



## Cabinet decision notice

The following decision(s) were taken by Cabinet at its meeting held on **11 July 2023**. Decisions will (unless called-in) become effective at 5pm on 18 July 2023.

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

#### **The Dementia Journey - a rapid review of support for people living with dementia and their carers in Buckinghamshire**

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

The Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee agreed to set up a rapid review into dementia support services for people living with dementia and their carers in Buckinghamshire.

A small group of councillors volunteered to participate in the rapid review. Evidence gathering meetings, with a number of stakeholders, took place across three full days on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March, Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The review was chaired by Cllr Carol Heap and comprised of Cllrs Shade Adoh, Phil Gomm, Robin Stuchbury, Nathan Thomas and Alan Turner. Following the evidence gathering meetings the review group then met to discuss and agree its key findings and recommendations, which were presented in the report found at Appendix 1. The recommendations were grouped together under the NHS England Dementia Well Pathway which had been adopted by Buckinghamshire.

Cabinet was asked to consider the recommendations of the Select Committee Review.

##### **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](#).

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



For Cabinet to consider the recommendations of the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee.

**(c) Alternative options considered**

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

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

None

**Agenda item no. 8**

**Buckinghamshire Community Infrastructure Levy**

**(a) Decisions**

This report described how the Council collected developer contributions for infrastructure, how this operated in practice, through s106 contributions and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), including variation between different legacy planning areas.

There was a case for considering the introduction of CIL in the north and central areas of the County to secure funding for infrastructure from developments there. This would also ensure a more consistent approach to developer and infrastructure funding across the county. The opportunity to commission, review and hold a public examination to introduce CIL in the north and central planning areas, might also provide the opportunity to review the charging schedules in the west, south and east planning areas. This would bring these up to date and would enable a countywide approach to planning and infrastructure considerations.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) that the process of considering the introduction of CIL in the north and central planning areas of the County be supported;**
- (2) that a review of the Charging Schedules in the south, east and west planning areas be undertaken;**
- (3) that, subject to technical assessment, work to commence on a single charging schedule for Buckinghamshire Council;**
- (4) that a programme of technical work and consideration of the options for a new charging schedule be noted including coordination with the new Local Plan for Buckinghamshire. This will be produced and agreed with the Cabinet Members for Planning and Regeneration and Transport. An indicative timeframe and key steps in preparing and adopting a charging schedule were included in the report.**

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

To secure funding for infrastructure from developments, and to ensure a more consistent approach to developer and infrastructure funding across the county.

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

The legislation and the regulations that govern s106 contributions and CIL were set nationally. While there are still variations in practice reflecting the legacy arrangements in place across Buckinghamshire, in relation to s106 contributions these variations should reduce once the new Local Plan for Buckinghamshire was in place.

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

None

## **Agenda item no. 9**

### **Q1 Budget Monitoring Report 2023-24**

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

This was the first budget monitoring report for the new financial year and came at a time when the Council was continuing to experience significant financial pressures due to high levels of inflation and continued increase in demand and complexity of need in key services, such as Adults Social Care and Children's Social Care. The forecast revenue outturn position for 2023/24 was an adverse variance of £8.3m, 2% of Portfolio budgets. This was primarily due to pressures in Health and Wellbeing and Education and Children's Services from demand and market insufficiency issues, coupled with pressures in Accessible Housing and Resources in Energy budgets, Housing & Homelessness & Regulatory Services in Temporary Accommodation budgets and Transport in Parking income budgets.

Detailed Portfolio Action Plans were already in development to address the pressures, with a view to urgently bringing budgets back into line. These would consider the acceleration of savings plans from future years. In addition a member led Strategic Property and Finance Review would be initiated to examine opportunities for additional savings, income or capital receipt. The delivery of the action plans would be managed by the Portfolio Holders. The forecast position on capital budgets was break even.

#### **RESOLVED:-**

- 1. That the report and the risks and opportunities contained within it be NOTED.**
- 2. That the actions set out in the report to address the budget pressures be APPROVED.**

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

To understand the financial position of the Council in respect of 2023-24 Budgets.

**(c) Alternative options considered**

None arising directly from this report.

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

None

**Agenda item no. 10**

**Q1 Capital Budget Adjustments and Reprofileing**

**(a) Decisions**

The Capital Programme for 23-24 to 26-27 was approved by Full Council in February 2023 as £505.9m. The 22-23 outturn underspend was £44.3m. After a detailed review of each scheme in the programme, £46.3m of unspent budget has been carried forward into the new financial year. The increase was due to a small number of projects overspends that were funded in 22-23 and not carried forward. The capital programme now needed to be reprofiled in future years to ensure the annual spend profile was realistic, and to reduce the likelihood of slippage. There were also some recommended additions for new funding, reductions and reallocations of funding from closed projects, plus a small number of projects with inflationary overspends that required use of the corporate contingency to complete. The report set out the recommended changes for approval and would result in the Capital Programme increasing from £505.9m as agreed at Full Council, to £556.7m. Since the Budget was approved by Council in February 2023 there was an additional £5.782m recommended to be added to the Programme. Of this: £4.184m was externally funded from grants; £1.232m was the addition of agreed, specific s.106 projects; and £0.365m was a recommended use of an earmarked revenue reserve to fund a project overspend.

**RESOLVED that the following budget adjustments to the approved Capital Programme be APPROVED:**

- 1. That £5.782m of additions be made to the capital programme, £5.416m to be externally funded from grants and S.106, and £0.365m funded from ringfenced Council reserves.**
- 2. That £0.288m of the Capital Contingency be used to fund the inflationary pressures of two existing projects.**
- 3. That £3.366m of budget reductions for completed projects from the capital programme be approved, of which £0.644m of corporate funded projects are to be reallocated to the capital contingency.**  
**(Note: where external funding was released it will be reinvested in alternative projects that would come forward in due course).**

**4. The reprofiling of the revised £556.8m Capital Programme inclusive of £46.3m of carry-forward budgets over the MTFP 2023-27.**

**(b) Reasons for decisions**

The Capital Programme budgets were periodically reprofiled to reflect project changes, and budgets were kept under regular review via Member-led capital boards. The amendments proposed in the Cabinet report had been recommended by those Boards.

**(c) Alternative options considered**

None – the recommended budget amendments would enable ongoing financial management of the Capital Programme.

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

None

**Agenda item no. 11**

**Corporate Performance Indicators 2023-24**

**(a) Decisions**

This report detailed the key performance indicators and targets being proposed for reporting to Cabinet in 2023/24. Once agreed, reporting against these indicators would commence for Quarter 2. Proposed key performance indicators and the associated targets to be reported to Cabinet have been agreed within each Directorate and with each portfolio holder. These would be reviewed on an annual basis.

**RESOLVED:-**

- 1. That the Key Performance Indicators for 2023/24 be AGREED.**
- 2. That the associated targets for 2023/24 be AGREED.**

**(b) Reasons for decisions**

Key performance indicators and targets had been developed collaboratively with each Directorate and agreed with the portfolio holder.

**(c) Alternative options considered**

Not applicable.

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

None

## **Agenda item no. 12**

### **Property Acquisition: Plot 1 Gateway Aylesbury**

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

The report recommended acquisition of the freehold interest of Plot 1 of Phase 3 Gateway land, Aylesbury ("Plot 1") subject to survey, legal due diligence and the simultaneous sale of Plot 2 of Phase 3 Gateway land, Aylesbury ("Plot 2") to a third party. The proposed transaction provided the Council with control of all the car park land in front of its Headquarters and also use of the site in the short term as a car park whilst the Council reviews its plans for its overall landholding in this part of Aylesbury.

Whilst the property transaction did not generate revenue, it did ensure that Buckinghamshire Council ("BC") retained sufficient free car parking spaces in front of its HQ building; it also completed land ownership of a 5.2-acre site that offered medium term "employment led" development potential. The acquisition would enable a strategic and proactive approach to delivering a more comprehensive scheme than simply on existing BC owned land.

#### **RESOLVED:-**

- 1. That the Service Director for Property and Assets, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources, the Section 151 Officer and the Service Director for Legal and Democratic Services, be authorised to conclude negotiations, agree contracts, appoint consultants and undertake due diligence, arrange finance, exchange and complete on the acquisition of Plot 1 as set out in the Cabinet report and the confidential appendix.**
- 2. That the commitment of capital budget for this acquisition as a priority investment opportunity be APPROVED, to be funded from known headroom within the Capital Programme.**

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

The proposed transaction provided the Council with control of all the car park land in front of its HQ and use of the site in the short term as a car park whilst the Council reviewed its plans for its overall landholding in this part of Aylesbury.

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

The current freeholder had indicated that it would either market the site or self-develop. Under either scenario, the Council could lose both the free parking to the front of its HQ

and control on how the entire area was redeveloped. If this was to occur, BC would have to consider promoting and developing a replacement multi storey car park on the overflow land at a considerable capital cost.

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

Cllr M Winn declared a prejudicial interest as a Member of the AVE Board and left the room for item 12.

#### **Agenda item no. 13**

#### **22 Queens Square, High Wycombe**

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

The proposed acquisition was another part of the Wycombe Future High Streets' development programme. To date two vacant shops have been acquired – one of which (37 High Street) had been refurbished and let to two separate independent 'experiential' businesses; refurbishment of the other (16 Church Street) was about to start on site. Agreement for co-funding the repurposing of Eden's ex House of Fraser store had been completed. This would relocate Primark into Eden, strengthening its footfall (and hence rental values, of which the Council received a share through its ground rent), and enabled comprehensive redevelopment of the existing Primark building and the adjacent Chiltern Shopping Centre, for a mixed-use scheme including c300 apartments (subject to planning), removing redundant retail floorspace from the town centre.

An Option to Purchase the High Wycombe Social Club building, forming a key part of the programme's 'Southern Gateway', was close to exchange. Queen Square was a small but prominent corner retail unit with residential upper parts. It had proven 'hard to let' and the freeholders want to dispose of their ownership. Its purchase would enable ground floor reconfiguration with the aim of either letting it to an occupier that would be displaced by the redevelopment of the Chiltern Shopping Centre or by open marketing of the unit. The proposed purchase would be funded using part Future High Streets grant as well as short term 'match funding' from the Council's Future High Streets Council Capital Programme.

##### **RESOLVED:-**

- 1. That the purchase of the freehold of 22 Queens Square, High Wycombe, as part of the Future High Streets programme be APPROVED, as set out in the confidential appendix.**
- 2. That authority be delegated to the Service Director for Property and Assets, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources and the Section 151 Officer, to finalise and agree detailed heads of terms, appoint necessary consultants to undertake due diligence, exchange contracts and complete on the purchase.**
- 3. That authority be delegated to the Service Director for Property and Assets to:**

- a. **progress refurbishment works including the appointment of contractors and consultants.**
- b. **dispose of the second floor flat on a long lease, letting it on a Shorthold Tenancy in the meantime, returning the proceeds of sale to the Future High Streets Capital programme allocation.**
4. **That a technical adjustment to the Capital Project budget for this project be APPROVED, as set out in the confidential appendix, and to reflect the ringfenced capital receipt from the disposal of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor long lease.**

**(b) Reasons for decisions**

A Cabinet report In July 2020 approved the initial Future High Streets development programme, including the purchase of 16 Church Street, which adjoined 22 Queens Square. However, it required further acquisitions as part of the Programme.

**(c) Alternative options considered**

Do nothing was an option but the Future High Streets programme required continued projects, to utilise the grant funding before the deadline of March 2024.

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

None

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

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