



## Report to Cabinet

- Date:** 25 January 2021
- Title:** Buckinghamshire Council consultation response to the proposed new prison at Her Majesty's Prison (HMP) Grendon/Springhill, Grendon Underwood
- Relevant councillor(s):** Angela Macpherson, Cameron Branston, Michael Rand & John Chilver
- Author and/or contact officer:** Roger Goodes, Service Director for Policy & Communications / Hannah Thynne, Head of Policy
- Ward(s) affected:** Grendon Underwood
- Recommendations:** The Council's draft response to the Government consultation is set out in Appendix 1. The recommendation is to agree the draft response and to delegate responsibility for submission of the final response, incorporating any further changes after the Cabinet meeting, to the Corporate Director (DCE) in consultation with the Cabinet Member/Leader of the Council.
- Reason for decision:** To ensure Buckinghamshire Council's views are submitted for consideration prior to the Ministry of Justice's consultation deadline on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

### 1. Background

- 1.1. On 2 December the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) launched a public consultation on 'The New Prisons Programme' which outlines their proposal to build a new prison to house up to up to 1680 additional prisoners in a category C resettlement environment in Buckinghamshire.
- 1.2. The MOJ is seeking the views of residents and businesses on their plans which are part of the programme to deliver the commitment by Government to create 18,000 additional prison places across the prison estate by the mid-2020s.

1.3. The site of the proposed new site is adjacent to the existing HMP Grendon and HMP Springhill site in Grendon Underwood, Buckinghamshire.

1.4. The closing date for responses to the consultation is 29 January 2021.

## **2. Our response**

2.1. Appendix 1 to this report sets out the draft response to the MOJ's consultation. This has been formulated by seeking input and views from relevant departments across the Council as well as local councillors. Feedback from local residents and key partners has also been taken into consideration.

2.2. Responding on behalf of the council, we believe the location is unsuitable for the proposed prison and would likely have a negative impact on the quality of life of local residents.

## **3. Other options considered**

3.1. Not to respond to the consultation – due to the significance of the proposals on Buckinghamshire services and local residents, this option is not recommended.

## **4. Legal and financial implications**

4.1. In relation to financial implications there may be some increase in business rates receipts. The Council would retain 50% of any increase in business rates.

4.2. The consultation response itself has no direct legal implications.

4.3. It should be noted that the Council in its capacity as planning authority will have a role in determining any planning applications arising from the proposed prison. This is distinct and separate from the local authority's role in responding to the consultation on the merits of the proposed prison.

## **5. Corporate implications**

5.1. This consultation response itself has no direct corporate implications.

## **6. Consultation and communication**

6.1. We have consulted with relevant local Councillors and the relevant Community Board when collating this response.

6.2. We have also had discussions with Thames Valley Police in order to collate this response.

## **7. Next steps and review**



7.1. Subject to the views of Cabinet, the response will be finalised and submitted prior to the deadline for responses of 29th January 2021.

## **8. Background papers**

8.1. The MOJ's consultation document can be found here:

8.2. [https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/potential-new-prison-in-buckinghamshire/supporting\\_documents/newprisonprogramme Buckinghamshire.pdf](https://consult.justice.gov.uk/digital-communications/potential-new-prison-in-buckinghamshire/supporting_documents/newprisonprogramme Buckinghamshire.pdf)

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

9.1. 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)

