



## Cabinet decision notice

The following decision(s) were taken by Cabinet at its meeting held on **14 November 2023**. Decisions will (unless called-in) become effective at 5pm on 21 November 2023.

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

#### **Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023: Mental Health**

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

Each year the Director of Public Health produced an annual report on the health of the population. This year the report focussed on mental health. The Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022-23 described the factors that supported good mental health, identified groups that were at risk of poorer mental health and made recommendations for the Council and its partners to promote mental health and well-being. The report was a call to action for partners in Buckinghamshire, asking partner organisations to reflect the recommendations in existing multi-agency plans, for the Start Well, Live Well and Age Well Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy.

Mental health was as important as physical health for health and wellbeing. It underpinned people's ability to build strong relationships, to do well at school or in our jobs, and shaped how people interacted with the world around them. Good mental health often led to better physical health as well as a reduced chance of dying at a younger age.

People in Buckinghamshire generally enjoyed higher levels of good mental health and wellbeing compared with the England average. However, good mental health was not experienced by everyone, and many people experienced periods of poor mental health during their life. Fortunately, there were many things we can do to improve and protect mental health. There were also actions that schools and organisations could take to support the mental health of those who lived, learnt and worked in Buckinghamshire. These preventative actions were the focus of the 2022-23 annual report.

The report did not consider the different types of mental health conditions, nor did it cover treatment and support for mental illness. These were important subjects that would require a long and detailed report in their own right. Many people with a mental health condition enjoy a good quality of life and many of the preventative actions in the annual report may support them, in addition to formal treatment. The report further detailed formal research and local data and mentioned that it was not surprising to find a strong overlap between the factors that were important to children and young people and those that were important in adulthood. The things that affected mental health did not change as people grew older. However, two additional factors become important as people aged –



the impact of retirement and increased risks of becoming socially isolated.

While the factors for mental health listed could affect everyone, some people in Buckinghamshire were more likely to be vulnerable to poor mental health. National research had demonstrated a link between poverty and mental health, and this was evident in Buckinghamshire. While not all mental health conditions and disorders could be prevented, individuals could take steps to improve their own mental health by focusing on the protective factors listed in the report.

The report made a number of recommendations regarding actions that schools, Buckinghamshire Council, the local NHS and employers and voluntary sector organisations could take to promote good mental health. These actions are grouped into five areas:

1. Support our children, young people and their families.
2. Encourage lifestyles that protect mental health.
3. Provide opportunities for people to build their social network, learn new skills and give to others.
4. Take action on the things that increase people's risk of poorer mental health.
5. Encourage open conversations about mental health.

#### **RESOLVED –**

**That the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023: Mental Health be NOTED, and the Council and partners be recommended to incorporate the actions identified in the Annual Report into existing mental health action plans and the Buckinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy Action Plan.**

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

The Director of Public Health is required to produce an annual report on the health of Buckinghamshire's population. This year the report focuses on mental health. The Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022-23 described the factors that support good mental health, identified groups that were at risk of poorer mental health and makes recommendations for the Council and its partners to promote mental health and well-being.

The report was a call to action for partners in Buckinghamshire. Partner organisations were asked to reflect the recommendations in existing multi-agency plans, for the Start Well, Live Well and Age Well Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy.

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

The recommendations in the report aimed to improve mental health in Buckinghamshire. It linked with other local plans including the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Opportunity Bucks. If the recommendations were not supported and implemented there was potential that valuable opportunities to improve the health and wellbeing of our residents would be missed.

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

None.

**Agenda item no. 9**

**Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2022/23**

**(a) Decisions**

Working Together 2018 stated that partnerships must produce an annual report “at least once in every 12 months period.” The report must set out what they have done as a result of the arrangements, including on child safeguarding practice reviews, and how effective these arrangements have been in practice.

WT18 also stated that the report should include:

1. evidence of the impact of the work of the safeguarding partners and relevant agencies, including training, on outcomes for children and families from early help to looked-after children and care leavers.
2. an analysis of any areas where there has been little or no evidence of progress on agreed priorities.
3. a record of decisions and actions taken by the partners in the report’s period (or planned to be taken) to implement the recommendations of any local and national child safeguarding practice reviews, including any resulting improvements.
4. ways in which the partners have sought and utilised feedback from children and families to inform their work and influence service provision.

These requirements formed the chapters for the annual report that was submitted and considered by Cabinet.

**RESOLVED –**

**That the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2022-23 be NOTED.**

**(b) Reasons for decisions**

The annual report is an opportunity to hear about the work of the partnership over the last year and the progress that has been made in delivering against the business plan.

**(c) Alternative options considered**

Not applicable.

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

None.

## **Agenda item no. 10**

### **Climate Change & Air Quality Strategy - Annual Progress Report 2022/23**

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

The Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy 2022-2023 Progress Report provided an update on the significant progress made against the aims, objectives, and actions set out in the Council's Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy within the second year following its adoption on 19 October 2021.

Details of 51 activities were provided, many of which addressed several actions in the Strategy. These had contributed to greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) decreasing by 7.73% from 2019 to 2021; nitrogen dioxide concentrations staying within the annual mean value in 2022 (apart from one location where new diffusion tube monitoring was established within the Friarage Road Air Quality Management Area in 2022); and, the Council's GHG emissions being 73.7% lower in '22/'23 compared to its emissions from 1990.

The Council was responsible for 5,401 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (net emissions) in '22/'23. It had kept comfortably within the Council's carbon allocation for '22/'23 (6,953 tCO<sub>2</sub>e) and was on track to reduce the Council's carbon emissions by at least 75% by 2030.

#### **RESOLVED –**

**That the progress made in 2022-23 against the aims, objectives and actions in the Council's Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy be NOTED.**

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

Action 9 in the Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy commits the Council to 'Report annually on progress made against actions and reducing emissions'. Addressing climate change and poor air quality is relevant to all Council Corporate Plan 2020-2025 priorities.

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

The option to not produce a Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy 2022-2023 Progress Report was considered as not being viable due to the commitment to 'Report annually on progress made against actions and reducing emissions' (action 9 in the Climate Change & Air Quality Strategy).

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

None.

## **Agenda item no. 12**

### **Q2 Capital Budget adjustments and Reprofileing**

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

The Capital Programme for 2023-24 to 2026-27 was approved by Full Council in February 2023, with an expenditure budget of £505.9m. The programme was revised to £556.8m following additions agreed by Cabinet in July 2023. The Council often received ringfenced funding in-year from Government and Developers which were added to the programme in a supplementary budget change. Additionally, the programme was reviewed quarterly to check that the profiled spend remained realistic. The report set out the recommended additions and reprofileing for Quarter 2, and also recommended 3 projects to be reduced or removed from the programme. These budget changes would ensure the programme remained realistic and deliverable, and released budget for reinvestment. The recommended changes would increase the 4-year Capital Programme to £582.6m by 2026-27 and would reduce the 2023-24 current year budget from £149.3m to £124.6m.

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

- 1. Addition of £5.908m to the programme for new externally funded ringfenced grants and S106 developer contributions.**
- 2. Addition of £2.338m to the programme funded from Corporate Resources, to fund inflationary pressures or new spend on existing, priority projects.**
- 3. Removal of £0.460m for projects which have completed or are no longer proceeding.**
- 4. Reprofile of £24.335m from the current year into future years.**

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

Changes to the Published Capital Programme required Cabinet approval, which were made via a quarterly update to Cabinet. The Capital Programme needed to be reprofiled to accurately reflect planned spend. There were also some additions and reductions to the programme which were recommended to accurately reflect the current status of projects.

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

Not making these recommended budget changes would impact on budget monitoring and the Capital MTFP process and would affect the KPI for capital slippage.

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

None

## **Agenda item no. 13**

### **Q2 Budget Monitoring Report 2023-24**

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

This report set out the forecast Revenue and Capital outturn position for Buckinghamshire Council for the financial year 2023/24 as at Quarter 2. The Council was continuing to experience significant financial pressures due to 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 at Quarter 2 was an adverse variance of £8.6m, (2% of Portfolio budgets), an increase of £0.3m from the Quarter 1 reported position of £8.3m. 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 Housing & Homelessness & Regulatory Services in Temporary Accommodation budgets and Transport budgets. Within the overall position there was an adverse variance of £15.2m (3%) in Portfolios (£14.0m last quarter) offset by a £6.6m (£5.7m last quarter) favourable variance in Corporate & Funding.

Following the Quarter 1 position, detailed Portfolio Action Plans had been implemented to address pressures, with a view to urgently bringing budgets back into line. The Quarter 2 position reflected positive variances across several portfolios linked to the delivery of the action plans, however, the financial position had deteriorated overall due to increasing pressures within Education & Children's Services which were detailed in the report. Capital spending was forecast to be 99.5% of budget, a variance of £0.6m.

**RESOLVED that Cabinet note the report and the risks and opportunities contained within it and also note the actions being taken to mitigate pressures as set out in para 3.9 of the report.**

**(b) Reasons for decisions**

To understand the financial position of the Council in respect of 2023-34 budgets.

**(c) Alternative options considered**

None arising directly from the report.

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

None

**Agenda item no. 14**

**Q2 Performance Report 2023-24**

**(a) Decisions**

The report included the performance report, which provided details of the key performance measures reported through the corporate performance framework for 2023/24 and 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 are 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 were Green (67%), 10 were Amber (11%) and 20 were Red (22%).

**RESOLVED that the performance report be noted including the action taken to improve performance where required.**

**(b) Reasons for decisions**

The Corporate Performance Framework was reported on a quarterly basis to Cabinet to ensure there was understanding, ownership and accountability for performance outturns, including actions to improve performance where appropriate.

**(c) Alternative options considered**

None arising directly from the report.

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

None

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

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