



## Cabinet agenda

Date: Tuesday 24 October 2023

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 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), A Hussain (Cabinet Member for Communities), P Strachan (Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration) and M Winn (Cabinet Member for Homelessness and Regulatory Services)

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1	<b>Apologies</b>	
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2	<b>Minutes</b> To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on	<b>3 - 14</b>
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3	<b>Declarations of interest</b>	
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4	<b>Hot Topics</b>	
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5	<b>Question Time</b>	
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**Question from Councillor Robin Stuchbury to Councillor Angela Macpherson, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing**

Firstly, can I thank you for your response at the September council meeting to the funding of vulnerability around adult and social care.

Whilst noting that since the introduction of the social care precept, the majority of available financial resources is primarily through secondary local taxation which places huge challenges upon the local authority to meet its statutory responsibilities, please can I ask what modelling is

being undertaken between now and the precept meeting to ensure adequate funding is available and to ensure that you are able to meet your important responsibilities to meet a growing need within so many aspects of your portfolio?

<b>6</b>	<b>Forward Plan (28 Day Notice)</b>	<b>15 - 34</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Future Buckinghamshire Economic Development Organisation</b>	<b>35 - 40</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b> 14 November 2023 at 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.

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



## Cabinet minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday 10 October 2023 in The Oculus, Buckinghamshire Council, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury HP19 8FF, commencing at 10.00 am and concluding at 11.56 am.

### Members present

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

### Others in attendance

D Barnes, P Brazier, B Chapple OBE, C Jackson, P Martin, R Matthews and R Stuchbury

### Apologies

C Harriss and M Winn

### Agenda Item

#### 1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Mark Winn and Deputy Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services Carl Jackson attended. Apologies were also received from Cllr Clive Harriss, Rachael Shimmin, Sarah Ashmead and David Skinner.

#### 2 Minutes

**RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 September 2023 were agreed as a correct record.**

#### 3 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 4 Hot Topics

The following hot topics were reported:-

The Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources paid tribute to the work of Customer Service Advisors during Customer Services week and commented on their professionalism when dealing with difficult calls.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services reported that last Friday the Council held a celebratory event to shine a spotlight on the valued network of carers. The Annual Foster Care Awards gave the opportunity for the Council to say thank you to all the Bucks Foster Carers and gave special recognition to a number who had shown additional merit in their role as a temporary guardian to vulnerable children and young people. If anyone was interested in being a foster carer they should visit the website below.

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/fostering>

The Cabinet Member for Transport reported that transport to school was working well with over 7,500 pupils in education settings. There were still a few complex cases to finalise but feedback from customers had been positive.

The Deputy Cabinet Member for Town Centre Regeneration reported that the Government had awarded a grant of £690,000 as part of the Brownfield Land Fund which would be used for regeneration.

The Deputy Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services reported that they had a very successful awayday with the Housing Team in Kings Church Amersham where conversations were held on how to deliver improved services to residents and some good ideas had been put forward.

The Leader referred to HS2 not being extended north to Manchester and the blight on Buckinghamshire countryside for the route to Birmingham. He would be writing to the Secretary of State on the case that Buckinghamshire had previously made on why HS2 should not be built and how it would be better value for money putting this funding into other regional infrastructure. He would be asking for some of the savings made by not investing in the northern route to be invested in Buckinghamshire to put right some of the environmental damage made by HS2.

## 5 Question Time

### **Question from Councillor Robin Stuchbury to Councillor Gareth Williams, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment**

"Buckinghamshire Council has facilitated the planting of a huge number of trees to enrich our communities and to lower our carbon footprint, both through the Council's policy and development planting or by replacing and adding additional trees. Sadly, it has become evident that many of these trees perish within a short period of time after being planted. Is there a policy for the management of new trees planted within Buckinghamshire both within development and environmental projects, including watering and maintenance, and if this policy is in place do you believe it is robust enough? Is the success of this Policy being measured in terms of tree growth including the impact on the environment and lowering our carbon footprint?"

### **RESPONSE from Councillor Williams**

*“Thank you for this question regarding tree planting. Regarding trees planted under the Council’s Land Tree Planting Programme (CLTPP), as discussed at the June Transport, Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee, our contractors undertake regular (typically bi-monthly) inspections of all sites planted under the contractor model. This includes maintenance such as weeding. 145,000 trees were planted last year. The net cost per tree was less than £1.00 with grant funding. For watering it would cost £30. Therefore nature needed to take its course. Each year a survey is conducted and re-stocking is completed during the planting season to replace any trees that have perished. Mortality rates for the 2021/22 season were higher than expected due to the drought conditions experienced across England. Survey results for the 2022/23 planting season are currently being collected and will be reported upon in due course.*

*There is no particular policy that governs the maintenance (including watering) of trees planted under the CLTPP – the approach to woodland creation and maintenance has been informed by the advice from arboricultural consultants, guidance received during training sessions, and research. Newly planted trees that survive the challenges presented by extreme weather events (now often caused or exacerbated by climate change) are more likely to be resilient to those that come in the future.*

*Within housing developments, any requirements for tree planting, canopy cover and green space will be assessed against any relevant local and national planning policies and in those instances where tree planting is secured this would be controlled thorough the imposition of planning conditions and/or S106 obligations on a site by site basis. Maintenance on small scale developments will often be the responsibility of the landowners themselves, however, on the large scale and strategic sites this will usually be a matter for whoever is responsible for the maintenance of the green spaces within a development; this may be the Parish Council, a Management Company, or Buckinghamshire Council or indeed a combination thereof.*

*Regarding the ongoing benefit to the environment, forecasts for carbon sequestration were included within the June update on Tree Planting to the TECC Scrutiny Committee [Agenda for Transport, Environment & Climate Change Select Committee on Thursday, 22nd June, 2023, 10.00 am - Modern Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#), please see agenda item 5.”*

## **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 reports would be discussing at forthcoming meetings.

**RESOLVED – That the Cabinet Forward Plan be noted.**

## **7 Select Committee Work Programme**

The Leader introduced the Select Committee Work Programme 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 Streetworks & Statutory Undertakers**

The Transport, Environment and Climate Change Select Committee agreed to set up a rapid review into Streetworks and Statutory Undertakers at its meeting on 30 March 2023. It was agreed that the review would not commence until May 2023 to allow the service to settle following the change in Highways contract to Balfour Beatty. The review was chaired by the Chairman of the Transport, Environment and Climate Change Select Committee, Councillor B Chapple OBE, and also comprised Councillors Brazier, Caffrey, Carington, Cornell and A Wood.

In June and July 2023, the review group collected evidence through meetings both in person and on Teams. The review group then met to discuss and agree its key findings and recommendations which were detailed at Appendix 1 to the Cabinet report. A series of questions on Streetworks and Statutory Undertakers had also been included as part of a Town and Parish Council survey on Buckinghamshire Council services which ran from 22 May to 13 August 2023.

The Chairman of the TECC Committee reported that in March 2023, the Select Committee agreed a scope to review Streetworks and Statutory Undertakers in Buckinghamshire. He was joined in this by five other colleagues: Cllrs Peter Brazier, Mick Caffrey, Robert Carington, Caroline Cornell and Andrew Wood. All members brought valuable experience with examples of utility companies operating in their local wards. It was highlighted that permit applications had increased from 22,000 in 2019/20 to 65,000 in 2022/23 – effectively trebling the team’s workload. It was agreed to not commence the review until after the new Highways contract had settled down as the Streetworks Team had been transferred inhouse from Ringway Jacobs. The group held a series of evidence-gathering meetings in June and July which included an in-person meeting with a sample of utility companies that operate on the network. The Committee also reached out to Town and Parish Councils by including questions on Streetworks in a survey that was open during the summer. The 10 recommendations were spread across different themes: Streetworks Team, Statutory Undertakers, Communication and Lobbying.

The two recommendations that the Chairman wanted to highlight were core sampling to look at the materials Utility Companies were putting into the ground to ensure it was of the required standard, particularly as 43 utility companies operated on the network. The other recommendation was that the Council needed to lobby the Government to impose a higher fixed term penalty notice fine as it had not been increased for 20 years and therefore there was no incentive for statutory undertakers to comply with permit conditions. The Leader

commented that in the last three years there had been a threefold increase in the number of permit requests which now stood at 65,000 in 2022/23. Many residents complained about these works to the Council but it was the Utility Companies who were at fault.

The Chairman extended his thanks to colleagues on the review group, the organisations and Local Authorities they spoke with, the scrutiny officer Chris Ward, Derek Carpenter (Streetworks Manager), and the Cabinet Member for Transport for his support.

During discussion the following points were made by Cabinet Members who praised the Select Committee for their excellent report :-

- Support was given for lobbying the Government on higher Fixed Term Penalty Notices.
- Reference was made to the impact on Buckinghamshire with HS2 and East/West Rail where long term road closures had caused concern for residents and often blame was directed at the Council. There were many different companies accessing the highway and it was important to have a co-ordinated approach to make sure diversions were as efficient as possible and that works were scheduled effectively across all companies to ensure the minimum disruption. There should be a red flag system and sense check particularly for those areas who had additional long term statutory undertakers in their area such as HS2 and East/West Rail. In relation to the red flag system the Chairman of the TECC Committee reported that there were six officers currently in the team when there should be ten so more staff were being recruited. There should be improved progress with the new contract. A comparison was made with Hertfordshire who had 75,000 permits per year and had 17 officers, which was significantly more staff.
- Cabinet Members had met with the Road Minister recently at the HS2 site (Chesham and Amersham) discussing a road that should have been closed for 5 hours but it ended up being six days which impacted 20,000 vehicle movements. Emphasis was made on one team doing a specific job rather than handing over the job each day which caused delays. The Leader also commented that it was frustrating when roads were closed but no work was taking place and also traffic lights were not removed in a timely manner. Signs were often left saying the road was closed when it was open.
- Another Member made reference to works undertaken by East/West Rail where cars had to mount the pavement to get through the roadworks. A resident was also concerned that their carer would not be able to make their daily visit. There has also been another closure by Anglian Water on A41 where the diversion was not suitable and they welcomed the recommendation to extend working hours to evenings and weekends when often problems emerge. Some diversions were routed through private roads. It was helpful that there were some surplus funds to deal with this such as staff training, recruitment, legal action and accreditation but it was important to prioritise where this funding should be targeted. The Chairman of the TECC Committee reported that he would prioritise increasing staff and inspections so companies could be held to account. Another Cabinet Member suggested the funding could be used to monitor performance.
- Reference was made to taking legal action and a Cabinet Member asked about the costs of this also including officer time in preparing a case.
- Local Members should be engaged at the same time as the Community Board. The Leader referred to an example in Amersham where there had been early

engagement with the Council and Members and they had taken advice on good diversion routes and Traffic Regulation Orders. It was important to avoid HGVs using single track roads. Another Cabinet Member gave a note of caution and the need to be clear in communications by local members that the road closures were not the work of the Council but that of the statutory undertakers so any complaints could be directed to the right organisation. The Chairman of the TECC Committee reported that good communication was key in this area but important to do even if it meant that the Council was blamed for works which were the responsibility of another company.

In response the Cabinet Member for Transport made the following points-

- It was key to look after residents in the County and the impact on their daily lives but also those permits were also there to make improvements to infrastructure.
- The Council had refused 8,000 permits in the last year and there were inspectors out on the network every day trying to make sure permit conditions were being met. Reasons for refusal were generally related to there already being road works in the area. The Council would use all their powers to hold utility companies to account. He had written to them on the zero tolerance approach and any permit breaches would be fined.
- A number of permits could be retrospective as utility companies could deem their work an emergency where they were required to work on the highway immediately and they had to inform the Council within two hours. This compounded existing permits in place.

The Cabinet Member agreed to all the recommendations which are set out **HERE** with the exception of recommendation 5 (agreed in part). In terms of the use of smart temporary or intelligent traffic lights the Council have been in discussion with Utility Companies already and approximately 60%, mainly the larger companies, were already using smart lights on 2-way traffic flows. Technology was now developing so that it could be used on multi-way lights and the service would actively encourage all providers to use this technology. During peak times manually controlled lights were used but outside these hours some traffic lights batteries ran out which caused traffic problems.

The Leader reported that he would be happy to support court action where there was a good case to help install good working practices. He also promoted the use of one.network and producing a user guide which could be accessed by the public which would highlight the benefits and information that was available.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the Transport, Environment and Climate Change Select Committee Review Group, as well as the supporting officers, be thanked for their work and subsequent recommendations.**
- (2) That Cabinet's responses to the Review report 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 Buckinghamshire Regeneration Framework and Place Based Regeneration Strategies

The Buckinghamshire Regeneration Framework and a series of town centre strategies had been developed to set out a coherent approach to regeneration across the whole of the county. It provided the framework for how communities could organise themselves to determine their local ambitions and set out the regeneration vision for their local area. Three town centre regeneration strategies provided the local vision and place-based ambitions for Aylesbury, Chesham and High Wycombe, which were summarised with more details at Section 2 of the Cabinet report. The Cabinet Member made the following points on the three areas:-

Aylesbury - the Strategy supported the town centre to become a thriving community with greener streets more outdoor spaces improved accessibility and greater biodiversity.

Chesham was an ambitious town recognised as a strong creative community town represented by many artists, musicians and other creatives. The Strategy wanted to capture this momentum and to explore opportunities to see how culture and creative sectors could be leveraged to drive regeneration forward.

High Wycombe and Cressex Business park – the Council had a strong track record in delivering in this area including the multi million pound Future High Street Fund demonstrated that this was a place that can deliver regeneration and heritage led development. The Strategy had been widened to include the Cressex Business Park given its economic significance to the town.

The Council would need to work in partnership with key local stakeholders to bring these strategies to life. Local councillors and stakeholders have helped shape these strategies and would be pivotal in realising the changes. The Council's Growth Board has a Regeneration Sub Board, chaired by the Leader of the Council to ensure that these Strategies were implemented. The Leader referred to the changing high street with an increase in online shopping and less use of department stores e.g. House of Fraser. The high street needs to remain vibrant and adapt and change. Many Councils did not have lots of funding for this area so needed to act as a catalyst for change and work with partners, particularly the private sector.

During discussion Cabinet Members made the following points:-

- Whilst it would be good to have regeneration strategies for all towns, with the limited amount of funding available it was important to concentrate on Opportunity Bucks areas. A question was asked on whether there was enough funding to pump prime match funding from other organisations. In response it was noted that funding was a challenge and there were small pots of funding available e.g. from legacy AVDC. However it should be realised that Aylesbury was a bigger town centre than Kingsbury Square. The council was alert to available government funding and making bids including working with the private sector. Rather than do a wholesale project with limited funding small projects should be undertaken with the funds currently available. The Cabinet Member then asked the Deputy Cabinet Member for Regeneration to speak as she had been the main driver

of these Strategies. The Deputy Cabinet Member reported that there was some funding for projects in Aylesbury and High Wycombe including public realm work and improving green and open spaces which would help the overall environment; the private sector were key partners and there were lots of opportunities for development in Buckinghamshire.

- In terms of Future High Street funding £12 million was granted by the Government and the Council added an additional £3 million. This funding had been deployed in the last couple of years in addition to private investment in High Wycombe such as The Curve and the Chiltern Shopping Centre. There were a number of ideas regarding the use of funding for Aylesbury.
- A question was asked about the monitoring of the Strategies and also how long before these Strategies were refreshed and revised. The Place Based Growth Board would be monitoring performance and each town had their own Regeneration Board reporting to an overarching Regeneration Board for the whole County. This also linked well to the Opportunity Bucks projects. The Deputy Cabinet Member was also working closely with the business community in each of the three areas and universities which almost covered one third of the residents of Buckinghamshire. Close links to the skills sector were key including the National Film and Television School in Beaconsfield.
- Public engagement and communications with the local communities was essential to make these Strategies deliver including the involvement of local members. Presentations were given to Community Boards and Town and Parish Councils to provide an update on ongoing work. It was important also to ensure that the short- and longer-term strategies were aligned to ensure the best outcomes for regeneration.

#### **RESOLVED –**

**That the Buckinghamshire Regeneration Framework and the Town Centre regeneration strategies for Aylesbury, High Wycombe and Chesham, as key corporate documents of Buckinghamshire Council, be ADOPTED.**

#### **10 Adoption of AGT1 Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document**

Supplementary Planning Documents provided guidance to implement Local Plan policies. Cabinet received a report on the Aylesbury South Site Allocation (D-AGT1) Supplementary Planning Document which it was recommended was adopted and would apply to the Aylesbury South (D-AGT1) allocation within the adopted Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (2021). The allocation would contribute to and take forward the principles of the Aylesbury Garden Town initiative, as designated in January 2017. Once adopted, the Supplementary Planning Document would become guidance for developers and decision-makers for the central planning area.

To adopt a Supplementary Planning Document, the Council was legally required to conduct a public consultation for a minimum of four weeks, which had occurred from 22 September to 2 November 2022.

The Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan set out a vision and framework for sustainable growth across the north and central planning areas area for the period up to 2033. It promoted new development to meet identified needs, that would contribute to creating a thriving, diverse, safe, vibrant place to live, work and visit. It also promoted growth that was shaped by strong place-shaping and sustainability principles to create well-designed developments that were sensitive to the areas' local character, heritage, scale, land use and design.

This document was the culmination of a number of years' work which had begun with the legacy AVDC. It looked at the development framework for the site allocation AGT1 of the VALP which was being developed. It was a 95-hectare strategic urban extension allocated to the South of Aylesbury between Aylesbury Town and Stoke Mandeville. The SPD set out how 1,000 new homes, primary school, SE Aylesbury Link Road, multi-functional accessible green space, local centre and cycling and walking links should be developed. It reflected the AGT principles including the provision of 50% accessible green space. The SPD set out how to overcome some of the challenges to the development including the barrier of the railway line and Aylesbury Southern Link Road creating a new settlement identity between Aylesbury town and Stoke Mandeville and ensuring an adequate settlement buffer between the new housing and Stoke Mandeville. The SPD set out infrastructure requirements to ensure there was a cohesive and co-ordinated approach by the multiple landowners across the site. The preparation of this document had included engagement with local members and town and parish councillors. A public consultation was held between September and November last year and was now being recommended for adoption. This document and the Stoke Mandeville Neighbourhood Plan would be used as the policy basis to determine planning applications for the overall development of the site.

The Leader clarified whether this would become a material document in the consideration of planning applications and this was confirmed. The Leader then asked for clarity around the buffer between Stoke Mandeville and Aylesbury town to ensure separate entities were maintained. The Service Director Planning and Environment reported that this document set out the guiding direction of any further planning applications; any planning application would need to respond to the requirements set out in the Supplementary Planning Document which would need to include consideration of the buffer. It would be for the Area Planning Committee to consider the applications and weigh up the balance of whether something was acceptable in accordance with the SPD. The Council's aspiration was that these would fully conform with the SPD. The Leader then asked for clarification that if a planning application was refused whether the SPD would strengthen the Council's case at an appeal and this was confirmed. The Planning Inspector would have to take the VALP and the SPD into account as a material document.

During discussion the following points were noted:-

- The document was welcomed including the promotion of cycling and walking.
- In terms of the impact of development on Stoke Mandeville Station it was noted that access to the station and all road routes should remain as accessible as possible including a good parking plan. With the impact of the new Aylesbury link road it was important to ensure traffic and cycling and footpath links ran as smoothly as possible including during the construction period. The Cabinet Member agreed that this should be taken into account and was a valid point.
- In terms of health services and wider health care provision there had been extensive

meetings with the NHS ensuring communities got the health support required. The SPD built upon policies in the VALP. When the Council adopted the VALP, engagement with health authorities had taken place and they were engaged with the plan for growth. A new approach had been adopted with Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust on a case by case basis capturing this requirement as part of the planning application process. Significant improvements had been put in place on this process.

- Confirmation was sought on protection of historic sites. The Service Director Planning and Environment confirmed this had been reflected in the SPD. It was important to note that there were no constraints on development but sites would be properly recorded and preserved where necessary.

**RESOLVED –**

**That the Aylesbury South Supplementary Planning Document (site D-AGT1 of the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan) be ADOPTED.**

## **11 Devolution and Asset Management Policy**

Buckinghamshire Council made a commitment to devolution of property and assets to Town and Parish Councils and other community organisations as part of the Unitary business case. To support the Council's devolution programme, a Service Devolution and Asset Transfer Policy had been published in November 2019 setting out the approach and arrangements for the devolution of the responsibility for running services and community asset transfer. Over time, the approach to the management of the programme had been refined as the new Council had learnt more about the devolution of assets, particularly following the implementation of five pilot projects.

Cabinet received a report with an updated policy for approval that better reflected the current approach in order that a clear direction of travel was given to Town and Parish Councils and other local organisations who might be interested in pursuing a devolution opportunity. Cabinet Members were asked to note several small changes in the updated policy, as follows:

- A clearer focus on the process for the devolution of assets.
- Reference to freehold only being considered on an exceptional basis, with a final decision made by Cabinet.
- The Devolution Board considering the criteria with which to assess applications on a case-by-case basis.
- Heads of Terms to be agreed at the end of the 'Expressions of Interest' stage to help applicants develop a business case that responds to any specification or terms provided by the Council.
- Car parks owned and/or run by Buckinghamshire Council where they generate income, hold an operational benefit, or retain a commercial interest were out of scope. The previous version had a blanket approach to all car parks being out of scope.

The Cabinet Member for Communities reported that no new projects would be undertaken currently to ensure completion of current projects, which had been

more complex than expected. In the future only two projects would be considered at a time.

In terms of an update:-

- Aylesbury Christmas lights were completed July 2022
- Prestwood Recreation Ground was recently completed in September 2023.
- Aylesbury Remembrance Service would remain with the Council.
- Denham Scout Hut had been delayed due to a fire but the Parish Council were trying to identify funds to progress the project
- Green Street Community Centre was a complex project but with partnership meetings it was hoped to be completed by end of March 2024
- Aylesbury Special Expenses – the leases for all the Centres had been drafted and were being reviewed including Aylesbury Town Council looking at the management agreements in relation to existing tenants and running the Centres. It was hoped that this would be concluded by end of March 2024.

The Leader welcomed the report and commented that originally they had hoped to devolve more resources but this had not been achievable with staff resources and also with the current financial challenges on the capital side assets could no longer be gifted to other organisations. The Capital Programme was already over committed. Confirmation was given that the Council was still committed to this devolution policy within its financial constraints as it was an important part of the unitary offer. In terms of which two projects would be considered next town and parish councils would be asked to submit expressions of interest and two projects would be chosen which would bring most benefit to the Council. This would be considered by the Member Board. A Cabinet Member welcomed this policy and said it was good to have this in place to protect the Council's assets but also help communities with use of the Council's land on a shorter- or longer-term leasehold basis e.g nature corridors or using land for a community orchard. However, organisations needed to realise that Councils could no longer give away their assets and this Policy provided the right balance. The Council would only give away a freehold on an exceptional basis.

**RESOLVED –**

**That the updated Devolution and Asset Management Policy be AGREED.**

**12 Date of next meeting**  
24 October 2023

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## 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 ([Cabinet agendas](#) / [Leader decisions](#)).

All reports will be open unless specified otherwise.

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<b>Cabinet 24 October 2023</b>				
<b>Future Buckinghamshire Economic Development Organisation</b> In the context of Government announcements about the future of LEPs, to consider arrangements for carrying out economic development functions in Buckinghamshire		Councillor Martin Tett  Rachael Shimmin		2/10/23

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<b>Cabinet 14 November 2023</b>				
<p><b>Buckinghamshire Safeguarding children Partnership Annual Report 2022/23</b> The report evaluates the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements for children and young people in Buckinghamshire. It also sets out areas for development.</p>		<p>Cabinet Member Education and Children's Services  Joanne Stephenson</p>		16/10/23
<p><b>Climate Change &amp; Air Quality Strategy - Annual Progress Report 2022/23</b> A report detailing progress against actions from the Climate Change &amp; Air Quality Strategy Progress Report for the 2022/23 reporting period.</p>		<p>Councillor Gareth Williams  Steve Bambrick</p>		2/10/23
<p><b>Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023-2024: Mental Health</b> To endorse the Director of Public Health Annual Report (DPHAR) 2023-2024 which addresses Mental Health in Buckinghamshire</p>		<p>Councillor Angela Macpherson  Dr Jane O'Grady</p>		31/5/23
<p><b>Opportunity Bucks – Progress Update</b> Progress update</p>		<p>Councillor Martin Tett  Matthew Everitt</p>		2/10/23
<p><b>Q2 Budget adjustments to the Capital programme 2023-24</b> Quarterly report</p>		<p>Councillor John Chilver  Dave Skinner</p>		8/8/23



Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<b>Q2 Budget Monitoring Report 2023-24</b> Quarterly report		Councillor John Chilver  Dave Skinner		8/8/23
<b>Q2 Performance Report 2023-24</b> Quarterly report		Councillor John Chilver  Matthew Everitt		8/8/23
<b>Cabinet 12 December 2023</b>				
<b>All-age Autism Strategy</b> To agree the All-age Autism strategy for Buckinghamshire		Councillor Angela Macpherson  Simon Brauner-Cave		13/7/23
<b>Buckinghamshire Serious Violence Response Strategy 2023-2026</b> This sets out the strategy for tackling serious violence in Buckinghamshire, including the drivers of serious violence.		Councillor Arif Hussain  Dr Jane O'Grady		31/5/23
<b>Fly-Tipping Enforcement Policy and FPN Increase Review</b> To agree the revised Fly tipping Enforcement Policy to address the recent Government change to increase the upper limits of Fixed Penalty Notices for Fly-tipping and Failure in Household Duty of Care and review future delegation route.		Councillor Gareth Williams  Martin Dickman		7/9/23

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p><b>High Wycombe 2050 Transport Strategy and High Wycombe Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)</b> To approve the High Wycombe 2050 Transport Strategy and High Wycombe Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). The plans provide a long-term strategic approach to future transport investment in the High Wycombe.</p>	Abbey; Booker, Cressex & Castlefield; Downley; Ryemead & Micklefield; Terriers & Amersham Hill; Totteridge & Bowerdean; Tylers Green & Loudwater; West Wycombe	Councillor Steve Broadbent  Hannah Joyce		8/8/23
<p><b>Leisure services management contract</b> To award a new leisure management contract for the following facilities: Aqua Vale, Swan pool &amp; Leisure Centre, Beacon Sports Centre &amp; Theatre, the Evreham Centre, the Little Marlow Athletics Track.</p>		Councillor Clive Harriss  Sophie Payne	Part exempt <i>(para 3)</i>	6/7/23
<p><b>Leisure Strategy</b> To provide an assessment of indoor sports and leisure facilities, considering future opportunities and demand around this provision.</p>		Councillor Clive Harriss  Sophie Payne		26/1/23

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p><b>Proposed changes to the Waste Access and Acceptance Policy for the Household Recycling Centres (HRC) for charges relating to construction and demolition waste</b></p> <p>To implement the Government’s proposed legislative changes to the Council’s Waste Access and Acceptance Policy for the Household Recycling Centres (HRC) which needs to be amended.</p>	All Wards	Councillor Gareth Williams  Martin Dickman		11/10/23
<b>Cabinet 4 January 2024</b>				
<p><b>Six Monthly Adult Social Care Update to Cabinet</b></p> <p>To provide Cabinet with an update on the national and local issues relating to adult social care in Buckinghamshire.</p>		Councillor Angela Macpherson  Craig McArdle		7/9/23
<p><b>Skills and Employment Strategy 2024-2029</b></p> <p>The Buckinghamshire Skills and Employment Strategy will bring together the latest analysis, employer vision and the tertiary education providers to ensure that Buckinghamshire’s current and future workforce are equipped with the skills to reach their potential, gain meaningful employment and boost productivity.</p>		Councillor Anita Cranmer  Elizabeth North		11/10/23

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<b>Cabinet 13 February 2024</b>				
<p><b>Buckinghamshire Healthy Ageing Strategy 2023-28</b> To approve the Council's Healthy Ageing Strategy 2023-2028. The Healthy Ageing Strategy sets out how the Council and its partners will work to make Buckinghamshire more age friendly, which is a priority in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This will support Buckinghamshire residents to live healthy, fulfilling, and independent lives for as long as possible, to 'age well'.</p>		<p>Councillor Angela Macpherson  Dr Jane O'Grady</p>		23/12/22
<p><b>Chilterns Beechwoods Mitigation Strategy</b> Report to consider the recreational disturbance mitigation strategy for Ashridge Commons and Woods</p>	<p>Amersham &amp; Chesham Bois; Aylesbury South East; Chesham; Chess Valley; Chiltern Ridges; Great Missenden; Ivinghoe; Little Chalfont &amp; Amersham Common; Penn Wood &amp; Old Amersham</p>	<p>Councillor Peter Strachan  Charlotte Morris</p>		2/10/23
<p><b>Littering Enforcement Strategy - Options</b> Strategy on how to take litter enforcement forward - options paper.</p>		<p>Councillor Gareth Williams  Martin Dickman</p>	Part exempt ( <i>para 3</i> )	7/9/23

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p><b>Strategic Asset Management Plan</b> A new Strategic Asset Management Plan (2023-2028) to ensure the framework and management of the property portfolio is in line with our requirements now and in the future.</p>		<p>Councillor John Chilver  John Reed</p>		29/8/23
<b>October 2023 Leader Decisions</b>				
<p><b>Adult Social Care Travel Assistance Policy</b> To agree the travel assistance policy for Adult Social Care</p>		<p>Councillor Angela Macpherson  Tracey Ironmonger</p>		22/9/22
<p><b>Ashley Drive, Tylers Green Parking Review 2023</b> Report details the officer recommendations following a public consultation.</p>	Tylers Green & Loudwater	<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent  Ian Thomas</p>		29/6/23
<p><b>Aylesbury Junction Protection and School Entrance Restrictions Parking Review 2023</b> Report details the officer recommendations following a public consultation</p>	Aylesbury East; Aylesbury North; Aylesbury North West; Aylesbury South East; Aylesbury South West; Aylesbury West	<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent  Ian Thomas</p>		29/6/23

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p><b>Disabled Bay Parking Review 2023</b> Report details the officer recommendations following a public consultation</p>	<p>Abbey; Aylesbury East; Aylesbury North; Aylesbury North West; Aylesbury South West; Chalfont St Giles; Chess Valley; Chiltern Ridges; Cliveden; Denham; Farnham Common &amp; Burnham Beeches; Flackwell Heath, Little Marlow &amp; Marlow South East; Great Brickhill; Little Chalfont &amp; Amersham Common; Marlow; The Risboroughs; The Wooburns, Bourne End &amp; Hedsor; Totteridge &amp; Bowerdean; West Wycombe; Winslow</p>	<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent  Ian Thomas</p>		<p>13/7/23</p>

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p><b>Fleet Trading Account Budget</b> To confirm details of the 2023/24 Fleet Trading Account budget, which is a zero balanced budget and therefore can't be included in the full council decision taken in February for other revenue budgets.</p>		<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent  Lindsey Vallis</p>		7/3/23
<p><b>Greyhound Lane Winslow Parking Review 2023</b> Report details the results of the public consultation on proposed restrictions to prevent inappropriate parking.</p>	Winslow	<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent  Ian Thomas</p>		23/5/23
<p><b>Harmonisation of Pest Control Fees</b> The harmonisation of policy and fees regarding which residents are able to access subsidised pest control treatment.</p>		<p>Councillor Mark Winn  Jacqui Bromilow</p>		30/8/22
<p><b>High Street Iver Parking Review 2023</b> Report details the officer recommendations following a public consultation</p>	Iver	<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent  Ian Thomas</p>		29/6/23
<p><b>Horseshoe Crescent, Beaconsfield Parking Review 2023</b> Report details the officer recommendations following a public consultation</p>	Beaconsfield	<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent  Ian Thomas</p>		13/7/23

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p><b>Juniper Hill School Opening of a new SEMH Unit and Closure of existing ARP</b>            Proposal to open a Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Unit and close the Additional Resource Provision (ARP) at Juniper Hill School, Flackwell Heath.</p>	Flackwell Heath, Little Marlow & Marlow South East	Councillor Anita Cranmer  Paula Campbell-Balcombe		8/6/23
<p><b>Missenden Parking Review 2023</b>            Report details the officer recommendations following a public consultation</p>	Great Missenden	Councillor Steve Broadbent  Ian Thomas		13/7/23
<p><b>Physical Activity Strategy 2024 - 2029</b>            To approve the Councils physical activity strategy for 2024-29. The physical activity strategy sets out how the Council and its partners will improve the levels of physical activity and opportunities for Buckinghamshire residents.</p>		Councillor Angela Macpherson  Dr Jane O'Grady		19/4/23
<p><b>Procurement of care services within a Care Home and Extra-Care setting</b>            Proposal for direct award of contract following an unsuccessful competitive tender process.</p>		Councillor Angela Macpherson  Tracey Ironmonger	Part exempt ( <i>para 3</i> )	8/8/23
<p><b>Procurement of residential Care home capacity</b>            This paper seeks a decision on undertaking a competitive tender for residential care home capacity.</p>		Councillor Angela Macpherson  Tracey Ironmonger	Part exempt ( <i>para 3</i> )	29/8/23



Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p><b>Property acquisition in High Wycombe</b> Property purchase of former Residential Care Home, currently vacant</p>	Booker, Cressex & Castlefield	Councillor John Chilver  Lisa Michelson, John Reed	Part exempt <i>(para 3)</i>	14/8/23
<p><b>Proposed Traffic calming on High Street, Edlesborough</b> Installation of 'build-out' feature within the carriageway to effectively narrow the road to one lane of traffic with northbound traffic giving way. This scheme is to be constructed and paid for by the developer to land north of Good Intent.</p>	Ivinghoe	Councillor Steve Broadbent  Joe Bates		23/5/23
<p><b>Proposed Traffic calming on Stratford Drive, Bourne End</b> Proposed raised table covering a staggered junction on Stratford Drive to serve (newly created) junction into new residential development and the existing school access.</p>	The Wooburns, Bourne End & Hedsor	Councillor Steve Broadbent  Joe Bates		23/5/23
<p><b>Sale of surplus land known as The Courtyard, Cressex, High Wycombe</b> A decision is required on accepting one of the offers received as a result of an open market disposal process. The site has been declared surplus to requirements and the decision to sell with result in capital receipt and appropriate levels of affordable housing provision. The site will have been marketed for 4 weeks with the results of the process being presented in a full report to the Leader.</p>	Abbey	Councillor John Chilver  John Reed	Part exempt <i>(para 3)</i>	10/11/22

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p><b>School Competitions Recommendation of Preferred Sponsors</b>  Recommendation of proposed Academy Sponsors for three new primary schools:  Kingsbrook Primary 2  Hampden Fields Primary School  South West Milton Keynes Primary School</p>		<p>Councillor Anita Cranmer   Paula Campbell-Balcombe</p>		19/4/23
<p><b>Seer Green Parking Review 2023</b>  Report details the officer recommendations following a public consultation</p>	Chalfont St Giles	<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent   Ian Thomas</p>		29/6/23
<p><b>South West Chiltern Parking Review 2023</b>  Report details the officer recommendations following a public consultation</p>	Flackwell Heath, Little Marlow & Marlow South East; Marlow; The Wooburns, Bourne End & Hedsor	<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent   Ian Thomas</p>		13/7/23
<p><b>The Common, Flackwell Heath Parking Review 2023</b>  Report details the officer recommendations following a public consultation</p>	Flackwell Heath, Little Marlow & Marlow South East	<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent   Ian Thomas</p>		13/7/23

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<b>Thornbridge Road, Iver Heath Parking Review 2023</b> Report details the officer recommendations following a public consultation	Iver	Councillor Steve Broadbent  Ian Thomas		29/6/23
<b>Tylers Green Parking Review 2023</b> Report details the officer recommendations following a public consultation	Tylers Green & Loudwater	Councillor Steve Broadbent  Ian Thomas		29/6/23
<b>Wattleton Road, Beaconsfield Parking Review 2023</b> Report details the officer recommendations following a public consultation	Beaconsfield	Councillor Steve Broadbent  Ian Thomas		13/7/23
<b>Wethered Road Marlow Parking Review 2023</b> Report details the officer recommendations following a public consultation	Marlow	Councillor Steve Broadbent  Ian Thomas		29/6/23
<b>Whaddon Parking Review 2023</b> Report details the officer recommendations following a public consultation	Winslow	Councillor Steve Broadbent  Ian Thomas		29/6/23

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p><b>Aylesbury Grid Reinforcement - Update</b> An update on the way forward for the Aylesbury Grid Reinforcement Project.</p>	<p>Aylesbury South East; Bernwood; Ridgeway East; Stone &amp; Waddesdon; The Risboroughs; Wendover, Halton &amp; Stoke Mandeville</p>	<p>Councillor Martin Tett  David Johnson</p>	<p>Part exempt (<i>para 3</i>)</p>	<p>23/2/23</p>
<p><b>Bierton Traffic Calming</b> 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.</p>	<p>Aston Clinton &amp; Bierton</p>	<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent  Christine Urry</p>		<p>25/5/22</p>
<p><b>Furze Down School Relocation of Sixth Form</b> Proposal to relocate Furze Down School's Sixth form to the short breaks day service building in Buckingham</p>	<p>Buckingham East; Buckingham West; Winslow</p>	<p>Councillor Anita Cranmer  Paula Campbell-Balcombe</p>		<p>29/6/23</p>

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p><b>Junction Improvement A41 Aylesbury</b> Early investigation works to improve the A41 / King Edwards Avenue junction, funded by the Housing Infrastructure Fund.</p>	Aylesbury East; Aylesbury South East	Councillor Steve Broadbent  Rebecca Dengler-Jones, Robin Smith		11/10/23
<p><b>RAF Halton Supplementary Planning Document</b> Decision to agree the draft RAF Halton Supplementary Planning Document for public consultation.</p>	Wendover, Halton & Stoke Mandeville	Councillor Peter Strachan  Charlotte Morris		28/7/23
<p><b>Rosefield Solar Farm Development Consent Order (DCO)</b> This report seeks approval to obtain delegated powers for the Service Director of Planning &amp; Environment to engage in the Development Consent Order process for the Rosefield Solar Farm. The delegation will also include consultation with relevant Cabinet Member(s) on certain key documents submitted to the Council for a formal response.</p>	Buckingham West; Great Brickhill; Grendon Underwood; Stone & Waddesdon; Wing; Winslow	Councillor Peter Strachan  Christine Urry		11/10/23
<p><b>Scrap metal licensing policy</b> To agree final version of the scrap metal licensing policy.</p>		Councillor Mark Winn  Lindsey Vallis		8/8/23

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p><b>Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan - Affordable Housing - Supplementary Planning Document</b></p> <p>This Supplementary Planning Document provides affordable housing guidance to the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan Policies H1, H2, H6a, H6c, BE2.</p>	<p>Aston Clinton &amp; Bierton;  Aylesbury East;  Aylesbury North;  Aylesbury North West;  Aylesbury South East;  Aylesbury South West;  Aylesbury West;  Bernwood;  Buckingham East;  Buckingham West;  Great Brickhill;  Grendon Underwood;  Ivinghoe;  Stone &amp; Waddesdon;  Wendover,  Halton &amp; Stoke Mandeville;  Wing;  Winslow</p>	<p>Councillor Peter Strachan</p> <p>Charlotte Morris</p>		<p>15/2/23</p>

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<b>December 2023 Leader Decisions</b>				
<b>Aylesbury cycleway north of Bedgrove Park</b> Early investigative works for a new cycleway linking the Hampden Fields development and the existing Aylesbury cycle network	Aylesbury East; Aylesbury South East	Councillor Steve Broadbent  Rebecca Dengler-Jones, Robin Smith		11/10/23
<b>Buckinghamshire Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy for 2024 – 2029</b> To approve the Buckinghamshire Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy for 2024 – 2029		Councillor Angela Macpherson  Dr Jane O'Grady		29/8/23
<b>February 2024 Leader Decisions</b>				
<b>Cottesloe School Expansion</b> Proposal to expand Cottesloe School in Wing	Wing	Councillor Anita Cranmer  Paula Campbell-Balcombe		7/9/23

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<b>March 2024 Leader Decisions</b>				
<p><b>Buckinghamshire Tobacco Control Strategy 2024-29</b>            To approve the Councils Buckinghamshire Tobacco Control Strategy 2024-29, which sets out how the Council and its partners aim to save lives and improve the health of thousands of people in Buckinghamshire by minimising their exposure to tobacco.</p>		<p>Councillor Angela Macpherson</p> <p>Dr Jane O'Grady</p>		<p>6/7/23</p>



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 [democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk). 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  
[democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)



## Report to Cabinet

<b>Date:</b>	24 October 2023
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Future Buckinghamshire Economic Development Organisation</b>
<b>Cabinet Member(s):</b>	Leader of the Council
<b>Contact officer:</b>	Richard Ambrose
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	All wards
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<b>To agree the proposed arrangements set out at section 4 for the future delivery of the LEP functions.</b>

*This report has been taken under the general exception rule as it has not had the required notice on the forward plan and a decision is required following the government announcement on the future of LEPs.*

### 1. Executive summary

1.1 This report sets out the proposed arrangements for the transfer of the Bucks Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) functions to Buckinghamshire Council and asks Cabinet to agree the approach within Buckinghamshire, in light of the Government's decision to transfer the economic growth and business representation functions of LEPs to local authorities.

### 2. Background

2.1 Following a period of consultation earlier this year, the Government confirmed in August its decision to end Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) core funding from 2024/25 and transfer current LEP functions to local government in the interests of supporting local leadership, establishing more joined up delivery, greater efficiency and increased clarity for the business community.

2.2 Councils will receive transition funding in 2024/25 (also funding for the growth hub) to support them to take on these functions, with all future funding to be set out at the next Spending Review. The Government expects seamless Growth Hub provision

across the area, which will continue to support businesses and to provide a convening point for broader business support provision. The current level and duration of funding to be received by Councils is not known at present and it is unclear when the level of funding will be confirmed.

- 2.3 The Government expects that all decisions on the transfer and future management of assets will be taken by the LEP and its Accountable Body by March 2024. Further guidance is expected by January 2024. However, in general local agreement is expected, with government departments becoming directly involved only with those areas that cannot reach agreement. Following a series of discussions locally, this report sets out the key principles and proposals that have been developed to achieve the transfer in Buckinghamshire.

### **3. Buckinghamshire Context**

- 3.1 In February 2023, Cabinet / the LEP agreed the Buckinghamshire Place Based Growth model which set out new streamlined governance arrangements for economic delivery in the county. The emphasis of the new approach is to strengthen the alignment of activities to a place based common vision and plan, and pooling resources to meet jointly agreed priorities. The February 2023 report noted that for legal and funding reasons, the legal entity of the LEP would remain for the time being and that TUPE would not be pursued at that stage but might be considered in the future.
- 3.2 Given the recent announcement by Government about LEPs, we now need to revisit the delivery of the LEP functions, and the arrangements for securing a strong business voice in the Place Based governance.
- 3.3 Discussions have been taking place about the economic development landscape in Buckinghamshire for some months, with a view to maximising efficiency and effectiveness across our collective resources and capabilities. A key principle is a shared commitment to keep a strong and independent business voice around the economic development table. This needs to be in a way that adds value and does not lead to duplication and overlap. We also need to recognise the varied roles of a number of anchor institutions in the economic prosperity of the County. The proposals set out in this report have been developed on that basis.

### **4. Proposals for Future Economic Development Landscape in Buckinghamshire**

#### **Economic Development Functions**

- 4.1 In headline terms, it is proposed that the LEP be wound up and cease to exist as a separate legal entity by 1 April 2024 and that a number of the functions of the LEP

(including the delivery and governance of the Enterprise Zone programme) should transfer to Buckinghamshire Council. The precise scope of the functions to transfer will be subject to announcements about future Government funding, and agreements on the use of existing funding held by the LEP. The implications for staff transfer will therefore need to be explored in detail as part of the due diligence but it is anticipated that a number of staff will TUPE transfer to the Council to form part of an expanded economic development function, to manage the Enterprise Zones and to support the Investment Board.

- 4.2 It is envisaged that Buckinghamshire Business First (BBF) continues as the Bucks Growth Hub and the Skills Hub working with the Skills Board. Future funding for BBF would need to be clearly agreed by the Growth Board and its deliverables should be defined as part of a new service level agreement negotiated with the Growth Board.

### **Economic Development Governance**

#### *Place Based Growth Board*

- 4.3 Key to the governance of economic development in the county is the Place Based Growth Board and its supporting boards (see 4.5 below) which were set up in February 2023 with strong business and partnership input. In the context of the transfer of the LEP functions. It is proposed to strengthen the role of the Growth Board as follows:
- The Growth Board will approve and own the overall economic development strategy, identify the key priority sectors and locations for investment and productivity growth, act to encourage inward investment into Buckinghamshire and be the key interface to Government on any bids for structural funding, for example Levelling Up, Shared Prosperity Fund etc.
  - The economic development strategy will be owned by the Growth Board and have inputs from a variety of bodies including the Council, the Investment Board, Bucks Business First, the Bucks Business Group, Business Improvement Districts and Chambers of Commerce. It will be for the Growth Board to agree how these inputs are brought together and priorities established.
  - A clear Forward Plan will be developed for the Growth Board with a list of the issues the Board need to address, ownership and timescales.
- 4.4 The Growth Board will continue to be chaired by the Leader of the Council. The Vice Chairman will be from a business background and will be appointed by the Leader of the Council. The size and composition of the Growth Board will be reviewed to take account of these changes and it is recommended that the Leader of the Council agrees the final composition of the revised board.

#### *Supporting Partnerships*

- 4.5 The four Boards established to support the Growth Board comprise the Investment Board, the Skills Board, the Regeneration Board and the Opportunity Bucks Board. These Boards are not independent legal entities but have clear work plans and operate within the terms of reference agreed with the Growth Board.
- 4.6 These supporting partnership boards of the Growth Board will continue to progress work in line with their Terms of Reference. However, there will be some direct implications for the terms of reference and membership of the **Investment Board** as follows:
- Individual directors of the LEP will be invited to transition to become the Investment Board.
  - The terms of reference for the Investment Board will be strengthened in order to explicitly address the potential for conflicts of interest.
  - Within the overall strategy set by the Growth Board, the Investment Board will recommend applications for funding from third parties and also proactive strategic investment by the Council, for example in the town centres, Westcott, Woodlands etc. All applications would continue to be subject to Business Cases, full due diligence, and formal decision making by the Council.
  - The Chair of the Investment Board will be from a business background and will be identified by the Leader of the Council in his capacity as the Chair of the Growth Board.

## 5 Legal and financial implications

- 5.1 It is important that we are clear about the financial sustainability of our future economic development structures. A particular issue will be the ongoing revenue funding available to fund the operational costs of the economic development functions in order to minimise the use of one-off funding and reserves.
- 5.2 The Government has indicated that they will provide some revenue funding to local and combined authorities in 2024/25 to support them to deliver the functions currently delivered by LEPs. Details of this support will be confirmed in due course. Funding beyond 2024/25 will be subject to future Spending Review decisions. The detailed decisions about the transfer of functions from the LEP to the Council will need to take account of this funding announcement once it is made.
- 5.3 All funding held by the LEP (including the Enterprise Zone receipts) will be passported to the Council. This will include the pooled Connected Counties gainshare and the existing LEP Reserves, both of which are one-off sums (circa £4m) and the Enterprise Zone Business Rates surplus income (forecast to be £8.3m in March 2024, increasing to £34m by March 2029). This funding will be ringfenced to support economic development, including investment.

- 5.4 The Memorandum of Understanding in relation to the Enterprise Zone between the LEP and the Council will no longer apply.
- 5.5 At an early stage the Growth Board will recommend how much of this funding will need to be allocated for any one-off costs associated with the transition, as well as staff related costs for the current LEP functions that will be undertaken within the Council. The Growth Board will also consider and agree how much of it to allocate to Bucks Business First as part of a new service level agreement for the Growth Hub, Skills Hub and business support services.
- 5.6 The balance of the passported funding would be available as an economic development and Investment Fund to drive investment in the county. Whilst not legally enforceable, the Council is committed to ringfencing this funding into an earmarked reserve held solely for economic development. Its deployment will be for the Growth Board to determine, with advice from the Investment Board and reference to the Council's Section 151 officer. Any additional funding obtained for economic development, for example through bidding processes or grant allocations, would be added to this reserve. The Enterprise Zone income will increase considerably over future years and will provide an on-going contribution to the Fund for future strategic investment.

## **6 Communication, engagement & further consultation**

- 6.1 This report will be considered in parallel by the Council and the LEP Board. Engagement with the LEP Board and staff, together with other stakeholders in the economic development landscape has taken place. Legal consultation will take place with the current LEP staff in accordance with TUPE regulations.

## **7 Next steps and review**

- 7.1 A detailed timeline and project plan will be produced for agreement between the Council and the LEP by the end of October, with a view to winding up the LEP and transferring staff and resources as soon as it practicable, and by 1 April 2024 at the latest. There will also be a number of legal, tax and governance issues to work through as part of the detailed planning, including the mechanisms for achieving the new arrangements.
- 7.2 An updated report will be provided to Cabinet once there is greater clarity about the Government funding for LEP functions in local authorities, and the detailed implications for the transfer of functions to the Council and for LEP employees.
- 7.3 The arrangements set out in this report will be subject to review after 9 months from the implementation date with recommendations for any revisions made to the Growth Board within 12 months of the new arrangement going live.

## **8 Background papers**

[Report for Place Based Growth Model.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

## **9 Your questions and views (for key decisions)**

If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report, please get in touch with 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. This can be done by email to [democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)