



Report to Council

Date:	6th December 2023
Title:	Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care System – setting up a joint health scrutiny committee
Relevant councillor(s):	Councillor Jane MacBean, Chairman of the Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee
Author and/or contact officer:	Nick Graham, Service Director, Legal and Democratic Services
Ward(s) affected:	All
Recommendations:	That Council agree to appoint a Member to the Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes joint health scrutiny committee (BLMK JHOSC), part of the Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes Integrated Care System; That the terms of reference for the joint health scrutiny committee be agreed.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 Regulation 30(1) of the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013, provides that two or more local authorities may appoint a joint committee.
- 1.2 The Joint Authorities each have their own independent established health overview and scrutiny functions, but recognise that there may, from time to time arise certain matters where it will be to the individual and collective interest of one of some of the Joint Authorities to exercise their overview and scrutiny functions through a joint health overview and scrutiny committee, comprised of representatives of the constituent Local Authorities.

- 1.3 Whilst Buckinghamshire is part of an Integrated Care System with Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (made up of Wokingham, Reading and Berkshire West local authorities), known as BOB ICS, Buckinghamshire residents also access health services within the neighbouring integrated care system of Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes. These footprints were set up by the NHS in 2015 to drive forward the Sustainability Transformation Plans (STPs).

2. Content of report

- 2.1 The BLMK JHOSC will comprise 13 Councillors with three Councillors appointed by Bedford Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council, Luton Council and Milton Keynes City Council and one appointed by Buckinghamshire Council.
- 2.2 The draft terms of reference are attached to this paper.

3. Other options considered

- 3.1 When setting up the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West joint health scrutiny committee, officers received advice from the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) who endorsed the need for a joint health scrutiny committee and view it as a key component of the work of the ICS, they indicated that:
- Setting up a joint health scrutiny committee for the ICS should be seen as a necessity;
 - Elected Members from across the ICS need to have oversight of what is being planned at system level (at an early stage) and health bodies would gain a greater awareness of the political impact of their proposed decisions.

4. Legal and financial implications

- 4.1 The terms of reference state that the JHOSC will not be provisioned with a budget, but will be resourced and financed as required on a shared cost basis by the Joint Authorities. No Special Responsibility Allowance or similar payment will be made by the JHOSC to any member of the committee.

5. Next steps and review

- 5.1 Once agreed, a Buckinghamshire Member will be appointed to the Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes joint health scrutiny committee. The other authorities have taken the draft terms of reference through their own governance arrangements.

6. Background papers

The draft Terms of Reference for the Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes joint health scrutiny committee are attached.