

## Information Circulated After the Meeting

### Lessons Learnt from the Social Worker Academy

- A briefing note was circulated to Members.

### Local Plan Preparation Costs

- The Buckinghamshire Local Plan has a budget of £3m, split in the MTFP as a straight line £750k per annum over 4 years (2022 to 2026).
- Local Plan spend is largely weighted towards the final 2 years, when the majority of the consultation activity takes place.
- The spend to date, plus the known commitments for March 2023, total £91,615, as detailed in Table 1.
- This leaves £2,908,385 available for the continued development of the Local Plan.
- The reason spend to date is comparatively low is because activity so far has been driven by existing staffing, who are funded from the separate base Revenue budget for Planning Policy.
- Given the low spend to date figure, the team have full confidence that the plan will be delivered within the remaining budget. The Local Plan team are in the process of updating their detailed plan for the remainder of the programme, including estimating the remaining spend needed on the plan. This can be provided to the Committee once completed.

**Table 1: Breakdown of Local Plan Financial Data**

	2021-22	2022-23	TOTAL
<b>Budget</b>	£ 750,000	£ 750,000	£ 1,500,000
<b>Actual Costs Incurred to date</b>			
IT costs OPUS (online consultation platform)	£ 17,600		
Internal Printing recharges	£ 30		
Internal Legal Charges	£ 3,782		
AECOM: scoping reports (Sustainable Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment)		£ 8,400	
Catriona Riddell Associates: Critical Friend support		£ 3,600	
JBA Consulting: Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Lvl 1 and Water Cycle Study		£ 9,828	
Landscape Partnership: Fees & Expenses SANGS & SAMMS (Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace; Strategic Asset Management & Monitoring).		£ 8,053	
Internal legal costs		£ 248	
Internal recharges		£ 30	
<b>Forecast Costs to be incurred by 31 March 2023</b>			
Lichfields Employment and Retail Land Review (inc. household telephone survey)		£ 40,045	
<b>TOTAL (Actual + Forecast costs to 31 March 2023)</b>	£ 21,412	£ 70,203	£ 91,615
Balance of remaining budget, transferred to Local Plan Reserve at year end	£ 728,588	£ 679,797	£ 1,408,385
Budget in MTFP for future years 2023-24 and 2024-25 (£750k pa)			1,500,000
<b>Total Local Plan Funding available for future years</b>			<b>2,908,385</b>

## **Housing Benefit New Cases**

- 1.1 This report details the circumstances in which housing benefit is claimed and the annual new claims caseload over the latest 3 years.
- 1.2 You can only make a new claim for Housing Benefit if either of the following apply:
  - a) you have reached State Pension age
  - b) you're in supported, sheltered or temporary housing
- 1.3 The number of people on housing benefit is declining since the introduction of Universal Credit for the working age population. Managed migration of working age claimants off Housing Benefit to Universal Credit is targeted to complete by the end of 2024 based on existing DWP deadlines.
- 1.4 The number of housing benefit claimants as of January 2023 in Buckinghamshire was 11,981 down from 13,597 in April 2022.
- 1.5 The total number of new claim applications since Buckinghamshire Council was formed is:
  - a) April 20 - March 21: 11,595 total new claims
  - b) April 21 - March 22: 6,888 total new claims
  - c) April 22 - January 23 (ytd): 8,239 total new claims
- 1.6 The increase in new claims in the current year is due to two major reasons:
  - a) The demographic change in the population with more people becoming of pension age.
  - b) An increase in more people of working age in temporary accommodation.