



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.

