



Cabinet decision notice

The following decision(s) were taken by Cabinet at its meeting held on **2 March 2021**. Decisions will (unless called-in) become effective at 5pm on 9 March 2021.

Agenda item no. 6

Select Committee Inquiry to assess the effectiveness of community organisation grants during the Covid-19 pandemic

(a) Decisions

Cabinet was asked to consider the recommendations of the Communities and Localism Select Committee Inquiry into the effectiveness of covid-19 grants.

RESOLVED -

Cabinet agreed responses to the Select Committee Inquiry and its recommendations, a complete breakdown of which can be found [here](#)

(b) Reasons for decisions

For Cabinet to consider the recommendations of the Communities and Localism Select Committee Inquiry into the effectiveness of covid-19 grants.

(c) Alternative options considered

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

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None

Agenda item no. 7

Buckinghamshire Council Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector Strategic Framework

(a) Decisions

Cabinet received a report on the Buckinghamshire Council Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector Strategic Framework.

RESOLVED that the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector Strategic Framework, included at appendix A, be approved.

(b) Reasons for decisions

To approve a strategic framework which demonstrates the value Buckinghamshire Council has for the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector and the importance of strategic collaborative working. To provide a high-level guide for partnership working with the sector and to act as a springboard for discussions around the needs of communities.

(c) Alternative options considered

To not approve a strategic framework. However, whilst not having a strategic framework is an option, the Council has highlighted on numerous occasions the value it places upon the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector and the need for innovative collaborative approaches.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None

Agenda item no. 8

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Inclusion Strategy 2021 – 23 including the SEND Improvement Plan

(a) Decisions

Cabinet received a report on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Inclusion Strategy 2021 – 23 and the associated SEND Improvement Plan.

RESOLVED that the updated Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Inclusion Strategy 2021 – 23 (Appendix 1), and the associated SEND Improvement Plan (Appendix 2) be approved.

(b) Reasons for decisions

To approve a new Strategy which aims to capture the high aspirations Buckinghamshire has for all children, recognising the additional support those with SEND may need to be able to achieve their goals.

(c) Alternative options considered

Not applicable.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None

Agenda item no. 9

Future Highways Services Contract

(a) Decisions

Cabinet were asked to consider a report on the future highways service contract.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the proposed operating and procurement model and associated timescales in terms of the future delivery of this key service, ranked as 'Platinum Plus', be agreed;**
- 2) the increase in the capacity of the existing client team to meet the needs of procuring the new contract and thereafter manage and deliver the service as proposed be noted; and**
- 3) the new Governance arrangements and Programme which has been put in place to administer and deliver this procurement project be noted.**

(b) Reasons for decisions

The current contract was awarded to Ringway Jacobs in 2009. It was an 8-year contract with a possible extension of 7 years, 6 of which have already been granted. A decision had been taken not to grant the final 1-year extension and the current contract was due to expire on 31st March 2023. The current model of delivery was not viewed as being the most appropriate to achieve the outcomes of the service and to contribute towards some of the key strategic objectives of the Council. Key current limitations include:

- working relationships and communication with the elected members, local councils and the local communities,
- the existing ability to demonstrate value for money,
- lack of client capacity to offer advice and guidance to elected members and key stakeholders including Town and Parish Councils, BIDs & Community Boards,
- lack of client capacity to deal with requests made for small improvements to the network.

In addition, following the financial pressures and difficulties that have been experienced by some of the major service providers in the sector, including the collapse of Carillion, having a single provider for all areas of the service was also seen as a concern that needed addressing.

Approximately 30 months was required to undertake a comprehensive procurement exercise for a contract of this nature. To enable the associated procurement exercise to be carried out, a decision on what operating model would best serve the Council going forward was required.

(c) Alternative options considered

To continue with the current model of delivery. However, it was felt that various contractual arrangements options for the future should be considered as the current model of delivery was not viewed as being the most appropriate to achieve the outcomes of the service.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None

Agenda item no. 10

Buckinghamshire Council Response to the Right to Regenerate Consultation

(a) Decisions

Cabinet were asked to consider Buckinghamshire Council's proposed response to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Right to Regenerate consultation.

RESOLVED that

- 1) the draft response to the Right to Regenerate consultation be agreed; and**
- 2) authority be delegated to the Corporate Director for Planning, Growth and Sustainability, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Members and Leader of the Council, to submit the final response, incorporating any further changes after the Cabinet meeting.**

(b) Reasons for decisions

To ensure Buckinghamshire Council's view are submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for consideration prior to the consultation deadline of March 13th.

(c) Alternative options considered

Not to respond to the consultation. However, it was felt important for the Council to respond due to the significance of the proposals and potential impacts on the local authority and Buckinghamshire as a place.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None

Agenda item no. 11

Financial Sustainability – comparison to London Borough of Croydon

(a) Decisions

Following the issuing of a Section 114 notice by Croydon LBC, the Cabinet received a report which reviewed the findings of the recent public interest report over Croydon's financial failures, together with other reported issues around financial sustainability in local government, which has been exacerbated as a result of Covid-19.

RESOLVED that

- 1. the contents of the report, including appendix 1, which sets out the Buckinghamshire Council position compared to the key finding from the LB Croydon public interest report be noted; and**
- 2. the proposed actions in Appendix 2 to further strengthen financial management arrangements across the Council be agreed.**

(b) Reasons for decisions

It was imperative that the authority has strong financial management and grip, especially in light of being in the middle of a global pandemic and being in the first year of its existence.

(c) Alternative options considered

Not applicable.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None

Agenda item no. 12

Collins House & 30 Oxford Road

(a) Decisions

Cabinet were asked to consider the disposal of the freeholds of Collins House and 30 -34 Oxford Road in High Wycombe for regeneration purposes.

RESOLVED-

- 1) To dispose of the freehold of Collins House, Wycombe for redevelopment as affordable housing.**
- 2) To facilitate the development of a new town centre building by Bucks Colleges, by way of the disposal of the freehold of 30 -34 Oxford Road, Wycombe to them.**
- 3) That the Director of Property and Assets be authorised, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Property and Assets and the S151 Officer, to finalise detailed heads of terms for the disposal, agree the sale contracts, and to exchange and**

complete the disposal based on the heads of terms set out in the Confidential appendix.

(b) Reasons for decisions

Collins House was previously under offer to a housing association, but that deal did not complete. It was derelict and in need of re-development. A new deal was now on the table on the terms set out in this report and the report considered in the confidential appendix.

30 – 34 Oxford Road was an end of life property asset (with five short term first floor temporary accommodation units and a proposed temporary letting for a ‘meanwhile use’ of its ground floor). An opportunity was now available to dispose of the asset on the terms set out in the report considered in the confidential appendix. Displaced temporary residential accommodation would be provided at the Councils new development at Desborough Road.

Redevelopment of both properties for the proposed uses would have regeneration benefits.

(c) Alternative options considered

The Council was not in a position to undertake the proposed redevelopment of Collins House itself. Its scale and funding requirement, relative to its return, would not make this feasible.

In terms of regeneration, the College redeveloping 30-34 Oxford Road looked preferable to residential redevelopment as it was a gateway site and suited to a large ‘institutional’ building, which would bring a much needed ‘animator’ into the town.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None

For further information please contact: Craig Saunders on 01296 585043, email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

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