



# Buckinghamshire Council

## Finance & Resources Select Committee

### Minutes

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE & RESOURCES SELECT COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 5 OCTOBER 2023 IN THE OCULUS, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL, GATEHOUSE ROAD, AYLESBURY HP19 8FF, COMMENCING AT 2.00 PM AND CONCLUDING AT 3.15 PM**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

R Bagge, M Walsh, D Anthony, M Bracken, S Chhokar, P Cooper, G Harris, I Macpherson, R Newcombe, C Oliver and S Wilson

#### **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

J Chilver, M Tett, G Williams, G Badhan, R Barker, M Dickman, J Reed, R Seed, D Skinner and C Ward

#### **Agenda Item**

##### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP**

Apologies were received from Councillors T Dixon, D Dhillon and M Fayyaz.

Councillor P Cooper substituted for Councillor T Dixon.

##### **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

##### **3 MINUTES**

The public and confidential minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2023 were confirmed as an accurate record.

##### **4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were none.

##### **5 BUDGET INQUIRY 2023 RECOMMENDATIONS: 6-MONTH REVIEW**

The Leader introduced the report and invited questions from Select Committee Members. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- The schedule of quantified risks would be shared with Risk Management Group on an annual basis likely around the time of budget scrutiny.
- Opportunity schedules were reported at Directorate Boards and Corporate Management Team but would be unlikely to feature in budget paperwork due to the dynamism of

opportunities and the overall challenging financial position. Opportunities would feature if they were practical and deliverable within budget. Additionally, the Deputy Cabinet Member for Resource was considering opportunities for increased income.

- The role of Community Boards was to facilitate at local level and leverage contributory funding (e.g. Thames Valley Police, Voluntary Community Sector and NHS) particularly when demand and costs for statutory services had increased. The Cabinet Member for Communities would be leading a review of Community Boards ready for implementation in May 2025.
- The potential site identified for Buckinghamshire Archives would look to accommodate New County Office archives, the Buckinghamshire Museum at Halton, artifacts found through HS2 groundworks and, potentially, the Wycombe Museum.
- There was no commitment of funding towards the Visitor Economy Strategy due to the financial pressures on the Council. Instead, investment may be facilitated through external organisations.
- Members would welcome more information regarding increased provision for Council-owned temporary accommodation.

The Chairman thanked the Leader for the update report.

## **6 WORK PROGRAMME**

Members noted the work programme and the Chairman advised that considerations for other reports could be emailed to him and the Senior Scrutiny Officer. Suggestions from Members included:

- Arrangements regarding Trading Standards (following the meeting it was confirmed this responsibility is with the Communities & Localism Select Committee).
- The enhanced data on staff absence as referenced at the meeting on 6 April 2023.

One Member also noted that it would be helpful to ensure that the upcoming budget papers identify revenue savings due to capital investment.

## **7 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

30 November 2023 at 2pm.

## **8 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED –

That pursuant to Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of Minute No 9, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act as defined as follows:

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) (Paragraph 3, Part 1 of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972) (The need to maintain the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure, because disclosure could prejudice the Council's position in any future process or negotiations).

## **9 ENERGY FROM WASTE INCOME**

This item was undertaken in confidential session. A number of topics were discussed including:

- Waste reserves.
- Risks.

- Contract arrangements.
- Plant maintenance.

The Chairman thanked the Cabinet Member and the officers for the report.