



## Report to Cabinet


<b>Date:</b>	10 November 2020
<b>Title:</b>	<b>A Recovery and Growth Deal for Buckinghamshire</b>
<b>Relevant councillor(s):</b>	Cllr Martin Tett, Leader of Buckinghamshire Council
<b>Author and/or contact officer:</b>	Ian Thompson, Corporate Director for Planning Growth and Sustainability
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	All/None Specific
<b>Recommendations:</b>	<b>Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Support the Buckinghamshire Recovery and Growth Deal Proposal</b></li><li>• <b>Delegate to the Leader of the Council the power to make &amp; approve any minor amendments in light of any comments after Cabinet</b></li><li>• <b>Approve the submission of the Proposal to Government by the Buckinghamshire Growth Board</b></li></ul>
<b>Reason for decision:</b>	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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

