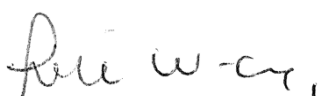


Date of issue: Friday, 22 January 2021

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>CABINET</b>	
	Councillor Swindlehurst	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Strategy
	Councillor Akram	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Governance & Customer Services
	Councillor Anderson	Sustainable Transport & Environmental Services
	Councillor Bains	Inclusive Growth & Skills
	Councillor Carter	Children & Schools
	Councillor Mann	Planning & Regulation
	Councillor Nazir	Housing & Community Safety
	Councillor Pantelic	Health & Wellbeing
<b>DATE AND TIME:</b>	<b>MONDAY, 1ST FEBRUARY, 2021 AT 6.30 PM</b>	
<b>VENUE:</b>	<b>VIRTUAL MEETING</b>	
<b>DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER:</b> (for all enquiries)	<b>NICHOLAS PONTONE</b>	<b>07749 709 868</b>

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are requested to attend the above Meeting at the time and date indicated to deal with the business set out in the following agenda.



**JOSIE WRAGG**  
Chief Executive

**AGENDA**

**PART I**

<u>AGENDA ITEM</u>	<u>REPORT TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>WARD</u>
	Apologies for absence.		
1.	Declarations of Interest	-	-
	<i>All Members who believe they have a Disclosable Pecuniary or other Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting must declare that interest and, having regard to the circumstances described in Section 4 paragraph 4.6 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter is discussed.</i>		
2.	Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th January 2021	1 - 8	-
3.	<b>Strategic Transport Infrastructure Plan</b>	9 - 34	All
4.	Urban Forest (Urban Tree Challenge Fund)	35 - 54	All
5.	<b>St Martin's Place Redevelopment Update</b>	To	Chalvey
6.	Community Investment Fund - Cabinet Allocation 2020/21	Follow 55 - 60	All
7.	<b>Revenue Budget Monitor - Quarter 3 2020/21</b>	To	All
8.	<b>Capital Budget Monitor - Quarter 3 2020/21</b>	Follow To	All
9.	Covid-19 Decisions and Winter Grant Scheme Update	61 - 70	All
10.	References from Overview & Scrutiny	To Follow	All
11.	Notification of Key Decisions	71 - 82	All
12.	Exclusion of Press and Public	-	-

It is recommended that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the item in Part 2 of the Agenda, as it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding the information) as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (amended).

## **PART II**

13.	Part II Minutes - 18th January 2021	83 - 84	-
14.	St Martin's Place Redevelopment Update	To Follow	All

## Press and Public

This meeting will be held remotely in accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020. Part I of this meeting will be live streamed as required by the regulations. The press and public can access the meeting from the following link (by selecting the meeting you wish to view):

**<http://democracy.slough.gov.uk/mgCalendarMonthView.aspx?GL=1&bcr=1>**

Please note that the meeting may be recorded. By participating in the meeting by audio and/or video you are giving consent to being recorded and acknowledge that the recording will be in the public domain.

The press and public will not be able to view any matters considered during Part II of the agenda.

Note:-

**Bold = Key decision**

Non-Bold = Non-key decision

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**Cabinet – Meeting held on Monday, 18th January, 2021.**

**Present:-** Councillors Swindlehurst (Chair), Akram (Vice-Chair), Anderson, Bains, Carter, Mann, Nazir and Pantelic

**Also present under Rule 30:-** Councillors Hulme, Smith and Strutton

**PART 1****86. Declarations of Interest**

Item 4 (Minutes 89 and 97 refer): Britwell Centre and Localities Update – Councillor Anderson declared that he was a registered patient at the surgery involved and would not vote on matters relating to this element of the report.

**87. Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th December 2020**

**Resolved –** That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020 be approved as a correct record.

**88. Acquisition of Land at Former Akzo Nobel Manufacturing Site**

The Cabinet considered a report and received a comprehensive presentation on a proposal to acquire the residential element of the former Akzo Nobel site on Wexham Road for the development of up to 1,000 new homes. The report followed the decision of the Cabinet on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020 to delegate authority to officers to complete Heads of Terms with Panattoni to seek to acquire the land.

This was an important site within the ‘Square Mile’ in the town centre Regeneration Framework Masterplan approved by Cabinet in November 2019. It provided a opportunity to deliver on some of the Council’s key housing targets by providing a mixed tenure scheme of 1, 2 and 3 bedroom properties. The site plan was set out at Appendix A to the report and it was noted that the residential land was in southern portion of the former Akzo Nobel paint factory and research and development facility. Outline planning consent had been issued on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020 for up to 1,000 residential dwellings. By acquiring the site the Council could bring forward an exemplar scheme which would make a contribution to a wide range of strategic housing, environmental and regeneration aspirations. The economic benefits were summarised and it was noted that it was expected to increase the economically active population by 1,220, boost local spending power by £29m and generate £1.7m in Council Tax revenue and £5.4m in New Homes Bonus payments.

*(Councillor Akram joined the meeting)*

Whilst the Regeneration Framework Masterplan envisaged development taking place over a period of 15 years, it was highlighted that if the Council had control over the site it could be brought forward more quickly. The project

## Cabinet - 18.01.21

would take significant resources and a new development project team would be put together to coordinate the Council wide input. The Cabinet agreed the importance of ensuring sufficient capacity was put in place to manage this development and the other key regeneration projects being driven forward by the Council. The contamination issues on the site had been extensively assessed by external advisors who were present at the meeting and answered questions from Members.

Lead Members discussed the risks including a potential post-Covid downturn in the housing market and the amount of affordable housing that could be included in a Council led scheme. The purchase of the site would enable the Council to design a scheme that met housing, environmental and commercial objectives. In response to a question it was noted that the land could be acquired from within existing borrowing limits.

Councillors Smith and Strutton spoke under Rule 30 and made a number of comments including about the provision of family housing, the borrowing arrangements, the fact that housing was on the south side of the site rather than the canal side to the north and about the impacts on the transport network. These points were responded to and considered.

The report included detailed appendices, which contained exempt information, that set out the financial and commercial implications, risks, a legal report and environmental report. The Cabinet agreed to pass a resolution to exclude the press and public for part of the discussion to consider the exempt information.

*(Between 7.42pm and 8.11pm the Cabinet meeting was held in Part II)*

The Cabinet moved back into Part I to consider the recommendations, which were agreed. In view of the timescale to complete the acquisition the Cabinet agreed to implement the decisions urgently which would mean it could only be called in for post-decision scrutiny.

### **Resolved –**

- (a) That the acquisition of the Property be approved in line with the financial and legal terms set out in Confidential Appendix C (Part II Report – Financial, Commercial & Risk);
- (b) That delegated authority be given to the Executive Director of Place, following consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Executive Director of Corporate Services (Section 151 Officer), to agree the detailed terms of the acquisition and take any action ancillary to or necessary to achieve acquisition of the Property;
- (c) That delegated authority be given to the Executive Director of Place following consultation with the Executive Director of Corporate Services (Section 151 Officer) and the Leader of the Council (Lead Member for Regeneration & Strategy), to take any action, including appointing consultants, to review and investigate various development and

## Cabinet - 18.01.21

financing options for the Property and report back to Cabinet within 6 months of the acquisition.

- (d) That delegated authority be given to the Executive Director of Place following consultation with Executive Director of Corporate Services to introduce the proposed Development Project Team, noting that the capital costs would include a budget to cover staffing costs for years 1-5 of the project as set out in sections 2.2 and 2.3 of Confidential Appendix C (Part II Report – Financial, Commercial & Risk).
- (e) That these decisions be implemented urgently.

### 89. Britwell Centre and Localities Update

The Cabinet received a report and detailed presentation that updated on the Localities workstream projects and particularly on the proposed remodelling of the Britwell Hub to include the relocation of the Avenue GP practice. The report also proposed the refurbishment of the small hall at Cippenham Community Centre to provide a new location for the Slough Children's Services Trust Contact Centre.

The Part II Appendices containing exempt financial information were considered and noted without disclosing any of the exempt information.

Lead Members noted the updated position on the Britwell Hub remodelling. The proposal was aligned to the One Public Estate strategy and the Council's Localities Strategy. The presentation covered the health issues in Britwell and the business case set out how collaboration between the Council, Clinical Commissioning Group and Avenue Medical Centre/Farnham Road Surgery would help deliver improved health outcomes. A summary of the specific health benefits of co-locating the surgery was provided which included services that local residents currently had to travel elsewhere for. If approved it was expected that construction would begin in March and completed by December 2021. Lead Members sought assurance that the new health services would be sustained and CCG representatives at the meeting set out the "co-production" approach that would be taken with local people and partners. The recommendations were agreed.

The Cabinet also discussed progress on the delivery of other sites in the Localities Strategy. It was noted that the new Chalvey Hub construction had been completed and Trelawney Avenue was due to be considered for planning approval in February 2021. The updated was noted.

#### **Resolved –**

- (a) That the business case for the Contract Award with an estimated value of £3 million for the construction works remodelling of Britwell Hub be approved;

## Cabinet - 18.01.21

- (b) That the Council enter into a funding agreement with NHS England;
- (c) That the leasing of the Britwell GP Hub at an abated rent assessed by the District Valuer be approved;
- (d) That delegated authority be given to the Executive Director of Place to agree the terms of and enter into the required legal documents to facilitate the lease of Britwell GP Hub and re-location of the existing contact centre;
- (e) That the proposed relocation of the Slough Children's Services Trust Contact Centre to Cippenham Community Centre be approved;
- (f) That the revised timescales on the Britwell Hub be noted;
- (g) That the progress on the localities programme be noted.

### 90. Council Taxbases 2021/22

The Executive Director of Corporate Services introduced a report that presented information on the properties in Slough and their categories of occupation for the purpose of determining the council taxbase for 2021/22. A revised table at paragraph 5.6 of the report was tabled and noted.

The taxbases set out had been calculated by reference to data on dwellings within the borough provided by the Valuation Office Agency as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020. The calculations were summarised and it was noted that the aggregate figure of 41,577.1 was lower than the figure of 43,615.9 in 2020/21 due to the fact that Slough had seen a significant increase in Council Tax support claimants this year which reduced the tax base. Working age claimants had increased by 74.7% as at quarter 2 2020/21 compared to the previous year. There was a further reduction in the tax base as the collection rate was expected to decrease to 98.2% from 98.4% to reflect the likely increase in non-collection due to the impact of Covid-19.

Speaking under Rule 30, Councillor Strutton commented on the impact of Covid-19 on the Council's revenue collection and asked whether the figures were realistic given the likely timescale for the economic recovery. Assurance was provided that the figures were the most accurate available and they used published data from the relevant official bodies.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the recommendations were agreed.

#### Resolved –

- (a) That the Tax Base calculation for 2021/22 be approved as:

i)	Parish of Britwell	810.4
ii)	Parish of Colnbrook with Poyle	1,830.3
iii)	Parish of Wexham Court	1,348.3



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iv)	Slough Town	36,839.7
iv)	All areas	40,828.7

Band D equivalent properties;

- (b) That the Council Tax collection rate of 98.2% for 2021/22 be noted; and
- (c) That the estimated deficit on the Council Tax Collection Fund as at 31 March 2021 was estimated to be £3,456k, of which £931k related to 2019-20 and £2,525k related to 2020-21. The Council's share of the deficit was £2,881k, of which £2,105k related to 2020-21 and would be spread across 3 years as instructed by the Government. The deficit to be repaid in 2021-22 by the Council was £1,478k.

### 91. HRA Rents & Service Charges 2021/22

A report was considered that proposed changes to housing rent and service charges for 2021/22.

The proposals had been developed in line with the new Rent Standard introduced from April 2020 by the Regulator of Social Housing. For the five years from 2020/21 the setting of rent increases for HRA social and affordable rent properties was capped at CPI + 1%. It was noted that this followed a four year period of rent reductions.

The proposed rents had been considered by the Neighbourhoods & Community Services Scrutiny Panel on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021. No comments had been referred to Cabinet.

After due consideration the Cabinet agreed to the rents and service charges as set out in the report.

#### **Resolved –**

- (a) That Council house dwelling rents for 2021/22 to increase by 1.5% (CPI + 1%) over the 2020/21 rent with effect from Monday 5th April 2021. This was in line with current government guidelines and legislation.
- (b) That Garage rents, heating, utility and ancillary charges to increase by 0.5% with effect from Monday 5th April 2021. This was based upon the September CPI figure.
- (c) That Service charges increase by 0.5% with effect from Monday 5th April 2021. This was based upon the September CPI figure.
- (d) That 'Other committee' property rents (i.e. properties in the ownership of other council departments but let to tenants and managed by the

## **Cabinet - 18.01.21**

Housing Revenue Account on their behalf) increase by 0.5% from Monday 5th April 2021. This was based on the September CPI figure.

- (e) That Properties leased from James Elliman Homes increase by 1.5% (CPI + 1%) from Monday 5th April 2021 in line with the September CPI figure.
- (f) That DISH (Development Initiative Slough Housing) property rents are recommended to increase by 1.5% (CPI + 1%) over the 2020/21 rent, and service charges to increase by 0.5% both with effect from Monday 5th April 2021. This was as per the Council's recommendation to the DISH Board.

### **92. Covid-19 Decisions Update**

The Cabinet received a report which set out the further significant decisions taken by officers in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and sought ratification of the Executive decisions.

The decisions taken since the previous meeting of the Cabinet included service changes in the transition between the national 'lockdown' and new tiered system in December and plans to introduce a lateral flow testing programme for the community. The Significant Decision which granted an exemption from competitive tendering for the testing programme as set out in Appendix B was ratified.

At the conclusion of the discussion the significant decisions in Appendix A were ratified.

The Cabinet also agreed a vote of thanks to Officers, NHS and other partners and the voluntary and community sector for the work on Covid-19 including community testing and the delivery of the vaccination programme.

#### **Resolved –**

- (a) That the report be noted;
- (b) That the Significant Decisions taken by Silver as set out in Appendix A be ratified; and
- (c) That the Significant Decision taken by the Chief Executive and Executive Director, People (Adults) on Slough's Asymptomatic Testing for Covid-19 Programme as at Appendix B be ratified.

### **93. References from Overview & Scrutiny**

The Chair of Neighbourhoods & Community Services Scrutiny Panel, Councillor Hulme, introduced a reference report from their meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020 relating to the Repairs, Maintenance & Investment (RMI) contract, that:

*“Internal audit conduct a comprehensive and wide ranging review of the contract with Osborne to evaluate whether the objectives and performance measures were being met. Councillors and residents should be engaged in that review”.*

Councillor Hulme summarised some of the issues that had particularly concerned the Panel, which included the large backlog of repairs, the volume and time taken to resolve complaints and the fact improvement plans had not been made available to the Panel. Members had recognised there had been some recent improvements with a new management team coming into place, however, members of the Panel had stated they did not have full confidence that improvement would lead to the outcomes originally specified in the contract. The Panel had concluded that an internal audit be conducted to review the contract.

The Executive Director of Customer & Community explained that work was already underway with Osborne’s to continue to improve delivery after a difficult period and advised the Cabinet that the recommendation could be accepted. Lead Members also supported the recommendation, although given the work programme of internal audit it was proposed and agreed that the review take place as soon as practicable, which was envisaged to be within six months of 2021. Notwithstanding the audit, the Cabinet emphasised the importance of continuing to work with Osborne’s to address performance issues.

The recommendation was then agreed and the Cabinet thanked the Panel for the extensive work they had carried out on this matter.

Councillor Strutton made a request to speak under Rule 30, however, no prior notification had been given and the request was therefore refused.

**Resolved** – That the recommendation of the Neighbourhoods & Community Services Scrutiny Panel from its meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020 on the RMI contract be accepted and that an audit of the full contract be carried out as soon practicably possible.

#### **94. Notification in Forthcoming Decisions**

The Cabinet considered and endorsed the Notification of Key Decisions published on 18<sup>th</sup> December and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 which set out the key decisions expected to be taken by the Cabinet in the next three months.

**Resolved** – That the published Notification of Decisions be endorsed.

#### **95. Exclusion of Press and Public**

**Resolved** – That the matters in Part II of the agenda be considered and resolved during Part I, without disclosing any of the exempt information, but that the Part II reports remain restricted as they

## **Cabinet - 18.01.21**

involved the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to the financial and business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 the Schedule 12A the Local Government Act 1972.

The following is a summary of the matters considered during Part II of the agenda:

### **96. Acquisition of Land at Former Akzo Nobel Manufacturing Site - Appendices B to G**

The Part II Appendices which included exempt information relation to the financial, legal, commercial and land contamination issues were considered and noted. The Cabinet had moved into Part II during consideration of the Part I report to discuss the exempt information prior to resolving the matters in Part I.

### **97. Britwell Centre and Localities Update - Appendix 1 and 2**

The Appendices included exempt information relating to the financial issues of the proposal were noted in resolving the matters in the Part I report.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 9.11 pm)

**SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Cabinet

**DATE:** 1 February 2021

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Savio DeCruz Associate Director Operations

**(For all Enquiries)** (01753) 875640 / 07920548131

**WARD(S):** All

**PART I**  
**KEY DECISION**

**SLOUGH STRATEGIC TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN ('STIP')****1. Purpose of Report**

A report summarising proposals for transport infrastructure improvements to support the Council's strategic priorities around COVID-19 recovery, jobs and housing growth, quality of place, access to opportunity, health and wellbeing, and climate change.

The report is intended to introduce the STIP and summarise how it is important to achieving the Council's ambitions for Slough because of its focus on measures to encourage an increasing share of trips to be made on foot, by bicycle or by public transport.

The STIP is in draft form pending proposed stakeholder consultation. It is proposed that the STIP is finalised following this consultation and following publication of the Slough 2040 Vision and Climate Change Strategy.

**2. Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

The Cabinet is requested to resolve:

- a) That the concept of the STIP be adopted as the long-term plan for transport infrastructure to support regeneration of the town centre, the emerging Local Plan Spatial Strategy, and the Council's air quality and climate change policies.
- b) To note the significant technical work which has informed the STIP and the relevance of the STIP proposals to ongoing discussions with key town centre landowners and developers.
- c) To note the long-term nature of the proposals and the role of the STIP in supporting future bids for funding to deliver those proposals.
- d) To endorse the consultation exercise with stakeholders.

### 3. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five-Year Plan**

The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy (SJWS) is the document that details the priorities agreed for Slough with partner organisations. The SJWS has been developed using a comprehensive evidence base that includes the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). Both are clearly linked and must be used in conjunction when preparing your report. They have been combined in the Slough Wellbeing Board report template to enable you to provide supporting information highlighting the link between the SJWS and JSNA priorities.

#### 3a. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

The scheme aims to address the following Slough Wellbeing Strategy 2020-2025 priorities:

1. *Priority 1: Starting Well-* By encouraging the use of sustainable modes of travel, aims to improve air quality in our five AQMA's and increasing quality of life for young people with respiratory disease, reducing Slough's health inequalities in the long term and providing access to work.
2. *Priority 2: Integration-* By providing transport infrastructure that includes safer access to transport hubs bus shelters, bus routes that will enable vulnerable elderly members of the community to access health facilities and community centers.
3. *Priority 3: Strong, Healthy and Attractive Neighborhood's* – The STIP sets out how good infrastructure will support active travel that plays a crucial role in maintaining good health, preventing illness, supporting mental wellbeing and generally enabling people to be healthier and happier for longer.
4. *Priority 4: Workplace Health-* The STIP aims to establish better connectivity between places for home and work, provide reliable and sustainable transport for Slough residents in the suburbs and places of employment.

#### 3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

- Outcome 1: Slough children will grow up to be happy, healthy and successful.
  - Increased cycling levels will lead to fewer cars on the road providing safer, cleaner environment for Slough's children.
  - Better public transport will improve access to education and training opportunities.
- Outcome 2: Our people will be healthier and manage their own care needs.
  - Increased cycling and walking will contribute to maintaining physical and mental health.
  - Reductions in car traffic will improve air quality and reduce particulate matter.
- Outcome 3: Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and stay.

- Reduced traffic congestion through increased cycling and walking and better public transport services will result in improved air quality and safer roads.
- Improvements in the quality of the urban realm and quality of infrastructure will make Slough more attractive to residents, workers and visitors.
- Outcome 4: Our residents will live in good quality homes.
  - Improved integrated transport links will give residents greater choice as to where they can live and access work and facilities.
- Outcome 5: Slough will attract, retain and grow businesses and investment to provide opportunities for our residents.
  - Reduced congestion and improved accessibility options will reduce employee's travel time and business travel costs.
- Improvements in the quality of the urban realm and quality of infrastructure will make Slough more attractive to investors.

#### 4. **Other Implications**

##### (a) Financial

4.1 At this stage there are no specific financial risks associated with this high-level strategy however, it is expected that as identified projects come forward which are not fully funded such as the MRT+ these projects will need the Council to contribute through S106 and other council funding for Full business cases to be developed. Subject to the type of project and the available funding streams the Council may have to contribute in some form to match funding similar to the agreements with the Berkshire LEP. It is proposed that officers provide the necessary support to the capital finance manager to programme potential capital funding for future years to better plan the Councils Capital Programme.

##### (b) Risk Management

Recommendation from section 2 above	Risks/Threats/ Opportunities	Current Controls	Using the Risk Management Matrix Score the risk	Future Controls
To support in principle the proposals for strategic infrastructure set out in the STIP, subject to further technical work.	High total costs will require active pursuit of funding.  Refusal from developers to contribute to the implementation of the strategy once finalised.  Opportunity to	Funding secured through trip generation for S106 contributions . Use of the UTMC to control traffic and re-route	Political – (Severity/ negligible: Probability/ low)  = rating 6	Work with the planning policy team to develop robust mechanisms to secure funding from developers.  Work across Council to secure central

Recommendation from section 2 above	Risks/Threats/ Opportunities	Current Controls	Using the Risk Management Matrix Score the risk	Future Controls
	bring about significant enhancements and support growth and delivery of town centre regeneration.	traffic around town centre. Development planning controls.		Government funding to support UK growth agenda. Further detailed technical work (see below).
To support commencement of the next stages of technical work for each of the proposals.	To engage with Slough 2040 Vision and Climate Change Strategy teams to ensure policy consistency. Uncertainty of travel demand in short-term due to COVID-19. Key stakeholders, delivery partners and the public to be consulted.	To identify and scope out via the town centre group any further workstreams to support future designs and bids to Govt	Political – (Severity/ negligible: Probability/ low)  = rating 2	Detailed schemes design, costing and feasibility analysis. Detailed business case development using the council’s multi-modal strategic transport model. Identification of potential funding sources and financing mechanisms.
To support the consultation exercise with relevant stakeholders	Potential that developers and other stakeholders may raise concerns that some proposals may affect their developments	Dialogue with some developers have already taken place and these comments have been taken into account.	Political – (Severity/ negligible: Probability/ low)  = rating 2	Ensure that the consultation exercise is meaningful and supports growth.



(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no HR or legal implications resulting from this report.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

There are no identified negative impacts as a result of the STIP. However, with specific regard to social exclusion, the STIP will enable better accessibility to those groups enabling them to take a greater involvement in Slough's prosperity. The STIP will also provide opportunities for stakeholders to feedback on the strategic proposals.

## 5. Supporting Information

- 5.1 In February 2019, Cabinet approved the key principles of a transport vision to support the emerging Local Plan. The key principles focussed on improving public transport, improving cycling and walking and improving the public realm to make the Centre of Slough a place where businesses and our residents want to locate too. The key principles had at their core a number of proposed Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) routes to link the east and west, north and south with specific regard to housing and business growth.

The key principles document identified Slough's road network is under significant pressure, particularly at peak times, resulting in congestion, safety and air quality issues, and acting as a barrier to investment. Whilst the COVID-19 pandemic has temporarily reduced pressure on our road network, it is possible that the pandemic could result in higher than usual levels of car traffic in the medium-term. Further, the growth in jobs and homes anticipated in the Local Plan Review will see further increases in demand for travel. Approval of major developments such as Panattoni (1,000 homes) and the Horlicks Factory (1,300 homes) are some early signs of this growth. The major planning proposals expected for North West Quadrant and redevelopment of the shopping centres are further examples, with even more significant impacts.

The approach set out in the Key Principles is to reverse current trends in car use and address the growing demand for travel by providing a step-change in alternatives to car use and reducing the need to travel by locating homes closer to jobs, education and services.

- 5.2 Since March 2019 the Council has been developing the ideas in the Key Principles into a set of specific transport infrastructure proposals required to achieve the shift to non-car modes required for the future. These proposals extend beyond the town centre and bring benefits to the whole borough. This technical work has included outline design of schemes, preparation of Strategic Outline Business Cases; and traffic modelling to forecast the impacts of the proposed projects on the highway network. The findings of this work to date has been brought together in a draft STIP which will be brought before the Cabinet in autumn 2021.

### 5.3 The Strategic Transport Infrastructure Plan

- 5.31 The draft strategy to respond to this challenge and to support achievement of the Council's high-level outcomes relies on taking an integrated approach across our functions, and to work in partnership with stakeholders to deliver the proposals set out in our plans.
- 5.32 The STIP will enable the Council to ensure that transport and land use proposals are considered holistically; so that growth is located where sustainable travel options are at their most attractive already, and with further investment.
- 5.33 The Local Plan will also be critical in minimising the demand for travel by locating shops, schools and facilities close to where people live, and creating vibrant local

communities. The Local Transport Plan will be particularly important in identifying measures to support walking and cycling within local neighbourhoods, promote use of sustainable modes and improve safety and security.

5.34 Improvements to strategic transport infrastructure, the focus of this STIP, will be designed to take advantage of Slough's existing strengths, and fully exploit already-committed projects, such as the Elizabeth line, to spread their benefits across the borough.

5.35 The draft STIP sets out the transport objectives which the STIP proposals are intended to deliver; and in so doing, achieve our highest Council priorities relating to health, opportunity, the economy, place and environment. The proposals in the STIP will do this by:

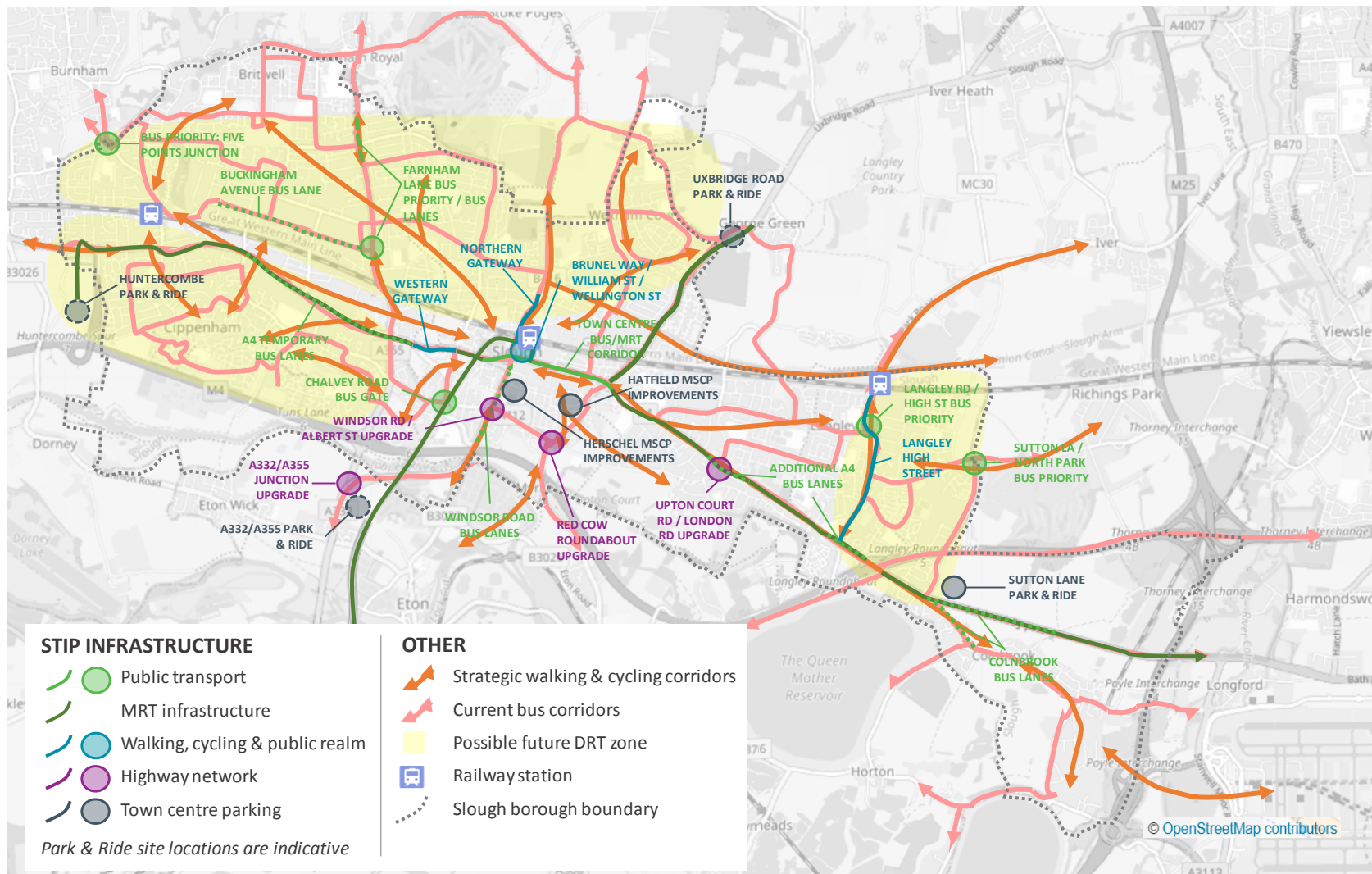
- making public transport the dominant mode of travel to and from the centre of Slough, the rest of the Borough and beyond, including to and from Slough's neighbourhoods;
- providing the capacity for movement to and from the centre of Slough, in the form of a high quality, reliable, high-capacity public transport network, which enables a higher scale of development;
- maximising the benefits of enhanced strategic public transport connectivity to London, Heathrow Airport and the wider Thames Valley;
- making walking and cycling to and from the centre of Slough and the district centres the most attractive option for shorter journeys;
- creating attractive environments in which people are put first in terms of movement and use of space for interaction, creating safe, healthy and vibrant urban spaces which encourage people to live, work and relax locally;
- using high quality design of transport infrastructure to enhance the quality of the public realm;
- significantly reducing the dominance of the car as a mode of travel to, from and through the centre of Slough and on key arterial roads; and
- minimising the impacts of roads, parking and motorised vehicles on the urban realm and on people, including improved air quality and road safety.

5.36 A brief summary of the proposals is provided in Table 1 overleaf, which also indicates the intended outcomes of each. A map showing their locations is provided in Figure 3.

**Table 1 – Summary of infrastructure projects and intended outcomes.**

	Proposal	Public transport is the dominant mode	Capacity for movement	Maximising benefits of Elizabeth line etc.	Walking & cycling for short trips	Creating attractive environments	Enhancing public realm	Reducing dominance of car travel	Minimising impacts of traffic
Public transport	A <b>Slough Mass Rapid Transit</b> network. Passenger and vehicle priority infrastructure, and high specification vehicles to provide high quality and reliable public transport.	●	●	●		●		●	●
	Infrastructure improvements for <b>traditional bus services</b>	●	●	●				●	●
Walking, cycling and public realm	Enhancements to <b>Brunel Way, William Street and Wellington Street</b> to significantly enhance the pedestrian environment and reduce the dominance of traffic.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Town centre <b>Northern Gateway</b> improvements for buses, pedestrians and cyclists on Stoke Road.	●	●	●	●		●	●	●
	Improvements to Slough Station northern forecourt	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Town centre <b>Western Gateway</b> improvements for buses, pedestrians and cyclists on the A4 Bath Road.	●	●		●		●	●	●
	Improvements to <b>Langley High Street</b> to improve conditions for pedestrians and other road users.	●	●	●	●	●	●		●
The highway network	Junction and highway improvements to provide an <b>alternative east-west traffic route</b> around the town centre to allow for reduction of Wellington Street capacity.		●						●
	Upgrade to the <b>A332/A355 junction</b> to allow vehicle access to the town centre via M4 (J6) and Windsor Road. (subject to business case)		●						●
Town centre public parking	Consolidation of <b>town centre public parking</b> into SBC's two multi-storey car parks in the medium-term, and enabling remedial works.								●
	A ring of <b>park &amp; ride</b> sites on the edge of Slough as a longer-term solution to parking in the town centre and other employment locations.							●	●

Figure 3 – Locations of proposed strategic transport infrastructure projects



6. **Comments of Other Committees**

The matter has been considered by O&S Committee and will be included in the final draft of the STIP.

7. **Conclusion**

Adopting the principle of a Strategic Transport Infrastructure Plan will allow progress on engagement with key stakeholders and development of the final version containing further details of the measures to support the Slough 2040 Vision, Climate Change Strategy and other Council priorities.

8. **Appendices Attached**

A) 'A' – Draft Slough Strategic Transport Infrastructure Plan Summary slides

9. **Background Papers**

'1' A Transport Vision for the Centre of Slough Key Principles (March 2019 Cabinet)

'2' Centre of Slough: Regeneration Framework Masterplan (September 2020 Cabinet)

'3' Slough Local Plan Proposed Spatial Strategy for Public Consultation (October 2020 Cabinet)

# Strategic Transport Infrastructure Plan

Cabinet

1<sup>st</sup> February 2021

# Background

The Strategic Transport Infrastructure Plan was prepared in December 2020. It sets out a strategy for enabling growth and regeneration, and other objectives for Slough, and describes a number of key transport infrastructure proposals to connect people with places and enable sustainable transport for the future.

Page 2

SBC officers are engaging key developers and stakeholders on the draft STIP proposals to support growth but also manage traffic growth as a result of the trips being generated from the various developments.



# Objectives for STIP #1

The high-level objectives of the STIP remain unchanged:

- to protect and enhance the built and natural **environment** and contribute to tackling **climate change**;
- to create attractive, accessible and liveable **places** that contribute to better **health, wellbeing** and where everyone has the same **access to opportunity**; and
- to provide the conditions for sustainable, inclusive and resilient **economic growth**, including enabling regeneration and redevelopment.

# Objectives for STIP #2

**Transport objectives** have been developed to support achievement of the high level objectives shown on the previous slide. These are summarised as:

- to reduce the **need** to travel
- to maximise the share of journeys made by **sustainable modes of travel**
- to improve **access** to employment, healthcare, education and leisure facilities **by sustainable modes**
- to reduce carbon and other emissions from road traffic which contribute to **climate change** and poor **air quality**;
- to provide the sustainable travel capacity to **allow the economy to grow and enable regeneration**
- to minimise the impacts of travel on **communities** such as noise and severance;

# Objectives for STIP #3

## Transport objectives (continued)

- to improve **safety** and personal **security**, and the **quality** of travel experience
- to protect and enhance the **built and natural environment**
- to make public transport **affordable** and physically **accessible** to all
- to make journey times more **reliable**
- to maximise the share of motorised vehicles using **renewable energy sources**
- to ensure the transport system is **adaptable and resilient** to climate change and unforeseen events

# Objectives for STIP #4

These objectives need to be seen in the context of these influencing factors:

- **expected growth** in population and jobs
- the Council's **COVID-19** Recovery Plan
- development of the **Slough 2040 vision**
- the planned **Climate Change Strategy**

All of the above necessitate a significant increase in the share of journeys made by **sustainable modes** of travel.

# Influencing factors #1

## Expected growth in homes and jobs

The emerging Local Plan for 2016-36 is expected to enable 13,000 new homes and land for at least 15,000 new jobs.

This growth will have significant impacts on travel in Slough which the STIP will address.

Several major developments already in train:

- Horlicks factory: permission for 1,300 homes
- Panattoni/Akzo Nobel: permission for 1,000 homes
- North West Quadrant: application expected for 1,400 homes and 250,000 ft<sup>2</sup> of commercial
- Shopping centres redevelopment: application expected for major commercial, retail and residential development

## COVID-19 Recovery Plan

In November 2020 Cabinet received an update on the Council's COVID-19 Recovery Plan towards economic recovery and renewal.

The Plan shows how we will:

- ensure the resilience of our local economy and survival of businesses;
- create new opportunities for employees whose futures were at risk;
- address health, wellbeing, social and financial aftershocks.

The STIP proposals will assist in maximising the potential of Slough as an attractive place to invest and our wider ambitions for growth and regeneration over the next 20 years

# Influencing factors #2

## The Slough 2040 Vision

The Council and its Partners are developing a 20-year vision to capture the scale and optimism of SBC's ambitions for the town. The vision is based on 8 themes:

- vibrant town centre
- attractive, green neighbourhoods
- well-connected transport system, that prioritises public and active transport
- a sustainable and low-carbon town
- a strong economy
- a place of lifelong learning for all
- a healthy town, where everyone is supported
- a strong, diverse community

The Slough 2040 Vision will be launched in March and needs to be properly reflected in the final STIP.

## Climate Change Strategy

In July the Council passed a motion to committed to develop a Climate Change Strategy & Action Plan (CCSAP). A key aim of the CCSAP is to reduce emissions from transport by promoting alternative modes of travel and reducing car travel and congestion.

The Council has also adopted a Carbon Management Plan 2020-30 to reduce carbon emissions from its own operations.

The CCSAP is expected in Spring 2021.

The STIP proposals are likely to be important contributors to reducing carbon emissions and the content of the CCSAP; and conversely the final STIP will also reflect the content of the completed CCSAP.

# Summary of proposals #1

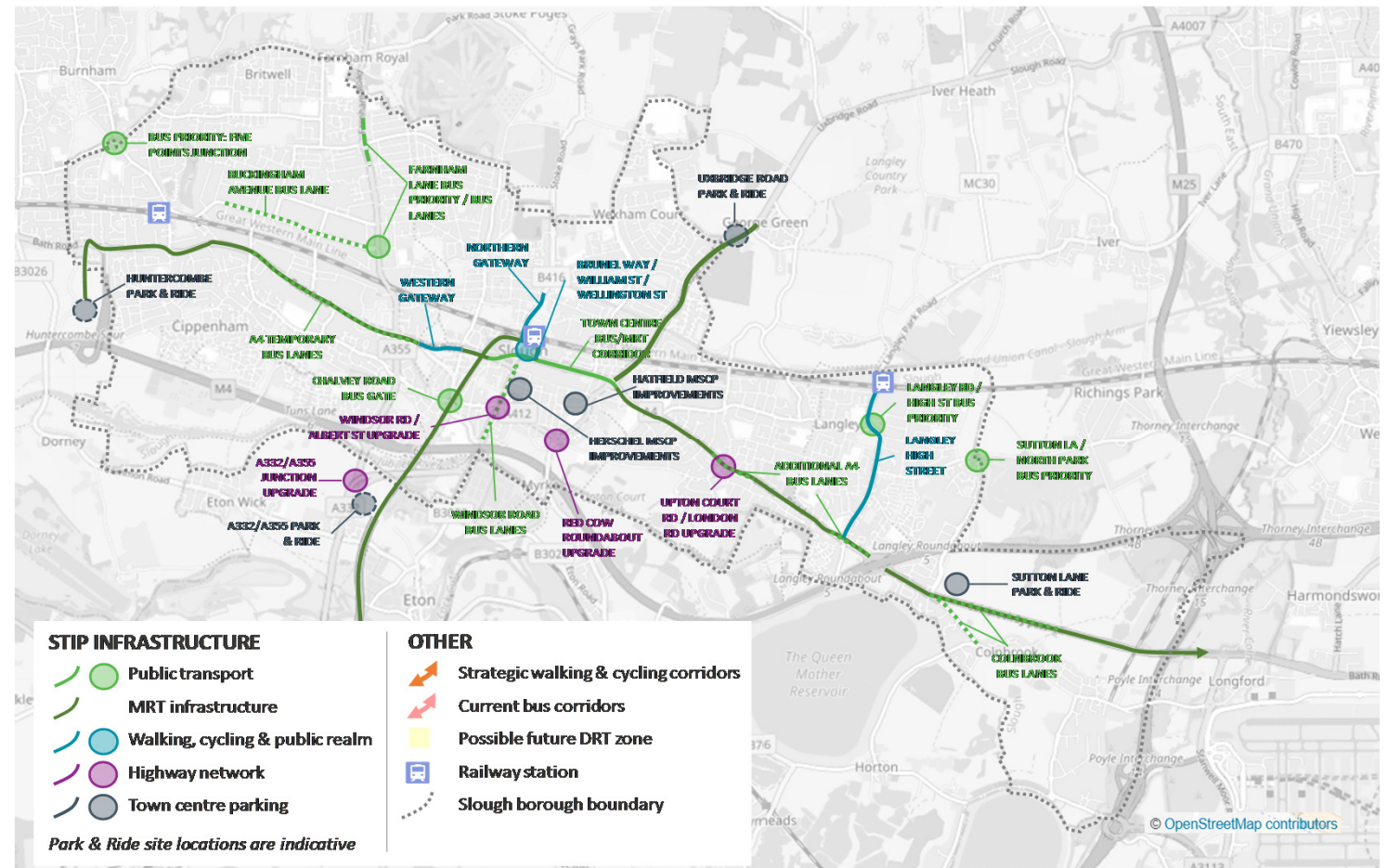
Since production of the Slough Transport Vision in 2019, the Council has considered a wide range of potential interventions **to achieve the STIP objectives**. Detailed technical work has been undertaken to refine the proposals, predict their impacts and understand how they can be delivered and funded.

The proposals fall under four categories:

- Public transport
- Walking, cycling and public realm
- Changes to the highway network
- Town centre off-street public parking
- Locations of the proposals are shown on the map overleaf.

# Summary of proposals #2

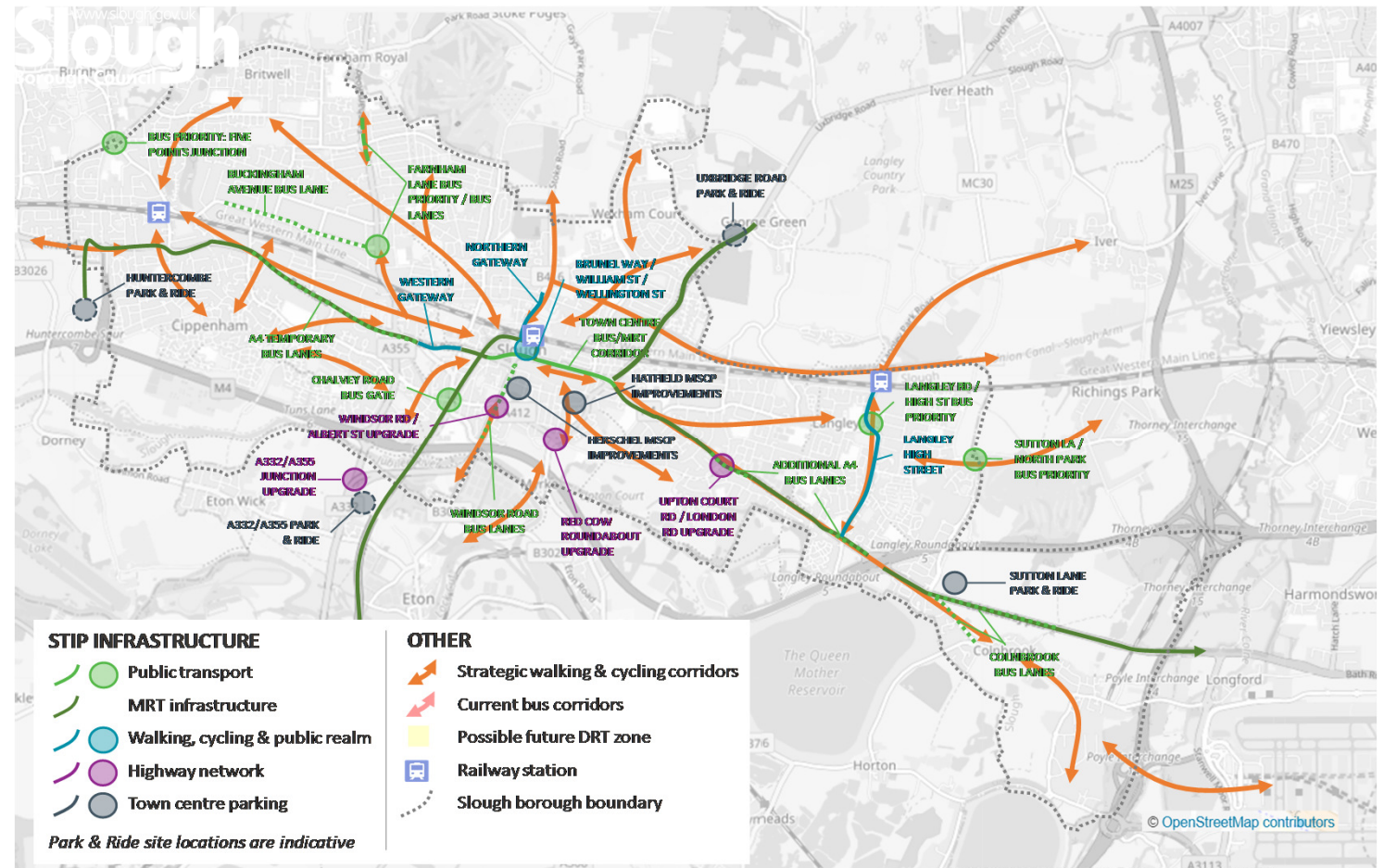
- STIP infrastructure proposals





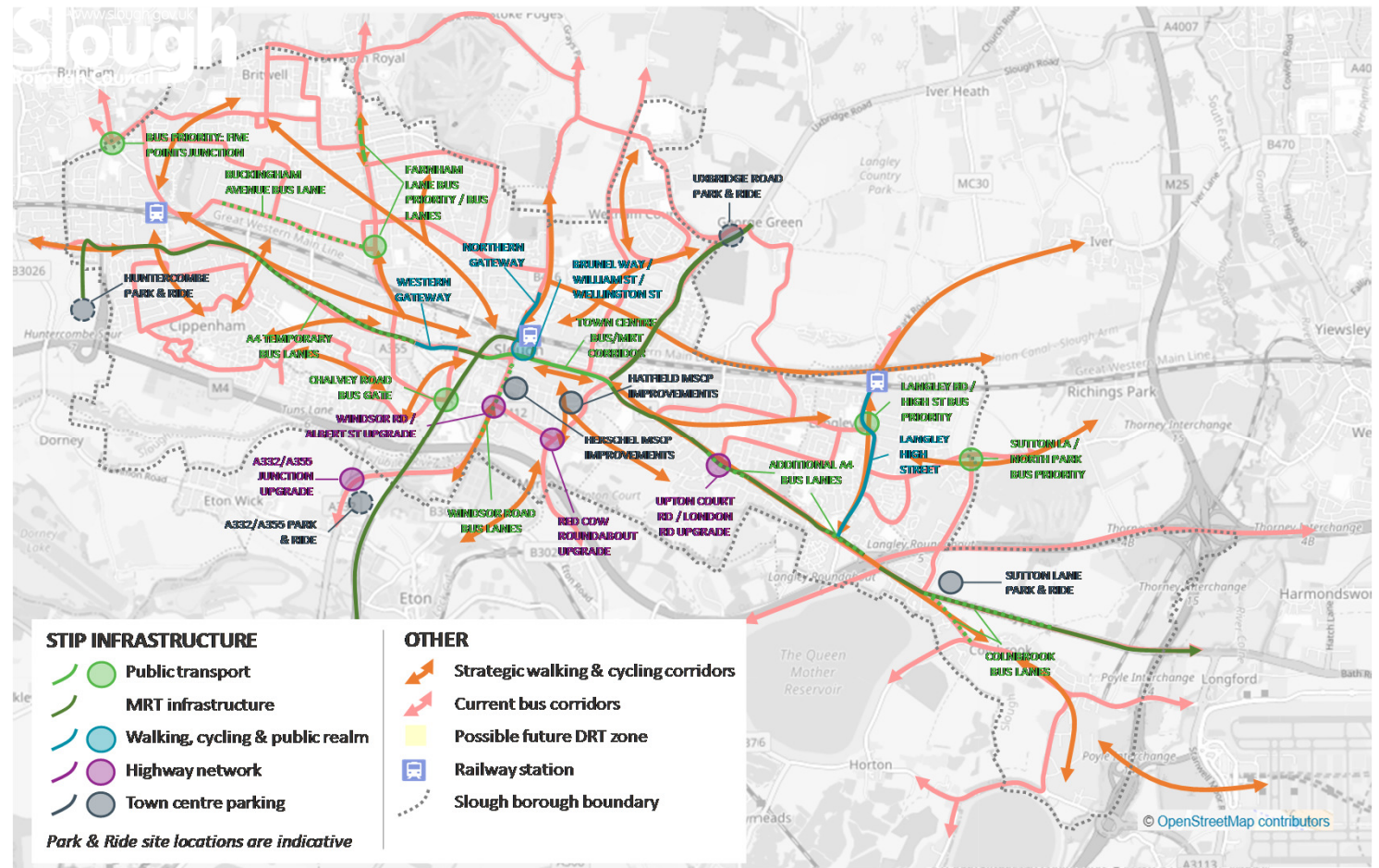
# Summary of proposals #3

- STIP infrastructure proposals
- Strategic walking & cycling corridors



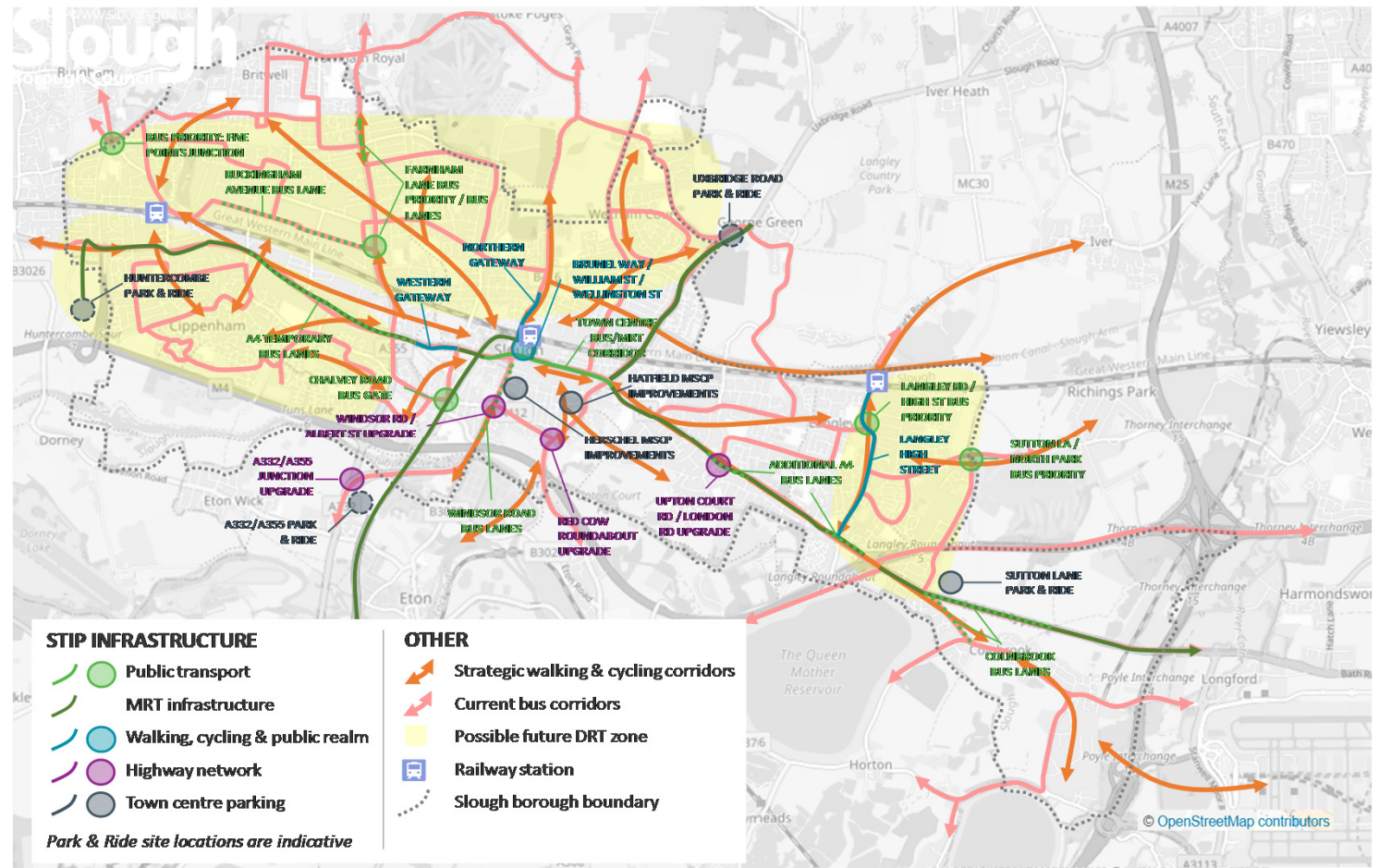
# Summary of proposals #4

- STIP infrastructure proposals
  - Strategic walking & cycling corridors
- Current bus corridors



# Summary of proposals #5

- STIP infrastructure proposals
- Strategic walking & cycling corridors
- Current bus corridors
- Potential DRT zones



# Summary of proposals #3

## Public transport

- A Slough **Mass Rapid Transit network** ('MRT+') comprising vehicle priority to improve journey times and reliability, high specification vehicles, waiting environments and information
- *MRT+ could potentially serve new urban expansions of Slough*
- Additional bus priority and infrastructure improvements for **conventional bus services**.

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## Walking, cycling & public realm

- Enhancements to **Brunel Way, William Street and Wellington Street** to significantly enhance the pedestrian environment and reduce the dominance of traffic
- Town centre Northern Gateway (**Stoke Road**) improvements to significantly enhance the pedestrian environment and reduce the dominance of traffic
- Improvements to Slough station **northern forecourt**
- Western Gateway (**Bath Road**) improvements for buses, pedestrians and cyclists
- Improvements to **Langley High Street** to improve conditions for all road users

# Summary of proposals #3

## The highway network

- Modifications to the A4 Wellington Street to accommodate an east-west public transport corridor (for MRT+) and urban realm enhancements
- Junction and highway improvements to mitigate the impacts of the Wellington Street scheme on east-west traffic
- Long-term plans for upgrading the A332/A355 junction when the case can be made.

## Off-street parking

- Remedial and improvement works to Hershel and Hatfield Multi Storey Car Parks to improve quality of offer
- Consolidation of town centre public parking in the medium term
- A ring of park and ride sites in the longer-term serving the town centre and key employment sites to allow reduction of parking in the town centre

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**SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Cabinet **DATE:** 1 February 2021

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Richard West, Executive Director Customer & Community  
(For all enquiries) (01753) 690965

**WARD(S):** ALL

**PORTFOLIO:** Transport & Environmental Services – Cllr Rob Anderson

**PART I**  
**NON-KEY DECISION****URBAN FOREST (URBAN TREE CHALLENGE FUND)****1 Purpose of Report**

To update on the implementation of the c£1m Urban Tree Challenge Fund and to recommend the development of policies to ensure the future maintenance and development of our Urban Forest and the naming of trees/woodland to commemorate loved ones.

**2 Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

- 2.1 To note the contents of this report including that the project is on target, within budget and in compliance with the match funding conditions of the Urban Tree Challenge Fund (Forestry Commission).
- 2.2 To delegate authority to the Executive Director Customer and Community and the Portfolio Holder for Transport & Environmental Services to review and update the Council's policy on commemorative trees to include opportunities for businesses, organisations and residents to sponsor woodland to commemorate loved ones.

**3. The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan****3a. Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

The planting of trees improves visual amenity, air quality and the quality of our public realm. The health and wellbeing of residents improves where they interact with the natural world contributing to Priority 3: Improving mental health and well being.

**3b Five Year Plan Outcomes**

Provision of urban woodland assists in the delivery of our Five Year Plan in that it contributes to ensuring Outcome 3: Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and stay. It also assists in improving air quality in the borough and contributes positively to our carbon agenda.

4 **Other Implications**

(a) Financial

The scheme is funded 51% (£521,954.02) by SBC from P165 Leisure Centre Farnham Road and 49% (£501,409.16) by the Forestry Commission and is on budget

(b) Risk Management

Recommendation from section 2 above	Risks/Threats/ Opportunities	Current Controls	Using the Risk Management Matrix Score the risk	Future Controls
The Cabinet is requested to note that the project is on target, within budget and in compliance with the match funding conditions of the Urban Tree Challenge Fund grant	If we don't satisfy the conditions of the grant during the project then grant funding could be withheld.	As part of the grant we will employ a Project Officer to manage the delivery of the 31 projects within the agreed parameters	Negligible	Continual monitoring and monthly review at Divisional SMT

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Implications for this proposal.

Under Rule 7.23 of the Council's Financial Procedure Rules in Part 4.6 of the Constitution any in year re-profiling of capital schemes will be reported to cabinet for consideration on the basis that the overall revenue cost of the capital programme is not exceeded. Any revenue increase in the Capital programme or the underlying borrowing requirement must be considered by the full Council.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

There is no identified need for the completion of an Equalities Impact Assessment.

(f) Carbon Emissions and Energy Costs

This project will provide carbon offset.

5 **Supporting Information**

5.1 The Urban Tree Challenge Fund (UTCF) has been developed by the Forestry Commission to contribute towards meeting the Government's manifesto commitment to plant one million urban trees across the Country by 2022.

5.2 We secured a Forestry Commission grant of £501,409.16 (49%) in November 2019 to which SBC match funded £521,945.02 (51%)



5.3 Our proposals committed to the completion of:-

- The design and physical works to plant a total of 1,200 standard & small trees and 6,000 whips at 31 different sites across the borough over two planting seasons - 2019/20 November to March and 2020/21 November to March
- A maintenance programme to ensure the trees become established and self sustaining - March 2023 – Final Grant Payment

5.4 The Agreement with the Forestry Commission remains in place for 5 years after the Final Grant Payment is made so until March 2028. SBC are required to fund the maintenance of the trees planted during this “Maintenance Period” as part of the Agreement. This will be done from within existing budgets.

5.5 Some trees do fail to grow and of course trees do die from time to time. For instance 21 of the 153 trees planted in parks in 2019/2020 have failed and have needed to be replaced. In addition, our experience over the last 5 years is that around 10% of our established tree stock (77 trees in parks but many more when we include highway verges and housing land) need replacing each year either due to vandalism, drought or just dying. The more trees that we plant the greater the ongoing budget that we will need if we are to sustain all trees.

5.6 There is the opportunity to develop our Commemorative Tree Application Form to include the opportunity for businesses, organisations and residents to sponsor woodland to commemorate loved ones. Monies obtained from this would help fund the future planting and ongoing maintenance of trees as part of our Urban Forest. Plaques on individual trees are problematic since they can't be mounted on the tree and where placed on posts adjacent to a tree in a public area (particularly a park) become an obstacle for mowing around and a trip hazard. We intend to move to issuing a Commemorative Certificate and a QR Code Locating the tree as an alternative. The current application form to obtain a commemorative tree is provided as Annex 2 for reference and needs to be developed. There is also the opportunity for corporate sponsorship of a copse of trees or an area of woodland.

5.7 This is a fast delivered project which has and will positively change the appearance of Slough now and in years to come. The urban woodlands will be supported by monitoring technology to collect data on soil moisture, the health of the trees and improvements to air quality. This data will inform the maintenance regime of the trees and demonstrate the environmental benefit of their presence. Once systems are in place, the data will be made available to residents through “Smart City” applications.

5.8 Collaboration with our Regeneration Officers means that the 31 projects will bring environment and public realm benefits to our Regeneration Strategy - enhancing the quality of the built environment and contributing to the current issues related to climate change adaptation.

5.9 Annex 1 sets out the outcomes of the project to date, the remaining planting schemes to be completed by end of March 2021 and our next steps.

## **6 Comments of Other Committees**

No other committees have been involved in this proposal.

7 **Conclusion**

Our collaboration with the Forestry Commission to develop an Urban Forest within Slough has positively changed the appearance of Slough and will make a significant contribution to carbon offset.

8 **Background Papers**

Annex 1 – Urban Forest Outcomes Presentation

Annex 2 – Application for the Planting of a Commemorative Tree

# Slough Digital Urban Forest



## Current Status

Season 20/21 – Final Phase of Planting  
Trees planted as of February 2021

1,523 Standard & feathered trees

5,360 Whips

## Programme Status

Planting programme is on schedule and within budget at halfway stage.



## URBAN TREE CHALLENGE FUND

### Sites completed to date (1<sup>st</sup> February 2021)

Godolphin Rec, Farnham Lane, Scafell Park, Harvey Park, Faraday Rec, The Cherries, Northborough Rd, Cumberland Ave, High St Chalvey, Kedermister Park, Lismore Park, St Laurence Way, Cippenham Lane, Long Readings Lane, Sutton Lane, Wexham Rd, Copthorne Junction, Oatlands Drive\*, Botham Drive \*, Langley High St, Langley Mem park, Stoke Poges Lane, Chalvey Rd West\*, Baylis Park Orchard

### Trees planted to date (1<sup>st</sup> February 2021)

Standard and small feathered trees	1,523
Whips	5,360

### Remaining Season 2 (November 20-March21) Completed by week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Whitby Road, Diamond Road, Lodge Close, Laburnum Grove, North & South Greens, Common Rd \*, A4 London Rd Foxborough\*

### Tree planting remaining

Standard and small feathered trees	648
Whips	1,375

\*Sites relocated due to restrictive underground services, resident opposition, land ownership issue, proposed development.

# Slough Digital Urban Forest



## Project Profile

Regular reporting in local and national press

Regularly featured on Defra and Forestry Commission Website

Featured on European Green Technology Websites

Acknowledged by Forestry Commission as one of the most successful in the UK

Invitation received from Forestry Commission for subsequent bid in 21/23 on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

# Slough Digital Urban Forest



## Community Engagement

Link established on SBC website

<https://www.slough.gov.uk/urbantree>

Ongoing formal and informal consultations with residents

Release of Citizen Science Mobile App In Spring/Summer 2021.

Major education installations for Environment and Technology in selected sites with appropriate spatial conditions

**SLOUGH DIGITAL URBAN FOREST**

**WHAT:** Slough Borough Council in partnership with Defra and Forestry Commission are implementing a joint funded boroughwide tree planting initiative. The Digital Urban Forest Initiative will maximise Slough's resilience and resilient delivery relating to Climate Change.

**INITIATIVES:**

- Focusing on the understory and herb layers within the plantations and their contribution to carbon capture and biodiversity enhancement.
- Reversing the sites from close mowing maintenance regimes in order to increase diversity to the base of the plantations and to monitor carbon storage levels. These Carbon Capture Areas (CCAs) will be maintained as wildflower areas.
- To develop Europe's first plant internet of things (PIIoT) powered phenology monitoring system recording seasonal change.
- Introduce environmental sensors to capture data on tree health, and air quality.
- CCAs will be used as pilot sites to investigate extending biodiversity enhancement measures across the Borough. Areas including existing verges, traffic islands and housing greenspaces will be designated for the application of similar landscape treatments and management where appropriate and over time.

**WHERE:** The sites are located throughout Slough (see map above).

**WATER ATTENUATION:** Trees are effective in water attenuation which helps mitigate flood risk.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** Initiatives to tighten the relationship between community and their part of the forest.

**TEMPERATURE REDUCTION:** Trees actively reduce surface and air temperature (particularly effective during heatwave months).

**IMPROVED AIR QUALITY, CARBON SEQUESTRATION:** Trees improve air quality by effectively filtering various pollutants. Trees both sequester and store carbon dioxide from the air.

**CO<sub>2</sub>**

**INCREASE TREE PLANTING:** Increasing tree planting in the area aims to increase positive benefits for both the environment and local communities.

**COMMUNITY CARE:** This project invites local communities to participate in the care of their local trees and data collection extracted from this project.

**DIGITAL LAYER:** Installation of data loggers and sensors for community monitoring and long-term care of each site.

**COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:** This project aims to increase the provision of attractive spaces for community to engage in both exercise and relaxation.

**ONLINE RESOURCES:** Localised climate data will be extracted and made accessible to the public.

# Slough Digital Urban Forest projected outcomes (1)



Fig 8. Amersfoort temperature cluster on example mobile screen.

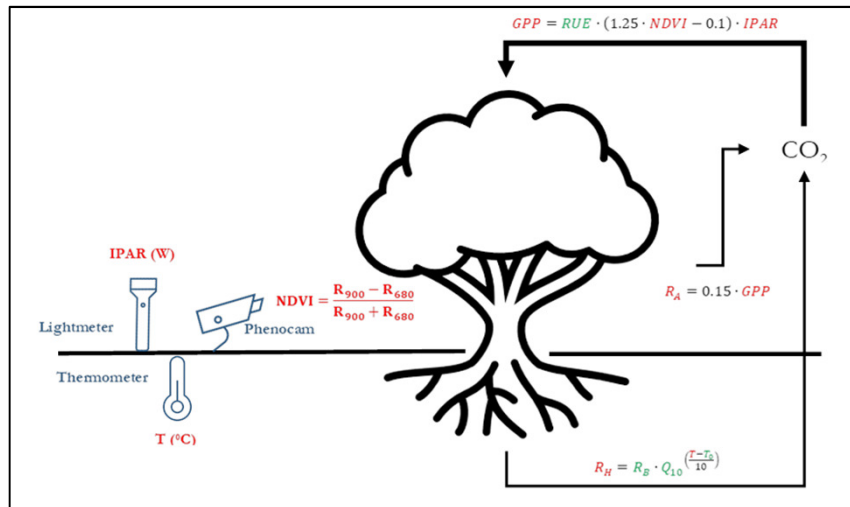
**Establish Citizen Science Open Source LoRa  
platform with Borough wide coverage  
Summer/Autumn 2021**

Residents, Employees and visitors able to  
access data relating to :-

- Real Time Air Quality Measurements
- Real Time Temperature Measurements
- Real Time Soil Moisture Content
- Overall Health Status of the Urban Forest
- Overall Health of particular sectors and some individual specimens

# Slough Digital Urban Forest projected outcomes (2)

**Establish 3 prototype STEM learning  
LABS in preparation for further LEP  
funding and Urban Forest Extension**



Sample of the development phase of the world's first Pmfc powered phenology sensor which is able to measure carbon capture levels

STEM LAB : Diamond Road  
STEM LAB : Baylis Phenology Orchard  
STEM LAB : Foxborough Digital Labyrinth  
External STEM LABS are used to assist with Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics learning.

Key partners on these initiatives

- Reading University
- Wageningen University (N.L)
- Edinburgh University
- University of Lancaster



# Slough Digital Urban Forest projected outcomes (3)



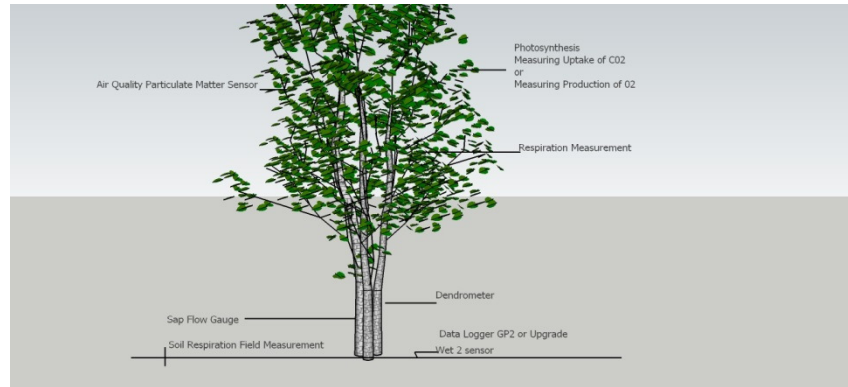
## **Establish Post Covid Training and Volunteer Programme**

The Forest contains 'Coppicing Paddocks' to facilitate formal and informal training.

Potential areas of interest to public volunteers (active) and unemployed (upskilling) are:-

- Woodland Management Skills
- Woodland Crafts (Coppicing, Pollarding Hedge Laying)
- Horticultural Science (in conjunction with Citizen Science App)
- Biodiversity and Habitat Creation

# Slough Digital Urban Forest projected outcomes (4)



**Design in Income Generation – Solar**  
Income generation for future maintenance and development of the Forest.

Establish solar micro grids in selected sites to power sensors and data loggers.  
Sell back surplus power to National Grid to fund future maintenance and development.

***The approach work for this initiative is underway for : -***

Baylis Phenology Orchard  
Foxborough Digital Orchard  
Other sites to be added where appropriate.



# Slough Digital Urban Forest

## Merging Slough Digital Urban Forest and SCH2020

### **Slough Canal Horizon 2020 (SCH 2020)**

The SCH 2020 project was accepted into the LEP funding pipeline in Autumn 2020.

The project title anchors the initiative in the year of Covid 19, as a testament to Slough's continued pursuit of its environmental and developmental innovation.

Negotiations with Thames Valley LEP board are ongoing. The project was proposal was received with enthusiasm and is highly regarded for its innovation and vision.

The following 2 slides will provide further explanation

### **Slough Canal Horizon 2020 (SCH 2020)**

Key Proposals -

- Complete refurbishment of the 5km towpath of the Slough Canal

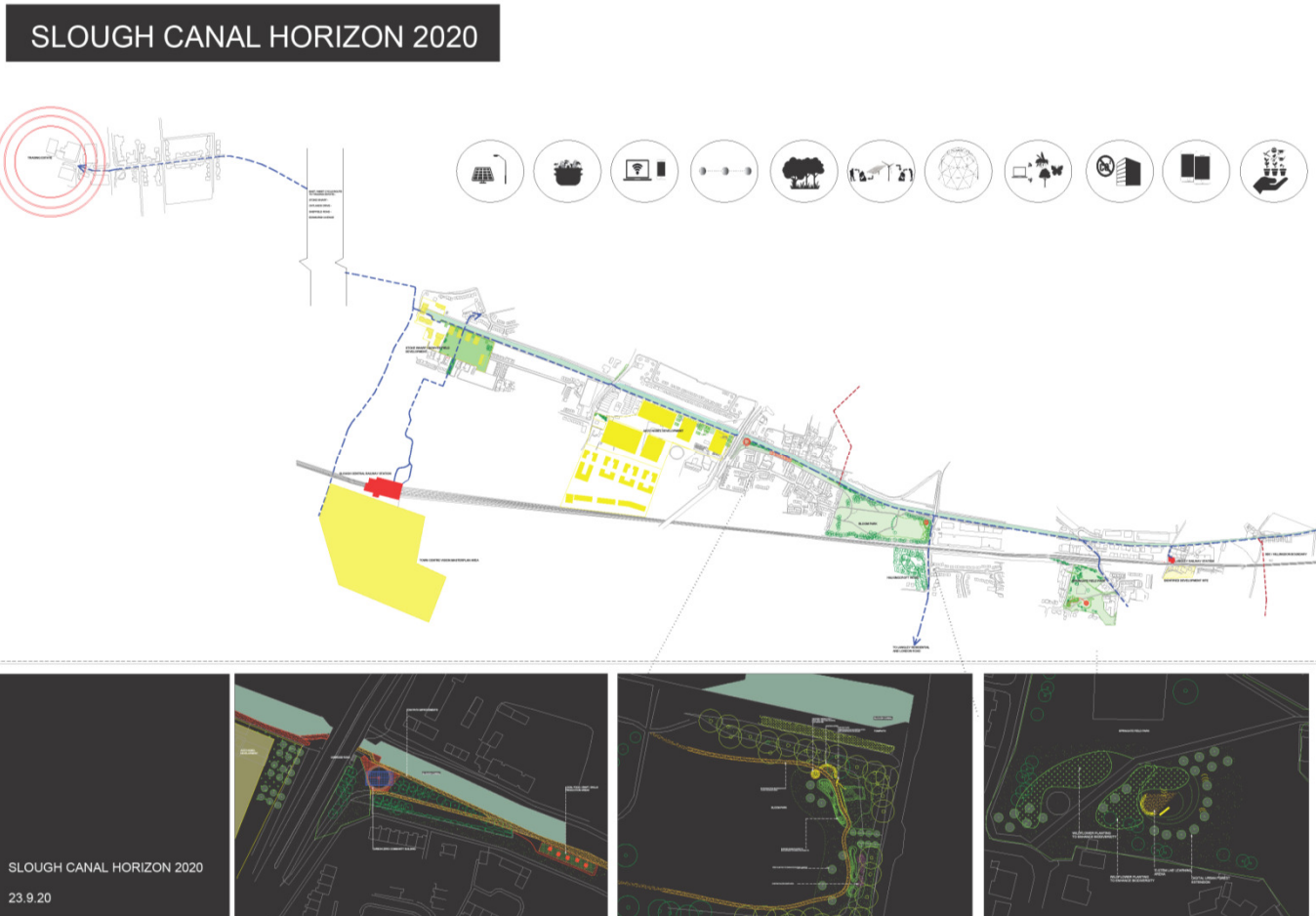
To establish a Slough Digital Urban Forest Hub and Field Centre for the administration, development, education and employment offer of the combined projects.

To Establish a regional STEM learning LAB

To facilitate the Berkshire Green Industry community with available expertise in data management, software development, environmental and climate facing innovation.

# Slough Digital Urban Forest projected outcomes (5)

## Merging Slough Digital Urban Forest and SCH2020



# Slough Digital Urban Forest projected outcomes (5)

## Merging Slough Digital Urban Forest and SCH2020

### SLOUGH CANAL HORIZON 2020

#### MASTERPLANNING PRINCIPLES

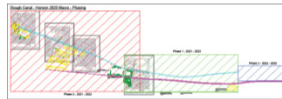


Fig 1. Horizon 2020 Macro-Planning

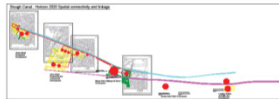


Fig 2. Horizon 2020 Spatial Connectivity and Linkage

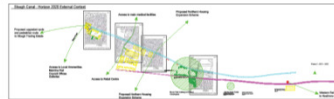


Fig 3. Horizon 2020 External Context

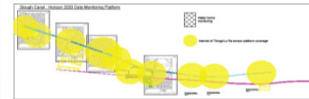
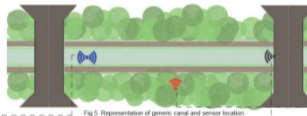


Fig 4. Horizon 2020 Data Monitoring Platform

#### E-STEM LAB

A group of environmental sensors will continuously collect data across the three sites shown.

- The data will be made available through interpretation panels as accessible visualisations that show variations in the local ecology over the days, months, and years.
- These visualisations will also be available online.
- The sensors will sit on an open source design that can be replicated by other groups, such as schools, for monitoring their own environments.



**Bridge**  
Fixed sensors will collect data regarding the changing levels of activity among birds, bats, and other small mammals throughout the day and night. Environmental variables that require attention, such as light, temperature and humidity will also be monitored. The sensors will be housed in a pendant suspended 4-6m above and in front of the mouth of the bridge.

**Canal**  
Sensors will continuously collect data regarding waterflow, turbidity, temperature, suspended solids, and other components. The sensors will be housed in a floating laboratory on a tethered buoy that has probes and sensors beneath the waterline.

**Vegetative Margin**  
Tree-based sensors will measure changes in height, girth, sap flow, photosynthesis, and respiration. These sensors will be distributed amongst a group of newly planted trees and will show their development over a period of years.

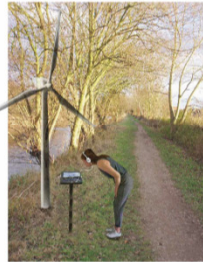


Fig 6. National Wind Turbine Power Demonstration Area

#### Precedent: 'Pond' Station Zehi Puff



Fig 7. National Hydropower Demonstration Area

#### Precedent: ZED Factory



Fig 8. National Solar Power Demonstration Area & Data/Sensor Platform

#### MACRO DATA VISUALISATION

Notional examples of macro-data visualisation art projects.



Fig 9. Synthesizer 2010 - Oberholzer & Marocco



Fig 10. Animatec 2020 - Fig Thomson

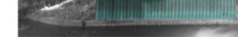


Fig 11. 'Traffic' Fall 2010 - Andrea Puhl

#### CITIZEN SCIENCE

'Citizen science' is the involvement of the public in scientific research for a multitude of projects, local or global.

- The Slough Canal measures your city project is based in Amsterdam and provides a platform that enables citizens to participate in measuring climate change locally.
- This project offers an infrastructure for participants/volunteers to develop and build measuring hardware to measure and analyse personal climate data.



Fig 9. Amsterdam temperature cluster on example mobile screen

#### MICRO DATA VISUALS

Data visualisation as an art form enables the expression of measurement to travel from the spreadsheet to the digital screen. The screens can be integrated into the public realm (see above) and become a useful learning aid as well as the components of an open air gallery attracting visitors from all sections of the public.

- There are various formats for the display of machine data. Digital expressions of collected data from a wide range of parameters relating to atmospheric, environmental or water based monitoring can be expressed on the images seen below. All the prototypes shown below are connected by the idea of allowing people to experience changes in the local environment over time, ranging from days to decades.
- The sensors will be of an open source design that can be replicated by other groups, such as schools, for monitoring their own environments.



Fig 10. Terna Solara project: Glass sphere records the movement and intensity of the sun onto a piece of timber

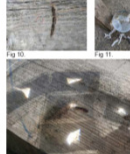


Fig 11. Prague: Demonstrates the idea of quadrants, done made of three lenses to turn the movement of sun into letters

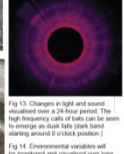


Fig 13. Changes in light and sound visualised over a 24-hour period. The high frequency calls of birds can be seen to emerge as dark dots (dark based) starting around 6 o'clock position.



Fig 14. Environmental variables will be monitored and visualised over long periods. This is a 3D visualisation of changing ambient light levels over a period of three days.

#### LEGACIES AND 'CUSTODIANS'

The database would also be openly available to anyone wishing to use it for research of their own data visualisation experiments in present day, and hopefully will continue to engage a broad demographic over generations in order to promote the recording of changes over a long period of time.

The data will be open source and available to the public including communities, schools, local organisations (e.g. Friends of Slough Canal) and various societies.

#### Present Communities and Future Generations



Precedent: 'Future Library' conceived by Kate Peacock

# Slough Digital Urban Forest projected outcomes (6)



## Urban Forest extensions

During 2020 we have implemented planting schemes outside of the 31 sites of the UTCF.

These are

- Wexham Road 73 trees
- Trelawney Avenue 15 trees
- Bloom Park 6 trees 25 whips & perennials
- Travic Road 6 trees

These sites have been designed and detailed in line with UTCF guidance including 2 years maintenance and irrigation costs.

It was agreed with Cabinet at the outset of UTCF that the project would be developed along an organic principle, distributing the Forest to every corner of the Borough.

# Slough Digital Urban Forest projected outcomes (6)



## **IoT Irrigation systems**

In the Spring of 2021 Faraday Recreation Ground will be the first park in Slough to have an automated irrigation system controlled by the Internet of Things (IoT)

We installed the infrastructure during the sites development and now are able to fund the IoT system by savings made on manual irrigation over the next 3 years.

To irrigate the rest of the Forest we have 'hired' the DSO Gully Tanker resulting in an investment in the DSO upwards of £230k over 3 years.

Forestry Commission spec = 60litres/tree

Gulley tanker capacity = 8000 litres

This means more efficient watering and a reduction in carbon emissions compared to the use of 500 litre bowsers which have proven ineffective when dealing with the Borough's full complement of trees.

# Slough Digital Urban Forest conclusions



The Urban Forest is a 'Lab' in itself where new ideas and responses to changing environmental conditions can be enacted. This innovation facilitates Slough's positive profile while at the same time providing opportunities in education, retraining, environmental, health & wellbeing, and joy.



## Annex 2 – Application for the Planting of a Commemorative Tree

(BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

Email: ..... Telephone number: .....

---

### PREFERRED LOCATION FOR THE TREE (PLEASE PROVIDE AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE):

1<sup>st</sup>Choice:

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

2<sup>nd</sup> Choice (if applicable):

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

The Parks & Open Spaces Team will contact you if there are any queries regarding the proposed location.

---

### GUIDELINES:

1. One tree per application.
2. The tree species and location will be agreed between the Council and the applicant. The Council's decision being final.

### NOTES:

1. Please return one signed and dated copy of this form to: **Parks & Open Spaces, Observatory House, Windsor Road, Slough, Berkshire**
2. Subject to the agreement of the trees location, an invoice for **£150.00** for a 12/14cm girth or **£250.00** for a 16-18cm tree will be sent to you. Prices include VAT at 20% (Please delete whichever tree is not applicable). Other tree sizes may be available and these will be priced accordingly.

(Please **do not** send payment. An invoice will be sent on receipt of the application form).

---

I/We have read the Conditions set out on the back of this form, subject to which the Council is prepared to provide and plant a Commemorative Tree and agree to be bound by them.

Signed: ..... Date: .....

---

**Conditions**

1. Throughout its existence, the tree will remain in the ownership of the Council.
2. Reasonable effort will be taken by the Council to maintain the tree in good condition. Although, not liable for its replacement, any tree which dies, is damaged or is stolen by whatever reason or means, the Council will reserve the right to replace it entirely at its discretion and at its own expense.
3. No plaque of any size or description is to be installed with trees planted in parks and other green spaces unless otherwise authorised by the Council. Slough Cemetery and Crematorium may be able to provide plaques for trees planted within their grounds. Please contact: 01753 523127 or 01753 520702 for further information.
4. The Council reserves the right to relocate or remove completely any tree if it is deemed to be in the Council's best interest. Notification of such action will be made to the applicant at his or her last known address.

**(Office Use Only)**

Tree No. ....	Date planted .....
Tree species .....	
Sum paid £ .....	Invoice No .....
Invoice date .....	



**Data Protection Legislation**

Personal information contained within this form is subject to the Data Protection Act 1998 and will be used for administration purposes only

**SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Cabinet **DATE:** 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Finbar McSweeney, Corporate Complaints manager  
(For all enquiries) (01753) 875244

**WARD(S):** All

**PORTFOLIO:** Councillor Akram, Cabinet Member for Governance & Customer Services

**COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND 2020/21 UPDATE & CABINET ALLOCATIONS****1 Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Cabinet regarding the 2020/21 Community Investment Fund

**2 Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

Cabinet is requested to resolve:

- a) the expenditure to date from the Community Investment Fund 2020/21 to be noted;
- b) any proposal for minor capital schemes within the Cabinet's remaining capital funding allocation of the 2020/21 Community Investment Fund.

**3 Financial**

£210k of revenue was agreed at full Council in February 2020 to provide for the scheme. To date, £193k revenue has been spent/committed.

In February 2020, full Council agreed a capital budget of £1.050m for the Community Investment Fund for 2020/21 (840k for members and 210k for cabinet).

**2019/20 Cabinet underspend**

- 100k Revenue towards Rough Sleepers which has been spent.
- 30k capital to help enable repairs work to make 3 voids habitable which has been spent.
- 25k revenue towards partners to help the unemployed remains unspent.

## 2020/21 Allocation

- 50k capital towards social distancing - £14k spent
- 60k to support temporary improvements for safe walking/cycling and measures to ensure our green gyms operate safely and scheme currently underway
- 45k towards Green Gyms and scheme currently underway
- 10k capital towards Farnham Road Christmas lights which has been spent.

## 4 **Current Position**

Appendix 'A' confirms the amount spent to date, as at 31 December 2020, and the budget remaining on a ward by ward basis.

The 2020/21 budgets for individual wards have been revised to reflect carry-forwards from the previous financial year where schemes were correctly identified and requested by Members in-year but the schemes were not concluded by the end of the financial year.

Currently £485k of capital funding and £17k of revenue funding remains unallocated. The Community Investment Fund runs from 1 May to 31 March each year and applications from ward members for final projects are to be submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> January. It is for individual ward members to make applications for funding from the scheme during the course of the financial year. Not all councillors have utilised their full amount available to date and future proposals are expected.

Cabinet have an allocation of £385k capital funding which includes carry forward of £175k and spent/committed to date is £339k and £46k remains unallocated. Appendix 'B' summarises the amount spent to date, as at 31 December 2020 and what's been committed to date.

## 5 **Conclusion**

The Cabinet are requested to note spend to date on the Community Investment Fund 2020/21

## 6 **Appendices Attached**

'A' - CIF Report December 2020

'B' – Cabinet Report December 2020

CAPITAL				REVENUE		
Ward	20/21 Revised Budget	December 20/21 Actual+ committed	Remaining Budget	20/21 Budget	December 20/21 Actual + committed	Remaining Budget
Baylis & Stoke	103,000.00	103,000.00	0.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00
Britwell & Northborough	93,000.00	33,000.00	60,000.00	15,000.00	0	15,000.00
Central	146,000.00	96,258.73	49,741.27	15,000.00	12,623.37	2,376.63
Chalvey	137,065.00	77,265.01	59,799.99	15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00
Cippenham Meadows	60,000.00	16,023.60	43,976.40	15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00
Cippenham Green	60,000.00	50,265.66	9,734.34	15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00
Colnbrook	100,389.18	78,589.70	21,799.48	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
Elliman	121,000.00	103,906.98	17,093.02	15,000.00	7,130.00	7,870.00
Farnham	60,000.00	30,540.00	29,460.00	15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00
Foxborough	60,000.00	10,452.00	49,548.00	5,000.00	4,080.00	920.00
Haymill & Lynch Hill	123,698.00	63,698.00	60,000.00	15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00
Langley Kederminster	107,000.00	106,540.00	460.00	15,000.00	13,989.00	1,011.00
Langley St Mary's	86,400.00	73,319.31	13,080.69	15,000.00	1,222.35	13,777.65
Upton	124,131.24	80,669.92	43,461.32	15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00
Wexham	113,483.00	87,004.45	26,478.55	15,000.00	8,400.00	6,600.00
Disabled Go Access Guide					5900	
Rough Sleeper					99,998.05	
Towards partners to help unemployed					25000	
					130898.05	-130898.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,495,166.42</b>	<b>1,010,533.36</b>	<b>484,633.06</b>	<b>210,000.00</b>	<b>193,342.77</b>	<b>16,657.23</b>

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### CIF 20/21 Cabinet

Schemes	Comment	Lead Officer	20/21 Revised Capital Budget	Committed 20/21 Capital	20/21 Actual	Remaining Budget
<b>2019/20 Allocations</b>						
Replace signs in parks and public spaces	Awarded works to DMA signs and will be completed by 31st March 2021	G Pleace		100,000.00		
Replacement Trees lost to drought	Completed	A Hibbert		36,470.00		
Equipment installation and repairs to support parks strategy	Completed	A Hibbert				
Rough Sleepers	Completed	C Moone			30,000.00	
Defibrillators in Parks	Ordered and works taking place	K Birdi		8,000.00		
<b>2020/21 Allocations</b>						
Green Gyms	Will be installed in new year	A Hibbert		45,000.00		
Towards Social Distancing	Awaiting costs from DSO for signs on lamps	K Pratt		35,895.00	14,105.00	
Support Temporary Imp to enable safe walking & cycle routes	Undertake feasibility & detailed design of the A4 cycle route, currently completing procurement activities and to be completed by 31st March.	M Byrne		60,000.00		
Farnham Road Christmas Lights	Invoice to be processed	K Pratt		10,000.00		
			<b>385,470.00</b>	<b>295,365.00</b>	<b>44,105.00</b>	<b>46,000.00</b>

Key
Declined
Awaiting comments/estimates from engineers
On Hold
Awaiting councillor Agreements
Dairiased updates-authorized by Cllrs
Completed

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**SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Cabinet **DATE:** 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Nick Pontone, Senior Democratic Services Officer  
(For all enquiries) (01753 875120)

**WARD(S):** All

**PORTFOLIO:** Councillor Sabia Akram – Portfolio Holder for Governance & Customer Services

**PART I**  
**NON-KEY DECISION**

**COVID-19 DECISIONS AND WINTER GRANT SCHEME UPDATE****1 Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this Report is to inform Cabinet of the further significant decisions taken by officers, and to seek ratification of those decisions insofar as they relate to Executive functions.

Lead Members are also asked to note the arrangements being put in place in Slough for the delivery of food vouchers during the February half term through the Covid Winter Grant Scheme.

**2 Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

The Cabinet is requested to resolve:

(a) That the report be noted; and

(b) That the Significant Decisions taken by Silver as set out in Appendix A be ratified.

(c) That the update on the Winter Grant Scheme setting out the position regarding the provision of Free School Meals during the February half term be noted.

**3. The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan**

The decisions taken by officers and set out in this Report have sought to support, as far as reasonably practicable at the present time, the objectives of the [Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy](#) (SJWS) and the Five Year Plan

**3a. Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities –**

The decisions set out in this Report have been taken with the over arching objective of protecting public health and the well being of residents and ensuring that the Council is able to achieve this objective lawfully, and as effectively as possible, in the prevailing circumstances. The recommendations contained in this report seek to ensure that the Council are able to continue to try to meet this objective and thereby be in a position to continue to address the priorities of the SJWS and the JSNA appropriately.

### 3b Five Year Plan Outcomes

The recommendations contained in this Report, namely the noting and ratification of the further significant decisions taken by officers, by Cabinet, at the first available opportunity, will enable the Council to be in a position to be able to go forwards to try and continue to meet the following objectives of the Five Year Plan.

- *Our children and young people will have the best start in life and opportunities to give them positive lives.*
- *Our people will become healthier and will manage their own health, care and support needs.*
- *Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and visit.*
- *Our residents will have access to good quality homes.*
- *Slough will attract, retain and grow businesses and investment to provide jobs and opportunities for our residents*

### 4 Other Implications

#### (a) Financial

Any financial implications of significant decisions taken by officers in connection with the need to deal with the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic are monitored weekly by a special finance group and will be reported to cabinet as part of the usual financial reports to cabinet.

#### Risk Management

Recommendation from section 2 above	Risks/Threats/ Opportunities	Current Controls	Using the Risk Management Matrix Score the risk	Future Controls
That the Cabinet note and ratify the significant decisions taken by officers since the “lockdown” came into force.	Failure by Members to note and ratify these actions and decisions increases the risk of challenge and disruption. Ratification provides the opportunity for the Council to build upon the good results already achieved and to move forward strongly by building upon these results with greater engagement across the Council	The significant decisions and actions have been taken in accordance with governance arrangements put into place in consultation with the Council’s statutory officers and in accordance with all applicable guidance issued by and best practice recommended by all relevant bodies.	Likelihood – Very Low – 2  Legal/ Regulatory – Critical - 3  Score: 6	Increasing return to usual decision making structures and processes as circumstances permit.

(b) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

Any decisions taken by officers pursuant to the statutory regulations enacted by the Government to deal with the Coronavirus pandemic, to enforce business closures and restrict assembly, could potentially be challenged under the Human Rights Act 1998 as being a breach of article 11, relating to the freedom of assembly and association, and of Article 1 of the First Protocol to that convention, relating to the right to peaceful enjoyment of possessions. It is considered, however, that risks of successful challenge are low as, in the latter case, derogations are permitted to control use of property in the general interest and, in the former case, for the protection of public health.

Under the Council's Constitution, the Chief Executive has delegated power to act in case of emergency and urgency to exercise all council functions. Additionally, under the constitution, all matters not specifically reserved are deemed to be within the delegated authority of the Chief Executive and Directors for all purposes which fall within their directorate or budget area or area of responsibility to which they may be nominated from time to time

The Cabinet may ratify any decisions of officers falling within their functions.

(c) Equalities Impact Assessment

All the significant decisions set out in this Report were taken having regard, so far as was practicable in the circumstances, to the public sector equality duties and the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010.

(d) Workforce

The decisions taken by Officers which have affected the workforce are set out in the schedule to this Report.

(e) Property

The restrictions imposed by the Coronavirus Act 2020 on the ability of the Council as a landowner to take action to enforce payments of rents will have had an effect on the Council's asset management position. Any long term effects on the Council's property portfolio and asset management strategy evaluated and reported to the cabinet as part of the Council's normal financial reporting to the cabinet.

(f) Carbon Emissions and Energy Costs

The Council have not at present carried out any systematic analysis of the effect on carbon emissions and energy costs of the decisions taken by officers since the "lockdown" took effect. It is considered that it is self-evident, however, that the restrictions on travel and the reduction in the use and occupation of Council premises and other council activities means that it is unlikely that there was an increase in emissions and energy costs during this period.

## 5 Supporting Information

### Governance

5.1 This report sets out the Significant Decisions taken by Officers in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Robust governance arrangements were put in place in March 2020 to manage SBCs response, which is led by a GOLD and SILVER command structure. GOLD/SILVER meetings have been held jointly since March. This is summarised as follows:

- **GOLD** – Chief Executive and Silver Lead from CMT on rotation  
Overall responsibility for SBC strategy and response, primary liaison with partners and leads on external communications. Lead Members are consulted where appropriate on decisions in their portfolio.
- **SILVER** – led by a member of CMT on rotation, includes CMT, Public Health, Communications and Operations Room Management)  
Responsibility for tactical implementation of GOLD Strategy, escalates strategic decisions to GOLD, refers issues for resolution to task groups.
- **Task Groups** – usually led by an Executive Director or senior Officer  
Manages operational matters and escalate issues to Silver  
Task groups established include Finance, Human Resources and Business Continuity, Community Hub, IT, Children, Adults, Safer Public Spaces, Testing, PPE, Recovery, Local Outbreak Management Plan Cell and Workplace Safety Group.
- **Operations Room** – led by Associate Director  
Seeks to coordinate activity in a single team; logs enquiries, actions and decisions and supports Silver.

### Timeline

5.2 A summary of the key events and phases is summarised as follows:

- 5<sup>th</sup> March – first death in UK from Covid-19 is confirmed.
- 12<sup>th</sup> March – SBC GOLD/SILVER response group meets. SILVER met daily between 23<sup>rd</sup> March to 24<sup>th</sup> April and at least weekly since. It currently meets twice a week.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> March – Prime Minister announces UK-wide partial “lockdown”.
- 26<sup>th</sup> March – Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (England) Regulations 2020 (‘lockdown regulations’) come into force.
- 13<sup>th</sup> May – National ‘Lockdown’ restriction start to be eased and this process continues through June and July. It is not until 25<sup>th</sup> July that indoor gyms and swimming pools are able to reopen.
- 1<sup>st</sup> July – local restrictions introduced in Leicester.

- 18<sup>th</sup> July – Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (England) (No 3) Regulations come into force giving local authorities in England new powers to close shops and outdoor public spaces in order to control Covid.
- 1<sup>st</sup> August 2020 – Shielding programme is paused.
- August / September 2020 – local restrictions across England start to be tightened, particularly in the North West and Yorkshire.
- 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020 – pubs and restaurants ordered to close by 10pm and ‘Rule of 6’ applies.
- 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020 – new Covid tiers come into force. Slough is places in Tier 1 – medium level alert.
- 24<sup>th</sup> October 2020 – Slough moves into Tier 2 – high level alert, which introduced a ban on household mixing.
- 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – Prime Minister announces a new national ‘lockdown’ until 2<sup>nd</sup> December.
- 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – new Tier system is introduced in England to come into force on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Slough will enter Tier 3 – very high alert which means pubs and restaurants remain closed following national ‘lockdown’ and household mixing remains banned.
- 19<sup>th</sup> December 2020 – Government revises Tier system with a new Level 4 Tier – Stay at Home with restrictions similar to those during the national ‘lockdown’ in November. The Government decides to put Slough into this highest Tier.
- 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – Prime Minister announces new national ‘lockdown’ for England.

## 6 **Comments of Other Committees**

A further report on this subject, in the same terms, will also be submitted to full Council at its next meeting.

## 7 **Conclusion**

This report seeks Cabinet ratification of significant decisions at the first available opportunity and will enable the Council to continue to seek to meet its duties to protect public health and to serve the well being of those who live, work and visit its area.

## 8 **Appendices Attached**

Appendix A – Table of significant decisions  
Appendix B – Covid Winter Grant Scheme

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**Appendix - Significant Decisions Taken by Silver**

Reference number	Decision Required	Outcome	Date of decision	Decision made by	Status
DEL201	Agreed approach to Asymptomatic testing for Covid in Berkshire	Agreed in principal but some more information needed on funding was required.	30/12/20	SILVER	Open
DEL202	Agree sign off of collaborative agreement re LFT rollout over 6 weeks	GOLD to sign off collaborative agreement to rollout LFT over 6 weeks. HBPL to review first.	30/12/20	SILVER	Open
DEL203	Requests from Workplace Safety Group	Option 1 agreed to allow the adult learning enrolment at The Curve to be permitted, noting that a risk assessment had been completed and new national 'lockdown' guidance allowed libraries to provide access to digital services for such educational services.	05/01/21	SILVER	Closed
DEL204	Impacts of 'Stay at Home' guidance on SBC services	Agreed that further work be undertaken to refine the options and a revised report come back to Silver.	07/01/21	SILVER	Open
DEL205	Requests from Workplace Safety Group	a. CLS Early Help - Face to Face Meetings within an establishment or school b. CLS Early Help – Face to face meetings with young people in Parks and Open Spaces - request to continue to operate at this time Risk assessments all approved	12/01/21	SILVER	Closed
DEL206	Requests from Workplace Safety Group	Parks and open spaces, site visits, risk assessments all approved	12/01/21	SILVER	Closed
DEL207	Requests from Workplace Safety Group	The Trust, referrals and risk assessments	12/01/21	SILVER	Closed
DEL208	Requests from Workplace Safety Group	Lateral Flow Testing Risk Assessment approved	12/01/21	SILVER	Closed
DEL209	Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) Policy	Policy agreed.	12/01/21	SILVER	Closed
DEL210	Stay at home Policy	Agreed Libraries to remain open for click and collect and customer service points remain open but to close Cippenham and Langley CAP"s so this would leave the Curve and Britwell open. IT services approved as well. Housing Improvement Agency approved pending risk assessment approval.	14/01/21	SILVER	Open

DEL 211	Silver Resources	It was agreed that the Ops room would be privy to COVID email boxes across the council, to stop the working in silos and to join up further all the work we are doing across the council in relation to Covid	14/01/21	SILVER	Closed
DEL212	Proposal for mitigation of contract tracing issues	Report presented and will now go to OPS room first for consideration and come back to silver for a decision on resources for a new team 19/01/2021	14/01/21	SILVER	Open



## **Winter Grant Scheme Update – January 2021**

The Cabinet received an update on the Covid Winter Grant Scheme (WGS) at its meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020. WGS is a 170 million pound fund provided by the government and distributed to local authorities.

Slough Borough Council was allocated £475,125.36 to provide support to vulnerable households and families with children particularly affected by the pandemic.

When administering this scheme, the LA must:

- use discretion on how to identify and support those most in need
- use the funding from **December 2020 up to the end of March 2021** to meet immediate needs and help those who are struggling to afford food and utility bills (heating, cooking, lighting) and water for household purposes (including drinking, washing, cooking, central heating, sewerage and sanitary purposes), or other related essentials.

## **Free School Meals during the February Half Term**

There has been a significant amount of national press coverage recently regarding the provision of free school meals during the forthcoming half term between 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> February.

It is confirmed that Slough Borough Council will use WGS funding to continue to support the approximately 5,500 children eligible for free school meals by providing food vouchers during this half term.

All eligible children will receive £15 vouchers via the school and will be reimbursed by the local authority.

This follows on from the support over the Christmas period (£30 per pupil was provided for the two weeks) which means a total package of approximately £247,500 has been provided between December 2020 to March 2021.

WGS funding is also being used to continue to provide other support to families of vulnerable children. Families known to the Council's Early Help Hub and families known to Slough Children's Services Trust will be able to access support in the same way they did over the Christmas period.

All early years children eligible for the early years pupil premium are included. Funding was distributed to all eligible families over the Christmas period and this will be repeated at February half term.

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**SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Cabinet **DATE:** 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Nick Pontone, Senior Democratic Services Officer  
**(For all enquiries)** 01753 875120

**WARD(S):** All

**PORTFOLIO:** Leader, Regeneration & Strategy – Councillor Swindlehurst

**PART I**  
**NON-KEY DECISION**

**NOTIFICATION OF DECISIONS****1. Purpose of Report**

To seek Cabinet endorsement of the published Notification of Decisions, which has replaced the Executive Forward Plan.

**2. Recommendation**

The Cabinet is requested to resolve that the Notification of Decisions be endorsed.

**3. Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

The Notification of Decisions sets out when key decisions are expected to be taken and a short overview of the matters to be considered. The decisions taken will contribute to all of the following Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities:

1. Protecting vulnerable children
2. Increasing life expectancy by focusing on inequalities
3. Improving mental health and wellbeing
4. Housing

**4. Other Implications****(a) Financial**

There are no financial implications.

**(b) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications**

There are no Human Rights Act implications. The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012 require the executive to publish a notice of the key decisions, and those to be taken in private under Part II of the agenda, at least 28 clear days before the decision can be taken. This notice replaced the legal requirement for a 4-month rolling Forward Plan.

## **5. Supporting Information**

5.1 The Notification of Decisions replaces the Forward Plan. The Notice is updated each month on a rolling basis, and sets out:

- A short description of matters under consideration and when key decisions are expected to be taken over the following three months;
- Who is responsible for taking the decisions and how they can be contacted;
- What relevant reports and background papers are available; and
- Whether it is likely the report will include exempt information which would need to be considered in private in Part II of the agenda.

5.2 The Notice contains matters which the Leader considers will be the subject of a key decision to be taken by the Cabinet, a Committee of the Cabinet, officers, or under joint arrangements in the course of the discharge of an executive function during the period covered by the Plan.

5.3 Key Decisions are defined in Article 14 of the Constitution, as an Executive decision which is likely either:

- to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant, having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards within the Borough.

The Council has decided that any expenditure or savings of £250,000 or more shall be significant for the purposes of a key decision.

5.4 There are provisions for exceptions to the requirement for a key decision to be included in the Notice and these provisions and necessary actions are detailed in paragraphs 15 and 16 of Section 4.2 of the Constitution.

5.5 To avoid duplication of paperwork the Member Panel on the Constitution agreed that the Authority's Notification of Decisions would include both key and non key decisions – and as such the document would form a comprehensive programme of work for the Cabinet. Key decisions are highlighted in bold.

## **6. Appendices Attached**

'A' - Current Notification of Decisions – published 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

## **7. Background Papers**

None.

# **NOTIFICATION OF DECISIONS**

## **1 FEBRUARY 2021 TO 30 APRIL 2021**

Date of Publication: 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **NOTIFICATION OF DECISIONS**

Slough Borough Council has a decision making process involving an Executive (Cabinet) and a Scrutiny Function.

As part of the process, the Council will publish a Notification of Decisions which sets out the decisions which the Cabinet intends to take over the following 3 months. The Notice includes both Key and non Key decisions. Key decisions are those which are financially significant or have a significant impact on 2 or more Wards in the Town. This Notice supersedes all previous editions.

Whilst the majority of the Cabinet's business at the meetings listed in this document will be open to the public and media organisations to attend, there will inevitably be some business to be considered that contains, for example, confidential, commercially sensitive or personal information.

This is formal notice under The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 that part of the Cabinet meetings listed in this Notice will/may be held in private because the agenda and reports for the meeting will contain exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

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This document provides a summary of the reason why a matter is likely to be considered in private / Part II. The full reasons are listed alongside the report on the Council's website.

If you have any queries, or wish to make any representations in relation to the meeting being held in private for the consideration of the Part II items, please email [nicholas.pontone@slough.gov.uk](mailto:nicholas.pontone@slough.gov.uk) (no later than 15 calendar days before the meeting date listed).

#### **What will you find in the Notice?**

For each decision, the plan will give:

- The subject of the report.
- Who will make the decision.
- The date on which or the period in which the decision will be made.
- Contact details of the officer preparing the report.
- A list of those documents considered in the preparation of the report (if not published elsewhere).
- The likelihood the report would contain confidential or exempt information.

## **What is a Key Decision?**

An executive decision which is likely either:

- To result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the Council's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- To be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards within the borough.

## **Who will make the Decision?**

Decisions set out in this Notice will be taken by the Cabinet, unless otherwise specified. All decisions (unless otherwise stated) included in this Notice will be taken on the basis of a written report and will be published on the Council's website before the meeting.

The members of the Cabinet are as follows:

- |                                                   |                         |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Leader of the Council - Regeneration & Strategy | Councillor Swindlehurst |
| • Deputy Leader – Governance & Customer Services  | Councillor Akram        |
| • Sustainable Transport & Environmental Services  | Councillor Anderson     |
| • Inclusive Growth & Skills                       | Councillor Bains        |
| • Planning & Regulation                           | Councillor Mann         |
| • Housing & Community Safety                      | Councillor Nazir        |
| • Health & Wellbeing                              | Councillor Pantelic     |
| • Children & Schools                              | Councillor Carter       |

## **Where can you find a copy of the Notification of Decisions?**

The Plan will be updated and republished monthly. A copy can be obtained from Democratic Services at Observatory House, 25 Windsor Road on weekdays between 9.00 a.m. and 4.45 p.m., from MyCouncil, Landmark Place, High Street, or Tel: (01753) 875120, email: [nicholas.pontone@slough.gov.uk](mailto:nicholas.pontone@slough.gov.uk). Copies will be available in the Borough's libraries and a copy will be published on Slough Borough Council's Website.

## **How can you have your say on Cabinet reports?**

Each Report has a contact officer. If you want to comment or make representations, notify the contact officer before the deadline given.

### **What about the Papers considered when the decision is made?**

Reports relied on to make key decisions will be available before the meeting on the Council's website or are available from Democratic Services.

### **Can you attend the meeting at which the decision will be taken?**

Where decisions are made by the Cabinet, the majority of these will be made in open meetings. Some decisions have to be taken in private, where they are exempt or confidential as detailed in the Local Government Act 1972. You will be able to attend the discussions on all other decisions.

### **When will the decision come into force?**

Implementation of decisions will be delayed for 5 working days after Members are notified of the decisions to allow Members to refer the decisions to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, unless the decision is urgent, in which case it may be implemented immediately.

### **What about key decisions taken by officers?**

Many of the Council's decisions are taken by officers under delegated authority. Key decisions will be listed with those to be taken by the Cabinet. Key and Significant Decisions taken under delegated authority are reported monthly and published on the Council's website.

### **Are there exceptions to the above arrangements?**

There will be occasions when it will not be possible to include a decision/report in this Notice. If a key decision is not in this Notice but cannot be delayed until the next Notice is published, it can still be taken if:

- The Head of Democratic Services has informed the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or relevant Scrutiny Panel in writing, of the proposed decision/action. (In the absence of the above, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be consulted);
- Copies of the Notice have been made available to the Public; and at least 5 working days have passed since public notice was given.
- If the decision is too urgent to comply with the above requirement, the agreement of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been obtained that the decision cannot be reasonably deferred.
- If the decision needs to be taken in the private part of a meeting (Part II) and Notice of this has not been published, the Head of Democratic Services will seek permission from the Chair of Overview & Scrutiny, and publish a Notice setting out how representations can be made in relation to the intention to consider the matter in Part II of the agenda. Urgent Notices are published on the Council's [website](#).



## Cabinet - 1st February 2021

Item	Portfolio	Ward	Priority	Contact Officer	Other Committee	Background Documents	New Item	Likely to be Part II
<u>Revenue Budget Monitor - Quarter 3 2020/21</u>  To receive an update on the latest revenue position and to consider any write off requests, virements and any other financial decisions requiring Cabinet approval.	G&C	All	All	Jo Knight, Interim Service Lead - Finance Tel: 01753 875300	-	None		
<u>Capital Budget Monitor - Quarter 3 2020/21</u>  To receive an update on the capital programme for the third quarter of the year.	G&C	All	All	Jo Knight, Interim Service Lead - Finance Tel: 01753 875300	-	None		
<u>Council Tax Support Scheme</u>  To agree a scheme for the administration of Council Tax support for 2021-22.	G&C	All	All	Neil Wilcox, Executive Director of Corporate Services (Section 151 Officer) Tel: 01753 875358	-	None		
<u>Business Rates Discretionary Policies</u>  To approve the revised Business Rates discretionary policies for 2021/22.	I&S	All	All	Neil Wilcox, Executive Director of Corporate Services (Section 151 Officer) Tel: 01753 875358	-	None		
<u>Strategic Transport Infrastructure Plan</u>  To consider and approve the new Strategic Transport Infrastructure Plan.	T&E	All	All	Savio DeCruz, Associate Director, Place Operations Tel: 01753 875640	O&S, 7/1/20	None		Yes, p3 LGA

**Portfolio Key** – R&S = Regeneration and Strategy, G&C = Governance & Customer Services, T&E = Sustainable Transport & Environmental Services, C&S = Children & Schools, P&R = Planning & Regulation, H&C = Housing & Community Safety, H & S = Health and Wellbeing, I&S = Inclusive Growth & Skills

**Bold** – Key Decision      Non-Bold – Non-Key Decision      *Italics* – Performance/Monitoring Report

<p><b><u>Heart of Slough - North West Quadrant Masterplan - Update</u></b></p> <p>To provide an update on the project business planning, masterplan design, cultural strategy and anticipated project milestones for 2021.</p>	R&S	Central	All	Stephen Gibson, Executive Director of Place Tel: 01753 875852	-	None	√	Yes, p3 LGA
<p><b><u>St Martin's Place Remodelling</u></b></p> <p>Further to previous reports to Cabinet on the remodelling of St Martin's Place to consider an update and take any decisions on the current proposals.</p>	R&S	All	All	Stephen Gibson, Executive Director of Place Tel: 01753 875852	-	None		Yes, p3 LGA
<p><b><u>Renewal of Public Space Protection Orders</u></b></p> <p>To consider a report on Slough Public Space Protection Order following recent consultation.</p>	H&C	All	All	Ian Blake, Resilience and Enforcement Team Manager Tel: 07917 092909	-	None		
<p><b><u>Covid-19 Decisions Update</u></b></p> <p>To update on the significant decisions taken by officers in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and to seek to ratify the executive decisions taken.</p>	R&S	All	All	Nicholas Pontone, Senior Democratic Services Officer Tel: 01753 875120	-	None		
<p><b><u>References from Overview &amp; Scrutiny</u></b></p> <p><i>To consider any recommendations from the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee and the Scrutiny Panels.</i></p>	G&C	All	All	Thomas Overend, Policy Insight Manager	-	None		

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**Bold** – Key Decision      Non-Bold – Non-Key Decision      *Italics* – Performance/Monitoring Report

<u>Notification of Key Decisions</u>  <i>To endorse the published Notification of Decisions.</i>	R&S	All	All	Nicholas Pontone, Senior Democratic Services Officer Tel: 01753 875120	-	None		
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## Cabinet (Special) - 22nd February 2021

Item	Port- folio	Ward	Priority	Contact Officer	Other Committee	Background Documents	New Item	Likely to be Part II
<b><u>Revenue Budget 2021/2022 and MTFS 2021-2025</u></b>  To consider, and if agreed, to recommend to Council the Revenue Budget 2021/22 and the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-2025.	R&S	All	All	Jo Knight, Interim Service Lead - Finance Tel: 01753 875300	O&S	None		
<b><u>Capital Strategy 2021-2026</u></b>  To consider, and if agreed, to recommend to Council the Capital Strategy for the period between 2021-2026.	R&S	All	All	Jo Knight, Interim Service Lead - Finance Tel: 01753 875300	O&S	None		
<b><u>Treasury Management Strategy 2021/22</u></b>  To consider, and if agreed, to recommend to Council the Treasury Management Strategy for 2021/22.	R&S	All	All	Jo Knight, Interim Service Lead - Finance Tel: 01753 875300	O&S	None		
<b><u>Five Year Plan 2021-26</u></b>  To consider, and if agreed, to recommend to Council the refreshed Five Year Plan setting out the Council's strategic priorities.	R&S	All	All	Dean Tyler, Service Lead Strategy & Performance Tel: (01753) 875847	-	None		

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**Bold** – Key Decision      Non-Bold – Non-Key Decision      *Italics* – Performance/Monitoring Report

## Cabinet - 15th March 2021

Item	Portfolio	Ward	Priority	Contact Officer	Other Committee	Background Documents	New Item	Likely to be Part II
<p><b><u>Performance &amp; Projects Report - Quarter 3 2020/21</u></b></p> <p>To receive a report on the progress against the Council's balanced scorecard indicators and key projects for 2020/21.</p>	G&C	All	All	Dean Tyler, Service Lead Strategy & Performance Tel: (01753) 875847	O&S	None		
<p><b><u>Slough Children's Services Trust Transition</u></b></p> <p>To consider a report and take all necessary decisions on the proposed new model for Slough Children's Services Trust.</p>	C&S	All	All	Eleni Ioannides, Interim Executive Director for Children	-	None	√	Yes, p3 LGA
<p><b><u>Covid-19 Decisions Update</u></b></p> <p>To update on the significant decisions taken by officers in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and to seek to ratify the executive decisions taken.</p>	R&S	All	All	Nicholas Pontone, Senior Democratic Services Officer Tel: 01753 875120	-	None		
<p><b><u>References from Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee</u></b></p> <p><i>To consider any recommendations from the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee and the Scrutiny Panels.</i></p>	G&C	All	All	Thomas Overend, Policy Insight Manager	-	None		

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**Bold** – Key Decision      Non-Bold – Non-Key Decision      *Italics* – Performance/Monitoring Report

<u>Notification of Key Decisions</u>  <i>To endorse the published Notification of Decisions.</i>	R&S	All	All	Nicholas Pontone, Senior Democratic Services Officer Tel: 01753 875120	-	None		
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## Cabinet - 12th April 2021

Item	Port- folio	Ward	Priority	Contact Officer	Other Committee	Background Documents	New Item	Likely to be Part II
<b><u>SUR Partnership Business Plan</u></b>  To approve the Slough Urban Renewal Partnership Business Plan for 2021/22.	R&S	All	All	Stephen Gibson, Executive Director of Place Tel: 01753 875852	-	None	√	
<b><u>CIIF Annual Report &amp; 2021/22 Cabinet Allocations</u></b>  To receive an update on the outturn of the Community Investment Fund 2020/21 and consider any proposals for the Cabinet allocation for 2021/22.	G&C	All	All	Finbar McSweeney, Corporate Complaints Manager Tel: 01753 875244	-	None	√	
<u>Contracts in Excess of £180k</u>  To approve the commencement of tendering for contracts in excess of £180,000 in 2021/22 and to note any exemptions to competitive tendering.	G&C	All	All	Nicholas Pontone, Senior Democratic Services Officer Tel: 01753 875120	-	None	√	

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**Bold** – Key Decision      Non-Bold – Non-Key Decision      *Italics* – Performance/Monitoring Report

<p><b><u>Covid-19 Decisions Update</u></b></p> <p><i>To update on the significant decisions taken by officers in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and to seek to ratify the executive decisions taken.</i></p>	R&S	All	All	Nicholas Pontone, Senior Democratic Services Officer Tel: 01753 875120	-	None	√	
<p><b><u>References from Overview &amp; Scrutiny</u></b></p> <p><i>To consider any recommendations from the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee and the Scrutiny Panels.</i></p>	G&C	All	All	Thomas Overend, Policy Insight Manager	-		√	
<p><b><u>Notification of Key Decisions</u></b></p> <p><i>To endorse the published Notification of Decisions.</i></p>	R&S	All	All	Nicholas Pontone, Senior Democratic Services Officer Tel: 01753 875120	-	None	√	

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