



Cabinet agenda

Date: Tuesday 10 November 2020

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Via MS Teams Video Conference, available to the public at
<https://buckinghamshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

Membership:

M Tett (Leader), A Macpherson (Cabinet Member Adult Social Care) (Deputy Leader), K Wood (Cabinet Member Resources) (Deputy Leader), S Bowles (Cabinet Member Town Centre Regeneration), B Chapple OBE (Cabinet Member Environment and Climate Change), J Chilver (Cabinet Member Property & Assets), A Cranmer (Cabinet Member Education and Skills), I Darby (Cabinet Member Housing & Homelessness), T Green (Cabinet Member Youth Provision), C Harriss (Cabinet Member Sports and Leisure), P Hogan (Cabinet Member Culture), D Martin (Cabinet Member Logistics), N Naylor (Cabinet Member Transport), M Shaw (Cabinet Member Children's Services), W Whyte (Cabinet Member Planning and Enforcement), G Williams (Cabinet Member Communities & Public Health) and F Wilson (Cabinet Member Regulatory Services)

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11	Exclusion of the public (if required) To resolve that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.	
	Paragraph 3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	
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14	Exclusion of the Press and Public To resolve that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.	
	Paragraph 3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	
15	Potential submission of a bid for the acquisition of the Friars Square Shopping Centre, Aylesbury THIS ITEM HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN	
16	Date of next meeting Tuesday 15 December 2020 at 10am	

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Cabinet minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday 13 October 2020 in Via MS Teams Video Conference, available to the public at <https://buckinghamshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>, commencing at 10.00 am and concluding at 12.25 pm.

Members present

M Tett, A Macpherson, K Wood, B Chapple OBE, J Chilver, A Cranmer, I Darby, T Green, C Harriss, P Hogan, D Martin, N Naylor, M Shaw, W Whyte, G Williams and F Wilson

Apologies

S Bowles

Agenda Item

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Steve Bowles, Cabinet Member for Town Centre Regeneration.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2020 were AGREED as an accurate record.

3 Declarations of interest

Bill Chapple declared a personal interest in item 8 as his son worked in the Children's Services Department for Buckinghamshire Council. Angela Macpherson declared a personal interest in item 11 as Board Member of Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust.

4 Hot Topics

The following hot topics were discussed:-

Leader

The Leader gave an update on covid-19. Buckinghamshire has had low infection rates but they have risen quite significantly recently. He sent out a regular newsletter to residents and would be sending a newsletter to them today. The rate was particularly high in Chiltern and South Bucks and Wycombe. He urged residents to make a concerted effort to abide by the rules and to be not be complacent otherwise the rates could continue to increase to those seen in the Midlands and potentially the north of England. He did not want to see any restrictions on resident's personal freedom and the local economy. Buckinghamshire was currently

in Tier 1 at medium risk but the trend was showing that there was a potential to move up into Tier 2.

Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change

- Buckinghamshire has been chosen as a pilot for a Nature Recovery Strategy with four other Authorities; Manchester, Northumberland, Cumbria and Cornwall. Buckinghamshire was the only Council to be chosen in the middle to southern England.
- Pembroke Depot in Aylesbury was flooded due to the heavy rain so operators were one day late in collecting rubbish but they were back to normal this week. He thanked all the officers involved in clearing the depot.
- The questionnaire on climate change had now closed which had been sent to residents and businesses. They had a good response to the questionnaire which would help guide the Strategy, which would be sent out for consultation at the end of this year.
- The Leader thanked the Cabinet Member as there had been significant issues with waste collection in the Chiltern and Wycombe areas which was being rectified. The Cabinet Member reported that 99% of collections were now being undertaken in Buckinghamshire which was 250,000 households.

Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness

- The Council had been successful in receiving a Government Grant for the Next Steps Accommodation Programme to help provide accommodation for the homeless during the covid-19 pandemic. This consisted of a £485,000 revenue grant to offset the accommodation costs. They also have £650,000 capital funding which would enable a partner housing association to purchase 15 units for former rough sleepers who were currently in supported housing which would free up further space.
- The Cabinet Member was taking part in the Big Sleep Out on 20 November 2020 and the money raised would be given to Wycombe Homeless Connection.

Cabinet Member for Planning and Enforcement

- He referred to nominations for the new Buckinghamshire Design Awards to champion design excellence which included good architecture, urban design or conservation work. The deadline was 16 October 2020 with nominations sent to designawards@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

5 Question Time

Cllr Stuchbury's question

I'm seeking reassurance from the Cabinet member in regards to processing planning applications particularly within the Buckingham/rural area. A few of the North Bucks area planning committee meetings have been cancelled with the suggestion that there is no business which needs processing. However, there are a number of

applications, some dating back to 2018, and many of them are for major developments within a community with an agreed neighbourhood development plan which was agreed by the latter-day planning authority through public referendum within Buckingham. I, therefore, seek a better understanding of why the committee has only met once this year. Is there some issue which we are not privy to regarding staffing or the ability to process applications or is there a procedural operational change in determining applications which could explain why there are not sufficient planning applications to be determined? I've been thinking of asking the question for some time, but the latest cancellation of the meeting of 30th September this was the catalyst necessitating presenting this question to seek clarity of the above concern.

Response provided by Warren Whyte, Cabinet Member for Planning and Enforcement.

It was recognised that there are a number of legacy issues within the former Development Management teams, which were now with the new council to resolve. As such, the Planning and Environment Service was one of the first areas of the Council to be reviewed as part of Buckinghamshire Council's Review and Revive Programme. In addition the Council had started implementing immediate actions in Development Management, with a view to bringing about improvements to expedite the determination of applications ahead of the wider service programme.

In total since April 2020 the Council had received 951 applications within the North area, of those 425 fell within the categories defined in the council's constitution that could be called into committee (full, outline or reserved matters). The North Area Committee had only been held once, with 4 committee dates being cancelled. This was because the majority of applications were being determined using delegated powers. The council had determined 964 applications in the North area under delegated powers since April 2020 and 1 application had been determined by the North Area Planning committee. It should be noted that in accordance with national best practice over 96% of applications were usually determined by councils under delegated authority.

He had asked Officers to review the sites listed by Councillor Stuchbury. Out of the 42 listed, 10 of the applications did not fall within the category that could be called into committee. Of those pending the majority were being actively worked on and awaiting further information or subject to negotiation. Very few were subject to call in request by a Member, albeit comments had been made. The Council were actively programming applications to forthcoming committees but this would be dependent on the stage that was reached on negotiations on the application at the time of the closing of agendas.

The service would also carry out an investigation as to the consistency of the number and type of applications reaching each of the five area committees and feed this into an overall view of how the constitution was operating in this area.

Cllr Robin Stuchbury (written response)

In light of the written response and verbal response at the Cabinet meeting on 8 September 2020, has the Cabinet now come to the conclusion of their view on the proposals in the Planning White Paper and the environmental and economic impact this could have for Buckinghamshire, as well as the implications for local democratic accountability in the planning process?

Response to be provided by Warren Whyte, Cabinet Member for Planning and Enforcement.

The Council's draft response to the Planning White Paper has been published and was on the agenda for this Cabinet meeting. He will see from the draft response that whilst there were some interesting ideas in the White Paper, he also had a number of concerns and intended to make a full submission to Government before the close of the consultation period.

Cllr Alan Bacon

The Long Shadow of Deprivation is a very recent report from a government agency, the Social Mobility Commission. This report identifies social mobility in Chiltern as amongst the very worst in the country. Will the portfolio holder please report on how the council will seek to address this situation?

Response provided by Gareth Williams, Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health.

Whilst the Council welcome the intentions of the report to highlight partnership work needed to reduce inequalities, unfortunately the way the data had been used had led to some misleading conclusions and was contradicted by other, more comprehensive reports issued by the same Commission.

There were four areas in Buckinghamshire. These were Aylesbury Vale with a median 'deprived' wage in 2014-2016 of £15,200, South Bucks at £17,100, Wycombe at £15,500 and, somewhat bizarrely, Chiltern at just £6,900. In the case of Chiltern, with just 52 out of 1440 in the school year chosen (just 3.6%) in the 'most deprived' category it was easy to see how a median could be affected when the entire authority was judged by its 26th most deprived earned income. By comparison, the total 'deprived' number in most areas was 13-14% of the population.

One of the report's main conclusions was that areas with lower pay for disadvantaged sons and less equality of opportunity were typically more deprived areas, have lower house prices, fewer market opportunities in professional occupations, fewer educational opportunities in 'outstanding' schools and were more densely populated. The fact that none of those variables apply to Chiltern area further serves to illustrate this appears to be an anomaly. In actual fact, the unemployment level in Chiltern was just 4.2%, well below the national average. With

regard to schools in the Chiltern area, 49/51 (96%) were good or outstanding (33% were outstanding).

The Social Mobility Commission's latest, more comprehensive, 'State of the National report, using a variety of 14 different data sources a year after the above mentioned report, showed Chiltern as a social mobility hotspot, 56th out of 324 authorities.

That said the Council were not being complacent and wanted to see Social Mobility as a hallmark of the place in which residents lived. The Council needed to keep supporting schools to retain their well above average Ofsted ratings, results and pupil progress as well as creating the right conditions for good jobs in the local economy. Furthermore, the Council continued to work with the Buckinghamshire Skills Hub to ensure that all secondary school pupils have access to good careers advice and opportunities. The Under 19's careers education program had been rated the most successful careers and enterprise program for the 2nd year by the Careers and Enterprise Company. The annual Skills Show provided a showcase to careers for young people. This year due to restrictions it would be a series of online events aimed at bringing lessons to life by showing how curriculum subjects could be applied in the workplace and supporting young people through their next choices during these challenging time.

The Council would be working through their Community Boards to make sure they were aware of their local inequalities and could direct funding locally towards projects which best address local needs. The Council were also speaking to the Commission to explore best practice projects and to see if there was more to learn from the small dataset they used.

Cllr Lesley Clarke

Why has the Cabinet Member not incorporated any of the suggestions from local Members, the Chairman and Members of High Wycombe Town Committee and the Chairman of the High Wycombe Community Board Infrastructure Sub Group in putting together the recommendations as those submitted to Cabinet on Handy Cross Park and Ride Car Park?

Response provided by David Martin, Cabinet Member for Logistics.

He, along with officers advising him had taken fully into account all suggestions from local members and stakeholders regarding the Handy Cross Car park. Prior to the public consultation he had a number of telephone conversations with Cllr Clarke and other local members; he also received and replied to various emails from Cllr Clarke and other local members. Thereafter, accompanied by the Service Director, he attended a meeting of the High Wycombe Town Committee, at which Cllr Clarke, with other members, asked numerous questions and made a wide range of representations, all of which were noted and taken into account when preparing his report to Cabinet.

The public consultation on the proposals for Handy Cross park and ride car park commenced on 28/8/20 and ran until 20/9/20. During this time, the Council received a total of 61 responses. Of those, four identified themselves as Councillors, two informing they were members of the High Wycombe Town Committee, and one informing they were a member of the High Wycombe Community Board Infrastructure Group. No formal response to the consultation was received from Cllr Clarke.

He was satisfied that all comments received pre-consultation, and from the consultation itself, had been fully considered; were summarised in Appendix B to his report; and were taken into account in the preparation of his report.

6 Forward Plan (28 Day Notice)

RESOLVED: Cabinet NOTED the forward plan.

7 Select Committee Work Programme

With regard to the Transport, Environment and Climate Change Select Committee it was noted that the contributor for the Transport for Bucks Contract Re-procurement should be amended to Nick Naylor. A Cabinet Member commented that whilst the Select Committee Work Programme was important with the escalating covid-19 figures there would be increasing pressure on NHS and social care staff so the quality and depth of information provided to Select Committees could be impacted. The Leader commented that this could also have an impact on other Council work including budgets and staffing.

RESOLVED: Cabinet NOTED the Select Committee Work Programme.

8 Director of Public Health Annual Report

Cabinet received the Annual Report on the health of the Buckinghamshire population from the Director of Public Health. The Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health reported that the aim was to support a strategic approach in the new council and partners to address the health of the local population. The report also analysed the health of residents at a more local level both at a community board level and at the level of primary care networks. This would enable the new Community Boards to understand some of the health and wellbeing issues in their local area. The DPH annual report provided further detail on the factors that drive health and should be read in conjunction with the Community Board profiles.

The four main health behaviours – smoking, physical inactivity, unhealthy diet and alcohol misuse account for 40% of all years lived with ill health and disability. These behaviours were major risk factors driving the development of long-term conditions that account for 70% of all NHS and social care spend.

The Director of Public Health reported that this year's report was more of a stocktake looking back at past years and looking to the future. 140 million working days were lost every year due to ill health that cost the Country £22 billion which

was why health was at the core of everything. Buckinghamshire had some of the best health outcomes in the Country; this was due to the high quality environment, good education attainment and higher incomes. Despite this it was important to deal with long term health conditions. There were also variations in Buckinghamshire which was why Community Boards were invaluable in targeting local need. Only a small part of the population lived in the most deprived areas nationally. This has had an impact on the covid-19 pandemic which has hit certain communities more than others.

Looking to the future there was an increasingly ageing population. However, whilst young people were smoking and drinking less there was an increase in obesity and mental health problems. The economic impact of covid-19 was also a health factor; in the last recession in 2008 a 1% rise in unemployment led to 2% rise in long term conditions. It was important to build back better.

During discussion the following points were made:-

- One in 10 children live in poverty and reassurance was given that this was the Government's definition of poverty and it was a relative rather than absolute poverty; as areas benchmark against other parts of the Country. They used the percentage below the median income that the family was at to measure poverty; Buckinghamshire's rate was half the national average.
- There were concerns about the increased rate of covid-19 within the BAME communities around the susceptibility of getting covid-19 and also their fatality rate. The Council had run workshop sessions with Members to raise awareness of those vulnerabilities in the community including protecting the community as a whole. The Director of Public Health reported that they were working with the NHS and partners to specifically look at BAME communities and health inequalities which included improving data collection to monitor the impact, better communications campaigns which were culturally sensitive and culturally competent prevention campaigns to address long term health conditions that increase the risk of getting covid-19 such as diabetes, heart disease and high blood pressure. NHS health checks were targeting those communities to identify any concerns and also any contact made with care services. The Council was also looking at their experience during covid-19 pandemic using behaviour insight to identify ways to help these communities. Trusted local leaders were key in spreading important messages.
- Community Boards were the local delivery mechanism to drive local programmes. Post covid-19 pandemic the Team would work closely with Community Boards using pump priming money from the public health budget to help provide for local health needs and work on local health and wellbeing plans and covid-19 recovery plans. This would involve working with the voluntary and community sector, primary care networks and Community Board Co-ordinators.
- A question was raised about mental health, depression and suicide rates and the impact of covid-19 on anxiety levels due to social isolation, growing

unemployment and lack of support network and how the Council was supporting staff in this area. Confidential support was offered to Council staff and uptake of this was monitored to see if services needed to be increased with the Mental Health Assistance Programme. The Team were also looking at online resources. At the beginning of the crisis they worked with the Mental Health Trust linking in with the voluntary sector to expand services such as bereavement. A Work Programme has been developed across the partnership which was being taken forward looking at vulnerable groups, particularly those who have been adversely affected and further funding has been allocated for mental health projects including suicide prevention.

- A Member referred to the table on page 84 of the agenda and expressed surprise at respiratory issues being the third biggest cause of deaths and wondered whether this was connected to climate change. The Director of Public Health reported that climate change would result in intense storms, flooding, air pollution, food insecurity and the spread of new infectious diseases. The impact of covid-19 globally would be dwarfed by the impact of climate change.
- Reference was made to the importance of GPs undertaking preventative work. The Director of Public Health referred to a previous discussion at the Health and Wellbeing Board and if you did just one thing it would be to prevent cardiovascular disease and just one thing inside that was smoking which would take out cancers, respiratory and cardiovascular disease.
- A point was made that it was important to have health issues raised in all policies which was particularly relevant now the Council had become unitary and to think holistically about health impacts across all areas eg housing.

Cabinet welcomed the report.

RESOLVED

Cabinet NOTED the Director of Public Health Annual Report and ENDORSED the recommendations below and the draft action plan.

Recommendations within the Director of Public Health Annual Report for Buckinghamshire Council

- a) The council to consider adopting a 'health in all policies' approach whereby relevant policies and decisions consider how residents health could be improved and poor health prevented as part of business as usual, e.g. when planning new developments or considering transport policies.
- b) The council to consider opportunities to develop its role as an anchor organisation.
- c) The council to continue to roll out training to front line staff to encourage residents to make simple changes that could improve their health, wellbeing and independence and ensure staff can

signpost people to community assets that can support this.

- d) The Buckinghamshire Council public health and prevention team should support Community Boards to consider the health needs of their population and what simple practical steps they could take to improve health in their local area.
- e) To continue to promote the health of the council workforce with good workplace health policies.

Recommendations for Community Boards

- f) Community Boards should work with local communities, public health and wider partners to identify the health and wellbeing issues in their local area and take effective action to address them. Community boards should use their pump-priming wellbeing fund to help improve health and wellbeing in their area.

Recommendations for the NHS and primary care networks

The NHS should:

- a) Increase their focus on preventing ill health and tackling inequalities and ensure this is built into every care pathway.
- b) Consider how to build a health in all policies approach and opportunities to act as an anchor organisation.
- c) Consider how the NHS can best support effective place-based working and community-centred approaches.
- d) Ensure front line staff are trained to support people to make simple changes to improve their health and wellbeing and to signpost people to community assets that support this.
- e) Continue to promote and protect the health of their workforce through effective workplace policies.

Primary care networks:

- a) Should work with their local communities, Buckinghamshire Council public health, Community Boards and other partners to understand and improve the health in their local area.
- b) Ensure front line staff are trained to support people to make simple changes to improve their health and wellbeing and signpost people to community assets that can support their health.
- c) Continue to promote and protect the health of their workforce.

9 Youth Justice Strategic Plan

Cabinet received a report on the Youth Justice Strategic Plan which was produced every year to set out how youth justice services in the local area were to be provided and funded. The Cabinet Member for Children's Services commented that last year the priorities had been to address disproportionality, prevent exploitation of young people and embedding an evidence based model of practice. During the covid-19 pandemic the Service used alternative methods to contact young people and they had managed to contact every young person apart from one who had been unavailable before the pandemic started. Funding was always a challenge but the budget remained stable.

The priorities for next year were to reduce first time entrance into the Service, reduce reoffending and the use of custody. There had been excellent collaboration between key partners and the Cabinet Member thanked the police and staff for all their hard work.

During discussion the following points were made:-

- One of the past priorities had been to address disproportionality however the figures for custodian sentences in Buckinghamshire were high compared to the South East. The Corporate Director for Children's Services reported that part of their work over the past two years was to look at local demographics and for some groups of young people they were at greater risk of reoffending. Whilst the numbers were generally low there were some young people with complex needs and a number of options were being explored to address these.
- A Member asked for a gender breakdown of those young people who used the service and asked if they were mostly male. He also commented that in the report it did give a breakdown of those working in the Service who were mostly female. The Corporate Director for Children's Services reported that they looked for staff who could relate to young people regardless of their gender. In some years there have been an increase in male young offenders but there were no stereotypes.

RESOLVED: Cabinet AGREED the 2020/21 Youth Justice Strategic Plan.

10 Handy Cross Park and Ride Car Park - Introduce Charges

Cabinet received a report on the Handy Cross Development which commenced in May 2014 with the intention of introducing charges in the 396 space park and ride car park. The Cabinet Member for Logistics reported that the site was just off junction 4 of the M40 at the top of Marlow Hill which was a good position for High Wycombe Town Centre. The report only related to the Council owned car park not to the other facilities on that site.

As the car park was being maintained at the expense of Council tax payers the plan

was to introduce parking charges in the same manner as the other 84 council owned car parks. Currently on the site there was a park and ride facility which provided free parking and free bus travel to the town centre except for Saturday with a charge of £2.50. This arrangement, which was funded from CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy), was in place until 31/3/21. Decisions around bus fares continuing to be free would be subject to future CIL applications. The car park was designed by the then Wycombe District Council.

Subject to Cabinet approval and the amendment order being made, customers would pay for parking upon their return and pay only for the time they have used. Payments could be made at the machine with credit / debit card using both chip and pin and contactless payment functions. This negated the need for civil enforcement officers. The recommended tariffs were drawn up as a result of the public consultation and to ensure a fair and consistent approach for all users. The tariff structure took into account charges in the town centre.

If Cabinet agreed the recommendations the new parking restrictions and tariff structure would be displayed for 28 days and would be introduced from Monday 16 November 2020. The Cabinet Member for Logistics reported that he had taken into account comments made at the High Wycombe Town Committee.

During discussion the following points were made:-

- Whilst some of the comments had been taken into account at the High Wycombe Town Committee not all comments had been taken forward. A Member referred to the need to increase infrastructure for electric cars. There were three electric points with six connectors which were 3kw which was the equivalent of a 13 amp plug; this equated to 10 miles for every hour they were connected. The leisure centre had 7kw and were free to use by customers. The Council should be providing a similar service. The Cabinet Member responded by saying that the electric car points had been commissioned by the then Wycombe District Council but that he would look into whether these should be replaced.
- Once Wycombe Wanderers resume playing the town centre could be having crowds of up to 10,000 people and parking needed to be provided away from the stadium at the park and ride facility. Wycombe Wanderers had not responded but should have been contacted by the Council as an important stakeholder. Football fans should not be asked to pay for parking and bus fares as this may cause them to park elsewhere in Sands which would cause disruption for local residents. The Cabinet Member reported that he would be speaking to the club about appropriate parking arrangements on match days.
- A Member referred to the 10 hour banding for the car park which she commented was unusual as it was normally 12 hours. The Cabinet Member responded to say that the 10hr tariff was proposed at £3.00 to enable schools' staff and pupils and business staff to be able to park for a school day or shift at relatively low cost compared to parking in the Town centre, The

- longer stay tariffs provided flexibility to support the wider community.
- Reference was made to the publicity of these changes and also how the Council was working with bus operators and Chiltern Rail to link in with commuter trains to encourage park and ride. The Cabinet Member responded that they were in discussion with bus and train operators to align services.
 - Members noted that Wycombe District Council had previously intended to introduce charges and that there would be a six month review to look at the impact of these charges on other areas. The Cabinet Member also reported that Wycombe District Council had set up a Task and Finish Group to look at the original proposals to introduce charges at the car park with 16 recommendations; none of which covered recent representations.

RESOLVED

Cabinet AGREED to the introduction of parking restrictions and a tariff structure at Handy Cross Park and Ride car park in High Wycombe as set out in the paragraph below and AUTHORISED the making of the orders which are necessary to give effect to this decision:

1. Tariff structure:

Up to 30 minutes - £0.00
Up to 4 hours - £1.20
Up to 10 hours - £3.00
Up to 24 hours - £4.00
Up to 48 hours - £8.00
Up to 72 hours - £12.00
Up to 96 hours - £16.00
Maximum stay of 96 hrs
2. Parking Permits priced at £60 per calendar month, purchasable in monthly increments up to a maximum of 12 months for £720.
3. Car park open and chargeable 24hrs per day, seven days a week and 365 days of the year with the exceptions of Christmas Day, official Boxing Day and Easter Sunday, when the car park will be open; but charges will not apply.
4. Car park fees and charges to apply for electric vehicle users to enable electric vehicle bays to be effectively managed and availability of space maximised.
5. Disabled Badge holders park for free; in line with the majority of council owned/managed car parks in Buckinghamshire.

11 Planning White Paper Response

Cabinet received a report which set out an intended response from the Council to the Government's recent consultation paper entitled 'Planning for the Future'. The Leader reported that this was the biggest change to planning since 1947 and he

encouraged Members, Parish and Town Councils and residents to look at the proposed changes as this would impact on all local areas and would have a profound impact on Buckinghamshire and its natural attributes.

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Enforcement referred also to the importance of this public consultation. He commented that the current system was not perfect however with regard to the Government proposals there was a mixture of helpful ideas (digitalisation of planning and making the local plan process slicker) but also areas of concern. He summarised the main points as follows:-

- Reduces local democratic accountability
- Reduce the engagement of local plans
- Inflated housing targets
- Affordable housing proposals must be properly funded
- Developers should fund the full cost of development
- Greater penalties for planning enforcement

The Cabinet Member reported that the reason that it was being discussed at an early point at Cabinet was to allow other organisations to understand the Council's approach so that they could feed their comments back either individually or through the Council. The White Paper was split into 3 areas with 24 specific proposals; planning and development, beauty and sustainability and infrastructure.

Cabinet asked that the following comments be taken into account in the draft response:-

- The quality of architecture was a key requirement.
- Consideration needed to be given to reforming the Planning Inspectorate to avoid delays.
- Infrastructure funding was not front-loaded and infrastructure should be provided before expansion.
- Further consideration should be given to health needs with future developments.
- Simplification of local plans were a concern and it was important that local communities were not disenfranchised.
- Reference was made to thresholds so that the 10 threshold was reduced not increased to 40-50 for affordable housing. This would be an issue for rural areas.
- There was a problem with developers land banking and controlling delivery – if planning permission was granted then developers should be given a time frame to build houses.
- Concerns were raised about housing targets which would be non-negotiable. The target would be calculated by an algorithm. The Council could be given a high target which they could not meet because of issues outside of its control e.g. the area of outstanding natural beauty and developers not building houses. The Cabinet Member reported that he had responded robustly to Government in the past two weeks on housing targets which had been

welcomed by stakeholders.

Members noted that the White Paper would have a significant impact on the Buckinghamshire Local Plan but if the Government firmed up its proposals in the next six to twelve months then the Council would be in a good position to work with the new system. It was important that communities had enough time to put their views forward on their new local plans but the Cabinet Member for Planning and Enforcement was concerned that the timeframe suggested in the White Paper was not robust enough for this at the moment.

The deadline for the response to Government was 29 October 2020.

RESOLVED

Cabinet AGREED the draft response to the Government consultation as set out in Appendix A of the report, with delegated responsibility for submission of the final response, incorporating the further changes above made at the Cabinet meeting, to the Corporate Director Planning Growth and Sustainability in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Enforcement.

12 Aylesbury Garden Town - Housing Infrastructure Fund, contract signing

Cabinet received a report on the Aylesbury Garden Town Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) contract signing. The Council had provisionally been awarded £172,323,426 by Homes England to enable the building of nearly 10,000 new homes in Aylesbury through the delivery of specific key infrastructure projects including roads and schools, subject to entering into the contract. The majority of the funding was to provide infrastructure ahead of the Section 106 monies or income receipt.

The Leader reported that the Council had bid successfully for Government funding for the Housing Infrastructure Fund to provide essential infrastructure to enable the delivery of housing in Aylesbury but would also impact on other areas of the County e.g. Princes Risborough. Homes England were the agency working on behalf of Government and they needed to secure legal release of this money. The report set out the legal conditions which included financial implications and risks. This funding would help fund link roads around Aylesbury plus new schooling, electricity generation and other key infrastructure. A new Board would oversee the Project chaired by the Leader.

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change welcomed the proposal and commented that whilst some residents may not like extra road building it would have a good impact on the environment by alleviating roads in the town centre and also help surrounding villages who had a number of power cuts because of electricity generation.

RESOLVED:

- 1) Cabinet AGREED to delegate authority to approve the Housing Infrastructure**

Fund

(HIF) Aylesbury Garden Town (AGT) contract to the Corporate Director for Planning Growth and Sustainability (PG&S), and the Section 151 officer (jointly), in consultation with the Leader.

- 2) Cabinet NOTED the key risks to the Council in agreeing to the contract with Homes England.**
- 3) Cabinet AGREED to the establishment of a new HIF Investment Board (a Member led Board to oversee the HIF Programme), including Aylesbury Garden Town HIF, Princes Risborough HIF, Abbey Barn Lane HIF and A355 Beaconsfield Relief Road HIF. Membership will consist of the Leader, the Cabinet Member for Resources, the Cabinet Member for Transport, the Cabinet Member for Town Centre Regeneration, and the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills. Its role will be to monitor progress, recommend changes in funding allocations between projects and consider the re-allocation of the HIF recycling pot.**

15 Winslow Centre Development

Cabinet received a report on a proposed scheme of a mixture of housing and community/ sports facilities for the Winslow Centre Development

The Cabinet Member for Property and Assets reported that the Winslow Site covered 15 acres to the north of the town and was the site of a former secondary school which closed in 1989. Cabinet previously agreed to the demolition of these buildings which was now taking place with the exception of the library which remained open for the time being. This report requested progression to the next stage which included design, feasibility and consultation and the preparation of the planning application. The site was divided into three plots; Plot 1 would provide a new library and place for community activities, Plot 2 extra care and sheltered accommodation and Plot 3 residential development. The existing sports facilities on the site which included rugby, football and tennis would eventually be relocated to a new sports hub owned by the Council to the north of the town. The Scheme was financially viable and would deliver significant benefits to residents. There had been regular engagement with a range of stakeholders including local members, Town Council, local community and sports clubs.

The Local Member was invited to address Cabinet, on an exception basis. He made the following comments:-

- The Project had been described as One Public Estate but there were no other organisations involved.
- Some of the proposals were contrary to the Winslow Neighbourhood Plan. The site was proposed for development in the Plan but not as proposed in the Cabinet report. The site was allocated with a medical centre, extra care housing and green space. The key element was the medical centre with the extra growth in Winslow but the report inferred that the Clinical

Commissioning Group (CCG) had withdrawn. Any further work should be conditional upon re-engagement with the CCG and NHS property with a view to delivering a new medical centre as a core element of the proposal.

- There was no reference in the Neighbourhood Plan for residential development in Plot 3. 38 residential units were proposed in addition to the care homes. This had not been mentioned in discussions with the Parish Council.
- The Neighbourhood Plan called for 30% affordable homes; the allowance in the report was only 25% which would have a negative impact on the net capital receipt.
- The library provided an excellent service with 60 volunteers. The report referred to service transformation but it would be difficult to improve the service already provided in the old building. They were concerned about a reduced sized library as the new building also needed to contain community facilities and office space.
- The redevelopment of the site should not begin until the sports facilities were re-located however, this was provided for in the plans. The cost of the improved sports facilities should be taken out of the capital receipt.

Following discussion of the exempt report the Cabinet Member for Property and Assets reported that the Council would welcome any re-engagement with the CCG and NHS. The CCG had withdrawn from discussions earlier in the year, together with Thames Valley Police. The channels of communication had been kept open for re-engagement. He provided a commitment to enhanced sports facilities in the new sports hub and to pay due regard to the Winslow Neighbourhood Plan. There would be full consultation with the Town Council and local community.

RESOLVED

1. **Cabinet APPROVED the release of £800k from the Winslow capital project budgets to complete the initial concept design stage for the Winslow Centre Development (a One Public Estate funded feasibility project).**
2. **Cabinet AUTHORISED the Director of Property and Assets in consultation with the agreed Cabinet Member, the S151/Head of Finance delegated authority to take the project through to the end of RIBA Stage 3. This will see completion of the initial concept design stage including:**
 1. **Seeking pre-planning advice, public consultation and submission of the relevant planning application(s); including the development of a planning strategy and a full local member and stakeholder consultation plan;**
 2. **Continuing negotiations with specialist housing providers and public sector partners to inform the business case decision to be brought back to Cabinet;**
 3. **Appointment of Professional Teams and commissioning of further required surveys;**

4. The exploration of a property company for the management, rent and or sale of housing units (residential and independent living);
 5. Arranging the provision of a temporary library facility to prepare for the existing library decant whilst it is re-provisioned in a new facility.
3. Cabinet WELCOMED reengagement with the Clinical Commissioning Group so that they could be involved in the provision of a new, fit for purpose community facility; provided commitment to enhanced sports facilities and confirmed that the project would have due regard to the Neighbourhood Plan.

16 Exclusion of the public (if required)

RESOLVED

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Paragraph 3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

Item 17 - Winslow Centre Development

18 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 10 November 2020 at 10.00am

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Buckinghamshire Council Cabinet/Cabinet Member 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](#).

All reports will be open unless specified otherwise.

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Cabinet 10 November 2020				
High Wycombe Regeneration Board There is a considerable amount of regeneration activity currently underway and planned in High Wycombe. In order for proper decision-making to take place it is necessary to set up a strategic board to direct delivery	Abbey	Councillor Steve Bowles Peter Wright		1/10/20

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p>Next Steps Accommodation Programme Funding Award (NSAP)</p> <p>Request for delegated authority to utilise the NSAP grant awarded by MHCLG/Homes England to further assist rough sleepers in Buckinghamshire. This will require the purchase of a property in Aylesbury and subsequent lease to a Registered Provider of Housing (RP) for use by rough sleepers and the use of s106 developer contributions funds for affordable housing for this purpose; as well as the grant funding to a different RP for them to purchase and make available to the Council 15 one bedroom units for use by former rough sleepers. The funds used will match fund the award from MHCLG/Homes England for these schemes.</p>		Councillor Isobel Darby Brian Daly	Part exempt <i>(para 3)</i>	27/10/20 This item will be taken under general exception
<p>Potential submission of a bid for the acquisition of the Friars Square Shopping Centre, Aylesbury</p> <p>To consider a report on the proposed acquisition of commercial opportunity</p>	Aylesbury North	Councillor John Chilver John Reed	Part exempt <i>(para 3)</i>	2/11/20 This item will be taken under general exception
<p>Q2 Budget Monitoring Report 2020-21</p> <p>Quarterly report</p>		Councillor Katrina Wood Richard Ambrose		1/10/20

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Recovery and Growth Deal for Buckinghamshire This report sets out the proposal that has been developed for a Buckinghamshire Recovery and Growth deal proposition for Government. The proposition will build on the strengths, partnerships, and opportunities within the County to enable Buckinghamshire and the Government to support key 'bounce back' objectives and enable the 'levelling-up' agenda in other parts of the country.		Councillor Martin Tett Sarah Ashmead		7/9/20
Cabinet 15 December 2020				
Public Spaces Protection Order Policy To agree the PSPO Policy		Councillor Gareth Williams Elaine Jewell		7/9/20
Q2 Performance Report 2020-21 Information only		Councillor Katrina Wood Matthew Everitt		25/8/20
Cabinet 5 January 2021				
Buckinghamshire Council Voluntary & Community Sector Strategy To agree the Voluntary & Community Sector Strategy which sets out how the council will work together with the voluntary and community sector.		Cabinet Member Communities & Public Health Kama Wager, Claire Hawkes		25/8/20

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Council Tax Base To set Buckinghamshire Council's Council Tax Base for the following financial year		Councillor Martin Tett Richard Ambrose		23/9/20
Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan For Cabinet to consider the draft budget and MTP		Councillor Martin Tett Richard Ambrose		1/10/20
Cabinet 16 February 2021				
Final Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan For Cabinet to recommend the final budget to Council		Councillor Martin Tett Richard Ambrose		1/10/20
Q3 Budget Monitoring Report 2020-21 Quarterly report		Councillor Katrina Wood Richard Ambrose		1/10/20
November 2020 Leader Decisions				
A355 Amersham Road, Beaconsfield Layby Prohibition of Motor Vehicles To prevent the fly tipping of hazardous materials on two laybys located on A355 Amersham Road, Beaconsfield	Beaconsfield	Councillor David Martin Ricky Collymore		2/11/20

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Allocation of Grants for Children's Social Care purposes The government has provided grant funding for specific purposes to the Council but these were not ring-fenced grants. This decision report is to ring-fence these grants for the Children's Social Care Portfolio to use in the intended way.		Councillor Mark Shaw Elizabeth Williams		5/3/20
Allocation of Grants for Education purposes The government has provided grant funding for specific purposes to the Council but these were not ring-fenced grants. This decision report is to ring-fence these grants for the Education Portfolio to use in the intended way.		Councillor Anita Cranmer Elizabeth Williams		5/3/20
An Approved List for Children's Domiciliary Care To agree an approved List for Children's Domiciliary Care		Councillor Mark Shaw Stuart Kelly	Part exempt (para 3)	9/4/20
Aston Clinton - Traffic Calming Vertical traffic calming and speed limit reduction	Aston Clinton & Bierton	Councillor Nick Naylor Zunara Aslam		19/3/20
Aylesbury Electricity Grid Works Procurement Options To agree the procurement options for delivering the Aylesbury Electricity Grid HIF project		Councillor Warren Whyte Edward Barlow		6/8/20
Biodiversity Net Gain Scheme in Buckinghamshire Next steps towards implementation of a biodiversity net gain scheme in Buckinghamshire		Councillor Bill Chapple OBE David Sutherland		5/10/20

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Budget Amendments to Approved Capital Programme To approve changes to the budgets in the approved capital programme		Councillor Katrina Wood Sue Palmer		28/7/20
Budget Adjustments to the Approved Capital Programme To approve changes to the Approved Capital Programme		Councillor Katrina Wood Sue Palmer		14/9/20
Burnham Beeches Special Area of Conservation Mitigation Strategy – Supplementary Planning Document This Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is supplementary to the 2011 Chiltern Core Strategy and the 2011 South Bucks Core Strategy. The SPD sets out the mitigation strategy for any net increase in homes within a zone between 500 meters and 5.6 kilometres. The purpose of this report is seek the delegation of the Cabinet Member to adopt the SPD following a four week public consultation.	Farnham Common & Burnham Beeches	Councillor Warren Whyte Simon Meecham		7/5/20
Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Report annually to elected members on how the duty to secure sufficient childcare is being met. The report will be made available and accessible to childcare providers and parents.		Councillor Anita Cranmer Sue Bayliss		28/7/20
Commission of a Befriending service Buckinghamshire Officer is requesting a decision to commence with commissioning activity for a befriending service in Buckinghamshire.		Councillor Angela Macpherson Gemma Workman	Part exempt (para 3)	27/10/20

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Community Asset Transfer to agree the community asset transfer list for devolution.		Councillor Gareth Williams Marco Dias		13/7/20
Contract to award the waste management and treatment services of green, food, bulky and wood waste A Cabinet Member decision to award the contract to manage, transfer and treat green, food, bulky and wood waste collected from kerbside collections and Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) located across the county to the preferred bidder.		Councillor Bill Chapple OBE Richard Barker	Part exempt (para 3)	23/9/20
Corporate Parenting Strategy 2020 To approve the Corporate Parenting Strategy, outlining the Council's commitment to looked after children and care leavers in our role as corporate parents.		Councillor Mark Shaw Richard Nash		17/9/20
Court Lane and Marsh Lane, Dorney, Proposed Waiting and Loading Restrictions (Amendment 1030) This report summarises the results of the statutory consultation for formalising the "No Waiting at any time" restrictions on Court Lane and Marsh Lane, Dorney.	Cliveden	Councillor David Martin Ryan Curtis		19/3/20

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p>Crest Road, High Wycombe Signalisation Buckinghamshire Council are looking to develop 'Cressex Island', and this is a proposed signalisation scheme to convert the existing mini roundabout at the junction of A4010 John Hall Way/Crest Road to a traffic signal controlled junction to reduce the impact of expected increases in traffic. In addition, it is proposed to create a new shared use cycleway along John Hall Way to meet Holmers Farm Way and the Handy Cross Roundabout. This will make it possible to cycle off road from Crest Road to Holmers Farm Way and Cressex.</p>	Abbey	Councillor Nick Naylor Ian McGowan		8/6/20
<p>Developer funded schemes Approval of release of funding for transport works programme using section 106 funds</p>		Councillor Nick Naylor Joan Hancox		20/5/20
<p>Devolution Pilots To agree the list of devolution pilots.</p>		Councillor Gareth Williams Marco Dias		13/7/20
<p>Haydon Hill Cycleway Extension of Waddesdon Greenway</p>	Aylesbury North West	Councillor Nick Naylor Joan Hancox		20/5/20
<p>Hollands Farm Development Brief Decision to consult on the Draft Hollands Farm Development Brief (Supplementary Planning Document)</p>	The Wooburns, Bourne End & Hedsor	Councillor Warren Whyte Charlotte Morris		15/10/20

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Interim Tree Risk Management Strategy Approval of an interim tree risk management strategy with respect to trees that Buckinghamshire Council manages		Councillor Bill Chapple OBE David Sutherland		5/10/20
Knights Templar Way, Daws Hill - No Waiting and No Loading Parking Restrictions S106 Scheme for the provision of a parking TRO in Knights Templar Way / Daws Hill Lane in mitigation of parking related concerns as a result of residential development in the nearby vicinity. The proposal relates to the introduction of waiting and loading restrictions.	Abbey	Councillor David Martin Tom McCarthy		19/3/20
Long Crendon - Traffic Calming Vertical traffic calming, Increase of a speed limit	Bernwood	Councillor Nick Naylor Zunara Aslam		19/3/20
Malthouse Way/Barley, Marlow - Waiting Parking Restrictions S106 Scheme for the provision of a parking TRO in Malthouse Way / Barley in mitigation of parking related concerns as a result of residential development in the immediate vicinity. The proposal relates to the introduction of waiting restrictions.	Marlow	Councillor David Martin Tom McCarthy		19/3/20

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p>Prohibition of Motor Vehicles - Stocklake and Broughton Lane, Bierton</p> <p>To formalise the new carriageway layout at Stocklake and Broughton Lane, Bierton. The carriageways have been realigned and now has sections where motor vehicles are physically unable to access. The proposed Traffic Regulation Order will formalise the restrictions on motor vehicle movement.</p>	Aston Clinton & Bierton	Councillor David Martin Ricky Collymore		2/11/20
<p>Reclassification Order, Bellingdon Road and Townsend Road, Chesham</p> <p>A short section of Bellingdon Road and Townsend Road in Chesham are classified as B Roads. It seems that this is a historic issue which was not correctly dealt with at the time the A416 St Marys Way was constructed. This order resolves this historic issue</p>	Chesham	Councillor Nick Naylor Keith Carpenter		19/3/20
<p>Revenues & Benefits system procurement</p> <p>To combine existing 4 legacy District systems into a single software system that will act as a catalyst for service transformation</p>		Councillor Katrina Wood Dave Skinner	Part exempt (para 3)	29/6/20
<p>Richings Park Waiting Restrictions Review</p> <p>Decision to be made regarding the proposals put forward and recommended after a Statutory Consultation on waiting restrictions in Richings Park.</p>	Iver	Councillor David Martin Ricky Collymore		17/9/20

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Rights of Way Enforcement Policy To review and update the existing Rights of Way Enforcement Policy The document will outline the legislative powers available to the authority regarding enforcement, give details of what action our customers may expect the authority to take on illegalities found on the rights of way network.		Councillor Nick Naylor David Sutherland		19/3/20
Sandelswood Waiting Restrictions Cabinet Member Decision for Sandelswood Waiting Restrictions, following Statutory Consultation and the objections received.	Beaconsfield; Penn Wood & Old Amersham	Councillor David Martin Shane Thomas		19/3/20
Supported Living Procurement Vehicle Decision to go out to tender to procure supported living services for adults in Buckinghamshire.		Councillor Angela Macpherson Matilda Moss	Part exempt (para 3)	27/10/20
Westhorpe Interchange - Globe Park access Decision to progress the Westhorpe junction improvement project from feasibility through to detailed design and construction. Purchase land required for the scheme.	Flackwell Health, Little Marlow & Marlow South East; Little Chalfont & Amersham Common; Marlow	Councillor Nick Naylor, Councillor John Chilver Ian McGowan	Part exempt (para 3)	19/3/20

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
December 2020 Leader Decisions				
A4157 Douglas Road, Aylesbury - No Right Turn into Stocklake (Urban) Traffic Regulation Order Buckinghamshire Council as traffic authority intends to make the above ETRO. This will prohibit any vehicle (other than a vehicle in emergency use for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes) proceeding in a south-easterly direction in A4157 Douglas Road to turn right into Stocklake (Urban)	Aylesbury East	Councillor Nick Naylor David Cairney		19/3/20
Choice and Charging Policies Adult Social Care policies		Councillor Angela Macpherson Tracey Ironmonger		17/9/20
Highways Development Management commuted sums Highways Development Management last updated our commuted sums in 2006, this is a proposal to update these not only in line with inflation but to use a slightly different format.		Councillor Warren Whyte Lee Steadman		15/10/20

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p>Maids Moreton CE School</p> <p>The school's governing board and LA are consulting their local community, parents/carers and staff on a proposal that from September 2021 the school changes its age range and becomes a 1/2 form entry all-through primary school. It presently takes children up to the end of KS1. If agreed the proposal would mean that children stay at the school until the end of KSII before moving into secondary education. The governing board held a public consultation in 2019 when they received overwhelming public support for the proposal. In line with the DfE's statutory guidance a statutory notice was published on 18 September, launching a 4 week representation period for people to support, comment on or object to the proposal. Planning permission and funding for the project have been secured. If the proposal is agreed the necessary building work would be finished by the 2021 Autumn Term.</p>	Buckingham East; Buckingham West	Councillor Anita Cranmer Andrew Tusting		23/9/20
<p>Town & Parish Charter</p> <p>To agree the Town and Parish Charter</p>		Councillor Gareth Williams Kate Walker		15/10/20

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
January 2021 Leader Decisions				
<p>New Secondary school on Kingsbrook development in Aylesbury</p> <p>Buckinghamshire Council is building a new 1080 place secondary school on the Kingsbrook development in Aylesbury. The school will open in September 2022 with an initial intake of students of 6 forms of entry (up to 180 students) and then build up over time to its full capacity.</p> <p>Section 6A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 states that where a Local Authority identifies the need to establish a new school it must, in the first instance, seek proposals to establish an Academy. The Local Authority holds the competition and decides on its preferred bidder to run the new school, however the final decision on the successful bidder is made by the Department for Education (DfE) and Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC). After the end of the competition when the LA have decided on their preferred bidder, we will forward details of our preferred bidder and details of all other bids received to the DfE and RSC.</p>	Aston Clinton &碧顿	Councillor Anita Cranmer Andrew Tusting		1/10/20
February 2021 Leader Decisions				
<p>Recommissioning of Community Equipment Service</p> <p>Decision to go out to tender for the re-commissioning of a community equipment service.</p>		Councillor Angela Macpherson Matilda Moss	Part exempt (para 3)	27/10/20

Individual cabinet member decisions are not discussed at meetings – a report is presented to the cabinet member and they will decide whether to sign the decision. Cabinet members can take key decisions that only affect their portfolio area and can also take joint cabinet member decisions. However, if a decision crosses portfolios, this generally should be agreed by cabinet.

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@bucksshire.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



Report to Cabinet

Date:	10 November 2020
Title:	Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring Report
Relevant councillor(s):	Cllr Katrina Wood
Author and/or contact officer:	Matt Strevens, Head of Corporate Finance, ext. 3181
Ward(s) affected:	None specifically
Recommendations:	Cabinet are asked to note the current forecast outturn for the financial year 2020/21 and the latest estimates of impacts and funding related to Covid-19.
Reason for decision:	To understand the current financial position of the Council.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the Revenue and Capital outturn position for Buckinghamshire Council for the financial year 2020/21.
- 1.2 A full analysis of the forecast outturn for each of the Council's six Directorates is contained within the appendices to this report. As well as narrative information, the financial performance against their associated targets is shown.
- 1.3 Forecast Revenue outturn is an overspend of **£4.9m**, which has reduced from the £6.0m reported for Quarter 1 through additional funding and active management of overspends.
- 1.4 The forecast Capital outturn is **£174.7m**, representing slippage of **£15.7m**. This is an increase of £10.5m from the £5.2m reported at Quarter 1.
- 1.5 Mitigating actions to address the in-year forecast revenue overspend include continued lobbying of government for the full recovery of all additional expenditure and lost income in relation to Covid-19, action within Directorates to identify additional mitigations, as well as the review of commitments against earmarked

reserves and corporate contingencies included within the budget. Actions already identified have contributed to the reduction in the forecast overspend.

2. Content of report

2.1 Revenue Budget Outturn

The forecast revenue budget outturn is summarised in Table 1 below. The key Directorate variances are explained in Appendix 1. The outturn forecasts represent the anticipated year end position reflecting knowledge and understanding about the outcome of events and management actions within the remainder of 2020/21, and variances are split between Business as Usual and those relating to the Covid-19 response. Clearly circumstances are continuing to change and consequently the forecast outturn position will continue to be monitored closely.

Nationally many Councils find themselves in difficult financial positions, both as a result of existing pressures, and exacerbated by the impact of Covid-19. Whilst Buckinghamshire Council is clearly experiencing pressures both in Business as Usual budgets and as a result of Covid-19, we currently hold circa £47m of General Fund Reserves, whilst a significant number of Local Authorities have depleted their reserves in managing pressures over previous years. Relative to the sector we are in a significantly healthier position to address these issues this year and into future years.

All directorates are forecasting to overspend this year, a major driver behind this being the loss of income and increased costs in relation to the Council's response to Covid-19. Overall Directorate budgets are forecast to overspend **by £47.4m**, compared to £44.4m reported at Quarter 1. **£41.8m** of the current overspend is due to additional costs and lost income as a result of Covid-19, an increase of £2.8m from Quarter 1 and **£5.6m** being on Business as Usual activities, an increase of 0.3m from Quarter 1.

The most significant movements in Directorate Business as Usual budgets are within Adults & Health, where the overspend of £1.8m reported at Quarter 1 is now an underspend of **£0.3m**. This change is due to an emerging underspend in Older People linked to the impact of Covid-19 on existing client numbers, funding arrangements with the NHS and a reduction in the normal anticipated growth levels. In Children's Services the forecast overspend has increased by £3.6m to **£5.3m**. £2.4m of this increase is from significantly lower levels of income being received for Home to School Transport, and £1.2m relates to increased numbers of high cost placements being made.

Corporate & Funding are forecast to underspend by **£42.5m**, due to an estimated £39.6m of additional un-ringfenced grant income from central government in response to Covid-19. At Quarter 1 this was expected to be £38.4m, however further funding announcements to support the ongoing costs of Covid-19 have been made during the second quarter. This comprises **£29.1m** of un-ringfenced grants to cover expenditure pressures in 2020/21 and an estimate of **£10.5m** of grant income from the Sales, Fees and Charges lost income compensation scheme. In addition, **£2.9m** of corporate contingencies are not currently forecast as committed.

Appendix 1 provides further detail on the revenue forecast outturn by Directorate.

Appendix 2 presents a breakdown of pressures arising from Covid-19. The 2020/21 pressure resulting from Covid-19 differs from the total pressure as approximately £0.4m of costs and lost income were absorbed within 2019/20, and £0.5m of grant was applied to cover other Covid-19 costs within 2019/20.

Table 1 – Summary of Council Revenue budget outturn

		Budget	Forecast	Variance	Variance:	
		£m	£m	£m	%	£m
	Expenditure	207.6	242.1	34.5	17%	29.2
	Income	(58.4)	(83.7)	(25.3)	43%	(19.8)
Adults & Health	149.2	158.4	9.2	6%	9.4	(0.3)
	Expenditure	600.1	592.9	(7.2)	(1%)	3.0
	Income	(496.0)	(480.4)	15.6	(3%)	0.1
Children's Services	104.1	112.5	8.4	8%	3.1	5.3
	Expenditure	90.9	95.7	4.8	5%	5.9
	Income	(33.0)	(20.0)	13.0	(39%)	11.9
Communities	57.9	75.7	17.8	31%	17.8	-
	Expenditure	25.0	29.5	4.5	18%	1.1
	Income	(2.5)	(6.0)	(3.5)	...	0.2
Deputy Chief Executive	22.5	23.5	1.0	4%	1.3	(0.4)
	Expenditure	51.1	51.5	0.4	1%	5.3
	Income	(39.4)	(31.4)	8.0	(20%)	2.6
Planning, Growth & Sustainability	11.7	20.1	8.4	72%	7.9	0.6
	Expenditure	171.5	163.0	(8.5)	(5%)	1.4
	Income	(131.0)	(119.9)	11.1	(8%)	0.9
Resources	40.5	43.1	2.6	6%	2.3	0.4
Directorates	385.9	433.3	47.4	12%	41.8	5.6
	Corporate	53.5	50.6	(2.9)	(5%)	-
	Funding	(439.4)	(479.0)	(39.6)	9%	(39.6)
Corporate & Funding	(385.9)	(428.4)	(42.5)	11%	(39.6)	(2.9)
Total	-	4.9	4.9	...	2.2	2.7

Actions to mitigate Business as Usual pressures are being considered within each Directorate.

Mitigating actions to address the in-year Covid-19 overspend include continued lobbying of government for the full recovery of all additional expenditure and lost income, Directorate action to identify additional mitigations within their budget, as well as the release of uncommitted earmarked reserves and corporate contingencies included within the budget.

2.2 Capital Budget Outturn

The capital programme forecast outturn position reflects underspend/slippage of £15.7m (8.2% of total budget) and is summarised in Table 2 below. This represents an increase of £10.5m from Quarter 1. Slippage may increase further if Covid-19 restrictions continue to impact on delivery of the capital programme.

Significant slippage / underspends are reported in Children's Services (£5.6m), Communities (£3.5m) and Planning, Growth & Sustainability (£6.3m). Children's Services slippage relates to the School Places programme, where restricted site access has delayed progress. Planning, Growth and Sustainability slippage comprises £7.3m on Economic Growth & Regeneration projects, £1.5m of Property projects, offset by accelerated progress on Housing projects of £2.8m.

Detail of the projects this relates to can be found in **Appendix 1**.

Table 2 – Summary of Council Capital budget outturn

Directorate	Actuals	Released	Unreleased	Total	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
	to Date £000	Budget £000's	Budget £000's	Budget £000's	Outturn Released £000's	Unreleased £000's	Outturn £000's	Variance £000's
Adults & Health	55	491	0	491	300	0	300	-191
Children's Services	6,954	33,570	4,287	37,857	30,496	1,800	32,296	-5,560
Communities Directorate	30,098	70,445	14,255	84,700	74,486	6,681	81,167	-3,533
Planning Growth & Sustainability	14,770	46,674	12,452	59,126	46,770	6,085	52,856	-6,270
Resources Directorate	946	5,643	2,561	8,204	5,608	2,500	8,108	-96
Grand Total	52,824	156,822	33,555	190,377	157,660	17,066	174,726	-15,651

3. Other options considered

- 3.1 None arising directly from this report.

4. Legal and financial implications

- 4.1 This is a Finance report and all the financial implications are included in the report.
4.2 There are no legal implications arising from the report.

5. Corporate implications

- 5.1 Actions resulting from consideration of this report may influence future expenditure in areas of concern / interest.

6. Consultation and communication

- 6.1 N/A

7. Next steps and review

A further paper will be brought to Cabinet outlining the forecast outturn for the financial year 2020/21 following the conclusion of Q3.

8. Background papers

Appendix 1 – Directorate level summaries.

Appendix 2 – Covid-19 impacts.

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 telephone [01296 382343] or email [democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk].

1 Directorate Summary

Adults & Health Directorate

Revenue Table

	Budget £m	Y/E Out- turn £m	Forecast Variance £m	% of which COVID £m	of which BAU £m
Expenditure	23.3	25.0	1.7	7%	2.0 (0.3)
Income	(23.3)	(25.3)	(2.0)	(8%)	(2.0) -
3-ADM Public Health & Commission	-	(0.3)	(0.3) .		(0.3)
Expenditure	184.3	217.1	32.8	18%	27.3 5.5
Income	(35.0)	(58.5)	(23.4)	(67%)	(17.8) (5.6)
3-ADS Adult Social Care	149.3	158.6	9.4	6%	9.5 (0.1)
Total	149.3	158.4	9.1	6%	9.5 (0.3)

Capital

Table

Service / Project	Actuals to Date £000	Released Budget £000's	Unreleased Budget £000's	Total Budget £000's	Forecast Outturn Released £000's	Forecast Unreleased £000's	Forecast Outturn £000's	Forecast Variance £000's
Respite Care	55	491	0	491	300	0	300	-191
Adult Social Care Total	55	491	0	491	300	0	300	-191
Grand Total	55	491	0	491	300	0	300	-191

The overall revenue forecast is a pressure of £9.1m. £9.5m relates to Covid-19 impacts and an underspend of £0.3m is reported on Business as Usual activities. There are underlying pressures of £1.3m in learning Disabilities, and £0.6m in Mental Health budgets, which are off-set by underspends in Access and Older People 65+. An action plan has been developed to mitigate these pressures.

Significant risks remain around the ongoing funding for clients within the Hospital Discharge programme and Provider failure.

Capital slippage of £0.2m is due to a review of requirements considering the impact of Covid-19. There is potential for further slippage.

Children's Services Directorate

Revenue Table

	Budget	Y/E Out-	Forecast	% of which	of which
	£m	turn	Variance	COVID	BAU
Expenditure	486.4	476.2	(10.2)	(2%)	- (10.2)
Income	(486.4)	(476.2)	10.2	2%	- 10.2
3-CHD Education - DSG	-	-	-	-	-
Expenditure	39.0	36.8	(2.2)	(6%)	1.2 (3.4)
Income	(7.5)	(1.1)	6.4	86%	0.1 6.3
3-CHE Education	31.5	35.7	4.2	13%	1.2 3.0
Expenditure	75.5	80.7	5.2	7%	1.8 3.3
Income	(2.1)	(3.1)	(1.0)	(45%)	- (1.0)
3-CHR Children's Social Care	73.4	77.6	4.2	6%	1.8 2.3
Expenditure	(0.8)	(0.8)	0.0	0%	- 0.0
3-CHB Business Management	(0.8)	(0.8)	0.0	0%	- 0.0
Total	104.1	112.5	8.4	8%	3.1 5.3

Capital Table

Service / Project	Actuals	Released	Unreleased	Total	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
	to Date £000	Budget £000's	Budget £000's	Budget £000's	Outturn Released £000's	Unreleased £000's	Outturn £000's	Variance £000's
Children's Homes	159	486	485	971	380	600	980	9
Children's Social Care Total	159	486	485	971	380	600	980	9
Health Pupil Projects	79	186	0	186	186	0	186	0
HS2 Funded Schemes	28	389	0	389	389	0	389	0
Practically Complete / Final Accounts	1	266	0	266	266	0	266	0
Primary School Places	553	7,306	1,056	8,362	6,661	500	7,161	-1,201
Provision for Early Years	23	559	484	1,043	569	200	769	-274
Provision for SEN	845	2,061	155	2,216	2,061	0	2,061	-155
School Property Maintenance	1,980	3,356	0	3,356	3,356	0	3,356	0
School Suitability Issues	209	386	0	386	407	0	407	20
Secondary School Places	3,078	18,575	2,107	20,682	16,222	500	16,722	-3,961
Education Total	6,795	33,084	3,802	36,886	30,116	1,200	31,316	-5,570
Grand Total	6,954	33,570	4,287	37,857	30,496	1,800	32,296	-5,560

Children's Services is projecting an overspend of £8.4m, of which £3.1m relates to Covid-19.

The main non-Covid-19 variances relate to expenditure on Home to School Transport, External Placements for looked after children and accommodation costs for care leavers.

Home to School Transport is projected to be £3.9m overspent including Covid-19, this is an increase of £1m from Q1 and the increase is largely due to lower levels of income than previously forecast. Projected expenditure levels have not changed significantly.

Placements budgets are projected to overspend by £2.1m, including Covid-19 costs, as increased numbers of high cost placements have had to be made during the year. There is a risk that there will be an increase in referrals and demand for placements now that children have returned to school. A number of mitigations are being put into place to reduce the overspends within Children's Social Care and these are expected to impact in the final quarter of the financial year.

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) are projected to break even, pressures of up to £1.1m have been identified against the High Needs Block. Schools Forum have agreed the approach to recovery planning and reducing high needs expenditure.

Communities Directorate

Revenue Table

	Budget £m	Y/E Out- turn £m	Forecast Variance £m	% of which COVID £m	% of which BAU £m
Expenditure	8.9	11.7	2.8	32%	4.3 (1.4)
Income	(3.2)	(0.1)	3.0	96%	1.8 1.2
3-CMA Culture, Sport & Leisure	5.7	11.6	5.9	104%	6.1 (0.2)
Expenditure	37.1	38.5	1.3	4%	1.4 (0.1)
Income	(12.3)	(9.7)	2.5	21%	2.1 0.4
3-CMB Neighbourhood Services	24.9	28.7	3.9	16%	3.5 0.3
Expenditure	34.6	35.2	0.6	2%	0.2 0.4
Income	(16.3)	(9.1)	7.3	45%	7.9 (0.6)
3-CMH Highways & Technical Services	18.2	26.1	7.9	44%	8.1 (0.2)
Expenditure	10.5	10.5	(0.0)	(0%)	- (0.0)
Income	(1.2)	(1.1)	0.1	7%	- 0.1
3-CMR Transport Services	9.3	9.4	0.1	1%	- 0.1
Expenditure	(0.2)	(0.2)	-	-	- -
3-CMW Corp Director	(0.2)	(0.2)	-	-	- -
Total	57.9	75.7	17.8	31%	17.7 0.1

Capital Table

Service / Project	Actuals to Date £000	Released Budget £000's	Unreleased Budget £000's	Total Budget £000's	Forecast Outturn Released £000's	Forecast Unreleased £000's	Forecast Outturn £000's	Forecast Variance £000's
Culture Sport & Leisure Total	8,613	27,407	280	27,687	25,034	230	25,264	-2,423
Highways & Technical Services Total	19,322	38,676	3,953	42,628	38,718	3,435	42,153	-475
Neighbourhood Services Total	2,163	4,362	10,022	14,385	10,734	3,016	13,750	-635
Grand Total	30,098	70,445	14,255	84,700	74,486	6,681	81,167	-3,533

Revenue position shows an overall forecast overspend of £17.8m. This is an increase of £4.1m from Quarter 1, of which £3.9m relates to Covid-19 pressures.

The total overspend relating to Covid-19 is £17.7m. These relate to;

- Culture, Sport & Leisure of £6.1m – being closure impacts on Leisure Centres (£4.8m), Arts & Culture (£0.3m), Libraries (£0.3m) and Country Parks and Play Areas (£0.6m).
- Neighbourhood Services £3.5m - being closure impacts on Waste (£1.1m), Cemeteries and Crematoria additional costs (£0.1m), EFW & Residual Waste (£1.5m), Household Waste Recycling Centres (£0.4m), Waste Strategy and Management (£0.2m),
- Street Cleansing (£0.1m), Licensing (£0.2m)
- Highways & Technical Services £8.1m - being impact of suspension of parking charges, Parking Operations (£6.9m) and Highways Contract (£1.2m).

Details of the Covid-19 impacts can be found in Appendix 2.

Capital position shows an overall forecast slippage of £3.5m on gross expenditure:
£0.5m slippage within Highways & Technical Services relates mainly to Wycombe area car parks.
£0.6m slippage in Neighbourhood Services includes £0.45m slippage in Waste and a £60k budget adjustment required within Crematorium.
£2.4m slippage within Culture, Sport & Leisure relates to Country Parks (£1.7m), Youth facilities (£0.4m) and Country Parks and Libraries (£0.2m).

Deputy Chief Executive Directorate

Revenue Table

	Budget £m	Y/E Out- turn £m	Forecast Variance £m	% 0%	of which COVID £m	of which BAU £m
Expenditure	8.4	8.4	0.0	0%	0.1	(0.1)
Income	(0.8)	(0.8)	-	-	-	-
Localities & Strategic Partnerships	7.6	7.6	0.0	0%	0.1	(0.1)
Expenditure	1.0	1.0	(0.0)	(1%)	-	(0.0)
Income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Senior Management	1.0	1.0	(0.0)	(1%)	-	(0.0)
Expenditure	3.7	4.0	0.2	7%	0.2	-
Income	(0.1)	(0.0)	0.0	26%	0.0	-
Service Improvement	3.7	3.9	0.3	7%	0.3	-
Expenditure	4.4	4.2	(0.2)	(6%)	0.0	(0.3)
Income	(0.5)	(0.5)	0.0	1%	-	0.0
Policy & Comms	3.9	3.7	(0.2)	(6%)	0.0	(0.3)
Expenditure	7.5	11.9	4.5	60%	0.8	3.7
Income	(1.2)	(4.7)	(3.5)	(292%)	0.2	(3.7)
Legal & Democratic Services	6.3	7.2	0.9	15%	0.9	0.0
Total	22.5	23.5	1.0	4%	1.3	(0.3)

Capital Table

No current programmes

The Directorate is forecasting a revenue overspend of £1.0m.

£1.3m of the overspend is due to impact of COVID-19, largely from the delay to elections impacting on the cost of member allowances as well as impacts on services such as loss of income (LLC fees). Business as Usual budgets are forecasting an underspend of £0.3m from vacancies and through savings on supplies & services.

Planning Growth & Sustainability Directorate

Revenue Table

	Budget £m	Y/E Out- turn £m	Forecast Variance £m	% of which COVID £m	of which BAU £m
Expenditure	3.4	3.3	(0.1)	(4%)	0.0
Income	(0.4)	(0.5)	(0.1)	(40%)	-
3-PSB Economic Growth & Regener	3.0	2.8	(0.3)	(9%)	0.0
Expenditure	14.4	15.1	0.7	5%	4.0
Income	(11.1)	(7.1)	4.0	36%	-
3-PSD Planning & Environment	3.3	8.0	4.7	143%	4.0
Expenditure	17.7	17.6	(0.0)	(0%)	0.8
Income	(22.3)	(19.4)	2.9	13%	1.8
3-PSH Property & Assets	(4.6)	(1.8)	2.8	61%	2.6
Expenditure	3.1	2.8	(0.4)	(11%)	-
Income	(1.1)	(0.7)	0.4	37%	0.1
3-PSJ Strategic Transport & Infrastr	2.0	2.1	0.1	2%	0.1
Expenditure	12.4	12.7	0.3	2%	0.5
Income	(4.5)	(3.6)	0.9	20%	0.7
3-PSR Housing & Regulatory Servic	7.9	9.1	1.2	15%	1.3
Total	11.7	20.1	8.5	72%	7.9
					0.5

Capital

Table

Service / Project	Actuals to Date £000	Released Budget £000's	Unreleased Budget £000's	Total Budget £000's	Forecast Outturn Released £000's	Forecast Unreleased £000's	Forecast Outturn £000's	Forecast Variance £000's
Economic Growth & Regeneration Total	3,719	20,346	6,390	26,736	13,605	5,794	19,399	-7,337
Housing & Regulatory Services Total	4,519	15,600	0	15,600	18,404	0	18,404	2,803
Property & Assets Total	2,222	3,950	0	3,950	2,401	0	2,401	-1,549
Strategic Transport & Infrastructure Total	4,311	6,777	6,062	12,839	12,360	291	12,651	-188
Grand Total	14,770	46,674	12,452	59,126	46,770	6,085	52,856	-6,270

The Directorate is forecasting an overspend of £8.5m, of which £7.9m is Covid-19 related, and £0.6m is Business as Usual budget pressures.

Business as Usual overspends are reported in both Planning & Environment (0.7m) and Property & Assets (0.2m). Property & Assets pressures relate to excess voids impacting property rental income targets. Planning & Environment pressures are staffing related. These are partially mitigated in-year by use of one-off reserves and will be permanently addressed through future service transformation proposals.

Capital Projects are reporting £6.3m of slippage (not Covid-19 related) which will be addressed through budget reprofiling as part of the Capital Programme Review.

Resources

Directorate

Revenue

Table

	Budget £m	Y/E Out- turn £m	Forecast Variance £m	% of which COVID £m	of which BAU £m
Expenditure	13.1	13.0	(0.2)	(1%)	- (0.2)
Income	(0.9)	(0.7)	0.2	20%	- 0.2
Business Operations	12.2	12.2	0.0	0%	0.0
Expenditure	8.4	8.8	0.4	5%	0.5 (0.1)
Income	(3.0)	(3.0)	-	-	-
Corporate Finance	5.4	5.8	0.4	8%	0.5 (0.1)
Expenditure	5.3	5.5	0.2	3%	- 0.2
Income	(0.7)	(0.2)	0.5	69%	0.1 0.3
HR/OD	4.6	5.3	0.6	14%	0.1 0.5
Expenditure	12.7	13.3	0.6	5%	0.6 0.0
Income	(0.7)	(0.7)	-	-	-
ICT	12.0	12.6	0.6	5%	0.6 0.0
Expenditure	132.2	122.4	(9.7)	(7%)	0.1 (9.8)
Income	(125.7)	(115.2)	10.4	8%	0.8 9.6
Service Finance	6.5	7.2	0.7	11%	0.8 (0.2)
Expenditure	(0.2)	0.1	0.3	135%	0.3 -
Resources Directorate	(0.2)	0.1	0.3	135%	0.3 -
Total	40.5	43.2	2.7	7%	2.4 0.3

Capital

Table

Service / Project	Actuals to Date £000	Released Budget £000's	Unreleased Budget £000's	Total Budget £000's	Forecast Outturn Released £000's	Forecast Unreleased £000's	Forecast Outturn £000's	Forecast Variance £000's
CDC/SBDC/WDC Customer Experience	-10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Business Operations Total	-10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delivery of Technology Strategy	1,054	2,838	983	3,822	2,838	1,000	3,838	17
ICT Hardware	0	0	1,500	1,500	0	1,500	1,500	0
Social Care Systems	0	2,804	78	2,882	2,769	0	2,769	-113
Recent Old Codes	-98	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ICT Total	956	5,643	2,561	8,204	5,608	2,500	8,108	-96
Grand Total	946	5,643	2,561	8,204	5,608	2,500	8,108	-96

Resources Directorate is projecting an overspend of £2.7m. £2.4m of the overspend is due to the impact of Covid-19.

The £0.3 Business as Usual overspend is the result of staffing pressures with HR&OD (£0.5m) offset by staffing underspends of £0.2m in Corporate Finance and Service Finance.

2 Corporate Costs & Funding

Corporate & Funding are forecast to underspend by £39.6 million, due to additional grant income from central government in response to Covid-19, and £2.9m of corporate contingency which is forecast as uncommitted and is currently offsetting some of the directorate overspends.

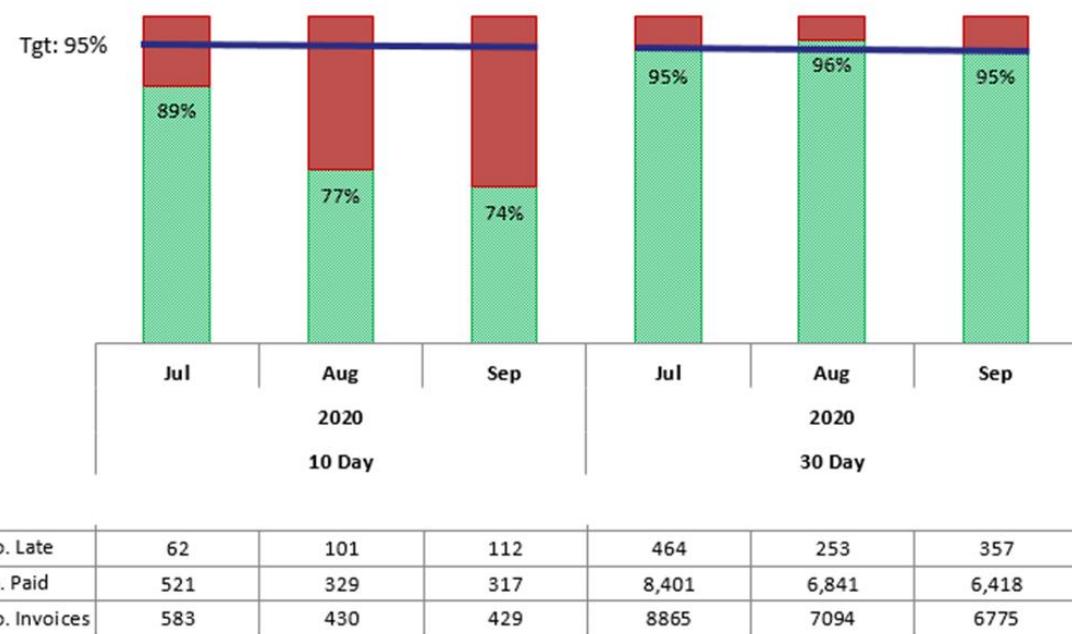
Note: Approximately £500k of the initial un-ringfenced COVID-19 grant was applied to costs incurred in 2019/20.

Current COVID-19 grants received or expected are as follow;

Grant	Value £000's	Status
Unringfenced grants		
COVID grant (tranche 1)	- 10,638	Received
COVID grant (tranche 2)	- 14,948	Received
Supporting the vulnerable	- 358	Received
COVID grant (tranche 3)	- 3,548	Received
New burdens grant	- 170	Received
SFC loss of income	- 10,500	Estimated
Ringfenced grants		
Funding for Business Rate Reliefs	- 78,420	Received
Funding for Business Support grants	- 91,846	Received
Council Tax Hardship Grant	- 2,814	Received
Rough Sleepers Contingency Grant	- 29	Received
Infection control grant	- 6,254	Received
Dedicated H2S transport grant	- 566	Received
Wellbeing For Education Return Grant	- 89	Received
Homelessness Grant	- 322	Received

3. Late Payments

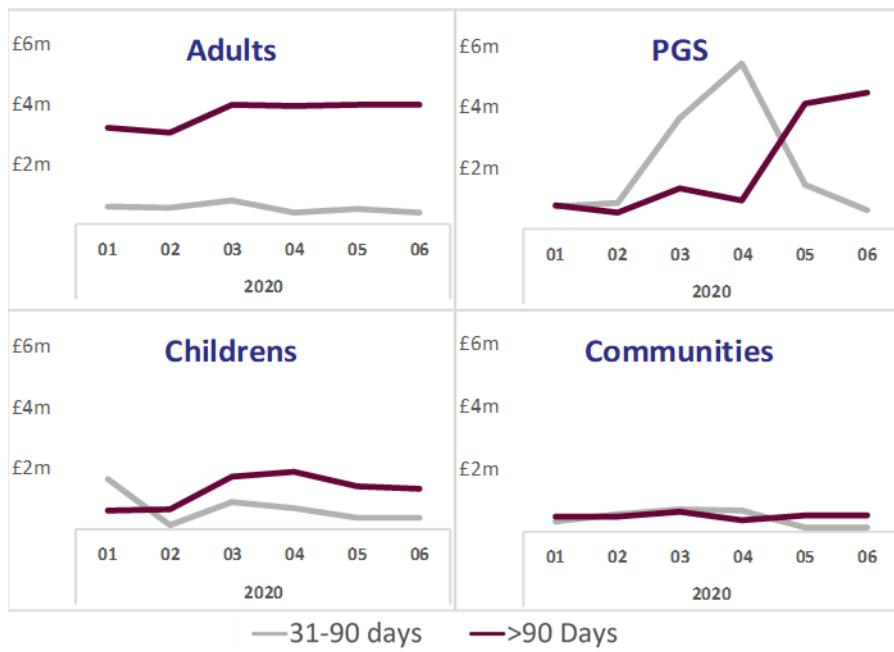
Late Payment Performance Past 3 Months



The underlying performance across all payments is very close to the target 95%. However specific one-off issues in April, May and June have brought the performance for the year to date down to 87.7%. 30-Day payment performance remains above target, however 10-Day performance has been significantly affected by NBHS Health Check payments which are currently under review to understand why they have reduced performance to below target levels.

4. Outstanding debt

Unsecured Debt > 30 Days by Directorate



Both the raising of income, and hence the level of debt have been impacted by Covid-19, so current levels are not indicative of long-term trends.

Within Adults & Health debt recovery has been suspended due to Covid-19, and the temporary suspension of Court of Protection activity. However, a debt recovery improvement programme has been instigated to look at the whole end to end recovery process.

Property related debt within Planning, Growth & Sustainability has seen an increase in >90 days debt as some quarterly rent invoices have progressed from the <90 days category to the >90 days category. Total debt improved over recent months and remains at the level of Quarter 1.

Debt levels in Children's Services and Communities remain at a consistent level.

There is minimal debt within Resources and Deputy Chief Executive.

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Appendix 2**Summary of pressures, lost income and funding**

Expenditure pressures	Forecast £000's
Deputy Chief Executive	1,128
Communities	6,089
Adults & Health	9,414
Planning, Growth & Sustainability	2,058
Children's Services	2,367
Resources	1,463
Corporate	250
National policy responses	180,348
Total expenditure pressures	203,117
Income losses	Forecast £000's
Deputy Chief Executive	209
Communities	11,230
Adults & Health	587
Planning, Growth & Sustainability	6,325
Children's Services	734
Resources	911
Corporate	-
Total income lost	19,995
TOTAL PRESSURE	223,113
Funding	£000's
Emergency Funding - ringfenced	- 180,340
Emergency Funding - unringfenced	- 40,162
TOTAL FUNDING	- 220,502
UNFUNDED PRESSURE	2,611

Note: These figures differ from Budget Monitoring reporting as £0.4m of costs and loss income were absorbed in 2019/20.

Details of the grants received to fund Covid-19 pressures are in Appendix 1

Sales, Fees & Charges Lost income compensation

On 24 August the government published detailed guidance on the Sales, Fees & Charges Lost income compensation scheme. This scheme compensates Local Authorities in part for income lost as a result of Covid-19. The scheme operates such that the Local Authority bears the first 5% of losses and losses beyond that are compensated at 75p/£ for genuine Sales, Fees and Charges losses, excluding commercial and rental income.

The first claim was submitted at the start of October and covered the period April to August. Our claim was for **£9.1m** of lost income, and if all elements of the claim are accepted we

expect to receive **£5.3m** of compensation. Given the current forecast of income losses for the full year we are forecasting to receive **£10.5m** of compensation against losses of **£16.0m** from the scheme by March. Should losses exceed £16.0m compensation of £0.75m will be received for every additional £1.0m of applicable income losses.

The table below shows the losses incurred and the Claim submitted for the period April – July;

Directorate	Full year Budget	TOTAL LOSS P1-4	FY forecast loss	P1-4 CLAIM		
				5% deductible (BC cost)	25% share of P1-4 balance (BC cost)	75% share of P1-4 balance (GRANT DUE)
Adults & Health	- 621	193	570	31	40	121
Planning, Growth & Economy	- 11,014	1,766	4,314	551	304	912
Children's Services	- 3,271	816	992	164	163	490
Resources	- 1,000	332	750	50	71	212
Deputy Chief Executive	- 920	176	243	46	33	98
Communities	- 22,864	5,775	9,108	1,143	1,158	3,474
TOTAL	- 39,689	9,059	15,977	1,984	1,769	5,306

Detailed pressures by Directorate

The table below shows the breakdown of forecast Covid-19 pressures by Directorate and service area;

Directorate	Service Area	Total
Adults Health & Housing	Hospital Discharge	2,282
	Various	7,132
	Day & Respite Care	587
Children's Services	Adult Education	292
	Care Services	127
	Children's Social Care	27
	Early Help - Family Support Service	28
	Education - Virtual School	58
	Home to School Transport	882
	Placement Services	1,687
Communities	Culture, Sports & Leisure	6,230
	Highways & Technical Services	7,588
	Neighbourhood Services	3,502
Deputy Chief Executive	Legal & Democratic Services	946
	Localities & Strategic Partnerships	120
	Policy & Comms	13
	Service Improvement	258
Planning, Growth & Sustainability	Economic Growth & Regeneration	33
	Housing & Regulation	1,567
	Planning	4,000
	Property & Assets	2,563
	Strategic Transport & Infrastructure	220
Resources	HR&OD	145
	ICT	563
	Resources Directorate	325
	Service Finance	841
	PPE	500



Report to Cabinet

Date:	10 November 2020
Title:	High Wycombe Regeneration Board
Relevant councillor(s):	Steve Bowles
Author and/or contact officer:	Peter Wright, Head of Regeneration and Investment. Peter.wright@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Ward(s) affected:	Abbey Ward
Recommendations:	That a regeneration board for High Wycombe be established, chaired by the Cabinet Member for Town Centre Regeneration. The board will consist of Cabinet members and representatives of stakeholder organisations.
Reason for decision:	To provide strategic guidance for regeneration activity in High Wycombe.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 There is a considerable amount of regeneration activity currently underway and planned in High Wycombe (see appendix 1). In order for proper decision-making to take place it is necessary to set up a strategic board to direct delivery.

2. Main content of report

- 2.1 The regeneration strategy for High Wycombe, Princes Risborough and Marlow was endorsed by the Shadow Executive in November 2019 but has not been formally adopted by Buckinghamshire Council. For this to take place the aims of the strategy need to be reviewed by the Council and key stakeholders, to ensure that they are compatible with the aims of the new Council and the situation in which it finds itself, which has changed markedly over the last six months.

- 2.2 As well as the strategic perspective there is the need for a board to provide guidance on the current and future programme of regeneration and regeneration-related projects in High Wycombe. These are detailed in Appendix 1 but range from a large town centre regeneration programme to initiatives involving the hire of electric scooters. Without a regular forum for stakeholder consultation there is a risk that projects do not receive proper scrutiny and therefore are not fully supported.
- 2.3 The board structure and terms of reference (see appendix 2) is based on that for the Aylesbury Garden Town Board which covers similar projects and programmes for Aylesbury under the aegis of the Aylesbury Garden Town Masterplan
- 2.4 It is not proposed at this stage that the new board has any delegated powers.
- 2.5 The board will not only be comprised of Cabinet members and local councillors but will also include representatives of the Local Enterprise Partnership, Bucks Business First and key private sector partners.

3. Other options considered

- 3.1 Not establishing a board – this would mean that the benefits of having a regular forum to discuss and manage regeneration activity would not be gained.

4. Legal and financial implications

- 4.1 As the board has no delegated powers there are limited legal implications – any decisions recommended by the board will be taken by the appropriate individuals or bodies within the Council. The board can of course make recommendations.
- 4.2 The board will be established and run using existing resources, therefore there is no financial implication arising from setting it up. The board is however reminded that the reports and minutes will be subject to the usual rules about data protection and freedom of information.

5. Corporate implications

- 5.1 The use of boards to coordinate regeneration activity and stakeholder engagement does have an implication in terms of officer time as meetings will need to be coordinated, minuted and supplied with reports. However, this has to be set against the impact of ad hoc interactions between officers, councillors and other stakeholders which is unplanned and therefore far more difficult to manage. It also runs the risk of generating misunderstandings.

6. Consultation and communication

- 6.1 The Leader and cabinet members for Town Centre Regeneration, Regeneration, Property and Planning have been consulted on this issue

7. Next steps and review

- 7.1 If the recommendation is accepted by Cabinet then the High Wycombe Regeneration Board will be established.

8. Background papers

Appendix 1 – Regeneration Overview

Appendix 2 – High Wycombe Regeneration Board, draft Terms of Reference.

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High Wycombe Regeneration Overview

1. Strategy

1.1. The Regeneration Strategy for High Wycombe, Princes Risborough and Marlow was approved by Shadow Executive in October 2019 with a recommendation that it be adopted by the new unitary authority post-vesting day. The strategy sets out a series of ‘big moves’ and a high level programme of projects aimed at doubling the economic output of the town by 2050. This is to be achieved by encouraging high density, high quality development both in terms of commercial and residential. The strategy is publicly available for further reference.

2. Eastern Quarter

2.1. The first project in the Eastern Quarter Regeneration Programme (EQRP), the Brunel Shed, was approved to move into contract stage at Informal Cabinet on 15 July. When complete this scheme will indicate the arrival of High Wycombe as a focus for regeneration and the Council’s commitment to invest in the towns for which it is responsible.

2.2. The second EQRP project, Phase 1A is currently in early feasibility stage. It consists of 120,000ft² of office space on two council owned plots to the south of the station. The total cost of the work is estimated to be in the region of £45m to £55m. Design studies have been produced and a financial model has been developed to ensure that the project is viable, particularly given the current challenging economic situation. This project will come back to the Council later in the year so that a decision can be made on whether to progress to detailed design and planning.

2.3. The broader EQRP programme sets out the potential for a great deal of further development around High Wycombe station, with a total value of £880m. More detail on this wider programme will be forthcoming along with the next stage of Phase 1 and will establish the Council’s powers to push the programme forward, either developing itself or with partners.

2.4. In terms of funding, work in 20/21 is funded out of the existing feasibility budget. A bid will be made for capital funding beyond the current year, as a placeholder under the assumption that the programme will be revenue neutral as a worst case.

3. Other High Wycombe Property projects

Project	Project Description	RIBA Stage	Project End Date	Approved budget
Ottakers Building	Acquisition of freehold and refurbishment for letting as a retained investment	5. Construction	Sep-20	£2,200,000
WAP Northside - Glider runway relocation	Relocation of gliding strip to northside of airpark facilitating S/S development	3. Developed Design		£1,900,000
Spade Oak Lake	Acquisition and development of 70 ha lake as 'enabling development' for Little Marlow Lakes Country Park	1. Preparation and Brief	Nov-22	£1,512,000
Ashwells	Freehold disposals of consented/serviced residential development sites, based on consent for c108 dwellings.	4. Technical Design	Apr-23	£5,773,000
Bassetsbury Triangle	Disposal of former allotments land with planning permission for park homes development	Not applicable	Sep-20	£1,609,000
Bellfield Housing	Freehold disposal of 68 unit consented affordable rented housing site	Not applicable	Mar-21	[£101,000]
Cressex Island - Aldi	Funding a pre-let food store and drive thru' development - Aldi and Mac Donald's for retention as an investment for Development by Aldi (as for Baker Street). Linked to Crest Road Signalisation	3. Developed Design	Feb-21	£4,400,000
Crest Rd Signalisation	Crest Road Signalisation	4. Technical Design	Jun-21	£1,250,000

HQube	Development of 12 x 100sm small workshops on Hughenden Quarter Upper Site	5. Construction	Mar-21	£2,588,000
Cressex Island - Goya	Disposal of freehold site for industrial development to Goya. Linked to Crest Rd signalisation works and Bellfield Sn106	2. Concept Design		N/A
HxH Phase 4 (Revised Masterplan)	Freehold disposal of serviced site	2. Concept Design	Apr-21	N/A
Hughenden Quarter Upper Site Access Road	Reconstruction of Access Road to adoptable standards (and incoming utilities/outgoing drainage to serve Bellfield Resi and HQube	4. Technical Design	Nov-20	£697,000
Princes Risborough Southern Relief Rd Phase 1	Phase 1 of wider relief road to unlock PR Expansion area for 2500 homes to be delivered			£14,700,000
HW TCMP Alternative Route	High Wycombe Town Centre Masterplan was a partnership project between Buckinghamshire County Council, Wycombe District Council, and Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership. Delivering the alternative route between the A40 West Wycombe Road and A404 Marlow Hill. Together with public realm improvement Queen Victoria Road/Easton Street and Cressex Road/Cressex Link Road junction upgrades.	6. Handover and Close Out		£4,601,000
Marlow Library	Refurbishment and conversion	4. Technical Design	Sep-20	£179,000

LASR	Land at Horns Lane	1. Preparation and Brief		£200,000
New Penn Road Cemetery at Queensway	The construction of a new Cemetery adjacent to the Queensway road in Hazlemere to service High Wycombe town residents as the current cemetery is close to capacity	5. Construction	Sep-20	£1,679,000
Temporary Accom Scheme	The project will deliver a new Temporary Accommodation scheme with 58 TA units on the site of Desborough Road Car Park and the adjacent British Red Cross site. Method of build to be Off-site Manufacture (OSM).	5. Construction	TBC	£9,920,000
WAP Road Construction	Highways and roadworks to provide; road widening to the existing Air Park access road, a new S278 compliant entrance to the site and a new extension road, with service ducts for future development.		Jul-20	£1,255,000
Brunel Shed	Regeneration of redundant railway shed and adjacent land	4. Technical Design	Jul-21	£4,000,000
Court Garden Leisure Complex Refurbishment	This project is to deliver a £2m refurbishment to the Court Garden Leisure Centre.	5. Construction	Jul-20	£2,000,000
Risborough Springs Swim & Fitness Centre Extension	This project is to deliver a £1.2m extension to the RSSFC. The extension will provide an extended gym with more stations and a group cycling space. It will also include a new studio for fitness classes for people who live in and around Princes	7. In Use		£1,225,000

	Risborough.			
New Rye Boathouse Cafe	The project is to replace the current Rye Boathouse and install a new modular Rye Boathouse Café including toilets.	5. Construction	Nov-20	£425,000
Refurbishment of the Old Wycombe Library	Refurbishment of the Old Wycombe Library	6. Handover and Close Out		£1,888,000

4. Transport Initiatives

- 4.1. We are developing a long term Transport Vision and Strategy for the High Wycombe urban area. We have completed stage 1 of the project, the development of the vision, which was informed by stakeholder workshops and was agreed by BCC and WDC members in September 2019.
- 4.2. Our consultants Steer are currently working to develop the transport strategy. Steer have used an online decision informing tool to test packages of transport interventions and identify a preferred package. The best performing interventions have been turned into scheme options and are now being assessed using a multi-criteria assessment. We anticipate a draft strategy will be completed by September 2020.
- 4.3. This work has identified approximately 20 interventions. Owing to the challenges faced by the town and in order to achieve outcomes aligned with economic and growth aspirations, this includes some potentially controversial elements.
- 4.4. We are considering entering into e-scooter trials being promoted by DfT. An Expression of Interest is currently available for operators and a suitable partner will be identified for Bucks once that process has completed shortly. High Wycombe is seen as a key location for the trial. Consultation with stakeholders will be conducted over the next few weeks, with an emphasis on safety. Operating models, proposed routes and suitable locations for scooter placements are to be defined and agreed.

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High Wycombe Regeneration Board – Draft Terms of Reference (ToR)

Purpose of the Board

1. The High Wycombe Regeneration Board (the Board) will collectively consider and advise the Council in relation to the overall delivery of regeneration in High Wycombe. The Board will monitor progress of relevant projects engage with stakeholders and propose resolutions for consideration by the decision makers. It will report on delivery of the vision, principles, programme, and budget and related projects under the umbrella of the Regeneration Strategy.

The principles of the regeneration strategy are as follows:

- Better Town Centres
Focusing on the experience economy, the town centre will be revitalised by higher densities of residential development, using brownfield sites, thereby creating demand for businesses in the social and cultural markets.
- Innovative Economy
The existing vibrant creative and digital economy will be encouraged by the better use of current employment land, and by its proximity to the town centre. There is huge potential for new innovation sectors, such as those involved in transport.
- Protect and Improve the Natural Environment
The town will benefit from projects to improve walkability, provide sustainable transport and better air quality. It will also benefit by bringing to the fore the green and blue natural assets within and around it that will boost the tourism offer.
- Sustainable homes for all
In order to support growth, housing will be needed for those employed in new businesses. The majority of this new housing will be provided by densifying the town centre close to public transport links, and where greenfield sites are used, the highest environmental standards will apply.
- Enhancing connectivity
High Wycombe benefits from great connectivity, in respect of public transport, the road network and its proximity to Heathrow airport. Increasing residential use of the town centre and walkability will help with current poor 'last mile' connectivity, as will improved cycling/e-cycling, electric charging point facilities.

Core Functions of the Board

2. To engage with respective corporate management teams and elected members to ensure corporate support and buy-in to delivery.

3. To facilitate and promote joined-up delivery and to engage with and secure support at a strategic level from key stakeholders and partners.
4. To consider the overall direction for the regeneration programme, its objectives and priorities; to monitor overall progress; and to review make recommendations, (at least annually) as to how the objectives and priorities could be updated.
5. To ensure effective engagement and co-ordination with local organisations and community representatives in accordance with the stakeholder engagement and communication strategy (to be developed).
6. To review and report on availability and use of resources to deliver regeneration including the coordination of the public-sector contribution to the delivery of key elements of the project including bidding for central government funds.
7. To make recommendations on strategic issues and propose resolutions for any 'showstoppers').
8. To propose co-ordinated position/responses to consultations and policy announcements that impact the delivery of regeneration and ensure locally focused input is made into existing and/or emerging sub-regional/regional forums.

Membership of the Board

9. Membership will initially extend to the following:
 - Buckinghamshire Council cabinet members*
 - Community Board Rep*
 - BidCo rep*
 - Town Committee Rep* Growth Board Rep*
 - LEP rep*
 - 2 Local members*
 - Representatives of key private sector partners
 - Senior Buckinghamshire Officers

*those with voting rights
10. Membership of the Board will be reviewed in May 2021 and following this at least annually. The Board will retain the ability to refine its membership to reflect the project progress and needs, as required.

11. If additional representation is required for any stakeholder organisation then it will be sought. To avoid potential conflicts of interest it is not proposed that eg. private sector organisations are represented by standing members.

Roles and Responsibilities of Members

12. Board members should be able to:

- Implement the Core Functions of the Board;
- Have the responsibility to represent their organisation and to feedback information to other relevant individuals and parties within that organisation to support effective decision making within that organisation
- Declare any interests in the items on the Board meeting agenda and withdraw from any decision making or discussion related to that item where a potential conflict may exist;
- Make recommendations on the prioritisation of activities, projects and resources to deliver the AGT vision; and
- Make every effort to prioritise attendance at scheduled meetings but to ensure that a suitably senior substitute is nominated from the same organisation.

Chairmanship

13. The Chair will be the Buckinghamshire Council Cabinet Member for Town Centre Regeneration.

Meetings

14. A minimum of 1 meeting per quarter will be held throughout the year, with additional meetings able to be scheduled if required.

Decision Making and Reporting Lines

15. Whilst the Board has oversight and will make recommendations regarding the direct delivery of regeneration, it has no statutory decision making powers. Formal decision making will continue to take place through the existing decision making routes and structures of the organisations represented on the Board but with the added benefit of clear reporting and recommendations (when relevant) from the Board.

16. The Board will receive reports and progress updates from Buckinghamshire Council officers who will be focussing on the day to day management and needs of the project and will manage and progress recommendations from the Board. .

17. If the situation calls for a Board meeting to be convened virtually, the terms of the meeting and the voting rights of its members will remain unchanged.

Review Dates

18. These Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually from the point of their first approval, or as required.

DRAFT



Report to Cabinet

Date:	10 November 2020
Title:	A Recovery and Growth Deal for Buckinghamshire
Relevant councillor(s):	Cllr Martin Tett, Leader of Buckinghamshire Council
Author and/or contact officer:	Ian Thompson, Corporate Director for Planning Growth and Sustainability
Ward(s) affected:	All/None Specific
Recommendations:	Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the Buckinghamshire Recovery and Growth Deal Proposal • Delegate to the Leader of the Council the power to make & approve any minor amendments in light of any comments after Cabinet • Approve the submission of the Proposal to Government by the Buckinghamshire Growth Board
Reason for decision:	To enable the submission of a coordinated Growth and Recovery Deal Proposal for Buckinghamshire.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the proposal that has been developed to set out a Buckinghamshire Recovery and Growth Deal proposition for Government.
- 1.2 This proposition builds on the unique strengths, partnerships, and opportunities within the County and enables Buckinghamshire and the Government to support key 'bounce back' objectives including further increases in GVA in the context of a continuing and post COVID-19 environment, and further contributions to Treasury.
- 1.3 Investing in Buckinghamshire will also support and enable the 'levelling-up' agenda in other parts of the country.

- 1.4 Cabinet is asked to agree this proposal document, with delegated responsibility to the Leader of the Council to approve any minor amendments after the meeting. Cabinet are also asked to approve the submission of the proposal by the Buckinghamshire Growth Board to Central Government.
- 1.5 Following partner engagement and formal support, the Buckinghamshire Growth Board will be asked to submit the final proposition to government in Mid-November.

2. The Proposition

- 2.1 Over the summer period, Buckinghamshire's partners, have been engaging in a number of discussions to prepare a comprehensive and ambitious proposition to support a bilateral engagement with Government. This has taken shape through a process of various internal and external workshops, meetings, and co-design between colleagues from Buckinghamshire Council, Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership, Buckinghamshire Business First, Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Buckinghamshire NHS Healthcare Trust, Bucks New Uni, the University of Buckingham and the Buckinghamshire College Group.
- 2.2 The 'Storyboard' of this proposal was discussed at internal Buckinghamshire Council meeting in September and at the Buckinghamshire Growth Board on the 14th September.
- 2.3 Following this, the 'Storyboard' overview has been developed into a proposal document. The document follows this storyboard content and fleshes out the proposals included in order to provide Government with the overall Buckinghamshire strategic pitch.
- 2.4 The proposal document sets out the high level ambition to support strategic discussions and is guided through three core ambitions and priorities. These are: Places, High-Tech Sectors, and Skills; each specifying our offer, our priorities, and our core asks to help deliver.
- 2.5 The initial draft of the proposal document was discussed at the Buckinghamshire Growth Board on the 15th October and partners have since commented and developed the proposition prior to formal approval.
- 2.6 The Growth Board is asking its membership to agree formal support for this document which includes endorsement by the Buckinghamshire Council Cabinet.
- 2.7 The proposal document has also been developed into a well-designed professional document that can be used for a variety of audiences including for promotional purposes.

3. Other options considered

- 3.1 Do not develop a proposal – does not offer greatest benefits to Buckinghamshire.
- 3.2 Develop a proposal solely as the Council – does not maximise the benefit of the strong partnership working in the county.
- 3.3 Delay submission of a proposal so that it can be aligned to the delayed Devolution White Paper – does not benefit the intentions to support Buckinghamshire's recovery and return to growth

4. Legal and financial implications

- 4.1 Should there be agreement to submit a proposal, and central government agree to enter into negotiations, legal and financial resource will be required to support and analyse the development of more detailed proposals.
- 4.2 Depending on the progress of negotiations and the content of any deal that may be agreed, there may be significant legal and / or financial implications. These implications will need to be continuously evaluated should negotiations commence.

5. Corporate implications

- 5.1 There are no direct corporate implications at this stage but should negotiations commence, the implications of any potential deal will need to be re-evaluated to understand corporate implications.

6. Consultation with local councillors & community boards

- 6.1 Consultation with the relevant portfolio holder has occurred on two occasions during October.
- 6.2 Community Board Consultation N/A

7. Communication, engagement & further consultation

- 7.1 See 2.1
- 7.2 Further consultation and communication may be required depending on the progression of negotiations with central government.

8. Next steps and review

- 8.1 Seek final agreement from the Buckinghamshire Growth Board and submit the proposal to Government in Mid-November.

9. Background papers

9.1 N/A

10. Your questions and views (for key decisions)

- 10.1 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 telephone 01296 382343 or email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

SUCCEEDING AS A PLACE, SUCCEEDING AS A COUNTRY:

A scalable Buckinghamshire proposition to accelerate UK recovery

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Appendix

Waterside Theatre, Aylesbury



CONTENTS

1. Summary of Buckinghamshire proposition
2. Buckinghamshire – able to deliver recovery through our integrated place leadership
3. Buckinghamshire's economy
4. The opportunity for accelerated recovery
5. Our ambition and priorities
6. Governance
7. Summary of proposition elements

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1. SUMMARY OF THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE PROPOSITION

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The Buckinghamshire Growth Board is delighted to outline our ambitious proposition for a Recovery and Growth Deal for Buckinghamshire.

This Deal can add £10bn to the UK economy by 2050, by giving Buckinghamshire the tools to accelerate recovery. We already have one of the strongest local economies in the UK, with high levels of GVA per capita and strengths in critical growth sectors for the future, with further untapped potential. Moreover, as England's newest unitary authority, we have a uniquely integrated council, public service and business leadership, with co-terminous Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), Council, Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Healthcare Trust boundaries.

'Our proposition will combine our economic and governance assets to enable Buckinghamshire to accelerate recovery.'

Our proposition will combine our economic and governance assets to enable Buckinghamshire to accelerate recovery, increase our net contribution to HM Treasury, re-train and reskill our workforce impacted by COVID-19, and provide scalable solutions tested in Buckinghamshire to assist with national recovery.

It will:

- Support the national recovery and help realign the London and South East economy through repurposing our town centres and improving digital connectivity
- Front-load affordable, carbon neutral housing delivery
- Overcome emerging barriers to productivity growth
- Invest in the super growth sectors of the future
- Be a testbed for rapid pathways into future careers, including job matching/ reskilling for ex Heathrow and Luton Airport professionals, creating an opportunity to trial levelling up approaches which can then be mainstreamed across England
- Reduce the health inequalities experienced and support the improvement of the health and well-being of our residents and workforce

WE NOW WANT TO ACCELERATE DISCUSSIONS WITH GOVERNMENT TO DELIVER THIS

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Our proposals for increasing national wealth are based on maximising employment opportunities supported by better digital and physical infrastructure; having an approach to skills that supports our key sectors, creates opportunities for our recently unemployed, and tackles our age old skills gaps, and developing a greener housing offer that can be delivered quickly and is cheaper to run.

6



Key elements of the proposition include:

- Expanding and developing the Buckinghamshire Growth Board as the Board responsible for the governance and delivery of this Deal
- Establishment of a Housing Investment Board with Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO), borrowing, funding and permitted development land, freedoms and powers, thereby providing local remedies to housing delivery barriers
- Allocation from Government of a £100m Single Pot Housing Investment Fund to deliver planned, affordable, carbon neutral housing and associated infrastructure which enhances the quality of housing delivered, enables higher levels of affordable and key worker housing, and where front-funding of infrastructure accelerates housing delivery
- Establishment of a Local Evaluation Framework co-designed with HM Treasury to assess the interventions and investments funded by the Investment Fund
- Devolution and expansion of the Adult Education Budget to enable accelerated additional re-skilling and training to meet local demand by working with local education providers to develop accelerated learning in key growth areas
- Become a designated intermediary for brokering employment as part of the newly launched Kickstart programme for unemployed young people
- Provision of a £60m Digital Infrastructure Investment Fund to enable Buckinghamshire to operate as a fully connected rural economy with every premise connected to gigabit capable broadband
- Freedom to invest the Levy to establish a county wide Apprenticeship Training Agency with a Buckinghamshire Skills Fund providing bursaries and loans and brokering apprenticeship relationships with SMEs
- Opportunity to be a pilot skills response testbed to trial new models, systems and projects, tailored to the post-COVID-19 economy, before they are rolled out in other places to help drive levelling up
- Retention of the additional Business Rates growth from additional value in Business Rates generated by both businesses moving into the area as well as additional floor space generated from the natural growth in businesses.

'Enabling higher levels of affordable and key worker housing, and where front-funding of infrastructure accelerates housing delivery'

7

2. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE – ABLE TO DELIVER RECOVERY THROUGH OUR INTEGRATED PLACE LEADERSHIP



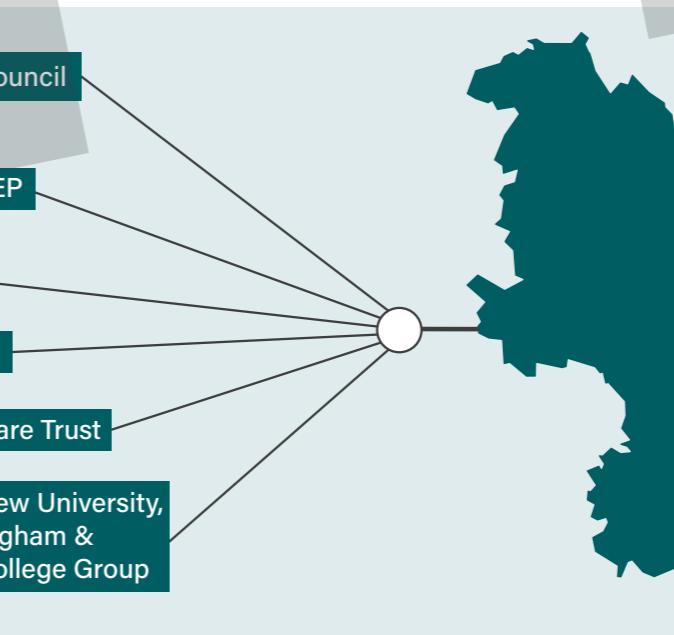
Marlow Bridge

Buckinghamshire has robust and effective partnerships and leadership, ready to accelerate UK recovery. We have a unique opportunity with the newest unitary and the most integrated and coterminous county structure in England of council, public service and business leadership and partnerships.

Buckinghamshire Council was established in April 2020. Moving from a two-tier model to a single unitary authority is a significant achievement, and a major challenge for local government in many other parts of England. We now want to develop an integrated economic recovery and public service reform approach to place leadership, achieving better outcomes for residents, reducing health inequalities, driving accelerated growth, and the expediting move to carbon neutrality.

A key part of unitarisation in Buckinghamshire has been about empowering local communities and neighbourhoods through a double devolution approach. Devolution to local places within Buckinghamshire, underpinned by the principle of subsidiarity, is about passing power down to communities, at the most local level.

The Council is co-terminous with the Buckinghamshire LEP, Buckinghamshire Business First, Buckinghamshire NHS Healthcare Trust and Buckinghamshire CCG. There are also strong partnerships with Buckinghamshire New University, University of Buckingham and Buckinghamshire College Group. Our Further Education (FE) and Higher Education (HE) institutions work closely together through their aligned curriculums and seamless pathways for students, from FE to HE.



OUR HIGH-QUALITY INSTITUTIONS HAVE A STRONG TRACK RECORD OF DELIVERY:

Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP was graded '**excellent** for delivery' in the Government's annual assessment of LEPs in 2020

Representing 13,000 business members and 75% of the county's private sector workforce, Buckinghamshire Business First secures in excess of **£3m annually to support the economy**

Buckinghamshire NHS Healthcare Trust rated as 'Good' and 'Outstanding for Caring' by the Care Quality Commission and the CCG ranked **8th nationally** for mental health therapy referrals

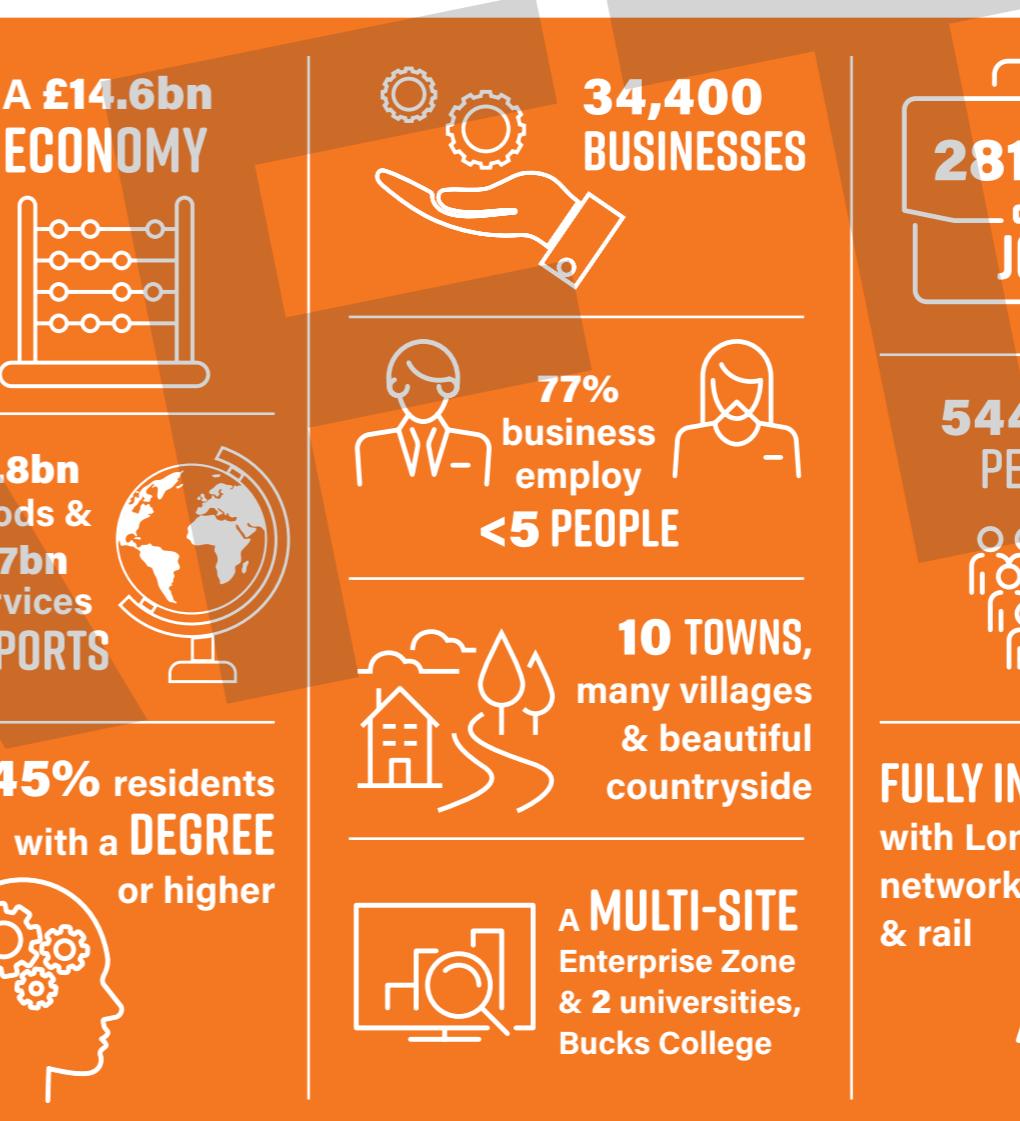
Buckinghamshire New University in **top 10 for graduate employability**, University of Buckingham ranked 1st for student satisfaction and Buckinghamshire College Group has been cited as exemplar by the Department for Education for their merger process

3. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE'S ECONOMY



A VITAL ECONOMY

Buckinghamshire has a strong £14.6bn economy with the 11th highest GDP per head in the country (amongst LEP areas in England). There are 281,000 jobs, 34,400 businesses and 544,000 residents.



We have high skills levels with over 45% of residents having a degree or equivalent qualification or higher, compared to 40% nationally. As of 2017, almost 82% of working age adults were in work (in England, this is 75%). Earnings are high with median resident wages 15% higher than nationally.

Our strong economy is based around an entrepreneurial culture of micro businesses and SMEs with over 3 in 4 of Buckinghamshire firms employing fewer than five employees. Buckinghamshire has a strong track record of stimulating start-ups and businesses that start here and stay here. There are high business survival rates with 48% of firms that started in 2013 operating five years later, compared to the national average of 42%.

Buckinghamshire's thriving and attractive market towns are significant and growing commercial and residential centres. Amersham and Chesham are both on the tube network, and the highly rated Chiltern Line service means many of our towns are well-connected to national transport infrastructure. East West Rail will further improve connectivity. We have a high-quality environment and natural capital assets. The county's canals and parks, such as Black Park, make the area an attractive place to live, and the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is a significant asset supporting the health and wellbeing of our residents and workforce as well as our economy.

OUR SUPER STRENGTHS

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SPACE



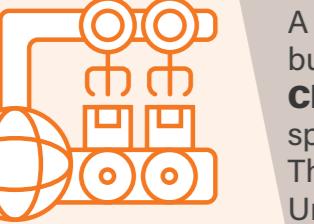
Westcott Space Cluster including, a LEP managed Enterprise Zone, is a centre of excellence in rocket propulsion R&D for SMEs and larger firms. Recent investment includes £4.12m by the UK Space Agency to establish National Space Propulsion Test Facility, a 5G step out facility as well as business incubation and innovation hubs. An impressive 10-year development plan will place Westcott at the forefront of global innovation in satellite propulsion systems and in-orbit maintenance.

CREATIVE & DIGITAL



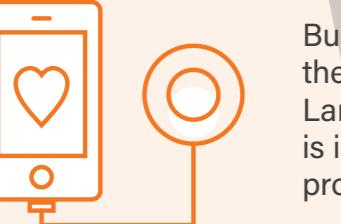
Pinewood is an internationally renowned centre for film production, hosting Star Wars and James Bond productions. There are 250 businesses on site with a major extension underway. The National Film and Television School (NFTS), the number one film school globally, is based in Beaconsfield, and the county is also home to the International eGames Committee. Pinewood and the NFTS lead in immersive content, pioneering the development and use of augmented reality, virtual reality and other technologies.

HIGH PERFORMANCE TECH



A high performance technology cluster has developed around the iconic F1 Circuit with 4,000 businesses operating within a one hour radius of Silverstone. **The Silverstone Park and Tech Cluster**, including a LEP managed Enterprise Zone, focuses on precision engineering with specialisations in additive manufacturing, aerodynamics and light-weight production methodologies. There are also plans to expand into a sub-regional hub of battery production, building on the University of Buckingham's strengths.

MEDTECH



Buckinghamshire has a heritage of working at the forefront of advances in health as the birthplace of the global Paralympic Movement and with the UK National Spinal Centre based in **Stoke Mandeville**. Large, international firms in the area include Janssen/Johnson and GE Healthcare. Buckinghamshire is in the first wave of eight integrated care systems, trialling new, local approaches to health and care provision. A major development in the pipeline is the Buckinghamshire Life Sciences Innovation.

Buckinghamshire's global USP is based on four super strengths, space, creative and digital, high performance tech and medtech, linked to a set of world-renowned assets.

AT THE HEART OF A GROWING, INNOVATIVE REGION

Buckinghamshire is highly connected. We are an integral part of the London economy, integrated with the London tube and rail network, and are located within or close to major growth corridors. Across Buckinghamshire and our neighbouring areas, there is a knowledge intensive economy with strengths in high-tech sectors, science and research and development. There is the potential to deliver transformational growth, create jobs and boost the economy.

'Deliver transformational growth, create jobs and boost the economy'

Future planned investments in Buckinghamshire include East West Rail, connecting Aylesbury and Winslow to Bedford, Oxford and Bicester by 2024, and eventually Cambridge. There are major opportunities linked to Chiltern Rail routes, a rail connection to Old Oak Common and the development of the M40 corridor. Buckinghamshire will also benefit from other nationally significant investments, either within or close to the county, including potential Heathrow and Luton Airport expansions, Western Rail Link to Heathrow, and Crossrail.

We have strong relationships with our neighbours, including Berkshire and Hertfordshire. Our strong partnership working through England's Economic Heartland focuses on sustainable growth opportunities, improved quality of life and harnessing globally renowned centres of innovation to unlock a world class, de-carbonised transport system. England's Economic Heartland are prioritising improvements to east-west connectivity, including a southern arc connecting Buckinghamshire, Watford, southern Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire.



A strong economy with barriers to future growth and productivity

Buckinghamshire has a strong economy, based on our global super strengths, connectivity and strong regional infrastructure. The future success of Buckinghamshire is critical for UK prosperity, but there are barriers to future growth. Economic growth was the third lowest amongst LEP areas in England between 2014 and 2018. Productivity growth is slowing in comparison to other areas, leading to the closing of the productivity gap between Buckinghamshire and the national average. Historically our strong property market has been integral to our economy. If rental income were removed, productivity would be 7% below the national average.

It is critical that Buckinghamshire grows sustainably, in a way which protects its natural environment and improves social wellbeing of our residents and workforce. There is an opportunity for Buckinghamshire to pioneer sustainable economic and housing development. For instance, the Aylesbury Garden Town sets out an ambition to create a diverse and distinct set of clean and inclusive local economies.

As the Buckinghamshire partners and businesses continue to support a strong and vibrant local economy, then support to help businesses revenue, especially that element that supports inward investment, will be required to provide certainty to allow for longer term planning to recovery and develop the local economy.



Constraints to future economic growth and prosperity include:

- A lack of available housing, particularly affordable homes, and business space, with house prices averaging 13 times higher than incomes, and 50% of Buckinghamshire being either an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or Green Belt
- Poor digital connectivity, especially in rural areas, with 7.8% full fibre coverage, compared to a 14% average in the UK
- Specific COVID-19 related job losses amongst high skilled aviation professionals at Heathrow and Luton Airports
- A shortage and availability of skills and labour in our key growth sectors
- Ongoing pressure on public services with spatial concentrations of health inequalities, such as a gap of seven years in life expectancy between males in the most and least deprived population quintiles, and the potential for COVID-19 to undermine gains made in reducing these inequalities
- Challenges of an ageing population on public services and labour market with 10% more residents over 90 years old than the national average and an expected growth of 147% in this age group by 2038
- High levels of traffic congestion with Aylesbury ranked as the 8th highest for hours lost to congestion in the UK in 2019 by Inrix



'There is an opportunity for Buckinghamshire to pioneer sustainable economic housing development'

4. THE OPPORTUNITY FOR ACCELERATED RECOVERY



THE RECOVERY CHALLENGE

The initial freezing of large parts of the economy as part of the COVID-19 lockdown has already produced unprecedented economic impacts. We now know that COVID-19 restrictions are likely to be in place for at least the next six months. The major priority for the UK will be to recover economically, whilst managing future waves of the virus. Individual and family livelihoods, the viability of our town centres, and of our public finances all depend on effective and rapid economic recovery.

¹Buckinghamshire will have challenges in reducing health inequalities for our communities. Most areas in Buckinghamshire, are ranked highly (health deprivation is relatively low). However, within this overall finding of low health deprivation, 19 'small areas' rank more deprived than the England average for health deprivation. Three areas rank within the 30% most deprived across England.

Geographically, health deprivation is more common nationally in urban areas and this pattern occurs in Buckinghamshire. Health deprivation is more prevalent in the north of the county. Of the three most health-deprived areas (ranked by the Health Deprivation and Disability domain), two are located in Aylesbury, the third in Buckingham.

If the first six months of the crisis have accelerated existing economic and technological trends, the next six months may well entrench them. Our economy

has been impacted by the pandemic with 63,000 of our residents furloughed, a 34% reduction in job postings, a 33% reduction in company incorporations and a 40% reduction in footfall in our county town. However, we have also seen opportunities such as those presented by a reduction in out commuting by highly skilled professionals.

'Buckinghamshire has been more resilient to the impact of the crisis than other parts of the country'

Early evidence has shown that the Buckinghamshire economy has been more resilient to the impact of the crisis than other parts of the country, and is recovering more quickly. This is despite significant challenges, such as the impact on our residents of the loss of highly skilled aviation jobs at Heathrow and Luton airports.

It is critical that Buckinghamshire is able to respond positively to these challenges and opportunities as we can accelerate recovery for the UK. Our strong economy, key sectoral super strengths, and connectivity position us to lead new ways of working, and the new normal economy post-COVID-19. And our position as England's newest unitary with a uniquely integrated council, public service and business leadership enables us to make things happen quickly and effectively.

¹ 'Small areas' are defined through the English Indices of Deprivation and in 2019 there were >32k in England and 319 in Buckinghamshire.

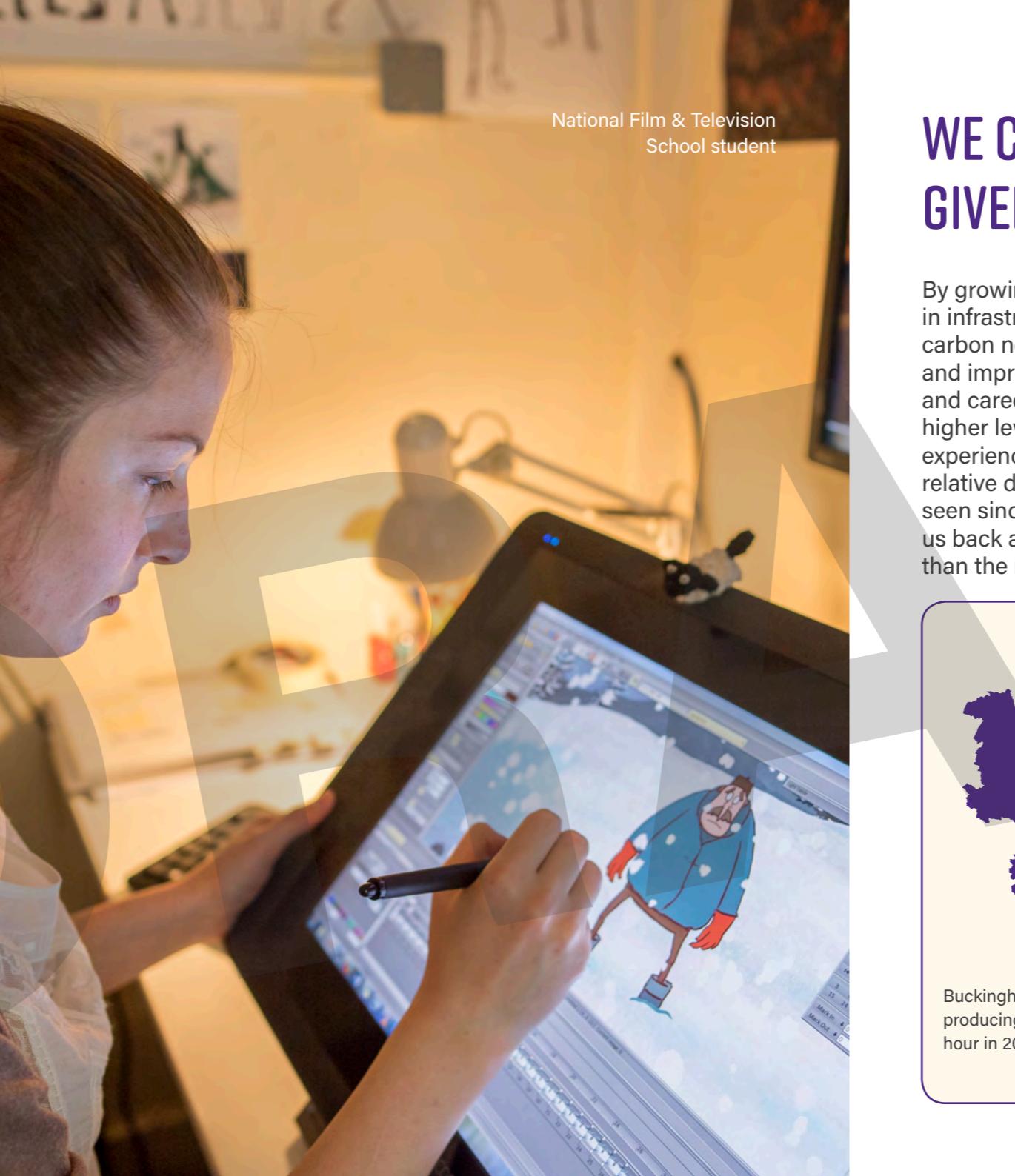
OUR RECOVERY PRIORITIES

Many of our residents have been, or are likely to be impacted, by the significant drop in activity at Heathrow and Luton airports. Over 2,000 residents work on-site at Heathrow Airport with many more working at Luton and in our airport supply chains. This is an opportunity for job matching, bringing people displaced from aviation and other industries into our key growth sectors such as health and social care.

Health and social care is the largest employer in Buckinghamshire and has significant labour and skills demands. Being at the forefront of healthcare innovation, it will be important to utilise our assets, including the world-renowned National Spinal Injury Unit at Stoke Mandeville, to overcome health inequalities given the greater impact of COVID-19 on people living in poor health and deprivation.

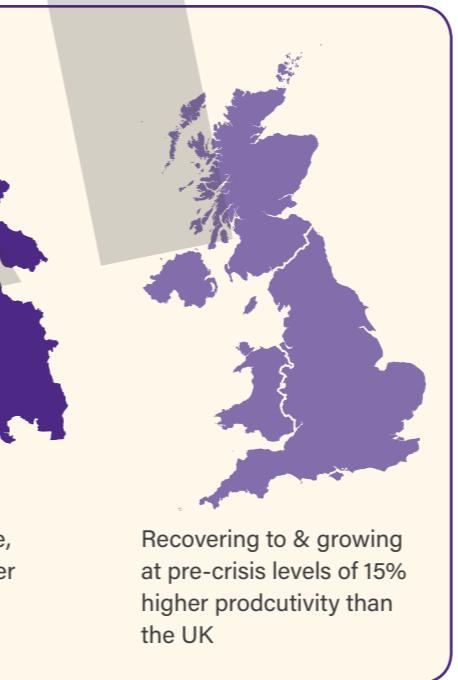
The long-term growth and local significance of space, creative and digital, high performance technology and medtech are unlikely to be impacted by COVID-19. With changes in business practices and the rapid uptake of technology, the pandemic may lead to greater cross-sector innovation as firms pivot and diversify.

Prior to COVID-19, 34% of residents commuted out of Buckinghamshire. With high levels of home working likely to be in place for the next six months and into the future, this is a significant opportunity for Buckinghamshire to position itself as a regional working hub.

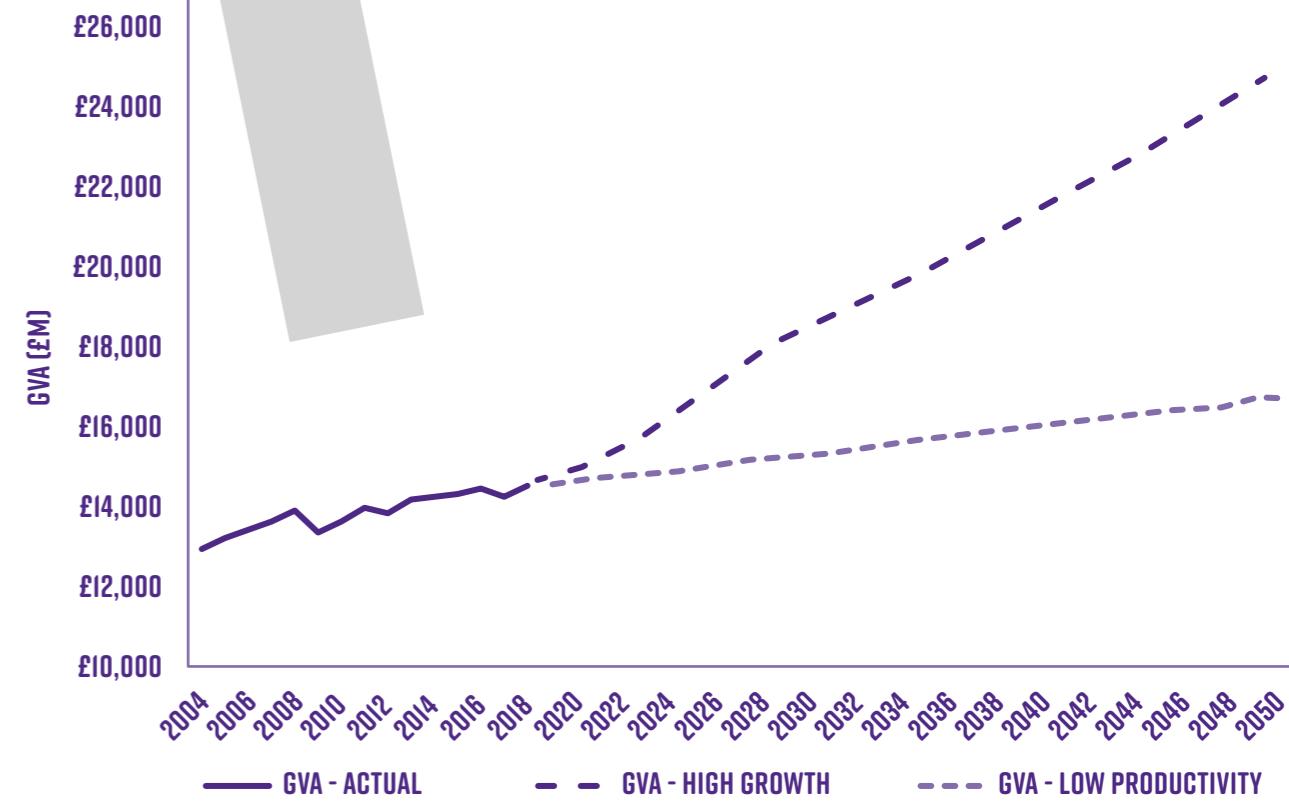


WE CAN ADD £10BN TO THE UK ECONOMY IF WE ARE GIVEN THE TOOLS TO ACCELERATE UK RECOVERY

By growing our high-tech sectors, investing in infrastructure, front-loading the building of carbon neutral houses (on existing targets), and improving skills levels, rapid job matching and career pathways, we can return to the higher levels of productivity growth that we experienced before 2008. This will reverse the relative decline in productivity growth we have seen since the Great Financial Crisis and put us back at the level of 15% higher productivity than the national average.



With greater investment in Buckinghamshire, we can recover this position by 2028, growing at 1.5% per annum. Between 2028 and 2060, growing at 0.6% per annum, Buckinghamshire's productivity will continue to be 15% higher than the UK. By 2050, our economy will be £10bn larger than in 2018.



Source: Metro Dynamics projections

ECONOMIC RATIONALE

Buckinghamshire has a proven track record of delivery with strong partnerships and a co-terminous geography. We are integrated with London and at the centre of major growth corridors with good connectivity. There are strengths in future growth sectors and world-renowned assets with a culture of entrepreneurship. We are well placed to lead new working and the new normal economy-post COVID-19.

THE OPPORTUNITY

LOCALLY: Maximise the potential from new ways of working and changing business practices to benefit existing residents, improving access to employment and training and attract new people and businesses

NATIONALLY: Accelerate our leading contribution to UK recovery through high-tech sectors, carbon neutrality and the future success of London and South East

= £10bn additional GVA

WHAT BUCKINGHAMSHIRE NEEDS

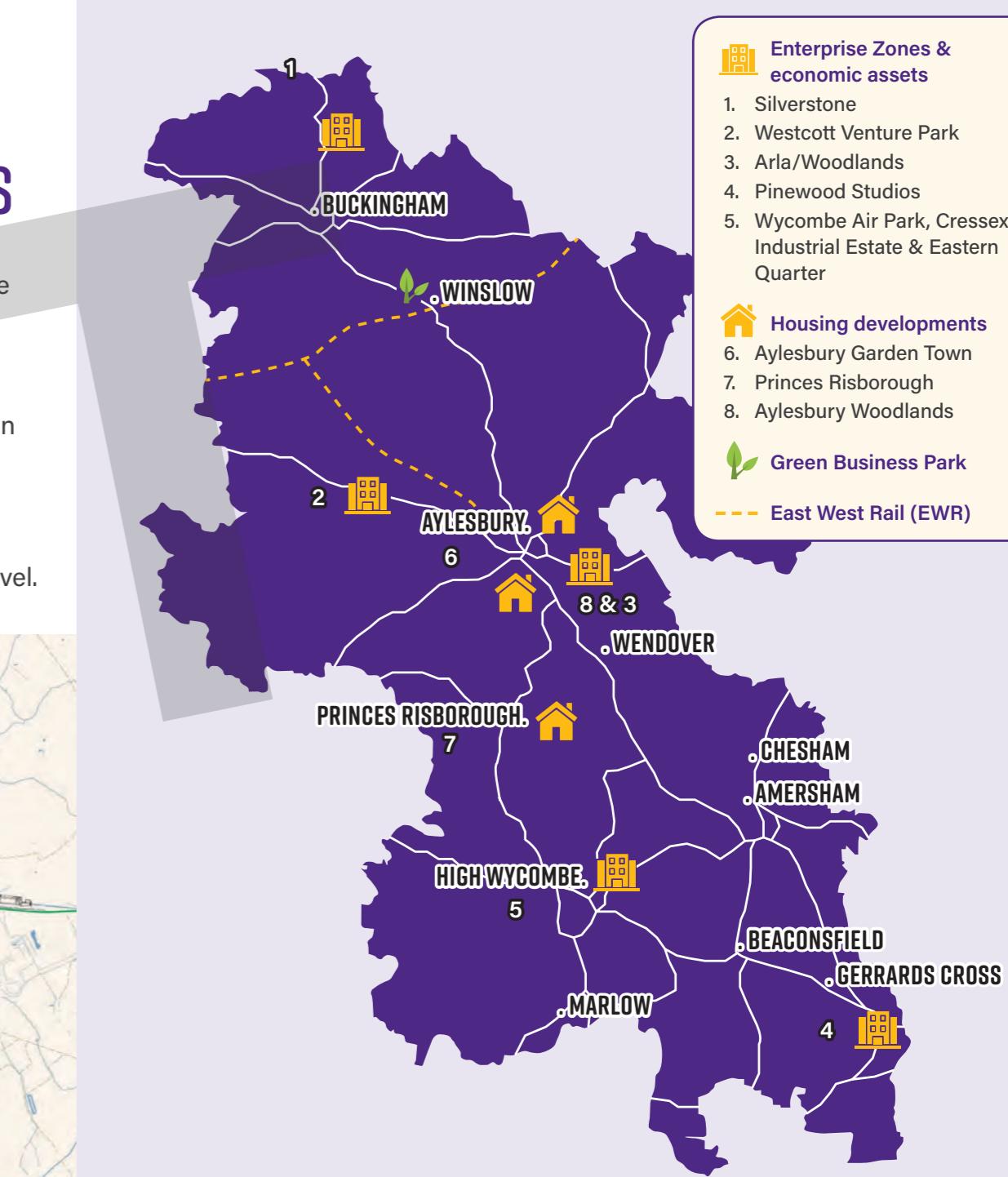
- Powers and funding to front-load delivery high quality, affordable and carbon neutral housing (achieving existing targets)
- Continued investment in repurposing town centres for residential and business
- Powers and funding for reskilling of the workforce
- Investment in business networks and the innovation ecosystem
- Improved digital connectivity in certain areas



KEY GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Buckinghamshire has a number of key growth and development opportunities in the county. Accelerating the delivery of these will be a key focus of the Recovery and Growth Deal.

Buckinghamshire has a multi-site Enterprise Zone, linked to nationally significant assets with potential for expansion and enhancement. Major housing developments include Aylesbury Garden Town (16,000 homes) and Princes Risborough (2,500 homes), providing high-quality homes with opportunities to embrace smart technology, develop green corridors and encourage active and sustainable travel.



5. OUR AMBITION AND PRIORITIES



Burnham Beeches

AMBITION:

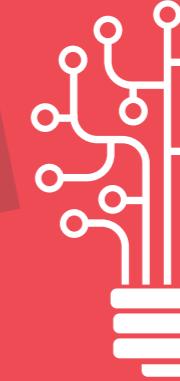
Add £10bn more to the UK economy by 2050,
accelerating UK recovery

Places



Repurpose and **create**
quality, low carbon and
connected communities
for people to live and work

High-tech sectors



Mobilise distinctive and
internationally recognised
economic assets and
strengths

Skills



Create an **accelerated skills**
delivery system to drive
our ambitions for recovery,
retraining and **economic**
growth

PLACES:

Repurpose and create quality, low carbon, healthy and connected communities for people to live and work



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Our offer

We will create a Housing Investment Deal to prioritise affordable, sustainable and carbon neutral housing, develop innovative approaches to using public land, and introduce lifetime living environments to help our ageing population retain their independence

Our priorities

We will:

- Front-load the delivery of 50,000 homes by 2036, regenerating and reviving towns, and consolidating the opportunity presented by major innovative developments such as Aylesbury Garden Town, Princes Risborough, and Aylesbury Woodlands. These homes will be attractive for the workforce for the future and will enable young people to start and grow their careers in Buckinghamshire.
- Build high-quality, carbon neutral, digitally enabled, affordable homes for life. These will be adaptable and suitable for key workers, home working, family living, and healthy, independent living in older years, for instance through a care village model. Our housing developments will be energy efficient and sustainable with high quality integrated green infrastructure and accessible walking and cycling routes to encourage active travel.. We will focus on overcoming inequalities and improving health and well-being by building high quality, functional places that support cohesive, healthy communities.
- Reimagine and diversify town centres with high-quality housing, co-working space, public spaces and walking and cycling routes. COVID-19 has accelerated existing long-term trends related to home working and online retail, and the decline of peak office working in central London. This is an opportunity to repurpose our towns, providing the infrastructure and amenities required by our highly skilled and qualified residents, many of whom will want to continue to work locally or at home, for at least part of the week.
- Invest in digital, physical and green infrastructure to unlock development and support a connected rural economy.



Core asks to help accelerate UK recovery

A Housing Investment Board with a £100m Single Pot Housing Investment Fund

This Board and Investment Fund will be used to front-load the delivery of planned high-quality, carbon neutral, affordable housing and associated infrastructure, developing quality places and increasing town centre residential density. Our Board will have CPO, borrowing, funding and permitted development land freedoms and powers. We will also explore establishing a development company to lead delivery. Our focus will be on Aylesbury, which has significant potential around East West Rail,

The Growth Board has developed a number of proposed projects in its Spending Review submission which could be funded by the Single Pot Investment Fund. There will be a prioritisation process to determine which of these projects will be taken forward, but these could include:

- Aylesbury Public Realm and Regeneration** – Aylesbury Gardenway, a fully connected corridor encircling the town, enhancing connectivity and liveability of the neighbourhoods on the town's outer reaches

A share of a £400m Single Pot Investment Fund

This will enable us to accelerate investment and unlock opportunity by enhancing local infrastructure, delivering shovel-ready schemes and generating recyclable investment. This will enable Buckinghamshire to deliver on its identified priorities efficiently and effectively, and encourage longer-term infrastructure planning horizons through greater certainty. It will be a flexible and

multi-year fund with the ability to reprofile expenditure and move funding between projects to meet immediate need and shifting priorities. The Investment Fund will be governed by a Local Evaluation Framework, to assess interventions and investments.

- Aylesbury Transport Improvements** – improving space and capacity, enabling housing development to come forward, and unlocking further opportunities for improving the town centre public realm

- High Wycombe Public Realm and Regeneration** – regenerating the Eastern Quarter to create a vibrant and lively public realm, and a diverse cultural offer

- High Wycombe Transport Improvements** – delivering various measures from the emerging High Wycombe Transport Strategy
- Winslow** – development of a masterplan linked to opportunity around improved connectivity to Oxford via East West Rail and a green business park
- Digital town centres** – enhancing WiFi connectivity and digital literacy training to provide consumers and small traders with the technology and skills to trade digitally through recovery and renewal
- Chesham mesh network rollout** – rolling out an innovative mesh network project, embedding technology in street furniture to benefit adult social care service delivery
- One Public Estate Community and Service Hubs** – providing a single joined up public service access point for health, social care, libraries and leisure in Buckingham, Iver, Chesham and Amersham,
- Local infrastructure schemes** – delivering relief roads and local sustainable travel routes which will unlock planned housing growth and reduce the challenges existing communities are facing

A share of the £60m Digital Infrastructure Investment Fund

This fund will enable Buckinghamshire to connect the remaining premises, currently without superfast broadband (i.e below 30mbps speed), in the county to gigabit capable connectivity (>1,000mpbs). Based on the intentions for all UK premises to be 100% connected to gigabit connectivity by 2025, this fund will help to accelerate the delivery across Buckinghamshire supplementing a connected rural economy. Digital infrastructure will be central to the future of our places and will enable residents and the workforce to operate efficiently and effectively with a greater access to skills and reduced digital exclusion. Buckinghamshire has one of the highest levels of take-up for superfast broadband services in country, showing the appetite and need for better connectivity in the area.

Furthermore, investing in the gigabit capable network of Buckinghamshire will provide the backbone for a future 5G connected county. This will enhance the opportunities for commercial roll out across the county and enable Buckinghamshire to be a leader in digital infrastructure.

HIGH-TECH SECTORS:

Mobilise distinctive and internationally recognised economic assets and strengths



Our offer

We will strengthen global Britain's position at the forefront of innovation and future growth sectors.

Our priorities

We will:

- Grow our high-tech sectors in space, creative and digital, high performance tech and Medtech, boosting productivity and the shift to carbon neutrality.
- Nurture the clusters around economic assets by accelerating the extension and enhancement of Enterprise Zones, as well as support for post-Brexit trade.
- Transform services at scale through health and social care innovation, building on Stoke Mandeville Hospital's global reputation and expertise, co-terminosity with health partners, and the skills offer at our colleges and universities. This could include transforming traditional models of care in the community, and encouraging healthy behaviours and preventative measures to overcome health inequalities and reduce demand on care services.

- Develop the innovation ecosystem, connecting businesses to research institutions and universities within Buckinghamshire and beyond.
- Rebalance economic growth across Buckinghamshire through opportunities to develop trade and investment hubs in the south of the county, based on sectoral strengths and proximity to Heathrow Airport and London. For instance through expanding the principles of an enterprise zone or freeport.
- Underpin the above priorities with high-quality digital infrastructure through ensuring every premise in Buckinghamshire is able to utilise superfast, ultrafast or gigabit capable connectivity supporting a connected rural economy

Core asks to help accelerate UK recovery

A share of a £400m Single Pot Investment Fund

This will be a recyclable investment fund with gainshare principles and gateway review. The Fund will catalyse private sector investment, unlock opportunities and take equity shares in key growth businesses in Buckinghamshire's super strength sectors. Potential projects which could be funded through the Single Pot Investment Fund could include:

- **Westcott 10-year programme** – ensuring Westcott is a world leading space propulsion test facility, centre for small satellite manufacture and national innovation cluster supporting and growing the UK space sector
- **Westcott Disruptive Innovation Space Centre** – providing industry developing novel launch, propulsion and satellite technologies
- **Pinewood Studios Global Growth Hub** – supporting recovery in the creative sector and investing in screen and film, including

the application and development of virtual and augmented reality technologies

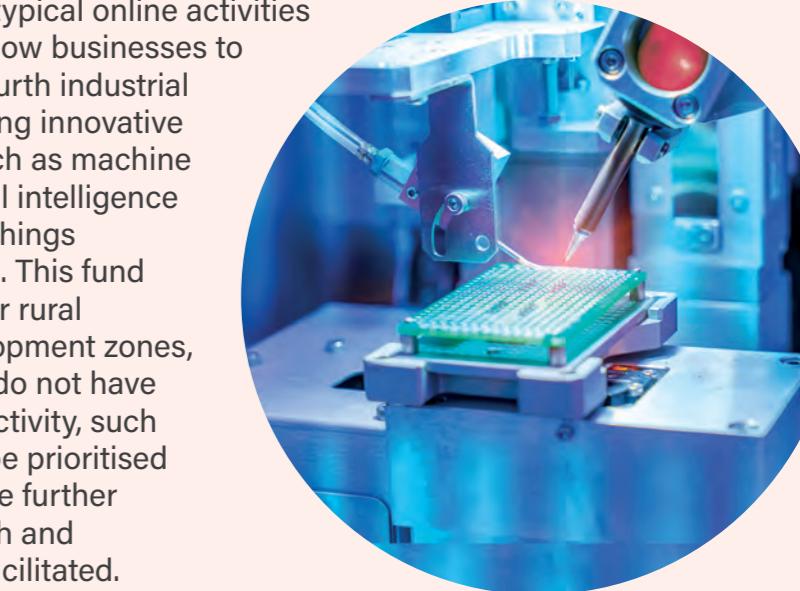
- **Silverstone Long-term Growth Strategy** – stimulating the next wave of innovation in green technologies to support aspirations around carbon neutrality, including Electric Vehicles, battery applications and automated vehicles

- **Silverstone Sports Innovation Campus** – expanding a highly successful open access research and development centre based on the commercial applications for aerodynamics in sport.

- **Aylesbury Woodlands Campus development** – exploring the creation of a flagship Health and Social Care Campus and centre of innovation at Aylesbury Woodlands to futureproof the healthcare needs of the growing population of Buckinghamshire

A share of the £60m Digital Infrastructure Investment Fund

Investing in gigabit capable connectivity will not only enable typical online activities but it will also allow businesses to engage in the fourth industrial revolution, utilizing innovative technologies such as machine learning, artificial intelligence and Internet of Things communications. This fund would enable our rural economic development zones, which currently do not have superfast connectivity, such as Westcott, to be prioritised in order to enable further economic growth and recovery to be facilitated.



SKILLS:

Create an accelerated skills delivery system to drive our ambitions for recovery, retraining and economic growth



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Our offer

We will use unique integrated partnerships to be a testbed for the development of rapid pathways into careers for the future.

Our priorities

We will:

- Explore decision-making improvements that ensure funding is distributed to the most appropriate locations at the local level
- Support the existing workforce to re/up/multiskill to access new opportunities and a range of jobs, with a strong focus on digital.
- Attract and retain young people, providing them with the aspiration and skills to work and live in the county, and strengthening links between schools and flagship global assets.
- Ensure there is a strong talent pipeline to support future growth sectors.
- Offer accelerated training in qualifications linked to shortage areas, such as engineering, nursing and social care, and film.
- Create good quality, entry level positions with progression opportunities.



Core asks to help accelerate UK recovery

Adult Education Budget

A devolved and expanded Adult Education Budget, with resources and powers, will enable accelerated additional training to meet local demand.

Kickstart

Become a designated intermediary for brokering employment as part of the Kickstart programme for unemployed young people (3 in 4 of firms employ fewer than five employees).

Apprenticeships

A devolved and reformed Apprenticeship Levy will ensure that it is responsive to micro and SME business needs, and will support future jobs growth, particularly in the green economy. We will explore establishing a county wide Apprenticeship Training Agency with a Buckinghamshire Skills Fund providing bursaries and loans and brokering apprenticeship with SMEs.

Pilot skills response testbed

This will enable a quick and agile response to changing priorities based on provision of real-time data. Buckinghamshire will act as a pilot for models, systems and projects to be rolled out in other places. For instance, a pilot agreement with the Department for Work and Pensions and cross government on shared data would assist employment support and job matching (DWP).



6. GOVERNANCE



THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE GROWTH BOARD



The Buckinghamshire Growth Board will be responsible for the governance and delivery of this Recovery and Growth Deal. It is a partnership board between the Council, Buckinghamshire LEP, Buckinghamshire Business First, Buckinghamshire CCG and Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust and Business Specialists, as well as the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Homes England, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Department of Health and Social Care, Highways England and Natural England. The Board is one of four specific Growth Boards established across the South East region.

The recent creation of a single unitary Council for Buckinghamshire strengthens the county's economic and public service governance system. We now have one LEP, one Council, one CCG, one Healthcare Trust, and one business support organisation (Buckinghamshire Business First), one Further Education group, the Buckinghamshire College Group, and two universities, Buckinghamshire New University and the University of Buckingham. All are co-terminous and are part of a system that has an established culture and practice of partnership working.

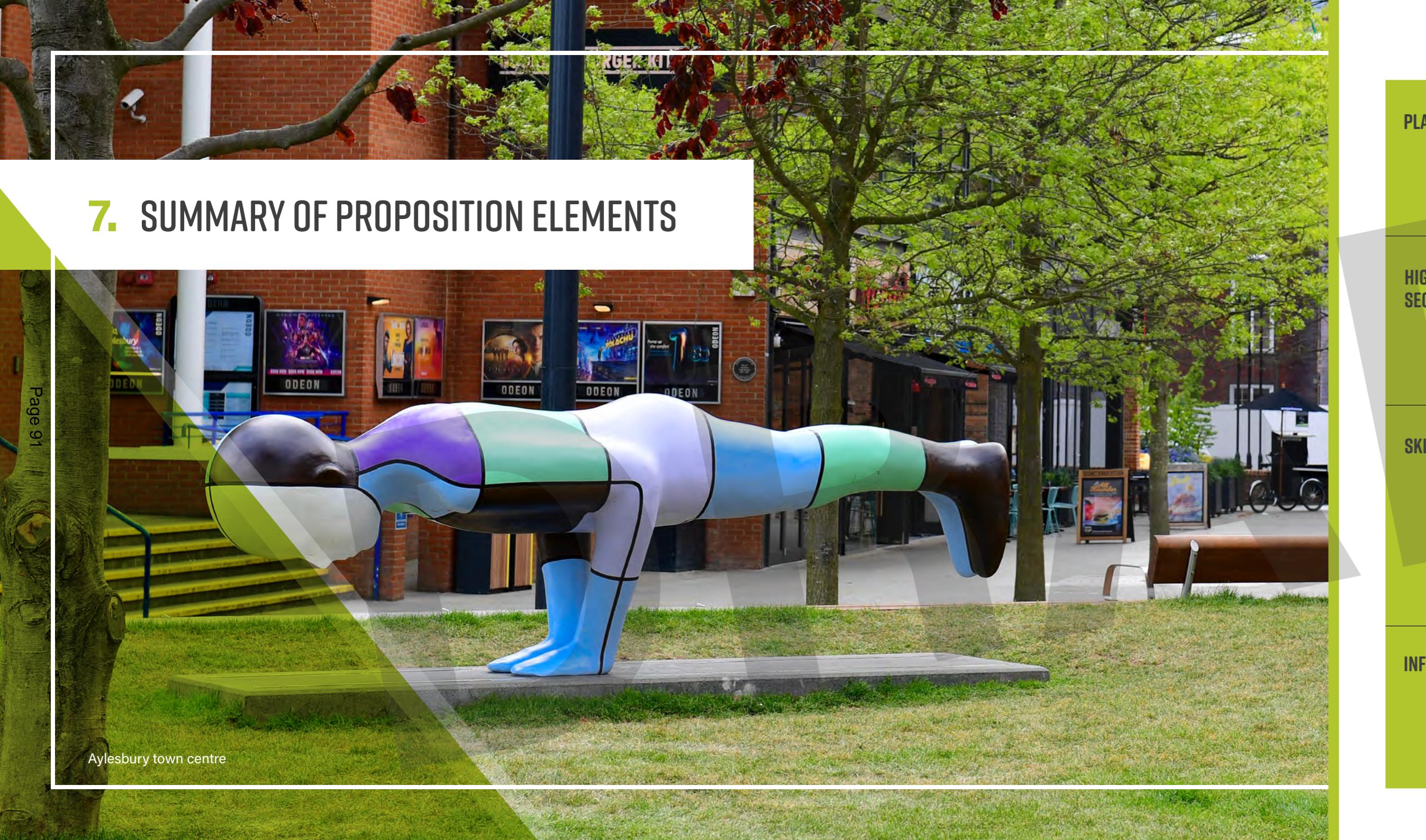
The Buckinghamshire Growth Board is still relatively new, but it is developing into a body that can provide effective place leadership on recovery and public service reform. It has

already developed an ambitious pipeline of growth projects, which were set out in its recent submission to the Government's Spending Review. The proposals in this deal proposition have been developed by the Board and its partners over the summer, demonstrating the commitment that all partners have to a deal that can give Buckinghamshire the tools to accelerate recovery.

'The Buckinghamshire Growth Board will be our single voice for economic, place-based governance.'

This Board will be our single voice for economic, place-based governance, able to enter into agreement with Government, and to then oversee delivery with and through its partners. We may expand its membership over time to reflect all key delivery partners, which may include putting in place framework delivery deals for all our delivery partners.

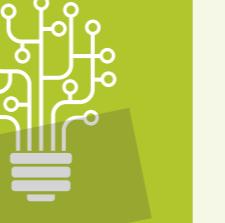
It will be supported by a dedicated Secretariat, with Buckinghamshire Council acting as the accountable body.



7. SUMMARY OF PROPOSITION ELEMENTS

- PLACES 

 - A Housing Investment Board with CPO, borrowing, funding and permitted development land, freedom and powers
 - A £100m Single Pot Housing Investment Fund
 - A county wide approach to public land

- HIGH-TECH SECTORS 

 - A £400m Single Pot Investment Fund
 - Ability to extend Enterprise Zones
 - Pilot area for NHS investment in digital applications
 - Principles of an Enterprise Zone or freeport in South Buckinghamshire

- SKILLS 

 - Devolution of Adult Education Budget
 - Become a designated body for Kickstart
 - Devolution of Apprenticeship Levy
 - A county wide Apprenticeship Training Agency with a Buckinghamshire Skills Fund
 - Pilot agreement with DWP and cross government on shared data to assist employment support and job matching

- INFRASTRUCTURE 

 - A £60m digital infrastructure investment fund
 - Pilot traffic powers at the local level
 - County wide bus regulation
 - Fund and statutory status for England's Economic Heartland

back page content required



Report to Cabinet

Date: 10 November 2020

Title: Next Steps Accommodation Programme Funding Award (NSAP)

Relevant councillor(s): Councillor Isobel Darby

Author and/or contact officer: Brian Daly brian.daly@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

Recommendations:

To provide delegated authority to the Corporate Director of Planning, Growth and Sustainability and the Cabinet Member for Housing;

- To grant fund grant fund Harrow Churches Housing Association £1.3m - using £650k of Next Steps Accommodation Programme grant awarded from MHCLG/Homes England and up to £650k of unallocated s.106 developer funding - for them to be able to purchase 15 one bedroom properties in the Wycombe and Aylesbury areas for move on from supported housing for former rough sleepers.
- To enter into negotiations to purchase and subsequently lease Ardenham House, Aylesbury, to Hightown Housing Association. Once negotiations are concluded, to fund the purchase - using the £650k grant MHCLG are ' minded' to provide for this project, with the remaining balance (up to £650k) from unallocated s. 106 funding.
- *That the two projects above are added into the Capital Programme this year with agreement from the s.151 Officer and the Leader.*

Reason for decision: To adhere to the conditions of the NSAP award and to provide long term accommodation to current and former rough sleepers.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 In order to follow on from the ‘everyone in’ initiative to assist all rough sleepers into accommodation in March, the Council successfully applied to the “Next Steps Accommodation Programme” (NSAP) in August 2020 with proposals which have been accepted by MHCLG and Homes England, awarding over £2m to the Council and its partners for this purpose.
- 1.2 In order to move forward with these proposals, officers are seeking delegated authority to purchase a property for use by high needs rough sleepers in Aylesbury and subsequently to be leased to Hightown Housing for this purpose; and to match fund MHCLG’s grant to Harrow Churches Housing Association to enable the purchase of 15 one bedroom units as ‘move on’ for former rough sleepers from supported accommodation.
- 1.3 These two proposals follow on from, and compliment the short term revenue award of £485,438 to the Council from the NSAP to assist the Council in accommodating rough sleepers in Buckinghamshire during the pandemic, through to April 2021.

2. Content of report

Background

- 2.1 At present, around 80 individuals are being accommodated by the Council as per the ‘everyone in’ initiative as a result of the pandemic. In total, over 170 individuals have benefited from this scheme since commencement in March 2020.
- 2.2 The average gross revenue cost for the ‘everyone in’ accommodation is around £45 per night, or £16,425 per annum per client. This initiative is due to continue until at least March 31st 2021.
- 2.3 The non-revenue costs of a person sleeping rough in Buckinghamshire are difficult to estimate, however ‘Crisis’ have reported that each rough sleeper has an annual cost of £20,128. (*At What Cost, 2015 and Better than cure? 2016*)
- 2.4 In Buckinghamshire, there are a small number of supported housing units that cater to the rough sleeper cohort, including the Old Tea Warehouse and YMCA in High Wycombe, and Bearbrook in Aylesbury.
- 2.5 ‘Move on’ from these units presents a challenge due to high rents in the private rented sector, low supply of one bed units in some areas on the housing register and a lack of availability of suitable properties and landlords willing to accept such challenging clients.

- 2.6 Creating additional supported housing and ‘move on’ accommodation will enable more rough sleepers and those who are threatened with sleeping rough, to be able to access suitable supported housing and have a pathway through to long term, independent accommodation. There is a shortage of supply of supported housing and ‘move on’ in Aylesbury, particularly for those with high support needs.
- 2.7 In terms of capital funding, the Council has available s106 funds in lieu of on-site affordable housing provision across the former districts, collected over a number of years. These funds can only be used for the provision of additional affordable housing, within a time period set within the s106 agreement for each site, normally 10 years. Legal advice confirms that these funds can be used for the purposes outlined in the grant application for the NSAP.
- 2.8 The following amounts of s106 affordable housing funds are unspent at present:
 - I. Wycombe £4.6m
 - II. Aylesbury £2m
 - III. Chiltern and South Bucks £0.77m

3. Short Term Revenue Funding

- 3.1 MHCLG has recently awarded £485k to Buckinghamshire Council in response to a grant application made for short term accommodation proposals.
- 3.2 The award is apportioned as follows;
 - i) £400,438 for emergency accommodation for those sleeping rough (the application was for £504,000)
 - ii) £60,037 to assist and prevent the cohort of EEA/EU nationals and those with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF), from returning to the streets.
 - iii) £25,000 for the payment of rent deposits for former rough sleepers to assist them obtain private rented accommodation.
- 3.3 Work has commenced on assisting the EEA/EU and NRPF individuals, with accommodation continuing to be provided to the remainder.
- 3.4 Officers are continuing to work with this cohort, building on successes made so far, with at least 60 persons successfully ‘moved on’ to date. The aim is to continue to reduce the need for emergency accommodation by identifying a suitable option for each individual, in partnership with the voluntary sector.
- 3.5 **Capital Funding Approved by MHCLG/Homes England**
- 3.6 **“Move on” Accommodation with Harrow Churches Housing Association**
- 3.7 The Council has previously provided capital grant funding (from s106 accrued funds collected in lieu of onsite affordable housing delivery) for two purchase schemes

carried out by Registered Providers (RPs). The RPs purchased a number of two bedroom homes from the open market and now uses them for accommodating households nominated by the Council, for homelessness prevention or for the discharge of homeless duty.

- 3.8 The housing service, in partnership with Harrow Churches Housing Association (HCHA), successfully submitted a proposal to MHCLG for the purchase of 15 x one bedroom units for use as 'move on' from the supported housing units in the County. Seven of the units will be delivered in the Wycombe area, with 8 in the Aylesbury area.
- 3.9 HCHA have confirmed that they can acquire these units and will provide nomination rights to the Council in perpetuity, for a total grant of £1.3m (£650,000 agreed by, and from MHCLG, and £650,000 match funded by Buckinghamshire Council). HCHA will provide up to a further £2.2m of their own funds to enable these acquisitions.
- 3.10 The model will provide the Council with the ability to nominate former rough sleepers from supported housing units in Buckinghamshire to these properties for assured short hold tenancies, for 2 years. This will enable a pathway from rough sleeping through supported housing eventually to fully independent living, so creating space in the supported housing units for new clients to access.
- 3.11 The units will be owned and managed by HCHA at no further cost to the Council, in perpetuity. MHCLG have advised that, subject to contract, they are minded to approve this proposal.
- 3.12 **Ardenham House, Aylesbury.** This is a block of 10 self-contained flats in a central location. The block is currently privately owned and has been offered to the Council to purchase for use as a high support needs unit. Hightown Housing Association has been identified to provide support to 9 high needs former rough sleepers. (One flat is to be used as an office space.)
- 3.13 The agreed proposal is for MHCLG to match fund with the Council, and for the Council to make a freehold purchase of the building from the private owners. The proposal is based on a notional value. Currently, colleagues in the property service are liaising with the owners to ensure the property meets a standard suitable for our needs. If Cabinet approval is given, then any approved purchase will be subject to a valuation by the Council's Property team.
- 3.14 Hightown Housing Association have submitted proposals to fully lease, repair and insure the building from the council at peppercorn rent, in return for revenue grant funding from MHCLG for 4 years, totaling £362,360. There are therefore no direct revenue implications for the Council. MHCLG have advised that they are ' minded to' approve this scheme. An exit strategy will need to be developed with any financial implications modelled into the Medium Term Financial Plan once finalised.

Summary

- 3.15 Subject to contract and Cabinet approval, the £1.3m match fund capital outlay by the Council will provide the housing service with access to 15 one bedroom units in perpetuity for former rough sleepers for move on; and 9 high support needs, one bedroom units in Aylesbury. All of these 24 units will be at no revenue cost to the Council.
- 3.16 Each unit represents one less rough sleeper on the streets of Buckinghamshire and creates a pathway from rough sleeping to longer term, affordable and independent accommodation. In financial terms, the £1.3m capital investment will provide a cost avoidance of approximately £400,000 per annum, should the initiative to 'keep everyone in' continue. This is not a cashable saving but would negate budget growth that might otherwise be requested.
- 3.17 The proposal to utilise S106 Developer contributions enables the Council to ensure that funds are spent on affordable housing within the required agreement time frames, whilst meeting the housing need for rough sleeping homeless persons.
- 3.18 The purchase of Ardenham House in Aylesbury, would provide supported accommodation in an area of the County where it is currently lacking.

Legal and financial implications

- 3.19 Legal advice sought prior to submission of the NSAP proposals in August 2020 indicates that as a generality, challenge is unlikely if s106 commuted sums for affordable housing are used as match funding for grants to provide housing as per the proposals in this report.
 - 3.20 The total capital grants to housing associations for these 2 projects will be £2.6m; £1.3m funded from unallocated s. 106 developer funding, and £1.3m NSAP grant (pending the negotiations on the value of Ardenham House).
- 4. Finance have verified that there is sufficient unallocated s. 106 funding from legacy Wycombe and Aylesbury areas, which are not committed against existing projects, to be used as the £1.3m match funding. These projects are not yet included in the Capital Programme, but need to be incorporated this financial year. Under current governance arrangements, because £1.3m of grant funding is secured from MHCLG and because we have verified that the s. 106 is unallocated and available for this purpose, this can be added to the programme by approval of the S. 151 officer and the Leader, rather than needing to go to full Council.**

5. Corporate implications

- 5.1 These proposals will assist the Council in meeting a number of its corporate aims including, but not limited to the following:

5.2 “Strengthening our Communities”

- I. Enabling “our residents to live independent, fulfilling lives, within strong, healthy, inclusive and resilient communities as well as being able to help “to improve health and wellbeing, with a particular focus on reducing any gap in health outcomes”.
- II. Working with Partners Working with partners, we will:
 - “support people to deal with the challenges of life before they become too hard to manage, through early help and intervention
 - enable healthier lifestyles for all, raising the quality of life for those most disadvantaged in our communities
 - provide the homes our growing communities need, including affordable housing, at the right stage in people’s lives

5.3 “Protecting the vulnerable”,

- I. in particular this will assist in our; “ work to reduce homelessness and address its root causes” and to;
 - II. “support people, together with their families and carers, to overcome their challenges, ensuring they are resilient and can identify their own solutions.”
- 5.4 If approved, this scheme will provide the Council with long term assets in terms of nomination rights to 15 one bedroom units in perpetuity, as well as the freehold of a block of 10 one bedroom units in Aylesbury.

6. Consultation with local councillors & community boards

- 6.1 Local members are currently being consulted in respect of the proposed use of Ardenham House. When the locations of the 15 ‘move on’ units are known, consultation will be carried out in their respect also.

7. Communication, engagement & further consultation

- 7.1 None.

8. Next steps and review

- 8.1 If approval is given, officers will commence negotiations for the purchase of Ardenham House, to complete the purchase and arrange the lease with Hightown.
- 8.2 Once the purchase has been completed and lease agreed, the property will be made ready by Hightown for use. The aim will be to have the site available by the end of the calendar year if possible, if not, then no later than 31st March 2021.

- 8.3 If approval is given, officers will commence funding and nomination agreements with HCHA to enable them to commence the acquisitions of the 15 'move on' units by 31st March 2021.

9. Background papers

- 9.1 None

10. Your questions and views (for key decisions)

- 10.1 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 telephone 01296 382343 or email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

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