



## AYLESBURY VALE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### Democratic Services

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4 September 2019

### COUNCIL

A meeting of the Aylesbury Vale District Council will be held at **6.30 pm on Wednesday 18th September 2019** in **The Oculus, Aylesbury Vale District Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF**, when your attendance is requested.

Contact Officer for meeting arrangements: Bill Ashton; [bashton@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk](mailto:bashton@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk);

#### WEBCASTING NOTICE

**Please note:** This meeting may be filmed for subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site – at the start of the meeting the Chairman will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed.

You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act. Data collected during this webcast will be retained in accordance with the Council's published policy.

Therefore by entering the meeting room, you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes.

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact the Monitoring Officer on 01296 585032.

#### AGENDA

##### 1. APOLOGIES

##### 2. MINUTES (Pages 3 - 8)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17 July, 2019, copy attached as an appendix.

##### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members to declare any interests.

##### 4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

By the Chairman of the Council.  
By the Leader/Cabinet Members.

##### 5. PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS (IF ANY)

**6. WRITTEN QUESTIONS (IF ANY)**

No written questions were submitted by Members during August 2019.

Previous Members' Written Questions and Answers can be accessed at <http://democracy.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=441>

**7. APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER (RO) AND ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER (ERO) (Pages 9 - 12)**

**Councillor Mrs Macpherson  
Leader of the Council**

To consider the attached report.

**8. AVDC ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES (Pages 13 - 30)**

**Councillor Irwin  
Cabinet Member for Environment**

To consider the attached report.

**9. NEW NOTICE OF MOTION: CLIMATE CHANGE (Pages 31 - 32)**

To consider the new Notice of Motion attached as an appendix.

**10. NEW NOTICE OF MOTION: TO OPPOSE THE OXFORD-CAMBRIDGE EXPRESSWAY (Pages 33 - 34)**

To consider the new Notice of Motion attached as an appendix.

**11. QUESTION TIME**

There will be an opportunity for Members to ask questions of individual Cabinet Members and Committee Chairmen.

## MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A MEETING OF THE AYLESBURY VALE DISTRICT COUNCIL

17 JULY 2019

This meeting was webcast. To view the detailed discussions that took place please see the webcast which can be found at:

<http://www.aylesburyvaledc.publici.tv/core/portal/home>

**PRESENT:** Councillor J Brandis (Chairman); Councillors C Poll (Vice-Chairman), C Adams, A Bond, S Bowles, C Branston, B Chapple OBE, S Chapple, J Chilver, A Christensen, A Cole, S Cole, M Collins, P Cooper, B Everitt, N Glover, A Harrison, M Hawke, T Hussain, A Huxley, P Irwin, S Jenkins, S Lambert, D Lyons, A Macpherson, T Mills, G Moore, H Mordue, S Morgan, R Newcombe, C Paternoster, G Powell, W Raja, M Rand, S Renshell, B Russel, M Smith, M Stamp, Sir Beville Stanier Bt, P Strachan, R Stuchbury, D Town, A Waite, J Ward, W Whyte and M Winn

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors B Adams, M Bateman, J Blake, N Blake, J Bloom, P Fealey, B Foster, T Hunter-Watts, S Jarvis, R Khan, R King, L Monger and S Raven

### WEBCASTING

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Chairman reminded everyone present that the meeting would be broadcast live to the internet and be capable of repeated viewing.

Members of the audience who did not wish to be on camera were invited to move to a marked area at the side of the chamber.

### 1. MRS HANNELLY

Prior to the commencement of the formal business of the meeting, Members and officers present stood in silent tribute to the memory of former Councillor Mrs Pauline Hannelly who had passed away recently. Mrs Hannelly was an Honorary Alderman and had been a Member of the Council for 20 years, representing the Stewkley Ward between 1987 and 1995 and the Edlesborough Ward between 1995 and 2007.

### 2. MINUTES

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 15 May, 2019 be approved as a correct record.

### 3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### (a) Chairman of the Council

#### Charity Sky Dive

Members were reminded that the Chairman's nominated charity was NEST, a small local charity that provided support to families with young children. The Chairman invited the Vice-Chairman to make a short statement about a recent charity sky dive which he and his PA, Rebecca Henson had undertaken to raise funds for the Chairman's charity. The event had raised almost £1,500. All those who had made donations were thanked for their support.

## **Buckingham University**

At the invitation of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman reported that on 29 June, 2019, he had attended the inaugural graduation of medical students at Buckingham University. 57 students had graduated at the University which was the first not for profit, independent and accredited medical school in the United Kingdom.

## **WizFizz Fest**

The Chairman reported that some 27,000 people had attended this event which took place on 22 June, 2019. The event had been a great success, and in addition to promoting creative art, had contributed to ensuring a thriving local economy. The Chairman extended the Council's thanks to all those involved in the organisation of the event.

## **Chilterns Conservation Board**

The Board's Annual Review for 2018/2019 had been circulated this evening to all Members of the Council. The Board had been established to ensure the conservation and protection of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Beauty. The Council contributed financially towards the activities of the Board. The Council's representative on the Board, Councillor Newcombe was invited by the Chairman to comment on the Annual Review and remind Members of the significance of its work in this part of the Vale.

## **(b) Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members**

### **Climate Change (Leader of the Council)**

Members' attention was drawn to the UN Inter-governmental report on Climate Change, and in particular the scientific evidence that suggested that only 12 years remained during which to limit the worst effects of global warming. The leader of the Council reported that she had asked officers to facilitate a debate at the next full meeting of the Council on the actions that AVDC was taking, and might be able to take in the future, to mitigate the effects of climate change.

### **Plastics in the Environment (Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure)**

Members were advised that an Aylesbury Grammar School pupil, Ed Campbell, had recently addressed Cabinet informally on the work he was involved with, designed to promote and encourage a reduction in the use of non-biodegradable plastics which had scientifically been proven to cause serious harm to the natural environment. In view of the linkages between Ed's work and the subject referred to above, it was intended to invite him to the September Council meeting.

### **"Kids Clean Britain" (Cabinet Member for Economic Development)**

It was reported that Members representing the Wendover and Halton Ward had recently met with a nine year old pupil of Wendover Junior School (Lola Wardrup) to learn about her initiative to promote a reduction in the amount of litter deposited in the local community. This would involve a litter picking day on 21 September. Lola had been afforded an opportunity to talk about her initiative on local radio as a means of promoting the event.

### **Green Flag Awards (Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure)**

Aylesbury's Bedgrove and Vale Parks, along with Buckingham's Heartlands had again been recognised by the Green Flag Award Scheme as some of the very best kept open spaces in the UK. The Cabinet Member asked that the Council's thanks be extended to Chris Ashton (Parks and Open Spaces Officer) and the Council's Green Spaces Team for this achievement.

### **Development Management (Cabinet Member for Planning and Enforcement)**

Members were advised of the on-going work in the area of development management to improve and enhance the customer offer. Progress had been made with a number of initiatives including the introduction of short form reports, work to increase the delegation opportunities for individual officers and improvements in customer information provision channels. The Planning Advisory Service had reviewed the service and had endorsed the actions implemented. The Planning Advisory Service had confirmed that the difficulties facing the Council in attracting planning officers was not unique and that because the Vale was a growth area, the exceptionally high numbers of planning applications made the improvement of the service particularly challenging. Nevertheless the Council would continue to explore every opportunity to enhance the service to customers.

#### **4. PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS (IF ANY)**

There were none.

#### **5. WRITTEN QUESTIONS (IF ANY)**

Members were reminded that written questions submitted since the last meeting of the Council could be viewed on the Council's website.

#### **6. QUESTION TIME**

Members had the opportunity to ask questions of individual Cabinet Members and Committee Chairmen about issues affecting their portfolios/Committee activities:-

##### **(a) Oxford to Cambridge Expressway (Councillor Everitt)**

The Leader of the Council confirmed that she was aware that both Milton Keynes Council and an Oxfordshire local authority had entered into a non disclosure agreement with Highways England in relation to the proposed route of the Expressway. The Leader indicated that neither she, or the Leader of Buckinghamshire County Council had been willing to enter into any such arrangement, given the serious concerns they had about the environmental impacts on the Vale.

##### **(b) Household Recycling Centres (Councillor Lambert)**

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure advised that there was no analytical information currently available to determine whether or not the changes made to the opening hours and the introduction of charges for certain types of waste had caused any increase in fly tipping.

##### **(c) Fairford Leys Riverine Corridor (Councillor Lambert)**

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources indicated that, as far as he was aware, the S106 monies would continue to be ring fenced after the transfer of

budgets to the new unitary authority, but that he would seek confirmation and write directly to Councillor Lambert.

**(d) River Great Ouse, Buckingham (Councillor Mills)**

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Health confirmed that further to recovery work undertaken by the Environment Agency after a chemical spill, approximately 25,000 fish had been released into the river. Work had been undertaken using S106 monies to improve flood defences and further work was being explored with Buckingham Town Council and other partners regarding the possible funding of warden schemes.

**(e) Former Community Centre, Fairfax Crescent, Aylesbury (Councillor Mrs Morgan)**

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Enforcement indicated that he would seek an update regarding the planning permissions granted for the redevelopment of the site and write directly to Councillor Mrs Morgan.

**(f) Food Safety Inspections (Councillor Mrs Renshell)**

The Cabinet Member for Waste and Licensing advised that there were around 1,500 food businesses within the Vale and that about 80% of these scored 4 or five out of five. Inspections were targeted at high risk and continually poor performing establishments. However all establishments were subject to inspection on a rolling basis.

**(g) Council Tax and Business Rates Collection (Councillor Mrs Renshell)**

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources advised that the authority continued to perform well and employed its own bailiffs which had resulted in the provision of a better customer service. The collection rate for Council Tax was 98.8% and for business rates, was 99.5%.

**(h) Domestic Food Waste Collection ( Councillor Huxley)**

The Cabinet Member for Waste and Licensing advised that he thought that it should be possible to deal with queries about missed collections on the day they were received and that if Councillor Huxley provided him with details of the incident to which he was referring he would investigate and write directly to Councillor Huxley.

**(i) Planning Enforcement (Councillor Huxley)**

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Enforcement confirmed that Member updates had been paused for a variety of reasons, not least the need to improve the overall development management process (referred to earlier under announcements). It was however intended to re-instate the previous arrangements when practicable. He thought the suggestion regarding Members undertaking formal enforcement work was interesting but cautioned that there could be potential legal implications associated with any such activity.

**(j) Westcott Enterprise Zone (Councillor Whyte)**

The Cabinet Member for Economic Development confirmed that he was aware of the enormous existing and future potential economic benefits of developing rocket and satellite technology businesses at the site. He indicated that discussions had

taken place with the relevant LEP with a view to encouraging investment in these technologies.

**(k) Traffic Congestion A41 Aylesbury (Councillor C Adams)**

The Cabinet Member for strategic Planning and Infrastructure advised that whilst the site had been granted planning permission, which included a requirement for additional entry/egress arrangements at the site, the regulation of the highway works was the responsibility of the County Council as Highway Authority. The Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure (who was also the Deputy County Cabinet Member for Transportation) indicated that the developers, Taylor Wimpey had not undertaken any detailed discussions with the Highway Authority about the execution of the works which was regrettable. It was however hoped that the situation would be resolved satisfactorily in the very near future.

**(l) Visual Appearance of key sites in Aylesbury (Councillor C Adams)**

The Cabinet Member for Civic Amenities attempts to acquire the site occupied by QD at the bottom of Aylesbury High Street had met with no interest from the owners of the building. The sites opposite the Gateway Offices (Gatehouse Road) and at the former magistrates' court had been identified for future development, but the owners' intentions were currently unknown.

**(m) Development Management Initiatives (Councillor Town)**

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Enforcement confirmed that a recent initiative to focus efforts on overdue planning applications for a week (dedicated to this work only), had been a success, with 165 cases having been determined. It was indicated that a repeat of the exercise would be considered within the context of the other arrangements for improving the service referred to elsewhere in these Minutes.

**(n) Aylesbury Vale Broadband (Councillor Christensen)**

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources advised that the monies currently held in the escrow account could be drawn down reasonably soon. The Leader of the Council agreed that she would arrange a briefing for Group Leaders in the near future at which more detail would be given.

**(o) Grass Cutting (Councillor Christensen)**

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure confirmed that there had previously been discussions between AVDC, BCC and VAHT about grass cutting arrangements. He acknowledged that there still appeared to be some confusion about responsibility and frequency in relation to specific sites and that he would arrange further meetings with the parties concerned.

**(p) Street Cleaning – Aylesbury Town Centre (Councillor Mrs Russel)**

The Cabinet Member for Civic Amenities (and the Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure) advised that there were street cleaning teams in the town centre throughout the day from Monday to Sunday and that performance was monitored. It was confirmed that key areas were regularly pressure washed and that additional funding had been secured to purchase two new pieces of equipment to remove chewing gum from pavements.

**(q) Climate Change (Councillor Stuchbury)**

The Leader of the Council confirmed that Council would be debating this issue at the September Council meeting (as referred to elsewhere in these Minutes).

**(r) Oxford to Cambridge Expressway (Councillor Stuchbury and Councillor Newcombe)**

As referred to earlier during the meeting, the leader of the Council confirmed that a non disclosure agreement had not been entered into by AVDC with Highways England. The Council would be advised of the preferred route in the Autumn when publicly announced.

The Leader agreed to seek guidance as to whether or not the Freedom of Information legislation could be used to obtain information included in the non disclosure agreement, as also referred to earlier during the meeting.

**(s) Social Housing Delivery (Councillor Powell)**

The Cabinet Member for Communities advised that over 1,550 affordable homes had been delivered in the Vale between 2013 and 2018, which was an excellent performance. It was confirmed that affordable rented housing was charged at up to 80% of the market rent, whereas social rented housing was 50% to 60%. Discussions were on-going with Registered Housing Providers about the delivery of new social rented units, with the potential for up to 65 units being delivered.

**(t) Audit of Accounts (Councillor Newcombe)**

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources joined Councillor Newcombe in thanking the finance team who had had to change their work and leave plans to accommodate the late audit of the Council's accounts. This matter had been reported in detail to the Audit Committee who had expressed strong concerns about the delay in the external audit.

**(u) HS2 (Councillor A Cole)**

The Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Infrastructure advised that initial efforts to seek a re-arranged meeting with HS2 had been unsuccessful, with no suitable dates being offered. Further efforts would be made to agree an evening date at which could be open for attendance by County, District and Parish Members.

**7. TRACEY ALDWORTH**

Members were advised that this was the last Council meeting to be attended by Tracey Aldworth, Director, before taking up her appointment as Deputy Chief Executive of Milton Keynes Council. Members thanked her for all her work for AVDC and wished her well for the future.

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## **APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER (RO) AND ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER (ERO)**

**Councillor A Macpherson**  
**Leader of the Council**

### **1 Purpose**

- 1.1** To appoint an RO and ERO (and confirm the appointment of Deputies) consequent upon the resignation of the Director, Tracey Aldworth, to take up an appointment at Milton Keynes Council.

### **2 Recommendation**

- 2.1** That Teresa Lane, Assistant Director Commercial Property and Regeneration be appointed as the Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer with effect from this meeting until (and including) 31 March 2020, in accordance with the requirements of the Representation of the People Act, 1983.
- 2.2** That Ifty Ali (Lead Legal and Monitoring Officer) be appointed Deputy Electoral Registration Officer for the same period.
- 2.3** That Ifty Ali(Lead Legal and Monitoring Officer) Andy Barton (Assistant Director Business Strategy and Support), Bill Ashton (Democratic and Electoral Manager), Jo Hart (Electoral Specialist) and Craig Saunders (Democratic Specialist) be appointed as Deputy Returning Officers for all elections and as Deputy Counting Officers for Neighbourhood Plan Referendums (also for the period referred to in 2.1 above).

### **3 Supporting information**

- 3.1** The RO is the person who has overall responsibility for the conduct of elections within the District of Aylesbury Vale. Section 35 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 requires the Council to appoint an officer of the Council to be the RO in local elections. The RO is an officer of the Council but the role of RO is a personal responsibility, independent and separate from their duties as an employee of the Council. The RO may appoint one or more persons to act as Deputy Returning Officer(s) to discharge all or any of their functions. To put matters beyond doubt it is recommended that the Deputy Returning Officers should be Ifty Ali (Lead Legal and Monitoring Officer), Andy Barton (Assistant Director Business Strategy and Support), Bill Ashton (Democratic and Electoral Manager), Jo Hart (Electoral Specialist) and Craig Saunders (Democratic Specialist).
- 3.2** The ERO is the person with statutory responsibility for the creation and maintenance of the Register of Electors and the Absent Voters List. This person takes responsibility for publishing a revised electoral register and issuing alteration notices. The ERO is also the Acting Returning Officer for UK Parliamentary Elections.
- 3.3** The ERO is an officer of the Council but the role of ERO is a personal responsibility, independent and separate from their duties as an employee of the Council. These two roles, the RO and ERO are typically combined and performed by one person. The appointments must be made by the full Council.
- 3.4** It is the duty of the RO to organise and conduct elections, including:-

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- Dealing with the nominations process for candidates and political parties.
- Dealing with the provision, administration, security and notification of polling stations.
- Appointing staff such as Presiding Officers, Poll Clerks and Counting staff.
- The preparation and issue of ballot papers, issue, receipt and counting of postal ballot papers.
- Organising and delivering the count and the declaration of results.
- The receipt of all candidates' election expenses returns.
- Presentation of final accounts and claiming appropriate funding from Central Government as prescribed in legislation and statutory guidance.
- Retention of election documents.

- 3.5** The ERO is the person with statutory responsibility for the creation, maintenance, security and distribution of the Register of Electors and the Absent Voters List. At an election, the ERO has a statutory obligation to provide registers and Absent Voters Lists for each polling station as well as to candidates at the election and to the RO.
- 3.6** In the event of a Parliamentary election being called, the ERO would be the Acting Returning Officer.
- 3.7** At AVDC, the RO and ERO roles have traditionally been held by the Head of the paid Service (previously Andrew Grant). Following Andrew Grant's departure, Council agreed to divide his responsibilities between the remaining two Directors. Andrew Small took on the role of Head of Paid Service and the roles of RO and ERO were passed to Tracey Aldworth.
- 3.8** Tracey Aldworth has given notice of her intention to leave AVDC to take up the appointment of Deputy Chief Executive at Milton Keynes Council. In the circumstances, the Head of Paid Service, who is also the Council's lead officer in relation to the transition to a new unitary authority has recommended that the roles of RO and ERO be passed formally to Teresa Lane, Assistant Director Commercial Property and Regeneration. Teresa Lane has a number of years' experience in relation to the conduct of all types of elections, ranging from local elections, UK Parliamentary Elections and EU Parliamentary Elections through to referendums such as that held in connection with the UK's continued membership of the European Union.
- 3.9** The appointment Of Teresa Lane (and the other officer roles) will last only until 31 March, 2020. It will then be the responsibility of the new Buckinghamshire Council to appoint an RO, ERO and Deputies. It would also be prudent to appoint a Deputy ERO and it is recommended that this should be Ifty Ali (Lead Legal and Monitoring Officer).

**4. Resource Implications**

- 4.1** The Representation of the People Act 1983 makes provision for a scale of expenses to be fixed for the purposes of determining the RO's expenditure. Elections are categorised as either "local" (i.e. Parish, District, County) or Parliamentary. The latter have their own fees and charges set by the Cabinet Office and appropriate expenditure on these elections is reclaimed from

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Central Government. There is no change to the current budgetary position. The costs associated with Neighbourhood Plan Referendums are met by grant from Central Government.

Contact Officer  
Background Documents

Bill Ashton (01296) 585040  
None

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## AVDC ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

Councillor Irwin

Cabinet Member for Environment

### 1. Purpose

- 1.1. To highlight the work that AVDC has undertaken to improve the environment of the Vale, together with a proposal to continue to build on that work through AVDC's environmental initiative programme.

### 2. For Decision

Council is asked to:-

- 2.1 Note the work already undertaken on environmental issues across the Vale, and the proposal to continue this work through the AVDC environmental initiatives programme, as set out in the attached Cabinet report.
- 2.2 Approve the release of up to £60,000 from general funds / unallocated balances for this next phase of environmental initiatives.

### 3. Supporting Information

- 3.1 At the Council meeting of 17 July 2019, the Leader announced that Officers had been asked to facilitate a debate at the next full meeting of the Council on the actions that AVDC was taking, and might be able to take in the future, to mitigate the effects of climate change.
- 3.2 Attached is a report that was submitted to the Cabinet meeting on 11 September 2019 and which highlighted the work that AVDC has undertaken to improve the environment of the Vale.
- 3.3 Building on this success, the Cabinet report proposed that funding be made available to employ a technical consultant to draft and implement the next stage of the Council's environmental initiative programme. The report highlighted some examples of what could be achieved locally that would continue to drive cultural change and improve focus environmental issues in the Vale.
- 3.4 This new phase of the environmental initiative would require the creation of a budget of up to £60,000 to provide administrative and technical resource required to develop the action plan and deliver the initiative. As no monies had currently been specified for this use, the budget would need to be funded through the use of general funds, unallocated balances.
- 3.5 It is anticipated that Cabinet will make the above recommendations to Council having regard to the proposed recommendations to be considered at that meeting. However, should this not be the case, a copy of Cabinet's final recommendations will be circulated at the Council meeting.

**4. Options Considered/Reasons for Recommendations/Resource Implications**

**4.1** These are all detailed in the attached Cabinet report.

**Contact Officer:** Jeff Membro (01296) 585316

**Background documents:** As detailed

**AVDC ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES**  
**Councillor Irwin**  
**Cabinet Member for Environment**

**1 Purpose**

- 1.1 This report highlights the work that AVDC has undertaken to improve the environment of the Vale and proposes the continuation of the environmental initiative with the allocation of the resources needed to achieve that.

**2 Recommendations/for decision**

- |     |  |
|-----|--|
| 2.1 | That the work the Council is already undertaking on environmental issues be noted.   |
| 2.2 | That Cabinet agree that future environmental actions should continue until vesting day focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Providing Environmental Leadership.</li><li>• Supporting Local Initiatives.</li><li>• Working in Partnership.</li></ul> |
| 2.3 | That Council be recommended to release a budget of up to £60,000 to facilitate the continuation of AVDC's environmental initiatives programme.   |

**3 Executive summary**

- 3.1 At the Council meeting of 17 July 2019, the Leader announced that Officers had been asked to facilitate a debate at the next full meeting of the Council on the actions that AVDC was taking, and might be able to take in the future, to mitigate the effects of climate change.
- 3.2 This report therefore asks Members to note the significant success that the Council – working with residents and other stakeholders – has achieved in reducing CO2 emissions over recent years and highlights some of the nationally recognised environmental work the Council has undertaken. The report recognises, however, it that further work is needed locally if we are to maintain the momentum required meet the challenging target set by the Government for the UK to be carbon neutral by 2050.
- 3.3 The report therefore proposes that funding be made available to employ a technical consultant to draft and implement the next phase of the Council's environmental initiative programme whilst permanent officers continue to work upon the delivery of the new unitary council.
- 3.4 To facilitate the debate on actions to be taken by the Council before vesting day, the report highlights some examples of what could be achieved locally that would continue to drive cultural change and improve focus on environmental issues in the vale.
- 3.5 The report highlights some areas of best practice from other council and identifies some ideas of the type of potential actions that members may wish to debate.

**4 Supporting information**

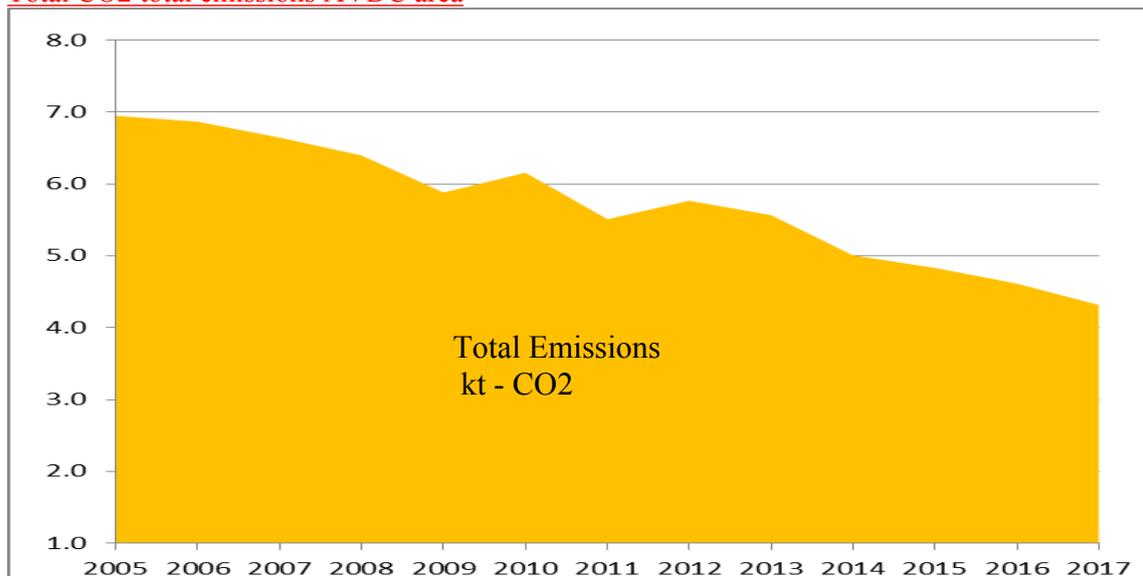
- 4.1 The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) October 2018 report on climate change highlighted the chilling fact that the world has just 12 years to make considerable positive change in the way we deal with our

environment before irreparable damage is done to our planet. This report received significant public attention and has resulted in a significant increase in environmental awareness of the population as a whole.

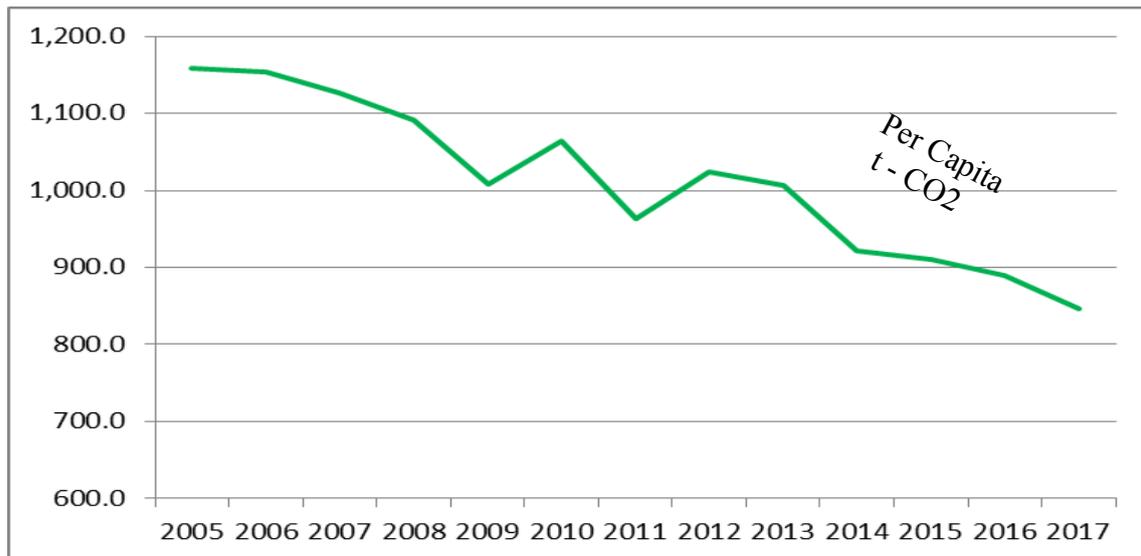
- 4.2 In June 2019 the Government responded to the report by announcing that the UK will cut emissions to net zero by 2050.
- 4.3 On a local level, many Councils (now 80+) across the UK have declared a “climate emergency” and pledged to significantly reduce their carbon emissions - or become carbon neutral - by 2050 or earlier.
- 4.4 Although these declarations have generally been well received, a number of Councils who made the declaration have had it criticised as an empty gesture as they did not put in place an action plan to achieve these aims nor did they put in place any monitoring or reporting arrangements.
- 4.5 With the new Buckinghamshire Council replacing the existing councils in April 2020 the practical focus of AVDCs actions needs to be on practical initiatives that deliver results in months not years. This report outlines some proposals for giving fresh impetus to our work in addressing the current environmental challenges and continues to build on a culture of supporting the environment that the work of this council has already achieved.
- 4.6 AVDC already have a strong track record in addressing environmental concerns and CO2 emissions. Supporting the work being undertaken nationally by Government and NGOs, AVDC have worked locally with residents, businesses and other stakeholders to reduce carbon emissions across the vale.
- 4.7 This work has strongly contributed to a significant success with both overall emissions and per capita emissions across the vale reducing significantly since 2005.

- Source – data.gov.uk last data available is for 2017.

Total CO2 total emissions AVDC area



Co2 emissions per capita AVDC area



- 4.8 This represents a **27%** reduction in CO2 across the vale overall and a very positive **38%** reduction in the per capita figure. In particular, the per capita reduction compares favourably with the Buckinghamshire average of **33%**
- 4.9 In essence, AVDC have built environmental considerations into every aspect of the work that we undertake as a council. This is illustrated by the list of existing undertakings in Appendix 1 of this report, with the case studies below being just some of the highlights that have been recognised on the national stage.

***Kingsbrook Development (Planning)***

*AVDCs commitment to working with partners to deliver on the environmental agenda is typified by the Kingsbrook development, the outcome of a unique collaboration between AVDC, the RSPB, and Barret and David Wilson Homes. Kingsbrook stretches over 1000 acres with 2,450 new homes.*

*A commitment to putting nature at the heart of development is its defining feature and a central tenant of AVDC's promotion of the garden town principles. 60% of Kingsbrook is green infrastructure, including ponds, parks, meadows, orchards, wildlife corridors, wildflower grassland and a nature reserve to encourage invertebrates.*

*Rills and swales have been employed to promote wetlands and all show gardens are wildflower planted. The RSPB were instrumental in devising a special brick to allow swallows and house martins to roost in homes without damaging brickwork. It is hoped that this unique approach can help form a template for future sustainable development at a national level.*

- 4.10 Kingsbrook shows the impact that AVDCs policies can have on improving the environment and also how we can work in partnership to deliver good quality ecologically friendly developments.
- 4.11 Another positive example is the UK Black Poplar Conservation Group where the council has worked with volunteers, a local charity and the Royal Botanic Gardens. This work not only helps protect these vitally important trees but also recognises the fantastic work of a local organisation that supports people with mental health challenges. This initiative highlights the importance of

living in a healthy, clean and vibrant environment and the benefits this affords to all residents mental health.

***UK Black Poplar Conservation Group (Heritage)***

*The UK Black Poplar Conservation Group was set up by AVDC's Environment team with the objective of co-ordinating conservation efforts nationally. Aylesbury Vale is home to over half the national population of the rare native Black Poplar tree and the Environment Team coordinates the Group which has promoted conservation for 20 years, by raising public awareness, delivering planting programmes, genetic research and establishing clone banks in partnership with the Royal Botanic Gardens.*

*Examples of significant work include the new Arla development, with a landscape scheme that saw 3,000 black poplars planted at the Environment Team's request, representing a 25 per cent increase in the UK population of the species, whilst the Kingsbrook development will create the UK's largest black poplar woodland.*

*The team has also worked with Lindengate (a mental health charity utilising therapeutic horticulture) to nurture a new disease-resistant strain developed at Kew Gardens. Lindengate have established a 'Tree Nursery', which will produce locally grown stock with a known provenance.*

- 4.12 AVDC also have a great record in protecting endangered species and are national leaders with the Great Crested Newt Licensing Scheme.

***Great Crested Newt Licensing Scheme (Ecology)***

*AVDC were one of the first council's within the UK to adopt this new and novel method of conservation for this nationally protected species and were the first authority to grant a license. Due to their protected status GCN often come into conflict with planned developments and frequently cost developers a significant amount of time and money through the planning process. However despite high levels of protection the species continues to be in decline nationally.*

*The district license scheme is designed to balance the needs of ecology and the increased development demand, improving GCN conservation on a landscape scale and preventing costly delays in planning applications. The scheme provides for a conservation strategy that creates a minimum of four new ponds for every newt pond lost, bringing huge benefits for great crested newts and lots of other wildlife.*

- 4.13 As can be seen from the map below the work we are undertaking in this area is vital as the vale provides a fantastic natural habitat for these rare creatures.

## Aylesbury Vale

- ▶ Red Zone (area deemed as being most likely to support GCN – covers 14% of land within Aylesbury Vale)
- ▶ 42% (90/212) of ponds within Aylesbury Vale found in land allocated for development that falls within areas marked as red zones.
- ▶ AVDC first LPA within the UK to adopt the NatureSpace District Licence scheme.
- ▶ First development to use district licensing in the UK – Waddesdon Parkway Cycle route.
- ▶ Total number of developments using scheme: 6
- ▶ Total number of enquiries: 28
- ▶ Compensation sites (where new terrestrial and aquatic habitat for great crested newts is created) include: Shabington Woods SSSI, Rushbeds Wood, Finemere Wood and Long Spinney.



## 5 Options

- 5.1 Currently, considerable officer and member time is taken up with delivering a new unitary council for Buckinghamshire and consideration was given to having a hiatus in the environmental programme until the new council is in place.
- 5.2 It was decided, however, that despite this Council's success so far the level of environmental challenge that the country faces is daunting and it is vital that we continue to both drive forward change across the Vale and also support our residents in maintaining or creating the best environment for them to live and grow. The option of a hiatus is therefore not recommended.
- 5.3 Instead, it is proposed that the Council establishes a budget of £60,000 to fund the administrative, capital and resource costs of producing the options report and then delivering the next phase of the initiative.
- 5.4 The above budget, which would need to be agreed by Council on 18 September 2019, would fund the production of a full options and appraisal paper for further consideration. However, the focus of future actions should be on projects that deliver in the relatively short term but also support the growing awareness of the importance of environmental issues to residents. Some potential examples are given below.
- 5.5 **Providing Environmental Leadership** - The Council's track record in this area has so far been good (see AVDC context earlier), but this needs to continue and the profile of the work undertaken increased locally to encourage actions by residents. Some examples of actions that could be proposed could be a "litter pick" by council members or members acting as environmental champions at parish council meetings both of which would show the commitment of members to delivering a cleaner environment.

- 5.6 **Supporting Local Initiatives** - One of the proposal is to look at ways to support some of the excellent work being undertaken by the young people of the vale.
- 5.7 At the last Council meeting, Councillor Steve Bowles highlighted the excellent work being undertaken by one of his young residents. A nine year old pupil of Wendover Junior School has launched a "Kids Clean Britain" initiative. She wants to encourage people to go out in their local community to collect litter bring it to a central point for collection by the local refuse service. It will help people to think before they litter this scheme has been successful in Australia and brings communities together.
- 5.8 The Council should have a role in identifying, recognising and supporting initiatives such as these empowering our residents in ensuring the Vale remains a green and pleasant place to live.
- 5.9 One potential idea is to sponsor the creation of schemes or awards aimed at young people that encourage good environmental behaviour. A couple of examples of schemes we could launch are detailed below.

### *Young Environmental Champions*

*This focuses less on prizes/awards initially but more around encouragement, communications and building momentum for the young champions. Children should start with bronze and complete each activity until they reach the Gold badge.*

*They should complete the following to receive a bronze badge;*

- *Be a champion for litter picking at school*
- *Walk, cycle or take public transport/car share to school regularly*

*Silver badge*

- *Take part in a community litter pick*
- *Be a recycling champion at school and home -know the difference between the bins and how to use spot what is recyclable or not*

*Gold badge*

- *Grow your own vegetables or herbs and use at home and in your packed lunch.*
- *Organise a litter pick at school or in a park near where you live*

- 5.10 We know there will be young people that are already surpassing the young environmental champions Gold badge level, so there is the option to create a special category for them and they have a bigger badge/lanyards and then offer them the opportunity for a special presentation at council, an interview, social media coverage etc.
- 5.11 These is also the option of making a small contribution towards the administrative costs of these local schemes with a bi-monthly presentation of a certificate and cheque for £25 - £50.
- 5.12 Working in Partnership - The Council recognises the important role that local businesses and charities play in delivering local environmental initiatives on the ground. An interesting example is shown in appendix 2 of this report with "Refill Woking" where the Council has persuaded local businesses to

advertise that they provide free tap water to encourage the reduction of single use plastic bottles.

## **6 Reasons for Recommendation**

- 6.1 As global climate challenges continue to increase, it is considered imperative that locally we maintain the momentum of the environmental improvements that AVDC already play an important role in delivering.

## **7 Resource implications**

- 7.1 This new phase of our environmental initiative will require the creation of a budget of up to £60,000 to provide administrative and technical resource required to develop the action plan and deliver the initiative. As no monies have currently been specified for this use, the budget will need to be funded through the use of general funds, unallocated balances.

Contact Officer  
Background Documents

Jeff Membery 01296 585316  
**Appendix 1** - Environmental measures/actions by AVDC  
**Appendix 2** - BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLES

## **Appendix 1 - Environmental measures/actions by AVDC**

### **Community Centres**

- Hawkslade community centre - Solar panels
- Alfred Rose, Hawkslade, Southcourt, Bedgrove and Prebendal all have LED lighting throughout the buildings and presence detector in toilets and public areas.
- Southcourt – Loft installation
- Prebendal and Alfred Rose – Cavity Wall installation

### **Aqua Vale**

- Pool cover

### **Gateway**

- Presence detector on every floor
- LED lighting in the street
- Lease car pool including 2 fully electric & 2 petrol hybrid vehicles.
- We have recently converted over 4 of our company car users (building control team) to petrol hybrid vehicles to be delivered in Aug/Sept.
- EV charging points in the car park
- Energy saving device on boilers

### **The Exchange**

- Green Roof
- Rainwater harvesting
- Cycle stand

### **Car parks**

- Replacement lighting in all car parks

### **Parks & Green Infrastructure**

- Securing (and maintaining) Green Flag awards for three parks
- Published AVDC's Green Infrastructure Strategy (only DC in Bucks to have done so)
- Creation and improvement of sustainable meadows, now home to native orchids
- Tree planting incl 'Trees Please' initiative launch several years ago by Leisure
- Promoting National Tree Week with tree planting ceremony
- Participation in the national play builder scheme delivering play area better connected to nature
- Encouraging the relaxing grass cutting under tree canopies and along river margins
- Replacing summer annual bedding schemes with perennial planting; less water demands, zero peat, no energy demands

### **Ecology**

- Expert input on Kingsbrook development – including the development of wildlife friendly housing in partnership with the RSPB. This featured as a case study in the Governments 25 year Environment Plan.
- First authority to issue a license under the Great Crested Newt district licensing scheme

- Securing funds from Berryfields development to mitigate impact on farmland birds species; funds hedgerow Havens project delivered in partnership with Berks, Bucks, Oxon Wildlife Trust
- Establishing a supporting volunteer Groups; Vale Countryside Volunteers, North Bucks Bat Group, Owl and Raptor Group, Bucks Amphibian and Reptile Group, Dormouse Group, Swift project
- Develop VALP policy and SPD to deliver biodiversity net gains
- Produce Water Advice Note (covering natural water courses) for VALP SPD
- Provide service to check for protected species ahead of development
- Raised initial concerns of pollution in the River Thames from Aylesbury Sewage works, resulting in a record £20M fine for Thames Water. Ongoing representation at meetings to ensure there is not a repeat incident
- S106 funded project to reduce flood risk in Buckingham through natural flood management measures
- National Black Poplar conference held at the Gateway, work with Lindengate to develop nursery stock for use on developments, project with RBG Kew to bank seed and develop genetic diversity
- Establishing peregrine nesting box and platform on top of Bucks CC offices, and setup un webcam; attracting international audience with comments from viewers in Japan
- Provide expert advice on national infrastructure projects – HS2, EWR, Expressway. Achieved (in partnership) commitment to biodiversity gains as part of the EWR public enquiry process

#### **Air Quality**

- Participating in national clean air day
- Working with Bucks Air Quality Management Group to produce new strategy and Supplementary Planning Guidance for VALP
- Review of Air Quality Management Areas

#### **Environmental Health**

- Food Hygiene inspections include a check of waste disposal
- Promotion of noise action day
- Clean up of waste on nil ownership land to the rear of Cambridge Street and campaign to residents and businesses about responsible waste disposal

# AVDC Planning Policy Environmental Initiatives

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## **8 VALP Policies**

- S1 Sustainable development for Aylesbury Vale
- S4 Green belt
- S7 Previously developed land
- D1 Delivering Aylesbury Garden Town
- Site specific environmental criteria in VALP site allocation policies
- T1 Delivering the sustainable transport vision
- T6 Footpaths and cycle routes
- T7 Electric vehicle infrastructure
- NE1 Protected sites
- NE2 Biodiversity and geodiversity
- NE3 River and stream corridors
- NE4 The Chilterns AONB and setting
- NE5 Landscape character and locally important landscape
- NE6 Pollution, air quality and contaminated land
- NE7 Local green space
- NE8 Best and most versatile agricultural land
- NE9 Trees, hedgerows and woodlands
- C1 Conversion of rural buildings
- C2 Equestrian development
- C3 Renewable Energy
- C4 Protection of public rights of way
- I1 Green infrastructure
- I4 Flooding
- I5 Water resources

## **9 Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)**

- District wide design guide SPD
- Biodiversity accounting SPD
- Aylesbury Garden Town Framework and Infrastructure SPD

## **10 Neighbourhood Plan Policies**

- Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan
  - DHE1 Protect existing trees and provision of trees in developments
  - DHE2 Standard of ecological information required to minimise the impact on natural habitats
  - DHE3 Protection of designated sites and local and national priority habitats and species
  - DHE4 Protection of movement corridors
  - DHE5 Biodiversity in development landscaping

- CLH3 Allocate land for allotments
- CLH5 Local green spaces
- CLH8 Continuation and expansion of the Riverside Walk
- I2 Renewable energy generation
- I3 Rainwater collection
- I5 Sewage Management
- Winslow Neighbourhood Plan
  - Policy 8 Cycle Routes
  - Policy 9 Bus Services
  - Policy 10 Traffic Management
  - Policy 19 Local Green Spaces
- Aston Clinton Neighbourhood Plan
  - L2 Leisure - Public open spaces, footpaths, cycle & bridleways
  - T1 Transport - Traffic mitigation
  - T2 Transport - Encourage walking & cycling
  - EN1 Environment - Development impact on biodiversity
  - EN2 Environment - Protecting biodiversity loss
  - EN3 Environment - Local Green Spaces
  - EN4 Environment - Abating flood risk
- Buckland Neighbourhood Plan
  - BP2 AONB/Green Belt
  - BP15 Natural Environment
- Wing Neighbourhood Plan
  - CGS1 – Respecting the Environment
  - CGS2 – Open Space in new development
  - CGS3 – Local Green Space Designation
- Winslow Neighbourhood Plan
  - Policy 19 – Local Green Spaces
- Quainton Neighbourhood Plan
  - Policy NE1 Designated Local Green Spaces
  - Policy NE2 Natural Environment
- Waddesdon Neighbourhood Plan
  - WAD13 Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity
  - WAD14 Local Green Spaces
- Pitstone Neighbourhood Plan
  - Policy 5: Area of Special Landscape Value - provides additional policy protection to an area of locally valued landscape
  - Policy 7: Local Green Space - protects areas of special importance locally from inappropriate development
  - Non-policy project to monitor and seek an increase to number of street trees and maintain and enhance small informal green spaces.
- Weston Turville Neighbourhood Plan
  - Policy T2: Strategy for improving pedestrian and cycle connections within the parish and to surrounding area - seeks to enhance accessibility on foot or by bike around the Parish

- Policy E1: Protection of Local Green Spaces - protects areas of special importance locally from inappropriate development
- Policy E2: Protection of key views and vistas - identifies and seeks to preserve key views and vistas into the countryside
- Policy E3: Biodiversity - seeks a net gain in biodiversity from development and protection of habitats
- Cheddington Neighbourhood Plan
  - Policy 5: Southend Hill and Westend Hill Heritage Asset & Special Landscape - defines the area as a non-designated heritage asset and landscape of special value in which appropriate mitigation would be necessary to enable development to be permitted
  - Policy 6: Green Infrastructure & Biodiversity - seeks to secure enhancements to the natural environment, habitats and green infrastructure including footpaths and cycleways.
  - Policy 7: Local Green Spaces - protects areas of special importance locally from inappropriate development
- Edlesborough Neighbourhood Plan
  - Policy EP9: Local Green Spaces - protects areas of special importance locally from inappropriate development
- Slapton Neighbourhood Plan
  - Policy SLP5: Local Green Spaces - protects areas of special importance locally from inappropriate development
- Worminghall Neighbourhood Plan
  - Policy CFR2: Recreation - seeks provision and enhancement of recreational facilities
- Long Crendon Neighbourhood Plan
  - Policy LC12: Key Views - identifies and seeks to preserve key views and vistas into the countryside
  - Policy LC13: Local Green Spaces - protects areas of special importance locally from inappropriate development
  - Policy LC14: Green Infrastructure & Biodiversity - seeks to secure enhancements to the natural environment, habitats and green infrastructure including footpaths and cycleways and a net gain in biodiversity where possible
  - Non-NP projects include ambitions for a cycle route to Thame, linking to Haddenham and Thame Parkway and enhancements to the recreation ground
  - Non-NP projects include ambitions for a cycle route to Thame, linking to Haddenham and Thame Parkway and enhancements to the recreation ground.
- Marsh Gibbon Neighbourhood Plan
  - Policies MG3 & 4, Local Green Spaces - protects areas of special importance locally from inappropriate development
  - Policy MG19: Enhancing, Protecting and Provision of new Natural Environment Habitats, Trees and Hedgerows - seeks natural

- environment enhancements, biodiversity net gain and protection of existing environmental assets
- Steeple Claydon Neighbourhood Plan
  - Policy SC6: Local Green Spaces - protects areas of special importance locally from inappropriate development
  - Non-NP projects include ambitions for enhancements to the recreation ground
- Haddenham Neighbourhood Plan
  - Policy TGA3: Cycle and Pedestrian Networks - seeks contributions from development to fund the design and delivery of a cycle route between Thame and the Haddenham and Thame Parkways station.
  - Policy HWS1: Local Green Space Designations: protects areas of special importance locally from inappropriate development
  - Policy SRL3: Enhancing, Protecting and Provision of new Natural Environment Habitats, Trees and Hedgerows - seeks natural environment enhancements, biodiversity net gain and protection of existing environmental assets

## APPENDIX 2 – BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLES

Broxtowe Borough Council – Clean and Green

### Clean and Green

**Information about the Council’s Clean and Green Campaign to make Broxtowe a cleaner place and how the local community can get involved.**



Our Clean and Green Campaign recently launched as part of an initiative to make Broxtowe a cleaner place.

There will be lots taking place as part of the campaign to complement what we already do to keep Broxtowe clean and tidy and we'll keep you updated about events in your area.

#### **Join our Community Clean Team**

We are asking individuals, community groups, schools and businesses to take collective responsibility for keeping the Borough clean and tidy and encourage everyone to recycle more.

If you'd like to organise an event, we can help by loaning equipment.

[You can also download our useful resource pack \(.pdf\) \(0.97MB\) \(Opens in a New Window\)](#)which provides everything you need to organise your event including:

- Checklists for running a litter pick
- Risk assessments to help ensure you keep safe whilst doing your bit
- Posters and social media graphics to use to promote the fantastic work you're doing
- Template press releases for you to use to promote your event



Don't forget to let us know what you're doing so we can promote it for you too. You can do this by emailing our Communications Team on [press@broxtowe.gov.uk](mailto:press@broxtowe.gov.uk)

If you'd like to organise an event, contact our Waste and Recycling Team.

### Woking Borough Council - Refill Woking

#### **Refill Woking**

We have teamed up with national charity, [City to Sea](http://www.citytosea.org.uk), to set up a local water refill initiative called, Refill Woking, to encourage the reduction of single use plastic bottles.

We work with Town Centre partners to recruit a network of local cafes, restaurants, shops and retail outlets, which offer a water bottle refill service free of charge.

Look out for the refill logo or try using the refill app to find your nearest location.



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## NEW NOTICE OF MOTION: CLIMATE CHANGE

### 1 Purpose

- 1.1 To consider the Notice of Motion set out below.

### 2 Supporting information

- 2.1 The following Notice of Motion has been submitted by **Councillor Stuchbury** and seconded by **Councillor Bateman**:-

“It is now clear that the world has less than 12 years to switch from fossil fuels to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Reducing use and switching to clean energy will also increase energy security, improve air quality, minimise fuel poverty, boost the local economy and provide employment/training opportunities.

This Council therefore declares a climate emergency and commits to asking the future Buckinghamshire Unitary Authority to become carbon neutral by 2030.”

- 2.2 The Chairman has consented to this Motion being dealt with at this meeting, and the procedure will be as follows:

- Councillor Stuchbury will be invited to propose the Motion and explain the rationale (**Maximum of 5 minutes**).
- Councillor Bateman will then be invited to second the Motion. Councillor Bateman may speak at that point or reserve his speech until later during the debate. In either case, Councillor Bateman will have a **Maximum of 5 minutes**.
- The Motion will then be open for debate.
- The Chairman of the Council will ask Members who wishes to speak.
- Councillor Stuchbury will have a right of reply at the end of the debate.
- A vote will then be taken.

NOTE: Councillor Irwin is the relevant Cabinet Member.

Contact Officer  
Background Documents

Bill Ashton (01296) 585040 (Re. the process)  
None

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**Council**  
**18 September 2019**

## **NEW NOTICE OF MOTION: TO OPPOSE THE OXFORD-CAMBRIDGE EXPRESSWAY**

### **1 Purpose**

- 1.1 To consider the Notice of Motion set out below.

### **2 Supporting information**

- 2.1 The following Notice of Motion has been submitted by **Councillor Lyons** and seconded by **Councillor Stuchbury**:-

#### **Background**

Council notes that the UK Government, in tandem with the National Infrastructure Commission, has proposed the construction of a motorway-style **expressway between Oxford and Cambridge**. This new road will have significant adverse impacts on Aylesbury Vale.

Depending on the eventual route, the Expressway could destroy farmland and **habitats**, including an SSSI. Construction projects should result in biodiversity net gains. However the “gained” biodiversity may not be the same as that which has been lost. Some, such as ancient woodland, is irreplaceable. Infrastructure providers will offer to offset the negative impact in one place by protecting or replacing biodiversity elsewhere, which is of little benefit to local residents or wildlife.

The Council does not support the construction of another motorway such as the Expressway at a time of **climate emergency**. Transport accounts for 1/3 of all carbon emissions in the UK and the figure has only dropped by 3.2% since 1990. The expressway will increase CO2 emissions, which is incompatible with the government’s declared target of reducing emissions to net zero by 2050, and will bring more traffic onto the county’s existing roads.

The Council believes that the Expressway will cause major harm to the **quality of life of Vale residents** as it passes through the district. The additional noise from the expressway will be significant as well as increased air pollution from NOx, hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide and particulate matter.

The Council was right not to sign a non-disclosure agreement with Highways England.

Highways England’s own analysis of the Expressway shows a **low benefit-cost ratio (BCR) in the range of 1.1 – 1.3**.

**This Council fully supports the East-West rail route**, with full electrification and use of the rail line for freight as part of the strategic rail network, offering direct connections to the West Coast Main Line, Midland Main Line, and East Coast Main Line.

**Council therefore resolves to:**

- Oppose the Expressway project and support the electrification of the East West Rail route for passenger and freight traffic as part of the strategic rail network. We should encourage these intermodal connections to East West rail to discourage long distance freight by road.
- Support better East West public transport and active travel solutions.
- Adopt this position on the Expressway in the future consultation on the route options from Highways England.
- Continue to support environmental partnership working, particularly the work of the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership, and continue to promote these elements as vital mitigation if the Expressway does progress.

2.2 The Chairman has consented to this Motion being dealt with at this meeting, and the procedure will be as follows:

- Councillor Lyons will be invited to propose the Motion and explain the rationale (**Maximum of 5 minutes**).
- Councillor Stuchbury will then be invited to second the Motion. Councillor Stuchbury may speak at that point or reserve his speech until later during the debate. In either case, Councillor Stuchbury will have a **Maximum of 5 minutes**.
- The Motion will then be open for debate.
- The Chairman of the Council will ask Members who wishes to speak.
- Councillor Lyons will have a right of reply at the end of the debate.
- A vote will then be taken.

NOTE: Councillor Mrs Paternoster is the relevant Cabinet Member.

Contact Officer  
Background Documents

- Bill Ashton (01296) 585040 (Re. the process)
1. Sloman L, Hopkinson L and Taylor I (2017), The Impact of Road Projects in England Report for CPRE
  2. Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy 2018, UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions, provisional figures.
  3. The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019