

11 October 2019

**Re: Shadow Scrutiny Committee Consideration of Community Access Points  
Proposal - 30 September 2019**

Dear Alex and John,

Thank you for letter dated 3 October 2019. I am grateful to your committee for taking the time to consider the proposal on Council and Community Access Points. Your letter highlighted a range of issues which informed the Shadow Executive decision at its meeting on 8 October, and the Shadow Executive has asked us to respond as the localism member co-leads.

We fully support the comments made by scrutiny members in regard to the need for effective communications and retaining current access points for day one. This is exactly the approach which has been agreed. With regard to not adding more Council Access Points for day 1 of the new Buckinghamshire Council, all CAPs will be at existing buildings where staff and/or volunteers already help residents with accessing information. Therefore there will be, as scrutiny recommend, no new buildings or staff provided.

The wider issues raised in regard to locations are helpful. In light of your feedback, the Shadow Executive agreed to remove Wycombe library as a Council Access Point. The location for the CAP in Wycombe will therefore be the main district council building for day 1, with one in Wycombe rather than two.

Phase 1 locations are an interim solution for day 1 and we fully intend to ensure that those locations are reviewed within 1 year. As part of this review process officers will ensure that your suggestions on other changes are fully considered.

During phase 2, key stakeholders, such as town and parish councils, and new members, will be involved in considering the best local solutions for access points longer term. Town and parish councils will have an important role in helping identify alternative locations as part of this review, which could include exploring delivery at their offices where this is best for residents.

Finally, you raised some queries on the sufficiency of the budget. The financial costings for phase 1 are minimal based on the approach agreed by the Shadow Executive to use existing buildings and staff, with no additional ongoing staffing resource required. I have asked officers to ensure that a detailed financial assessment is included within subsequent proposals on the development of community access points, to be developed post-vesting day.

Yours sincerely

Mark Shaw and Katrina Wood  
**Member Localism Co-Leads**