



## Cabinet minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday 5 March 2024 in The Oculus, Buckinghamshire Council, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury HP19 8FF, commencing at 10.00 am and concluding at 11.40 am.

### Members present

M Tett, S Broadbent, A Macpherson, T Broom, J Chilver, A Cranmer, C Harriss, A Hussain and M Winn

### Others in attendance

D Barnes, P Martin, R Stuchbury and R Matthews

### Apologies

P Strachan

### Agenda Item

#### 1 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Arif Hussain and Peter Strachan. Councillor Rachael Matthews, Deputy Cabinet Member for Town Centre Regeneration attended in Councillor Strachan's place.

#### 2 Minutes

**RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 22 February 2024 be approved as a correct record subject to the following amendment on Minute 8 – The future of E-scooter and E-bike hire schemes in Buckinghamshire.**

- **E-scooters could be used in any designated area and shared walking and cycle ways. This was shown by a blue sign with a picture of a bike and a pedestrian.**

#### 3 Declarations of interest

Councillor Angela Macpherson declared a personal interest in item 8 (Housing Strategy) as a Board Member of Fairhive Housing Association.

#### 4 Hot Topics

The following hot topics were discussed:-

## Transport

The Cabinet Member referred to the adverse weather. He commented that 29 gangs were out in Buckinghamshire looking at road repairs. In October last year there were only 15 so there had been an increase in resources. In the wet weather a temporary repair was made to the roads whilst it was still wet with a more permanent repair when the roads had dried out. Gullies were also not able to cope when they became full and work was being undertaken to clear gullies where necessary. There were also overflows from sewage affecting water systems as well. It was the responsibility of water companies to address this issue. Another Cabinet Member commented that some manholes under pressure could pop out which could be dangerous if a car went over them.

## Education and Skills

The Cabinet Member referred to the success of the Councillor Shadowing Scheme for young people. Buckinghamshire's Councillor Shadowing Scheme provided young people and local councillors with skills, experience, and insight, by giving young people and councillors an opportunity to get to know each other.

This Increased young people's knowledge of politics and the decision-making processes that they could be a part of and developed councillors' understanding of issues facing young people.

<https://www.youthvoicebucks.co.uk/opportunities/councillor-shadowing/>

## Climate Change and Environment

Sewage escaping into water courses had significant environmental impacts therefore he and his Deputy Cabinet Member were in close contact with Thames Water to ensure the required response was made and appropriate resources deployed. He had also emphasised the importance of updating residents on the situation.

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/environment/flooding-and-flood-risk-management/>

## 5 Question Time

### **Question from Councillor Robin Stuchbury to Councillor Rachael Matthews, Deputy Cabinet Member for Town Centre Regeneration**

Buckinghamshire Council's Parish charter set out some broad ambitions around planning. It states that to enable Parish and Town Councils to contribute to the planning process the Council will:-

- adopt a statement of community involvement regarding consultations with Parish and Town Councils on planning issues.
- equip Parish and Town Councils with the knowledge and skills to enable them to share the views of the community they represent
- enable Parish and Town Councils to set up policies for their own local area by preparing neighbourhood plans
- ensure Parish and Town Councils have the right to question a call in of an application to a committee or request a Buckinghamshire councillor to do

that on their behalf and give them a dedicated speaking slot where they have made representations

- consult Parish and Town councils, when producing the Buckinghamshire Local plan that will replace the current adopted local plan including the mineral waste plan.

These were broad ambitions set out at the onset and formation of Buckinghamshire Council. How does the Council believe they are meeting these aspirations for partnership working and can specific examples be given on what has been achieved in relation to the bullet points above?

### **Response from Cllr Matthews**

Buckinghamshire Council are acutely aware of the need to engage with the 171 Town and Parish Councils. The Parish Charter sets out how the Council will engage with our Town and Parish Councils in order to enable them to contribute to the planning process.

The Council is proud of its relationship with Town and Parish Councils and considers that the Charter helps to ensure that the Town and Parish Council's voice can be heard as part of the overall planning process and considers the actions of the Parish Charter positively contributes to a mutually agreeable relationship.

The Council recognises that Town and Parish Councils play a critical role in planning matters through representing local views, being a statutory consultee in the planning process, raising areas of concern or support related to planning applications, engaging with ward Members working collaboratively to ensure effective communication channels.

In addition, the Town and Parish Forums ensure that officers can regularly provide updates and information on service performance, key planning matters, policy updates and an opportunity for a Q&A session. These sessions ensure the Town and Parish Councils are armed with the right level of knowledge to confidently engage in the planning process.

Alongside this on specific planning application matters, bi-weekly Town and Parish Councillor surgeries have been established and launched in August 2023 that aims to (amongst other things) promote positive engagement in the planning process.

The Buckinghamshire Council Constitution sets out the Scheme of Delegation which gives powers to officers to determine planning applications and related matters and which applications are to be referred to committee, known as exceptions.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 "call in" powers were made available for Town and Parish Councils to request a "call in"; with material reasons and an undertaking to attend and speak at the meeting if referred to committee. The "call-in" process is set out in the constitution.

## **Local Plan for Buckinghamshire**

Our Statement of Community Involvement was adopted in December 2021 and sets out how anyone who lives, works, plays and carries out business in the Buckinghamshire Council area, including town and parish councils, can be involved in local planning decisions and the preparation of planning documents.

In the meantime, Buckinghamshire Council and its legacy district councils have assisted 38 town and parish councils and neighbourhood forums to put their neighbourhood development plans into place. Currently, we are helping a further 40 town and parish councils to prepare their draft neighbourhood plans or neighbourhood plan reviews.

Town and Parish Councils are afforded the status of a 'specific consultation body' in the secondary legislation which governs the preparation of local plans. This means that we must consult with them at the various stages of preparing the Local Plan for Buckinghamshire. To this end, all of the town and parish councils were individually invited to respond to the following Local Plan consultations:

- Early engagement questionnaire survey (November 2021 to February 2022)
- Two calls for sites for previously developed (brownfield) land (2021)
- Wider call for sites (June – September 2022)
- Vision and Objectives consultation for Development and Transport for Buckinghamshire (April – June 2023)

### **6 Forward Plan (28 Day Notice)**

The Leader introduced the Forward Plan and commended it to all Members of the Council and the public, as a document that gave forewarning of what reports would be discussing at forthcoming meetings.

**RESOLVED – That the Cabinet Forward Plan be noted.**

### **7 Select Committee Work Programme**

The Leader introduced the Select Committee Work Programme and commended it to all Members of the Council and the public, as a document that gave forewarning of what Select Committees would be discussing at forthcoming meetings. The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing thanked the Health and Adult Social Care Committee for their scrutiny work of the Adult Social Care Transformation Programme. She also mentioned that other Select Committees could look at outside bodies as well and one area they might want to review was the performance of water companies in cleaning up waterways and systems.

**RESOLVED –**

**That the Select Committee Work Programme be noted.**

### **8 Buckinghamshire Housing Strategy 2024 to 2029**

Development of the Buckinghamshire Housing Strategy took place in Spring and Summer of 2023. A public and stakeholder consultation on the housing strategy took place between 8 November 2023 and 18 January 2024. This public consultation

included an all member briefing and discussion at the 14 December 2023 Growth Infrastructure and Housing Select Committee meeting as well as other targeted engagement.

The responses to the consultation indicated that there is broad agreement of the vision, the three priorities, and the critical success factors. One theme, from the comments to the consultation, raised queries around delivery and action plans. These plans were under development and would align to the final strategy once adopted. Changes to the housing strategy (detailed in Appendix 2 of the report) had been incorporated in the final version for agreement at Cabinet and later at full Council for adoption.

The Buckinghamshire Housing Strategy had been devised for the five-year period 2024 to 2029. The vision for the housing strategy was:

A strong housing offer that provides affordable, accessible, sustainable and suitable choices at all life stages.

The three strategic priorities for the housing strategy were:

- Priority One - Understanding the housing needs of our diverse population.
- Priority Two - Better Homes: good quality, sustainable and matched to need.
- Priority Three - New Homes: affordable, accessible and appropriate.

The final housing strategy was scheduled to be presented to Full Council on 17 April 2024 for proposed adoption.

The Cabinet Member for Homelessness and Regulatory Services introduced the report. He reported that this was the first County wide Housing Strategy for Buckinghamshire. The strategy had been developed with the input and support of a wide range of partners and would be delivered through continuing partnership working. Buckinghamshire Council had clear corporate priorities: to strengthen communities, protect the vulnerable, improve the environment, and increase prosperity. Housing was vital to delivering these. A secure and affordable place to live provided a foundation for a resident's ability to take part in society – to work, to learn, to be healthy and to develop a sense of community. The strategy set out how all the partners involved in delivering housing in Buckinghamshire would work together to ensure that the housing offer delivered the housing residents need.

The main issue for Buckinghamshire was the limited availability of affordable housing. In September 2023, the average house price in the market overall was £420,500 and the average cost of a home within the cheapest 25 per cent of the housing market was £330,000. The affordability issue also extended to the rental market and right move statistics showed the increase in rent in High Wycombe of 22% in 2023 which was the highest increase in the whole of England. The Strategy highlighted the cost disparity across the County with Amersham house prices exceeding the lowest price housing area by 20% for all property sizes. The affordable housing crisis along with the cost of living crisis had disproportionately affected

those with limited resources. This was evident in the rise of temporary accommodation use currently housing 395 households as of January 2024. This had significant cost implications for the Council who sought alternative temporary accommodation solutions rather than an over reliance on bed and breakfast. The Strategy sought to provide a framework to overcome these challenges and increase the number of affordable homes available to residents which catered for diverse needs, it provided a foundation for the emergency Local Plan, helped provide solutions for reducing cost pressures in adult and children's social care and enhanced economic growth.

The Cabinet Member welcomed the feedback from the public consultation which had been analysed carefully. One of the responses suggested having an affordability criteria. However this was not feasible as it would conflict with national definitions and could potentially jeopardise grant funding. A suggestion was also made to increase the number of social housing units. Registered Social Landlords had expressed concern that stricter housing regulations such as Better Homes Standards and reducing the risk of damp and mould and the drive to net zero targets already make achieving the 500 affordable homes target challenging. It was important to set a realistic and achievable target. The Strategy also recognised gaps in the number of one bedroom and larger properties and addressing these gaps would be more beneficial than reaching a numerical target. Exploring options such as looking at preferred developer status and signing registered providers to a charter agreement could significantly impact the housing situation. This agreement could mean faster void filling, providing sheltered housing options for older residents and those with disabilities or learning difficulties and provide greater support for care leavers seeking independent living.

The final suggestion was for Buckinghamshire to become its own housing authority. It was crucial to weigh the potential benefits to the risks with land acquisition, funding and large scale specialised recruitment within tight budgetary constraints. The Strategy left this option open for further consideration.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- Part of the capital programme funding would be spent on new temporary accommodation units which were directly relevant to the Housing Strategy. This funding also included contributions to Disabled Facilities Grant's and s106 contributions to affordable housing. There was also £30 million in revenue which was attributed to the Housing service.
- Page 45 paragraph 2.4 to rephrase "which have the protected parts of Buckinghamshire from significant housing and economic growth" to provide further clarity. The rephrasing still required further work as some words could be missing.
- There were minor typos.
- The Leader emphasised there was no Council housing – the Council now had registered social landlords with nominated rights. As new houses were built as part of a housing development a proportion of those would

be allocated for affordable housing.

- A Cabinet Member referred to budget scrutiny and discussions around housing for vulnerable adults and the importance of both portfolios working together on this issue and supported housing. As for older people their care costs were a big element for this Council and good quality housing could play a big part in reducing demand on council services. It was also important to design a home for life so people could live there longer. There was immense scope for different types of housing as people grow older and different housing providers who specialised in this area. It was important to look at all segments of the market to cater for different needs including understanding local communities.
- With regard to the EQIA there was a response that this did not impact employees. However this might need to be revised to refer to key workers.
- 300 houses had already been delivered so far and a comment was made 500 was a realistic target to meet all requirements. One of the critical success factors of the Housing Strategy was the delivery of affordable housing with a current target of 500 new affordable homes per year. Cabinet Members noted that this number would be reviewed every year. Voided homes could help to increase the numbers. Preferred developer status could also help bring forward schemes quicker and working with registered providers.
- A query was raised about the consultation report and the response to the priority for affordable housing was a slightly lower percentage of agreement than the other two priorities at 66% and whether any analysis of the consultation responses had been undertaken to see what the issues were. The report suggested that the comments were still being reviewed for final analysis. The Cabinet Member reported that these responses might have been influenced by the fact that residents did not want anything built on greenfield sites and were also worried about infrastructure. This could have accounted for the lower score on priority 3. Local Plan and site policies for residential development prioritised Section 106 affordable housing requirements and the use of brownfield sites before any development on greenfield sites were another critical success factor.
- 36 care leavers had been put into apartments.
- A comment was made that it would be great to have more sheltered housing in the County so people could remain at home longer and also it would help wellbeing in terms of reducing social isolation. The Cabinet Member reported that they were looking at developing a sheltered housing strategy. Care homes did not produce the best outcomes for residents.
- In the Strategy there was reference to an increase in asylum and refugee households. A question was asked whether any refugees came with income or whether there was a time limit on the provision of accommodation for these groups. In response the Cabinet Member reported that the Council had made widespread use of government grants

which could be used for the purchase of property. There were different schemes for Ukrainian refugees. There were a handful that were in temporary accommodation. Cabinet Members noted that five bedroom homes were very hard to find in Buckinghamshire at a reasonable price.

**RESOLVED that Cabinet note the response to the recent public consultation and recommend the proposed amendments (in Appendix 2) to the draft Buckinghamshire Housing Strategy 2024-2029 to Full Council.**

## **9 Buckinghamshire Healthy Ageing Strategy 2023-29**

In response to the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy commitment of ‘improving places and helping communities to support healthy ageing’ a Healthy Ageing Strategy had been developed. The strategy set out the Council’s commitment to become an ‘age friendly community’ by undertaking improvement actions across the 8 interconnected areas identified by the World Health Organization (WHO) to support older people to live healthy, active and independent lives:-

1. Outdoor spaces and buildings
2. Transport
3. Housing
4. Participating in society
5. Volunteering and employment
6. Communication and information
7. Community support for health and wellbeing
8. Respect and social inclusion [which in Buckinghamshire would run throughout the Council’s work rather than being a standalone area]

The strategy was supported by a multi-agency Age Friendly Bucks Partnership, chaired by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, and a network of partners and residents who oversaw, informed and helped create the strategy and underpinning action plan. It had been informed by resident engagement, and engagement would continue with communities throughout the duration of the strategy. The members were senior representatives from partners including the Council, NHS and voluntary sector.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing made the following points:-

- Population projections suggested that over the next 20 years (2022 to 2042) the population aged 65 years and over in Buckinghamshire would increase by one third (34,944 more people) and the population aged 85 years and older increase by two thirds (10,884 more people). The increase in the older population brought economic and societal opportunities, but these were most likely to be realised if older adults remained well and independent. However, the average number of years of ill health had risen for both men and women in Buckinghamshire and stood at over 15 years.
- The Strategy started at 40 years of age so that it was prevention focussed



and healthy behaviour could be developed. NHS Health checks also started at 40.

- Due to the breadth of the eight WHO themes the Partnership had agreed to prioritise two themes in the first year. Social inclusion and Outdoor spaces and buildings.
- The actions taken to progress against these priorities would be recorded, monitored and reviewed via the accompanying action plan and associated metrics. As new priorities were agreed in future additional projects would be added to the action plan.

During discussion the following points were made:-

- A question was asked about the action plan and how often it would be reviewed. The Cabinet Member reported that there were annual targets and the Partnership would meet quarterly to review them. The Annual Surveys would focus on two specific themes. However, the actions would be sustainable and would be embedded in all aspects of service delivery.
- Members noted the importance of employment and that a drop in employment for the older population was likely to impact health and wellbeing. Older People could help with the National Skills Shortage, and they should not be discriminated against. Representatives of Bucks Business First sat on the Partnership and could provide support in this area. The Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services referred to the Skills Strategy which included residents over 60.
- The pandemic had impacted older people with poorer health and lower employment; some residents had chosen to take a different direction and reappraise their life. Life expectancy increased the longer people worked.
- The Healthy Ageing Strategy would be promoted through Community Boards particularly as many Boards undertook initiatives in this area such as preventing social isolation. This Strategy impacted all portfolios and services areas in the Council. Reference was made to the importance of transport infrastructure in providing connections and active travel schemes.
- There had been a reduction in physical activity since the pandemic. The Physical Activity Strategy was already working to improve healthy ageing in Buckinghamshire. It was important for residents to be proactive about engaging in a healthy lifestyle and also monitoring their own health through blood pressure and diabetes checks.
- It was important to look after unpaid carers some of whom were looking after older parents and their own children. Mental health was equally as important as physical health.
- There was a separate group under the Healthy Ageing Partnership who would be working with the voluntary and community sector such as Carers Bucks, Age UK Bucks which would co-develop projects and generate ideas to improve healthy ageing.
- Reference was made to the metrics on page 125 of the agenda pack and how success would be defined. The measures of success could include people living longer, reducing health inequalities, reducing smoking and

alcohol consumption. It was important to look at quality and quantity and Buckinghamshire being a good place to age well.

**RESOLVED that Cabinet note the contents of the new Buckinghamshire Healthy Ageing Strategy and endorse the actions within it.**

#### **10 Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Update**

This report provided an update on a number of matters relating to the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), including a national name change to all AONB's, the Chiltern AONB Boundary review, Chiltern Conservation Board's decision regarding its Protected Area Management Plan, an increased duty on Local Authorities in light of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, the government's recommitment to designating a new National Park in the UK and the Chiltern Conservation Boards intention to engage with the Local Authority regarding their next steps and Management Plan review.

The Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment reported that In November 2023, the government announced that all designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in England and Wales were becoming National Landscapes. Natural England was leading the process of assessing land around the Chilterns with a view to potentially extending the designated AONB. The project was part of Natural England's wider Designations Programme which was announced by the Government in June 2021. The boundary review process involved answering three broad technical questions:

- 1) Does the landscape have sufficient natural beauty to be considered outstanding?
- 2) Is it desirable to designate this landscape as AONB to conserve and enhance its natural beauty?
- 3) Where should the boundary be drawn?

A statutory and public consultation on the draft candidate areas, was currently scheduled for spring/summer 2024. Following the public consultation, a draft legal Order would be submitted by Natural England to the Secretary of State. The current project programme indicated that this was likely to be undertaken by the end of 2024. The Secretary of State could decide to hold a Public Inquiry. The Secretary of State could then decide to confirm the Order with or without modification or might choose not to confirm.

As a result of these changes, DEFRA had therefore decided to allow an option for Management Plans reviews to be delayed by up to 1 year from the initial review date.

During discussion the following points were noted:-

- On 26th October 2023, the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill achieved royal assent and made extensive changes to the planning system and other matters affecting the functions and responsibilities of Local Authorities. With

specific reference to the Chilterns AONB and other National Landscapes, Section 245(6) of the Act had the effect of elevating the existing duty of regard that all public bodies must have to the purposes of AONB designation in exercising their functions (section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000) to a duty “to seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area”. This duty applied to all functions undertaken by all public bodies, including local authorities, relating to, or affecting land in an AONB, and came into effect on 26th December 2023. Reference to this would be made in the Local Plan. A Member commented that whilst there could be planning restrictions it was important for homes in the area to be able to be habitable.

- At the end of November, the government announced a package of measures to further support protected landscapes’ resilience for nature and for people. The measures included a £10m funding boost for National Landscapes and National Parks and a recommitment to designate a new National Park. Following the government announcement, it was anticipated that the Chilterns remained amongst the top 3 likely locations to be explored as a possible contender to become the new National Park. The designation of a new National Park in the Chiltern AONB would have significant impacts and would likely create a new planning authority although other hybrid models did now exist where planning functions could remain with the local authority.
- It was important to keep relevant Members up to date on this area.
- A question was asked whether part of the AONB would be removed. The Cabinet Member reported that during the Boundary Review submissions would be made and a consultation carried out but he would be surprised if any areas would be removed. The focus was likely to be on increasing the area especially with lobbying from local organisations. Reference was particularly made to managing woodland.

**RESOLVED that the contents of the update report be noted including comments from Members regarding Chiltern Conservation Boards decision to undertake a ‘lighttouch’ review of their management plan and delay their full review until early 2025.**

## **11 Future High Street Fund Scheme**

This paper sought approval of a new Future High Street ‘Retail Repurposing Scheme’. It was being brought forward to ensure the Council maximised the full benefit of the allocated FHS monies. This project would enable a current high street tenant to downsize from their multi-level store in Wycombe town centre, by newly fitting out the ground floor. The Council owned the freehold of the building. The tenant would pay to surrender their long leasehold and would enter into a new occupational lease. This would release the first and part second floors for alternative use. The large floorplates were suited to storage use, with one third of the first floor and half of the part second floor capable of being converted to offices. The proposal was to relocate Buckinghamshire Archives from Aylesbury into part of the first floor and, possibly, the relocation of the Discover Bucks Museum’s collections storage from Halton. The potential offices being either for operational use or developed

speculatively for letting.

The Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources reported that this scheme was part of the Future High Street Fund programme which supported the Regeneration Framework and was consistently referred to throughout the High Wycombe Regeneration Strategy. Any opportunity to activate, animate and celebrate the culture of High Wycombe through the proposed scheme would be a distinct benefit to the town centre. Improving the quality of buildings was recognised in the Regeneration Strategy as important to the town centre. Improving a building in such a prominent location was an effective way to demonstrate positive change within the town.

The scheme would provide an active frontage in the heart of town which could encourage greater footfall, positive outcomes for businesses in the immediate area and offers shoppers an improved experience. High quality office space could help to support growing businesses with a lack of suitable space currently available. These outcomes aligned to the Corporate Plan priority to 'Increase Prosperity' in Buckinghamshire. In addition, the scheme would secure long-term suitable accommodation for the Buckinghamshire Archives. This was required to ensure continued accreditation of the archives; was identified within the Culture & Leisure Portfolio Priorities; and was a recommendation from the budget scrutiny inquiry group in 2023 that was agreed by Cabinet. Members agreed that the Leader should be added to the fourth recommendation obtaining his agreement alongside other relevant Cabinet Members.

**RESOLVED that Cabinet:-**

**1 agree to implement the High Wycombe Future High Street Fund Retail Repurposing Scheme, as set out in the Confidential Annex, involving entering into a 'surrender & renewal' Agreement with the tenant, subject to proven structural integrity of the building and conditional upon planning consent for the proposed uses/alterations, enabling the downsizing of the tenant into the ground floor, releasing space to be converted to accommodate the relocation of the Buckinghamshire Archives, and potentially, Discover Bucks Museum's collections storage currently located at Halton, and create office space for existing Council services.**

**2. agree to supplementary budget changes set out in the Confidential Annex of the report, increasing the Capital Budget for the Future High Street Scheme from the current budget of £6m to £11.26m, funded from Future High Street Fund Grant, Council match funding, the Capital Receipt from the Tenant Surrender Premium, and new Capital Receipts.**

**3. agree to release £8.27m of this amended Capital budget (which excludes the new Capital Receipts), to proceed with the Tenant lease surrender and the creation of the shell unit, to ensure we meet DLUHC's deadlines for spending the grant funding.**

**4. delegate to the Service Director of Property & Assets and the Service Director of Culture, Sport & Leisure, in agreement with the Leader and their respective Cabinet Members and the Section 151 Officer, authority to conclude detailed terms for the Agreement with the tenant; to negotiate detailed terms with Discover Bucks Museum linked to their museum storage (if it is agreed that this will be part of the scheme); to appoint a full project planning and design team and solicitors; submit a planning application and enter into appropriate contracts for the proposed conversion works and relocations. This will be up to the value of released budget as set out in the Confidential Annex of the report.**

**12 Exclusion of the public (if required)**

RESOLVED -

that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Paragraph 3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

**13 Confidential Minutes**

The confidential Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 February 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

**14 Confidential appendix for Future High Street Fund Scheme**

The confidential appendix was discussed.

**15 Date of next meeting**

25 March 2024 at 1pm.