



Cabinet decision notice

The following decision(s) were taken by Cabinet at its meeting held on **10 November 2020**. Decisions will (unless called-in) become effective at 5pm on 17 November 2020.

Agenda item no. 7

Q2 Budget Monitoring Report 2020-21

(a) Decisions

The report sets out the overview of the financial Revenue and Capital outturn position for Buckinghamshire Council for the financial year 2020/21 as at quarter 2.

RESOLVED

Cabinet noted the current forecast outturn for the financial year 2020/21 and the latest estimates of impacts and funding related to Covid-19.

(b) Reasons for decisions

To understand the current financial position.

(c) Alternative options considered

Not applicable

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None

Agenda item no. 8

High Wycombe Regeneration Board

(a) Decisions

The regeneration strategy for High Wycombe, Princes Risborough and Marlow was endorsed by the Shadow Executive in November 2019 but had not been formally adopted by Buckinghamshire Council. As well as the strategic perspective there was the need for a board to provide guidance on the current and future programme of regeneration and regeneration-related projects in High Wycombe.

RESOLVED

Cabinet agreed that a regeneration board for High Wycombe be established, chaired by the Cabinet Member for Town Centre Regeneration. The Board would consist of Cabinet Members and representatives of stakeholder organisations.

(b) Reasons for decisions

To provide strategic guidance for regeneration activity in High Wycombe.

(c) Alternative options considered

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.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None

Agenda item no. 9

Recovery and Growth Deal for Buckinghamshire

(a) Decisions

Cabinet was asked to consider a proposal which had been developed to set out a Buckinghamshire Recovery and Growth Deal proposition for Government.

Comments by Cabinet were as follows:-

- To check whether the map of Buckinghamshire could be superimposed on the map of the Country.
- As and where there are social mobility issues it was important to focus on the local economy as local businesses know what is best for development, not just focusing at the top end of the skills set but also bringing in opportunities at the apprenticeship level as well as devolution of the apprenticeship fund, to cater for all aspects of the employment market.
- Buckinghamshire was known for its high number of ‘start-ups’ and it was important to particularly provide assistance to young people because of the legacy of covid-19 and the need to generate new businesses.
- It was important for the bid to address areas of improvement such as digital connectivity, skills matching job opportunities and traffic congestion whilst also recognising development areas such as Winslow, which was ideally placed with its new green business park with East – West rail connections, Buckingham University and proximity to Silverstone.

RESOLVED

Cabinet agreed to:-

- **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**

(b) Reasons for decisions

To enable the submission of a co-ordinated Growth and Recovery Deal Proposal for Buckinghamshire.

(c) Alternative options considered

The options were to:-

- not develop a proposal – does not offer greatest benefits to Buckinghamshire.
- develop a proposal solely as the Council – does not maximise the benefit of the strong partnership working in the county.
- 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

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None

Agenda item no. 10

Next Steps Accommodation Programme Funding Award (NSAP)

(a) Decisions

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. This report asked Cabinet to agree delegated authority so that officers could move forward with this initiative.

RESOLVED

Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Planning, Growth and Sustainability and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness;

- To 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 grant fund Hightown Housing Association £650k of unallocated s.106 developer funding - for them to be able to purchase Ardenham House, Aylesbury match funding a £650,000 award from the Next Steps Accommodation Programme for this purpose, subject to contract with Hightown and in return for a nomination agreement on behalf of the Council in perpetuity.”
- That the two projects are added into the Capital Programme this year with agreement from the s.151 Officer and the Leader.

(b) Reasons for decisions

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

(c) Alternative options considered

Other options were considered, that being for the Council to purchase the Ardenham Lane property and lease it to Hightown Housing as per the original recommendation in the Cabinet report. The recommendation was revised as this was ultimately not possible due to a last minute procedural issue with Homes England who could not release the funding to the Council directly for this purpose as the Council was not a stock owning authority. The suggested solution was for Hightown to purchase the building with the Council retaining nomination rights as per the revised recommendation.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

Angela Macpherson declared an interest as Board Member of Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust

For further information please contact: Clare Gray on 01895 837529, email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

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