

Question to Councillor Peter Strachan, Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration, from Councillor Robin Stuchbury in relation to the emerging Local Plan – Growth, Infrastructure & Housing Select Committee meeting on 6 October 2022

While the local authority subgroup and officers are working on putting together a sustainable development plan for Buckinghamshire - What work is being undertaken to ensure policies are written into the new development plan, in respect to providing contributions from developers towards health services within Buckinghamshire through infrastructure levy or section 106 Agreements in partnership with the NHS? Noting at this point no serious contributions have been collected to mitigate from developers in North Buckinghamshire.

At what point will there be for consultation with the greater membership of Buckinghamshire Council, and are Buckinghamshire Council reaching out to partner councils and parishes soon to gain their involvement in these important matters? Noting the fact the last consultation was in 2020.

Response

Thank you for your question.

Our current focus for work on the Local Plan for Buckinghamshire is on developing the Vision and Objectives which will underpin the plan and on compiling the evidence that will inform and support it. Work on the drafting of the plan and the policies which it will contain will follow at a later date. We will continue to engage with health care providers throughout the preparation of the plan to ensure that it sets out and justifies health requirements arising from new development.

We carried out the most recent consultation on the plan between November 2021 and February 2022, when we invited responses to an Attitudes Survey as part of the 'Discovery & Exploration Phase' of the plan. For this, we wrote directly to over 2,000 stakeholders on our consultation database, including public bodies and organisations, and town and parish councils, asking them to take part in the consultation. We also provided two briefings on the consultation to all Buckinghamshire Council Members in December 2021. We received about 3,500 responses to this consultation.

We currently envisage consulting on possible strategic options for delivering the levels of growth to be proposed by the plan during 2023.