastructure project required to support the planned growth in Aylesbury.

The Proposed Scheme (SEALR Phase 2) is needed to mitigate severance effects on Risborough Road as a result of the High Speed Two (HS2) rail line which passes to the southwest of Aylesbury and to maintain the continuity of the Orbital Route Strategy of Aylesbury.

The proposed infrastructure improvements along SMRR are currently subject to planning and funding permission.

#### What outcomes do we want to achieve?

The scheme has a number of objectives, some of which include:



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- Facilitate development in Aylesbury by enabling the SWALR to connect to SMRR and thereby to other key routes; and
- •To continue the Aylesbury orbital route and avoid a discontinuity to provision which could harm the effectiveness of the wider Aylesbury Transport Strategy and its ability to be delivered at an appropriate level of cost.
- •In addition to this, the scheme will help to secure good local connectivity for all road users for movement to, from, within and around Aylesbury and contribute to the provision of enhanced pedestrian and cycle infrastructure in the area.

Does this proposal plan to withdraw a service, activity or presence? Yes/No

Does this proposal plan to reduce a service, activity or presence? Yes/No

Does this proposal plan to introduce, review or change a policy, strategy or procedure? Yes/No

Does this proposal affect service users and/or customers, or the wider community? Yes/No

Does this proposal affect employees? Yes/No

Will employees require training to deliver this proposal? Yes/No

Has any engagement /consultation been carried out, or is planned in the future? Yes/No

#### **Section 2 - Impacts**

Please highlight potential impacts (including unintended impacts or consequences) for each protected characteristic\*/equality groups below. Where there are negative or positive impacts please give more details of the impact. Where the impacts are unclear please explain why.

Age*			
<mark>Positive</mark>	<b>Negative</b>	Unclear	None
Details:			
<u>Negative</u>			

- Research shows that children are more vulnerable to the effects of increased
  noise than the population overall and exposure at home may result in more
  adverse impacts than exposure at school. Children spend more time at home
  than at school and night-time exposure can be associated with sleep disturbance,
  with regard to both quality and quantity. In children sleep disturbance and sleep
  problems may affect behaviour.
- Research has also shown that older people may also be more vulnerable to noise exposure due to spending more time at home than the population overall.



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- Temporary diversions to footways/cycleways and PROWs could have a differential effect on those groups with mobility issues or for those who are more vulnerable to road safety issues including children and older people.
- Temporary diversions to footways/cycleways and PROWs may also have a differential effect on travel times. This will include those groups travelling to local schools and public facilities such as doctors and or hospitals.
- Emissions from construction Non-Road Mobile Machinery (NRMM) have the
  potential to increase Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) and Particulate Matter (PM10)
  concentrations locally. This will be detrimental for children who are particularly
  vulnerable to poor air quality, as well as older people and people with respiratory
  diseases who are also more likely to be affected by changes in air quality.

#### Positive

Disability\*
Positive

- New construction related jobs can provide those living in the local area with increased job opportunities. This includes young people who are more likely to face barriers to employment opportunities.
- Increased opportunity for active travel and associated benefits for physical health that can be shared by groups with protected characteristics including children, young people, and older people following completion.

Unclear

None

**Negative** 

Details	:			
Negati				
•	have a differential e	effect on those grou	roundabout connecting to ps with mobility issues on estincluding people with	r for those who
<u>Positiv</u>	<u>/e</u>			
•		rtunities. This includ	ride those living in the looles people with disabilition portunities.	
Pregna	ncy & maternity*			
Positiv <sub>e</sub>	e <u>N</u>	<mark>legative</mark>	Unclear	None
Details	:			
Evidon	co for this			

Temporary diversions to footways/cycleways and PROWs could have a differential

safety issues including parents or carers with pushchairs.

effect on those groups with mobility issues or for those who are more vulnerable to road



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- •The relocation of the bus stop will have a potentially adverse impact on people with mobility issues including pregnant women and parents or carers with pushchairs.
- Negotiation of a Dual carriageway and roundabout connecting to SWALR may have a
  differential effect on those groups with mobility issues or for those who are more
  vulnerable to road safety issues including parents or carers with pushchairs.

Race & Ethnicity*			
Positive Positive	<b>Negative</b>	Unclear	None
Details:			
Evidence for this			
characteristics tha	nt influence their ability to	tentially affect leaseholders move out of the area. These mal and informal social and c	include ethnic
•New construction	n related jobs can provide	those living in the local area	with increased
		ethnic minority groups who	are more likely
to face barriers to	employment opportunitie	es.	
Marriage & Civil F	Partnership*		
Positive	Negative	Unclear	<mark>None</mark>
Details:			
Religion & Belief*	:		
Positive	Negative	Unclear	<mark>None</mark>
Details:			
Sex*			
Positive	Negative	Unclear	<mark>None</mark>
Details:			
Sexual Orientatio	n*		
Positive	Negative	<mark>Unclear</mark>	None
Details:			
This group may be	e more vulnerable as a con	sequence of construction w	orks.
Gender Reassignr	nent*		
Positive	Negative	Unclear	None



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Details:			
<b>Gender identity</b> Positive	Negative	Unclear	<mark>None</mark>
Details:			
<b>Carers</b> Positive	Negative	Unclear	<mark>None</mark>
Details:			
<b>Rural isolation</b> Positive	Negative	Unclear	<mark>None</mark>
Details:			
Single parent families Positive	Negative	Unclear	None
Details:			
Poverty (social & econor Positive	<b>nic deprivation)</b> Negative	Unclear	None
Details:			
Military families / vetera	ins		
Positive	Negative	Unclear	<mark>None</mark>
Details:			

#### **Additional information:**

The purchasing of agricultural land may potentially affect leaseholders with various protected characteristics, influencing their ability to move out of the area. These may include those who may have formed formal and informal social and community ties/support mechanisms.



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#### Section 3 – Is a full assessment required?

If you have answered yes to any of the initial assessment questions in section 1 of this

Equa, or have indicated a negative of unclear impact in section 2, it is likely you will need
to complete part B of the EqIA form. Should you need guidance as to whether a full EqIA i
needed at this time please contact Maria Damigos or Natalie Donhou Morley before
continuing.
Following completion of part A, is part B completion required?

Ollo	wing completion of part A, is part b completion required:
	Yes
	No
	Not required at this time

Explain your answer:

We have identified a number of impacts on protected groups.

#### Have you completed an DPIA for this project/change? Yes/No

(As you are completing an EqIA, you may also require a DPIA - for more information please contact dataprotection@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

#### Part B (Full assessment) - Section 5 – Further information

Will there be an impact on any other functions, services or policies? If so, please provide more detail:

As a part of the EqIA, a policy and legislation review has been undertaken to ensure that the scheme aligns with the relevant national, regional, and local policies. The following policies have been reviewed:

National legislation and policy:

- Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
- Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)

Regional Policy

- Buckinghamshire's Local Transport Plan 4
- Buckinghamshire Equality Policy and Objectives

**Local Policy** 

• Aylesbury Local Plan

#### Stakeholders effected -

- Stoke Mandeville Hospital
- Florence Nightingale Hospice



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- Booker Park Primary School
- William Harding Combined School
- Stoke Mandeville Combined School
- Emergency Services
- Belmore Centre
- The Bungalow Stoke Leys School

# Section 6 - Information gathering – what do you need to know about your customers and making a judgement about potential impacts on them?

The South East Aylesbury Link Road (SEALR) Phase 2 consultation began on 1 February 2021 and ended on 26 February 2021. The project team hosted the consultation through the <a href="SEALR webpage">SEALR webpage</a> and a separate SEALR Phase 2 page on <a href="Your Voice Bucks">Your Voice Bucks</a>.

To summarise, the feedback form produced the following key findings:

- There were 39 respondents in total to the online feedback form.
- The most frequent mode of travel around Aylesbury used by participants is either car or motorcycle, with walking being the second most popular mode.
- Nearly one third of respondents travel along Lower Road daily.
- 64% of respondents view traffic congestion in this part of southern Aylesbury as a huge problem.
- 72% of respondents either strongly agree or agree that an Aylesbury Orbital Link Road would improve traffic congestion in this part of Aylesbury.
- 69% of respondents either strongly support or support the construction of SEALR Phase 2.
- 64% of respondents support the construction of the second cycleway behind the grass embankment.

Feedback and comment from stakeholders has been sought in preparing the planning application, with amendments being incorporated where appropriate. Now that the planning application has been submitted, the Council will continue its engagement with local stakeholders and build upon existing relationships within the community.

Do you need any further information broken do	wn by protected characteristic or equality
group to inform this EqIA?	

Yes
No



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If yes, list here to help you gather data for the action plan in Section 11

#### Section 7 – Negative effects, impacts or consequences

Is there any potential for or actual direct or indirect discrimination or a disproportionate effect on a protected group or equality group?

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		ıv	

What are the potential negative effects, impacts or consequences and how have, or may, they arise:

#### Construction:

- There is expected to be some land take of agricultural land that is required for the Proposed Scheme. This may potentially affect leaseholders with protected characteristics as suggested in Part 1, Section 2.
- Construction of the scheme will result in increased noise levels at residential properties. Noise effects resulting from construction works may potentially have a differential impact on children and older residents living near the proposed scheme.
- There is likely to be an increase in dust during the construction phase affecting air quality, particularly affecting the residential properties (between 10 and 100 units) on Ravel Lane, Beethoven Drive, Mozart End, Brahms Lane and Handel Drive, north of the proposed scheme. The dust produced during Phase 2 may also have an affect on Hall End Farm. This may cause children, older people and those with respiratory diseases to be more greatly affected by changes in air quality.
- Construction of the Proposed Scheme may result in safety, security and accessibility issues for residents, particularly those living at Bloor Home Development North on Lower Road. Safety and accessibility issues are more prevalent amongst those for who mobility is an issue including older people, disabled people and pregnant women. Children may also be potentially subject to safety issues with regards to construction sites and vehicles.
- Construction of the Proposed Scheme may result in safety, security and accessibly issues for those visiting the small industrial estate, East of Lower Road. Safety and accessibility issues are more prevalent amongst those for who mobility is an issue including older people, disabled people and pregnant women. Children may also be potentially subject to safety issues with regards to construction sites and vehicles.
- Disruption to Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) will be minimised where possible during construction. Temporary diversions will be put in place. The construction contractor will liaise with the BC PRoW Officer. Temporary diversion of the PRoW could have differential effects on those groups with mobility issues or for those who are more vulnerable to road safety issues, this includes children, older people, people with disabilities and parents or carers with pushchairs.



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#### Operation:

- Post construction of Phase 2, there is a predicted increase in noise pollution due to the increase in traffic from the dualling link between the SWALR roundabout and Lower Road roundabout. Noise effects resulting from the operation of the scheme may have differential impact on children and older residents living on the affected roads.
- During the operational phase, dualling of approximately 450 m of the Stoke Mandeville Relief Road (SMRR) between the roundabout junction for the future South West Aylesbury Link Road (SWALR) and a new roundabout provided by SEALR Phase 1 at the B4443 Lower Road Roundabout. Negotiation of the new road layout may have a differential effect on those groups with mobility issues or for those who are more vulnerable to road safety issues including children, older people, people with disabilities and parents or carers with pushchairs.
- The Proposed Scheme will deliver two shared cycle/footways adjacent to the new carriageway. One of these would be adjacent to the carriageway and the other would be north of the noise bund with a link to the Bloor Homes Development and the potential to link to the Mandeville Park estate. Pedestrians and cyclists may use this new infrastructure to access open spaces, community assets or recreational facilities in the Aylesbury area. This may potentially have an adverse impact on people with mobility issues including people with disabilities, older people, pregnant women and parent or carers with pushchairs.

# Section 8 – Proposals to remove or minimise negative effects, impacts or consequences

- •Continued engagement with leaseholders to ensure that they are provided with the most appropriate compensation and support.
- •Contact with the local access forum to confirm the diversion routes and signposting should be undertaken at the appropriate point in the project.
- •People currently living and working in the area should be given priority over construction jobs and training through a Skills, Employment and Education Plan or Policy including young people. A local employment and procurement policy should be produced to include a requirement for contractors to adhere to national or local schemes to promote employment amongst under-represented equality groups, e.g., Disability Confident Employer.
- •Some properties may qualify for insulation under the Noise Insulation Regulations
- Ensure that best practice/guidelines are meet when Public Right of Ways or closures are put in place. E.g. Suitable diversions and advanced notice to users.
- Ensure that best practice/guidelines are followed in regard to air quality and noise, and local people are kept up to date regarding any works during night hours wherever possible.
- Key walking routes and crossing points in the area should be maintained or appropriately diverted where possible and appropriate security provided where natural surveillance has been limited.



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#### Section 9 - Other factors to take into consideration:

SEALR Phase 2 forms part of the Orbital Route Strategy for Aylesbury, which is a key infrastructure project required to support the planned growth in Aylesbury. Phase 2 will not only link to Phase 1 but help to reduce congestion, as well as being a facilitator to development in the Stoke Mandeville Area.

#### **Section 10 - Conclusion:**

Overall, the construction of Phase 2 will help to Increase opportunity for active travel through the provision of shared footways/cycleways, walking routes and implementation of safety measures. The increased opportunity for active travel and associated benefits can be shared by groups with protected characteristics including children, young people, and the elderly. Help to Improved safety, accessibility, and journey time savings for drivers. As well as Increasing connectivity around Aylesbury and the surrounding network and to future housing developments.

#### **Section 11 - Action Planning**

Actions to be taken to address negative effects, impacts or consequences and maximise positive impacts	Potential Outcomes	Lead	Timescales
A planning condition will ensure that a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be developed including a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) to ensure that the appropriate diversions are implemented. Temporary and permanent diversions should be well positioned to ensure a similar level of access for users. This would help to maintain current levels of accessibility and any associated health and wellbeing benefits of active travel.			
Construction of the Proposed Scheme (Phase 1&2) will require the CPO of land from four different landowners. It is recommended that there is continued engagement with leaseholders to ensure that they are provided with the most appropriate compensation and support. This includes making necessary reasonable adjustments if required as part of the engagement process, but also to consider any appropriate mitigation of equality effects as a result of the loss of land.			



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A Communication Strategy should be put in place so that information can be effectively shared with the local community.		
A local employment and procurement policy should be produced to include a requirement for contractors to adhere to national or local schemes to promote employment amongst under-represented equality groups, e.g., Disability Confident Employer.		
People currently living and working in the area to be given priority over construction jobs and training through a Skills, Employment and Education Plan or Policy including those from ethnic minority groups.		

#### **Section 12 - Monitoring Arrangements**

The EQIA should be monitored on a regular basis by the Project Manager. The Project Manager should review this at the fortnightly meetings to ensure that any changes to scope have been highlighted in the EQIA. A final review should be carried on before the construction phase commences.

# Section 13 - Part A and B Sign off – (If Part B has not been completed please complete Section 4)

Officer completing Part A and B assessment: Bradley Taylor (AECOM) + internal input from Alan Owen) 23/11/2022

Equality advice sought from: Maria Damigos & Natalie Donhou Morley Date 24/11/2022

CMT sign off sign off: Ian Thompson 24/11/2022

Next review date: January 2023

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