



## Cabinet decision notice

The following decision(s) were taken by Cabinet at its meeting held on **4 January 2024**. Decisions will (unless called-in) become effective at 5pm on 11 January 2024.

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

#### **Council Tax Base Setting 2024-25**

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

Cabinet received a report on the Council Tax Base Setting 2024/25.

##### **RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the Buckinghamshire Council Tax Base of 231,161.81 for the year 2024/25 be APPROVED.**
- (2) That the Buckinghamshire Council estimated collection rate for the year 2024/25 of 98.4% be NOTED.**

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

The Local Government Finance Act (LGFA) 1992, as amended by the LGFA 2003 & LGFA 2012, requires the Authority to formally calculate the Council Tax Base for 2024/25 and pass this information to precepting authorities.

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

These are detailed at Section 4 of the Cabinet report. It explains that, as stated in paragraph 3.5 of the report, the Council has discretion over setting the collection rate. Setting a higher rate would increase revenue. Any potential deficit created by the collection rate falling below the rate could be managed in future years. Changing the assumption around the collection rate would also impact on the receipts of major preceptors.

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

None.

### **Agenda item no. 9**

#### **Draft Revenue budget and Capital Programme**



## **(a) Decisions**

Cabinet received a report setting out the draft revenue budget for the financial year 2024/25 – 2026/27. The financial position for the Council was extremely challenging with significant pressures identified in relation to both inflation and ongoing increases in demand for key services, in line with those being experienced nationally. The Council discharged more than 1300+ statutory duties and was facing increased demand pressures in key services such as Adult Social Care, Children’s Services, Home to School Transport and Temporary Accommodation. This year had become the most difficult to date in responding to these challenges whilst delivering a balanced budget, and this has been achieved through a significant programme of additional savings and income.

The Council had a strong track record of delivering savings with £45m delivered in the first 3 years, a further £30.4m of income and savings currently budgeted for delivery in 2023-24. A further cumulative programme of £96.1m of new income and savings had been identified as part of the 2024-25 Draft Budget. The draft budget proposed was built on the proposed Council Tax base and assumed a 2.99% increase in basic Council Tax and a 2% increase for the Adult Social Care Precept, giving a total increase of 4.99%. This was the maximum allowable without triggering a local referendum and was below the average rate of inflation experienced during 2023/24.

The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was published on 18th December and provided details of provisional central government funding allocations for 2024/25. Given the timing it had not been possible to fully consider the implications of these figures, and as such this Draft Budget was based on estimates consistent with the Autumn Statement and Funding Policy Statement. The implications of the Provisional Settlement would be fully considered in the Final Budget.

Whilst this budget provided the best available estimates for the 2024/25-2026/27 financial years, there was significant risk around future income, cost and funding projections. The external environment was continuously monitored, and significant and material changes would be reported and included within the final budget presented to full Council on 21st February.

The Capital Programme was presented for 4 years as many schemes span multiple financial years. In total the programme included £562.8m of projects. As with previous years it was proposed that a recommendation was made to Council in February for delegation to be given to Cabinet to add up to £100m worth of schemes to the capital programme, to be funded through prudential borrowing, subject to a robust business case being approved. This would enable additional priorities, such as regeneration and housing projects, to come forward and be added to the capital programme once positive business cases were fully developed.

The Council Tax Resolution report would be presented as a separate report as part of the final budget in February and would contain the final information from the other precepting authorities leading to the total Council Tax for the area, which full council was required to approve.

This report did not include special expenses budgets. Discussions were ongoing with the relevant committees to agree special expenses budgets for 2023/24, and these would also be presented alongside the final budget. The level of precept charged in Special Expenses areas formed part of the Council tax referendum threshold calculation, so final Council Tax levels cannot be finalised until this matter was agreed.

## **RESOLVED**

- 1. That the revenue budget for 2024/25 - 2026/27 and capital programme be APPROVED as draft.**
- 2. That the outcome of the budget consultation (Appendix 1) be NOTED.**
- 3. That the Schedule of Fees and Charges for 2024/25 (Appendix 2) be AGREED.**
- 4. That the current risks associated with the draft budget proposals be NOTED.**
- 5. That the proposal to seek delegation from Council to Cabinet for up to £100m of new capital schemes to be added to the capital programme, through Prudential Borrowing, and where robust financial business cases have been made, be supported.**
- 6. That it be noted that a supplementary report, the formal Council Tax Resolution, will accompany the final budget submitted to Full Council.**

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

To approve a draft budget and capital programme that can then undergo scrutiny and challenge prior to the final budget for Buckinghamshire Council being presented to the Council for approval on 21 February 2024.

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

There were no other options. The Council is required to set a balanced budget before 11 March in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

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

None.

## **Agenda item no. 10**

### **High Wycombe 2050 Transport Strategy and High Wycombe Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)**

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

Cabinet received a report on the High Wycombe 2050 Transport Strategy and High Wycombe Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) which had been developed in parallel to ensure alignment and synergy. Their development had been informed by extensive engagement, including an 8-week public consultation in late 2022.

The High Wycombe 2050 Transport Strategy outlined a future ambition for the town's transport system, consisting of a vision statement, three 'connecting' themes (Connecting Locally; Connecting Regionally; Connecting Green Spaces), and a set of key outcomes for each theme. A range of transport interventions focused in and around the High Wycombe area were proposed to deliver the overall transport vision.

The High Wycombe LCWIP used 5 network planning concepts (Walkable Core; Main Radial Routes, Key Links and Hubs; Healthy Neighbourhoods; Wider Network and Strategic Routes; A Cohesive and Connected Network) to outline a future walking, cycling and wheeling network and a prioritised programme of infrastructure improvements. The LCWIP covered a study area of a 20-minute walking and a 25-minute cycling catchment surrounding High Wycombe town centre, and linked with surrounding settlements.

The purpose of producing these plans was to ensure that the Council had a clear policy direction and set of transport priorities for High Wycombe that could be taken forward for further development, to inform future funding applications, and to enable efficient delivery of schemes.

The report summarised the public consultation results and the subsequent amendments to both plans, which have been discussed with local members, and sought approval for the amended High Wycombe 2050 Transport Strategy and High Wycombe LCWIP to progress to adoption as a Council policy.

Cabinet took into account a representation which had been submitted on 3 January 2024 by a local resident which was published as a supplement. The Director of Legal and Democratic Services informed Members that he was satisfied that the correct governance process had been followed. During discussion the Leader asked all Cabinet Members to confirm that they had read the representation that had been emailed to them on 3 January 2024 and been provided in hard copy at the meeting. All Cabinet Members confirmed that they had done this.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the public consultation results and subsequent amendments made to the draft High Wycombe 2050 Transport Strategy and High Wycombe Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) be NOTED.**
- (2) That the amended High Wycombe 2050 Transport Strategy and High Wycombe LCWIP be ADOPTED.**

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

If adopted as Council policy, the High Wycombe 2050 Transport Strategy and High Wycombe LCWIP will provide a long-term strategic approach to future transport investment in High Wycombe, through a set of balanced and evidenced proposals that can be taken forward for further development, funding bids and ultimately delivery.

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

Not to adopt the High Wycombe 2050 Transport Strategy and High Wycombe LCWIP. This would mean a lack of clear long-term strategic direction and priorities for future transport investment in the High Wycombe area. Consequently, there would likely be challenges in securing external funding and delivering transport interventions in the town. The public consultation results indicate overall support for the direction of the plans.

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

None.

## **Agenda item no. 11**

### **Skills and Employment Strategy 2024-2029**

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

Cabinet received a report on the Skills and Employment Strategy that introduced an ambitious agenda for raising the productivity of Buckinghamshire through place-based skills and employment priorities. It detailed the role people, communities, employers, learning providers and investors could play in achieving the Buckinghamshire vision for growth.

The Council would continue to build on its reputation as a great place to live and work, with a clear skills and employment vision and ambitions helping to maximise on local opportunities and minimise challenges. The delivery of skills and employment priorities would improve the quality of life, and help more people benefit from the opportunities the county had to offer.

The Buckinghamshire Skills and Employment Strategy brought together the latest analysis, stakeholder vision and the tertiary education providers to ensure that Buckinghamshire's current and future workforce were equipped with the skills to reach their potential, gain meaningful employment and boost productivity. The Skills and Employment Strategy:

- Set out the vision for place-based skills and employment priorities that would underpin delivery of the Council's ambitions for Buckinghamshire.
- Established the approach to economic growth through investment in skills and employment and focuses action.
- Enabled effective local partnership working, encouraging collaborative approaches to addressing local challenges and sharing best practice.

#### **RESOLVED –**

**That the Skills and Employment Strategy 2024-29 be ADOPTED, as a key corporate document of Buckinghamshire Council.**

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

Adoption of the Strategy will provide the strategic context to facilitate joined up discussions and design the County's approach to increasing productivity through skills and employment interventions.

**(c) Alternative options considered**

No other options considered.

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

None.

**Agenda item no. 12**

**Devolution of three Community Centres in Aylesbury**

**(a) Decisions**

Cabinet received a report detailing that, in line with the Council's Service Devolution and Asset Transfer Policy, it was proposed to progress with an offer of terms to transfer the leases of 3 Council owned community centres to Aylesbury Town Council from 1 April 2024. The proposed devolution included the Quarrendon and Meadowcroft Community Centre, the Haydon Hill Community Centre and the Aylesbury Multicultural Centre.

If approved, Aylesbury Town Council would be offered 25-year full repairing and insuring (FRI) leases and become the 'head landlords' of the centres. Buckinghamshire Council would therefore retain overall ownership of the assets.

Buckinghamshire Council would retain authority as a 'superior landlord' meaning any impactful decision Aylesbury Town Council (ATC) might wish to make regarding development of sites would have to first be approved by Buckinghamshire Council.

Under the proposal the 3 existing Community Associations who currently occupied and utilised the centres would be offered internal repairing insuring (IRI) lease renewals of 10 years which would ensure their continued use and access to the facilities.

The Cabinet Member for Communities suggested an amendment to the recommendation that the Town Council required a 10 year lease for bowlers field rather than a short term two year lease mentioned in the report. This was because the field needed some investment as it had a flooding issue so a longer term lease was more practical. There were also changing rooms.

Because of the way Special Expenses funding worked through the MTFP, the only Revenue saving for the Council would be on Aylesbury Multicultural Centre (£20k), as this was not part of the Special Expenses arrangement.

## **RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the proposed offer and Heads of Terms for the devolution of three sites under long term leases to Aylesbury Town Council, including that the offer of a short term lease on Bowlers Field will be for 10 years and not 2 years, be AGREED.**
- (2) That the Revenue Budget changes to remove the Special Expenses budget of £41,372 within the Communities portfolio, and a new Revenue Saving of £20,000 per year in the Accessible Housing & Resources portfolio, be AGREED.**

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

Progressing the devolution of the proposed assets will support the Council's wider commitment to local delivery and the ongoing engagement with Town and Parish Councils.

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

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

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

Councillor M Winn declared a personal interest as a Member of Aylesbury Town Council.

## **Agenda item no. 13**

### **Six Monthly Adult Social Care Update**

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

Cabinet received an update report setting out recent developments in adult social care, both locally and nationally, and plans for the next period. The main highlights were:-

- Demand for adult social care continued to grow across the country due to rising life expectancy and the changing needs and preferences of service users.
- Updates on developments since May including the Next Steps to put People at the Heart of Care government White Paper and the findings of the Hewitt Review into Integrated Care Systems.
- Although originally planned for 2023, the CQC was yet to publish the programme of formal assessments. However, the Council was prioritising ongoing preparations to ensure readiness for the future CQC assessment in Buckinghamshire.
- Staff turnover remains high at 28.3% during 2022/23 and the sector was particularly challenged in retaining younger staff.
- Local public health and care sector organisations have established the Buckinghamshire Executive Partnership (BEP). A key element of their work was overseeing delivery of the Buckinghamshire Health and Care Integration programme. The programme's focus was to support speedy discharge when a person was fit to leave hospital and to provide rehabilitation and therapy support to enable people to regain as much of their former independence as possible reduce the likelihood of readmission.

**RESOLVED –**

**That the latest developments in relation to Adult Social Care both locally and nationally be NOTED.**

**(b) Reasons for decisions**

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

**(c) Alternative options considered**

Not applicable.

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

None.

**Agenda item no. 14**

**Six Monthly Children's Services Update**

**(a) Decisions**

Cabinet received a report providing:

- an update on the national and local developments across the Children's Services Directorate in Buckinghamshire. The document covered the key policy changes relating to safeguarding, school attendance, and the social work workforce.
- a summary of the progress of the Children's Services Transformation programme, which aimed to streamline the service delivery across Early Help and Social Care, reduce handoffs and prioritise the development of supportive and enabling relationships between families and professionals.
- an overview of the increasing demand and financial pressures on the services for children with SEND, unaccompanied asylum seeking children and placements for children in care, as well as the actions the service was taking to mitigate the pressures.
- feedback received from Ofsted and the DfE on the performance and improvement of the services and the areas that require further attention and support.

**RESOLVED –**

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

**(b) Reasons for decisions**



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

**(c) Alternative options considered**

Not applicable.

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

None.

**Agenda item no. 15**

**Buckinghamshire Area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Update**

**(a) Decisions**

Cabinet received a report providing:

- a progress update on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Improvement Programme since inspection.
- a brief overview of the new SEND Inspection Framework and outcomes to date.
- an overview of current challenges across the system and the evolving strategic plans to try to mitigate the challenges.

The local authority and the Integrated Care Board (ICB) were jointly responsible for services provided to children and young people with SEND in Buckinghamshire and were subject to inspection by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC). Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB) was the partner ICB. Ofsted and the CQC inspected the services provided for children and young people with SEND in Buckinghamshire between 7 March and 11 March 2022. Following the local area inspection, the Local Authority and the Integrated Care Board (formerly the Clinical Commissioning Group [CCG]) were jointly responsible for submitting an action plan to Ofsted, detailing how 3 areas of significant weakness would be addressed. The plan, submitted on 8 August 2022 was approved by Ofsted on 25 August 2022.

The 3 areas of weakness identified related to:

- The lack of a cohesive area strategy to identify and meet the needs of those children and young people requiring speech and language, communication and occupational therapy.
- Waiting times for assessments on the autism and attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder diagnosis pathways and the system-owned plans in place to address this.
- Waiting times to see a community paediatrician.

The current challenges across the SEND system related to:-

- waits for access to diagnoses and therapy support being still too long,
- a sharp rise in requests for EHCP assessment, together with a shortage of Educational Psychologists (This had led to a decline in performance against the

statutory 20-week EHCP needs assessment measure.)

- the number of EHCPs maintained by Buckinghamshire was also increasing
- there were very significant financial pressures on the High Needs Block.

Buckinghamshire was not alone in facing challenges in meeting the needs of children with SEND. The local area has sought to deliver against a wider improvement programme to ensure the experience of children and families improved across all areas of SEND.

**RESOLVED –**

**That the update from the Area SEND Partnership be NOTED.**

**(b) Reasons for decisions**

To provide Cabinet with an update on Special Education Needs and Disabilities in the Buckinghamshire area.

**(c) Alternative options considered**

None, the report was provided for information.

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

None.

**Agenda item no. 16**

**Provision for Looked After Children - a new approach**

**(a) Decisions**

Local authorities had a statutory duty to provide sufficient high-quality placements for their looked after children. Towards the end of the Covid pandemic in Autumn 2021 the external (private) placements market collapsed. This had caused a national crisis in placement sufficiency, which had been deepened by a range of new challenges linked to the cost-of-living crisis and economic downturn.

The scale of these challenges had prompted local authorities to develop new and radical approaches to achieving placement sufficiency. Local authorities across the South East were exploring options for expanding in-house (Council-run) provision.

Cabinet received a report presenting a business case for Buckinghamshire to invest in up to 10 new in-house children's homes (32 beds) taking a phased approach. These proposals would enable the Council to meet its statutory duties around placement quality and sufficiency for future years, deliver £4.998m savings (by 2027/28), while also reducing exposure to financial and legal risk. The potential to work in partnership to deliver this

proposal was being explored.

Despite maintaining a stable proportion of children in care, the Council's spend on placements has increased significantly over the last 3 years from £27.3m to a forecast £38.4m this year. This reflected growing demand for residential placements due to a loss of foster carers and unit cost increases of 25-30% across all external placement types during this period. This started to reveal the impact of the post-pandemic global economic crisis on the national placements market. It was a complex and dynamic picture, with various interconnected factors creating a 'perfect storm' – with all placement types becoming harder to find and costing significantly more. As a result, in November 2021 the Council placed their first child in 'unregistered' provision. This was where a local authority placed a child under the age of 18 in accommodation that was not registered with Ofsted. Wider engagement across the South East (via the South East Sector-Led Improvement Partnership) had shown that all Authorities in the region were facing similar pressures and challenges to Buckinghamshire in terms of demand far outstripping supply and significant increases in average placement costs.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (1) That a phased approach to invest in up to 10 new in-house children's homes (including 32 additional beds), to be delivered in stages over the next 3 years be AGREED and ADOPTED, to include:**
  - (i) The addition to the capital programme of £11.184m of capital expenditure, of which £984k to be added to the 2023-24 Capital Programme and £10.2m to the Capital MTFP, phased over 4 years, funded from borrowing.**
  - (ii) The inclusion of a net -£0.662m saving in 2025-26 rising to -£2.981m saving in 2026-27 and -£4.998m in 2027-28 to the Revenue MTFP resulting from moving children currently in high-cost unregistered and external residential provision into in-house children's homes.**
  - (iii) Delivery of the programme in clear phases including a further review of the business case by Cabinet within 12 months.**
  
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Service Director of Property and Assets, in conjunction with the Service Director Major Projects, the Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration and the Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services, to use the Council's existing property portfolio for this programme (where the costs are in line with the agreed Capital and Revenue budgets).**
  
- (3) That, if it is not possible to identify suitable properties within the Council's existing portfolio, authority be delegated to the Service Director of Property and Assets, in conjunction with the Service Director Major Projects, the Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources and the Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services, to undertake property searches, exchange and complete on the initial four homes referenced in this report (homes 5-10 will be subject to Cabinet decisions before phases 2 and 3 commence).**

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

The proposals will enable the Council to meet its statutory duties around placement quality and sufficiency for future years, deliver savings, while also reducing exposure to financial and legal risk.

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

The children's homes are part of a wider suite of activities set out in the Placement Sufficiency Strategy, including:

- Market intervention to stimulate growth in external residential including joint working with potential partners to deliver cost effective options within the external market.
- Alternatives to residential provision in particular growth in foster carers.
- Tackling 'move-on' such as move-on housing for care leavers.

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

None.

## **Agenda item no. 17**

### **South East Aylesbury Link Road (SEALR) Phase 2**

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

Cabinet received a report on the South East Aylesbury Link Road (SEALR) project which was the construction of approximately 1.1 miles of dual carriageway including 3 new roundabout junctions. The report related to SEALR Phase 2, between B442 Lower Road and the Stoke Mandeville Relief Road being constructed by HS2.

The Stoke Mandeville Relief Road was mitigation identified through the HS2 Act, arising from the closure of the A4010. The A4010 was the main route between Aylesbury and Princes Risborough and was a blue light route. The Council had previously entered into a funding and delivery agreement with HS2 for the SEALR phase 2 project, which enabled the Council to 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.

The funding agreement was the contractual mechanism whereby HS2 provided partial funding, based on the cost of delivering the single carriageway Stoke Mandeville Relief Road, in return for the Council delivering SEALR Phase 2, within a specified time period. The report sought the necessary delegations to deliver SEALR Phase 2, within the required timeframes to achieve the intended programme and meet its contractual obligations with HS2.

**RESOLVED –**

- 1) To amend the Cabinet delegation in December 2022, and delegate authority to the Corporate Directors of Communities and of Planning Growth and Sustainability, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to:
  - i) Proceed with the delivery of Phase 2 of the South East Aylesbury Link Road.**
  - ii) Take all necessary steps including to enter into any associated agreements, contracts or licenses required associated with the delivery and funding of the works in relation to (i) above.****
  
- 2) That it be AGREED to approve and release an increase to the budget in the Capital Programme for SEALR Phase 2 as set out in the confidential Appendix B, funded from reappropriated HIF grant subject to Homes England approval, HS2 Funding Agreement and Section 106 contributions.**

**(b) Reasons for decisions**

To enable the phased delivery of the South East Aylesbury Link Road, within required timeframes to achieve the intended programme and to give effect to the decision of the 9th November 2021 and 10th December 2022.

**(c) Alternative options considered**

Other options were considered:-

- If delegated authority was not given and the Council did not proceed with the delivery of SEALR Phase 2 within the required timescales, HS2 Ltd could, under the HS2 Act provisions, proceed to deliver the Stoke Mandeville Relief Road in full as a single carriageway road.
- There remained a risk that HS2 applied for the closure of the A4010 without an alternative route in place through Schedule 4 of the HS2 Act.
- Delaying a decision to proceed until such time as the target costs were received, would result in a notice to proceed being delayed until end of February/ beginning of March 2024. The loss of time could not be accommodated within the Construction Programme, which was already carrying significant risks associated with ground conditions and in particular Thames Water. Any postponement of the project would further increase the overall cost of the scheme due to inflationary effects.

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

None

**Agenda item no. 18**

**Woodlands and Delivery of the Eastern Link Road South**

### **(a) Decisions**

Woodlands was a major mixed-use development site on the east side of Aylesbury, including the Eastern Link Road (South) (ELRS) connecting with the Eastern Link Road (North) and the A41 Aston Clinton Road. The ELRS was a fundamental part of a long-term strategy to deliver an orbital traffic route around Aylesbury. The Council had secured funding towards the delivery of the ELRS through the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) and Local Growth Funds (LGF), to support early delivery of the ELRS.

Due to inflation/cost rises, HIF funding was now insufficient for the Council to deliver the ELRS as a single or dual carriageway within existing budgets. It was therefore concluded that the best way to bring forward the delivery of the ELRS and the Woodlands development was through the marketing of the site and a possible Joint Venture/Special Purchase Vehicle Partnership, including the Council, or a site sale facilitated by the Council. This would enable the provision of critical highway infrastructure, as well as supporting the planned growth in Aylesbury.

The report paper provided a high-level overview of such an approach and sought support for further work to be undertaken ahead of a formal decision on the full business case for investment being presented and taken by the Council.

### **RESOLVED**

- 1. That the preferred delivery option for the Eastern Link Road South be APPROVED.**
- 2. That authority be delegated to the Service Director for Property and Assets, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources:**
  - i) To market through a Council procurement process the Woodlands development site to include the Eastern Link Road South as a single carriageway road with passive provision for dualling.**
  - ii) To negotiate revised Heads of Terms with Landowners and Buckinghamshire Advantage to enable the marketing of the site to developers.**
  - iii) To explore opportunities for a Joint Venture / Special Purchase Vehicle Partnership and/or sale to bring forward the Woodlands development to include the Eastern Link Road South as a single carriageway road with passive provision for dualling (developer-led approach).**
- 3. That £800,000 be released from the existing Eastern Link Road South Budget, funded from Housing Infrastructure Fund, agreed by Homes England to cover establishing and negotiating the Heads of Terms, the marketing of the Woodlands site, creating the supporting documentation for the revised Woodlands approach to Homes England, and project management costs.**
- 4. That it be NOTED that a subsequent report for Cabinet will be prepared once marketing has been concluded for the Council to complete negotiations with a selected Developer, Landowners and Buckinghamshire Advantage and enter a Joint Venture/Special Purchase Vehicle Partnership and/or Sale with a development partner once marketing has been concluded and terms from the Selected Developer have been clarified through the marketing and procurement process.**

**(b) Reasons for decisions**

To explore opportunities for a Joint Venture/Special Purchase Vehicle Partnership and/or Sale to bring forward the Woodlands development, including the delivery of the Eastern Link Road South.

**(c) Alternative options considered**

The options considered were as follows:-

- Top up DfT Major Road Network (MRN) funding for the Council to deliver a dual carriageway.
- Do nothing
- The Council delivers a single carriageway road

**(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](#).