

Minutes of an **Interim Council Meeting** of Buckingham Town Council held at 7pm.
on **Monday 6th June 2016** at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow,
Buckingham.

Present: Cllr. Ms. J. Bates
Cllr. T. Bloomfield
Cllr. M. Cole
Cllr. Mrs. M. Gateley
Cllr. J. Harvey
Cllr. P. Hirons Deputy Mayor
Cllr. D. Isham
Cllr. A. Mahi Mayor
Cllr. H. Mordue
Cllr. Ms. R. Newell
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue
Cllr. M. Smith
Cllr. Mrs. C. Strain-Clark
Cllr. R. Stuchbury
Cllr. M. Try

Also Present: Mr C. Wayman Town Clerk
Mr D. Jones Deputy Town Clerk
Mrs. C. Carter Committee Clerk

Invited Guests: Mr. S. Chainani Bucks County Council
Ms P Campbell-Balcombe Bucks County Council

104/16 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors G&P Collins.

105/16 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

106/16 Presentation – Mr Stephen Chainani, School Place Planning Commissioning Partner, and Ms Paula Campbell-Balcombe, School Commissioning Strategy Manager, from Bucks. County Council

To receive a presentation; to discuss plans and ideas about future pupil numbers and the wider implications of Buckingham's growing population.

Ms Balcombe talked Members through the slide presentation (appended), expanding with comments as follows:

Slide 1 Legal Obligations

Until recently local authorities were not permitted to expand a school in special measures, government guidelines have been relaxed, though Bucks County Council always look to expand those which have good or outstanding Ofsted reports.

Stakeholders – Officers will always meet with other interested bodies, schools before going forward.

Slide 2 Pupil Projections

Projections are complex and trends change year on year with factors such as migration, birth rate and the private sector having effects. Until recently child

benefit data could be used to project numbers, though changes to eligibility mean the source is no longer a reliable source.

Note: child benefit is now awarded based on a family income means test.

Reliable data is received via the Health service from birth dates.

Slide 3 Current Situation in Bucks

Migration can be from anywhere, other counties, abroad etc.

Local authorities role has changed, they no longer have the power to insist a school expands, there is no authority to influence.

Officers would work with schools who have expressed an interest to expand.

Slide 5 Places Already Provided

Fe – means Form of Entry, so 1 class of 30 pupils.

Slide 8 Pupils Projections Buckingham Planning Area

Projections can be volatile

The blue dotted line indicates current capacity, current primary capacity is sufficient.

The 400 additional homes projected for Buckingham mean no change in primary schools; though current plans could see up to 1100 new homes.

Slide 10 Pupils projections Secondary

The Grammar school does not have enough capacity to meet projections, though would not expand purely to meet out of county needs.

The Neighbourhood Development plan allows for an additional 630 homes, secondary capacity is sufficient to meet the need.

Slide 13 Proposed new settlements

Milton Keynes are projecting 2 new sites at Eaton Leys and Saldon Chase of approximately 1800 homes each. Neither site warrants a new secondary school, though sites have been identified where a new secondary could be built.

Slide 14 Decisions to date

The feasibility study for the Buckingham School will include commissioning architects to look at what facilities would be required to expand by a single form of entry.

A sixth form block was proposed for the Grammar school.

New development areas would include exploration of options for provision of new schools to ensure they were self-sustaining.

The Following questions were raised by Members and answered as indicated:

Q: Have you taken into account those pupils coming into the area from out of county?

A: They are included based on historic trends and worked into the projections year on year.

Q: Buckinghamshire is expected to take a further 31,000 homes by 2030 what projections have you made to include those?

A: Because there is no adopted plan currently for the Vale of Aylesbury it makes the situation difficult, speculative plans are coming in from various developers making it hard to plan cohesively. Without a plan in place we are having to respond to developers proposals; it is somewhat less co-ordinated than we would like it to be. We are working with AVDC to see what sites we can look at, we have a statutory duty to provide pupil places.

Q: What about the 6th form expansion at the Grammar school?

A: The grammar school has expanded and is growing its numbers, it is not fit for future purpose as it is now, and that's why they are planning additional accommodation.

The Buckingham School feasibility study will look at all year groups.

Q: Please copy your findings of the feasibility study to the Town Clerk.

A: Yes, of course

ACTION: P CAMPBELL-BALLCOMBE

Q: How do you work out the funding for pupil places?

A: The Government provides basic needs funding, and s106 also provides funding. The Basic Needs funding is a lot higher than s106 contributions currently, though it can change dependant on the number of developments in any one year.

Q: What is the tipping point for a new school, where would the catchment be?

A: An individual development of 4,000 houses would determine a brand new secondary school. Developments tend to be smaller though, and generally a site is found within a development to which other developers contribute towards.

Q: The Grammar school has 90 fewer pupils than the Buckingham School, if there are students coming from out of county why are you using s106 money?

A: The grammar does take pupils from out of county, but to not do so would displace those pupils, s106 is about making sufficient school places in the area, it is not just for a specific school.

Q: s106 funding is scarce and could be used to support the Buckingham School rather than the Grammar.

A: It is a delicate balance of potential displacement in various bordering counties, including Milton Keynes. We have the potential to provide more places at the Buckingham School based on current trends. It is tricky, people say local schools for local children, but then it is about parental choice – something which we cannot influence - and have to work with that system.

Q: Can you say that any child locally would be able to go to a school of their choice in Buckingham?

A: It depends on the year group, when a child was expected to start and whether a school is full at the start of an academic year.

It would depend on a child's age at application; the normal admission times are foundation and year 7, if you move into the area outside of normal admission periods then you take the risk on whether you get the school of choice.

Mr Chainani and Ms Campbell-Ballcombe were thanked for their presentation and left the chamber.

107/16 DCLG call-in by Secretary of State

Bellway Homes, Bellcross Co. Ltd and Fosbern Manufacturing Ltd for Planning Permission for up to 130 residential dwellings and change of use from agricultural land to sports pitches/ recreational open space and informal open space on land to the west of Castlemilk, Moreton Road, Buckingham (14/02601/APP)

107.1 To receive notice from DCLG of the calling in and to discuss and agree the points to be included in the statement of case, see paragraph 7. To delegate the wording of the statement to the Mayor, Town Clerk, and Planning Clerk. Response date 6th July 2016

107.2 To receive a further communication from the Planning Inspectorate including a draft timetable; to discuss and agree timetable dates, including suggested dates for the unshaded boxes for negotiation with AVDC.

107.2 To note the copy letter to Armstrong Rigg Planning.

107.3 To note the copy letter to AVDC.

107.4 To receive and discuss any response to the Notice of Appeal received from AVDC

Noted

The Town Clerk confirmed to Members that the Secretary of State had called in the decision on Moreton Rd Phase 3.

The summary of stages was in documents under item 107.2. The Town Council had 6 weeks from 25th May 2016 to submit evidence as to why the development should not go ahead.

Due to the tight guidelines it may not be possible to bring comments and decisions back to Council.

Cllr Stuchbury asked the Town Clerk whether the Secretary of State would be using the town's neighbourhood plan as reference rather than AVDC's Vale plan as at this stage it was not an agreed plan.

The Town Clerk stated he did not want to prejudice what a planning inspector may say, though effectively the neighbourhood plan was made and the Vale's plan was emerging, the inspector may put emphasis on that.

The Town Clerk was working through the Vale's emerging plan, just issued to all District Members.

Members **AGREED** for the Town Clerk to email final response subject headings to Members for comment.

Members **AGREED** to delegate the duty of the final response to the Town Clerk, Mayor, Planning Clerk and Cllr Hirons (Chair of Planning Committee).

Members also **AGREED** to allow the Town Clerk to use Ms Sheena McMurtrie as a consultant and pay for her time as worked with the Town Clerk on the final response.

108/16 Chair's Announcements

None

109/16 Dates of next meetings

Full Council	- Monday 27 th June 2016
Interim Council	- Monday 25 th July 2016

Meeting closed at 7.50pm

Signed Date