

8 April 2015

To: All Members of Buckinghamshire County Council

SUMMONS

You are requested to attend the meeting of Buckinghamshire County Council to be held in **The Oculus, AVDC, Gatehouse Way, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF, on Thursday 16 April 2015 at 9.30 am**, to transact the business set out in the agenda overleaf.

Please note venue.

A cold buffet lunch will be provided for Members of the Council.

SARAH ASHMEAD
Monitoring Officer

If you would like to attend a meeting, but need extra help to do so, for example because of a disability, please contact us as early as possible so we can try to put the right support in place. For further information please contact Clare Capjon on 01296 387969.

WEBCASTING NOTICE

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AGENDA

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- 1 MINUTES** **5 - 24**
To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12 February 2015.
- 2 PETITIONS**
For County Councillors to present any petitions.
- 3 COMMUNICATIONS**
 - a To receive any apologies for absence
 - b To receive any communications the Chairman wishes to present to the Council
- 4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
To disclose any Personal or Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
- 5 REPORT ON COMMITTEE PROPORTIONALITY** **25 - 28**
To agree the Monitoring Officer's report on Committee proportionality.
- 6 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEES 2014/15** **29 - 46**
To note the Select Committee Annual Report 2014/15.
- 7 CABINET MEMBERS' REPORTS AND QUESTIONS**
To note any written questions to Cabinet Members and responses received. These will be tabled at the Council meeting. For Cabinet Members to provide any additional updates to their report, as well as the opportunity for Members to ask oral questions.
 - a Leader of the Council **47 - 52**
 - b Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education & Skills **53 - 54**
 - c Cabinet Member for Community Engagement **55 - 58**
 - d Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing **59 - 62**
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 - h Cabinet Member for Transportation **71 - 72**
 - i Cabinet Member Decisions Taken - Information only **73 - 86**
- 8 NOTICES OF MOTION**
No notice of motions were received.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Buckinghamshire County Council convened and held on Thursday 12 February 2015 in The Oculus, AVDC , Gatehouse Way. Aylesbury, HP19 8FF, commencing at 9.30 am and concluding at 1.12 pm.

PRESENT

Mr Z Mohammed in the Chair;

Mr B Adams, Mr C Adams, Mr M Appleyard, Mrs M Aston, Mr W Bendyshe-Brown, Mrs P Birchley, Ms J Blake, Mr N Brown, Mr T Butcher, Mr D Carroll, Mr W Chapple OBE, Mr J Chilver, Mrs L Clarke OBE, Mrs A Davies, Mr D Dhillon, Mr C Ditta, Mr T Egleton, Mr C Etholen, Ms N Glover, Mr P Gomm, Mr P Hardy, Mr D Hayday, Lin Hazell, Mr A Huxley, Mr P Irwin, Mr R Khan, Mr S Lambert, Mrs V Letheren, Ms A Macpherson, Mrs W Mallen, Mr D Martin, Mr M Phillips, Mr R Reed, Mr B Roberts, Mr D Schofield, Mr R Scott, Mr D Shakespeare OBE, Mr M Shaw, Mr R Stuchbury, Ms J Teesdale, Mr M Tett, Ms R Vigor-Hedderly, Julia Wassell, Mr D Watson, Mr W Whyte and Ms K Wood

ALDERMEN PRESENT

Mrs G Miscampbell OBE DL, Mr J Barclay, Marion Clayton, Mr M Colston, Mr D Polhill and Mr R Pushman

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Busby and Mr A Stevens

1 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 November 2014 were agreed subject to the following amendments (only paragraphs which have been amended are included):-

- Children growing up in **adverse circumstances** are more likely to have poorer outcomes, be unemployed, use drugs and be in prison.
- It was important to focus on physical activity and healthy eating in Primary Schools. Little Spring School, Chesham produced poems about healthy eating and the Chiltern Hills Academy focused on **age appropriate** topics. The **students** worked with Pinewood Studios to produce a film on emotional wellbeing. There was also a focus on healthy eating campaigns and sexual health awareness. Young people had designed an app to educate about sexual health matters.
- What happens during pregnancy can impact from childhood through to middle age. If a mother's health is poor, a child could have a low birth weight which increases the risk of ill health and lower educational attainment, **and** the risk of diabetes and stroke in later life. The family and school environment is very important, particularly the impact of peers.
- Teenage years are also crucial. There are risk factors influenced in adolescence relating to smoking, drugs and being physically active. Rapid brain development

- also influences how teenagers behave.
- Teenage choices can lead to risky behaviour **and** the impact of friends and peers is very important. Young people are under pressure to conform
 - Children in care tended to have poorer exam results.
 - Emotional wellbeing was the bedrock for everything including achieving well in school, good self-esteem, **healthy** behaviour and not engaging in risky behaviours. Good parenting produced good mental health. It was important to pick up on post natal depression. Statistics show that nationally 10% of children have a mental disorder, 50% **of lifetime** mental illness starts before 14 years. 12% of young people between 13-14 years are anxious or depressed and 18% of those young people do not talk to anyone about this.
 - The Report includes recommendations. **Public** Health is working with Children's Services, health visitors and schools nurses. Members were in the driving seat of the public health agenda. Undertaking physical activity could result in 30% lower risk of dementia. She referred to an initiative called 'Reclaiming our Streets' where streets are closed off to traffic on a regular basis so allow children to play.

During questions the following points were noted:-

- A Liberal Democrat, Independent and Buckingham Labour Member referred to new resources particularly for the under 5's. The **Director of Public Health** referred to the commissioning of health visitors and family nurse partnerships where they were still waiting to see the national allocation of resources but they had undertaken work with NHS England to identify the right level of resources.
- A Conservative Member asked about access to smoking **cessation services** for teenagers and about encouraging sport, with particular reference to the Rugby World Cup. He commented that some of the recommendations were generic. The Director of Public Health reported that close working took place with Trading Standards to stop underage smoking and drinking and a Local Physical Activity Strategy initiative was also being undertaken. **Whilst there were overarching recommendations, there were specific areas under each heading in the main report.**
- A Conservative Member asked for a breakdown on how public health money was spent and what outcomes were achieved. The Director of Public Health reported that her budget was scrutinised in the same way **as other areas in the Council** and that all services provided were evidence based with a return on investment.

The Director of Public Health was thanked for her informative report.

Cabinet Member for Community Engagement

The UKIP and Independent Member had been supplied figures as there was a discrepancy in the figures previously given.

2 PETITIONS

Mr Steven Lambert presented a petition on behalf of residents of Stratford Drive, Aylesbury for a 30mph speed limit for road safety reasons.

3 COMMUNICATIONS

Members stood for a minutes silence in tribute to Chloe Willetts, who had been a County Councillor, who had recently died.

There had been two historic finds in Buckinghamshire one relating to a roman burial ground where seventeenth century cups had been found and put on display in the County Museum. In addition 5000 saxon eleventh century coins had been found in Buckingham.

It was the last meeting of the Council for a number of people who were thanked for their enormous contribution to the meeting:-

- High Sheriff – Joe Barclay
- Head of Legal Services – Anne Davies
- Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer – Clive Parker

The Leader paid tribute to the Chairman for the excellent Armed Forces event which had been held where he had given a remarkable speech referring to the debt owed by this Country to the Armed Forces.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Those Members who received a pension and who were also on the Pension Fund Committee declared an interest in item 9.

5 TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY STATEMENT, TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT, ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY AND MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION STATEMENT FOR 2015/6

The Council is required under Section 15 of the Local Government Act 2003 to approve an Annual Investment Strategy before the start of each financial year. In accordance with best practice the Council combines the Annual Investment Strategy with its Treasury Management Strategy Statement. This report was submitted to the Regulatory and Audit Committee on 28 January 2015 for Member comments, which was approved.

RESOLVED

The Council approves the Treasury Management Policy Statement, Treasury Management Strategy Statement, the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement and the Annual Investment Strategy for 2015/16, together with the Prudential Indicators over the next three years.

6 CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER'S STATUTORY REPORT 2015/16 - 2017/18

Under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 the Service Director Finance and Commercial Services was required to report to the Council on:

- (a) the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the calculations [of the budget], and
- (b) the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.

This report is the culmination of the budget process in which detailed work has already taken place with Service Managers, the Corporate Management Team and Councillors. The Council is required to have due regard to this report when making decisions on the budget.

The Service Director reported that given the reductions in government grant levels, the growing unavoidable expenditure pressures and the scale of reductions required, the budget will inevitably contain a degree of risk. The key risks include: -

- General Election and subsequent Spending Review
- Achievability of Reductions
- Demand Led Budgets
- Care Act
- Ofsted Improvement Plan
- Governance in the new environment following Future Shape launch
- Capital Programme

The level of general fund reserves has reduced dramatically from £31 million to £20 million due to the issues with children's safeguarding and at the end of the Medium Term Forecast it was expected to be £18 million. He concluded by saying that the budget was robust and the level of reserves were reasonable and adequate.

During discussion the following points were noted:-

- The capping part of the Care Act will begin to impact from April 2016, although there will be implementation costs prior to that. The full impact is still uncertain, especially given the high number of self-funders in Buckinghamshire. The Cabinet Member reported on the following costs; early assessments £1,561,000, deferred payments £714,000, prisoners £80,000 and carers £386,000. She was happy with those figures but she was not sure there was enough funding for carers assessments at this stage. The Cabinet Member was uncertain about funding for 16/17. The Service Director said he was confident for figures for 15/16 to deliver transitional services; the bigger risk was 16/17 onwards.
- A Liberal Democrat, Independent and Buckingham Labour Member expressed concern around funding for social services with legislation, shortage of social workers, deprivation of liberty safeguarding and threats such as child sexual exploitation. The Service Director reported that there were some very volatile risks around this area and that the Council could only make best estimates. The Cabinet Member reported that the risk register is regularly reviewed.
- A UKIP and Independent Member referred to the financial risks relating to savings of £48.9 million. The Service Director reported that this related to the Future Shape Programme savings. There were various strands to the Programme including undertaking Strategic Options Appraisals. He was confident that the 15/16 savings would be achieved as staff consultations were already being carried out.

The report was noted.

7 REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL, REPORT FROM THE FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES SELECT COMMITTEE AND PROPOSAL OF BUDGET

David Shakespeare presented the recommendations of the 2015/16 Budget Scrutiny Inquiry of the Finance, Performance and Resources Select Committee. He thanked Community Impact Bucks and Citizens Advice for their contribution to the Inquiry. It was noted that risks formed an integral component of the Inquiry Work.

Members noted the following recommendations in the budget scrutiny report

1: The outcomes based budgeting methodology should be finalised and agreed by Cabinet in time to be used fully in the 2016/17 budget setting process.

2: Consideration of risks, including use of the Council's risk registers, should form an integral component of every stage of the 2016/17 budget setting process and subsequently, with budgetary allocations being considered in terms of impact on risk profile.

3: All reductions to voluntary sector funding, regardless of amount, should be subjected to an assessment of impact on service delivery covering the impact of removal on the resilience of both the organisation and services it provides.

4: We recommend that major capital programmes should be project managed by specialists, obtaining private sector support if in-house expertise is not available, thus minimising capital slippage to the greatest possible extent.

5: We recommend that a full options appraisal evaluating the value for money argument for prudential borrowing as a means to fund road improvements should be submitted to a Cabinet meeting at the earliest opportunity.

6: Measures to improve the speed and ease of the Council's recruitment and retention process for social work staff, in conjunction with efforts to reduce the reliance on agency staff in social care, should be implemented urgently.

7: The reablement provider marketplace should be developed in Bucks, both to provide the County Council with a range of alternative providers, but also to subject Bucks Care to commercial pressures that would fuel innovation and provide an incentive to further drive down costs.

8: The support costs for Local Area Forums and accompanying rules and procedures should be reviewed to consider the case for further efficiency savings, in particular to consider the appropriate ratio of support costs in comparison to the grant funding provided by LAFs. There should be no further reductions in Local Area Forum grant in this year's MTFP. Further grant funding reductions serve to highlight the disproportionate overhead costs of supporting LAFs for the County Council.

9: An options appraisal for the use of the residual heat from the Energy From Waste plant as an income stream should be considered by the Cabinet at the earliest opportunity.

The Leader then presented the budget as follows:-

The Leader used an analogy that the preparation of this year's Budget has been more like riding a roller coaster than embarking on the usual well signposted journey along a road.

Strategic Overview

As the MTP is a Strategic Plan and budget for a three year period and not just a single year, the Leader gave a brief review of the political and economic situation within which the Council operates and which will shape the environment over the next three years.

This year of course brings a dramatic choice for the country in May with the General Election. But, overshadowing the election are some difficult messages. For example, the Institute of Fiscal Studies has recently pointed out that over the next four years, the UK is planning the largest fiscal consolidation out of 32 advanced economies.

It's pretty clear then that, whoever wins the forthcoming election they will be faced with the need to continue with deep and protracted cuts in public expenditure at least for the next five years. As the IFS also warn, the cuts in public spending are only half way through and the more difficult reductions are still to come. More worrying, is the tendency of all Parties to begin promising to 'ring fence' or even increase certain areas of expenditure in the run up to the election. There are commitments to increase Pensions, maintain schools expenditure, increase Overseas Aid in line with GDP and promise dramatic increases in NHS spending, whilst promising at the same time to clear the deficit. It is painfully obvious that the only major service Departments left to bear the cuts are the Home Office, Defence, DEFRA and, local government!

Whoever wins in May further cuts will be taken to local government expenditure. If money is directed to the North of the Country, this money can only come from places such as Buckinghamshire and would not only see the removal of the New Homes Bonus but other significant cuts to Government funding. It therefore remains essential to continue with the Council's policy of moving as rapidly as possible towards financial self-sufficiency – removing entirely revenue dependency upon central government.

Already Buckinghamshire has the lowest Government support of any County Council and that support is likely to continue to diminish.

Key Principles for Sustainability

As the Council sets this Medium Term Plan Members should be minded of some key principles for the next three years: to be prudent in revenue expenditure, focus on the essential services, continue to become more efficient, look for opportunities to increase income, have contingencies and reserves against unexpected shocks and avoid the temptation to 'borrow and spend' and leave residents with a legacy of debt which isn't serviced by savings or income. It is important to engage with Government strategically to seek more devolution of central government funding through mechanisms such as the Local Enterprise Partnership and the new Tri County Alliance with Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire. By doing this the Council's objective is to produce a budget that is sustainable into the medium and longer term.

The starting point-This Year's outturn

This has undoubtedly been the most challenging year since the Leader joined the County Council nearly ten years ago. Only last February a resolution was passed on a

budget, which whilst it contained risks, was sound. Since then that budget has come under severe pressure with a potential overspend being forecast for the first time in the County's history. The causes for this are clear. The major challenge the Council faces in Children's Safeguarding (following the Task and Finish Group Report and of course the subsequent Ofsted Inspection), combined with pressures in Adult Care (primarily due to new legal changes) and lastly planned income in Transportation which will not be delivered due primarily to decisions taken by Central Government. He stressed that the forecast overspend is exactly that, a forecast and it is the Council's objective, working collectively with Cabinet, to minimise that potential overspend by the end of the year and he thanked Mr Hardy and Mr Williams for the work on that.

Most residents continue to believe that, with the economy growing and unemployment falling, their priorities can be not only protected but rising expectations met.

The MTP Process

Again the starting point has been the Council's **Strategic Plan** - The priorities Members have set for the Council and Cabinet. Members have looked at outcomes, whilst seeking efficiencies across all departments. The Plan still remains fundamentally sound but probably now needs to be revisited in the light of ever shrinking resources, emerging pressures and new legislation. All Councillors should have the opportunity to contribute to a refresh of the Plan in time for the AGM. One aspect that needs highlighting even more clearly is that of Children's Safeguarding and he would be recommending that the Council strengthens its focus on that during this process.

The need to significantly increase resources dedicated to **Children's** has been probably the defining factor this year. This process started early in 2014 with the establishment of the Task and Finish Group and has continued during and following the Ofsted Inspection. The results of this Inspection were very concerning and disappointing. Nevertheless, the Council welcomes and accept Ofsted's conclusions as they have highlighted areas where the Council must improve rapidly to safeguard the most vulnerable young people. Therefore, during the budget process Members have again allowed for the write off of a considerable overspend in 2014/15, rather than a carry forward, and then added a very substantial increase in the Children's Services budget both in year and in subsequent years. This has been a very difficult and, at times, painful process with all budgets so constrained and he thanked Cabinet colleagues for their patience having sought compensating savings in most of their portfolios.

The many other factors that have helped determine the budget have included recognition of the challenges of **legislative change** particularly in Adult Social care due to the Care Act and Deprivation of Liberty requirements. The Council has also faced major challenges coping with growth in the population with demand for **school places** rising rapidly and unfortunately significantly underfunded by national Government.

As always a further influence has been the **Consultation with residents** and businesses. Again Members and officers were on railway platforms in the early hours to hand out questionnaires to those residents who commute each day. A group that is too often underrepresented in surveys. This year the Council achieved a response of over 2000 residents and 500 businesses. A major achievement. Residents have told Members that roads and pavements remain a major priority for them and this has been reflected in the decision to re-profile the major Capital resurfacing programme to bring

forward expenditure of £25 million into the next financial year to continue the strategy of restoring our roads.

And of course a further valuable input has been the **cross party Budget Task and Finish Group** which yet again has subjected the Cabinet to very detailed scrutiny and challenge on initial proposals. He was particularly pleased that as a result of a challenge they have managed to restore some of the funding to the Buckingham and Winslow Young Carers.

Lastly, he thanked Cabinet for their patience and fortitude during some very tough 'Star Chamber' meetings on this budget, the Chief Executive and his senior officers for the support that they have provided to Members through this process and most particularly Richard Ambrose and the whole of the finance team for burning the midnight oil with the numerous reworking of the figures in the light of changing circumstances and new ideas.

So what are the key figures behind the changes in central Government finance? The Revenue Support Grant (the main grant support from Government) has gone from **£52.7m** in 2014/15 to **£41.8m** in 2015/16, a reduction of **£10.8m**, or **21%**. He expected this trajectory to continue, so that by the end of the decade the Council will no longer receive any RSG. The Top-up grant has, as promised, increased in line with inflation from **£25.1m** to **£25.2m**. New Homes Bonus increases from **£2.3m** to **£2.9m**, a welcome increase, but a little less than anticipated. Education Services Grant is expected to fall from **£7.0m** to **£5.5m**, although this is essentially due to academy conversions rather than a reduction in the rate of funding. In Appendix 1 of the budget report "Other Un-ring-fenced Grants" appears to rise from **£1.8m** in 2014/15 to **£3.9m** in 2015/16. This line holds a number of smaller grant streams and hides a multitude of issues. For example despite the apparent increase, this line includes the removal of **£581k** of the former Social Fund, for which only last week the Government finally relented, in part, in adding back **£287k** to RSG for this and social care pressures following considerable lobbying from local government. The increase in "Other Un-ring-fenced Grants" is due mainly to additional time-limited funding of **£309k** to support the SEND reforms and **£2.66m** as initial funding to facilitate the changes brought about by the Care Act. These are further examples of apparent increases in funding which are balanced by increases in responsibilities.

So in summary when it comes to funding from central government the stand out figures are: a massive reduction in general grant; increases in funding for increased responsibilities and; inflationary increases on some, but not all, of the other grant streams.

Under the new funding arrangements introduced in 2013 local authorities retain a proportion of business rates and a proportion of any growth in the business rates. Despite the County Council having the major responsibility for infrastructure to support housing growth, such as roads and schools the Council only get **9%** of Business Rates. Government retains 50%, Districts get 40% and the Fire Authority 1%. In 2014/15 the 9% share was estimated at **£14.9m**. The latest estimate for retained business rates for 2015/16 is an increase of **£2.7m** over the current financial year to **£17.6m**. The Council had submitted an application for a rates pool along with Aylesbury Vale District Council and Wycombe District Council. Subsequently Wycombe decided to pull out and the pool could not proceed. Nonetheless, the increase is a welcome source of locally generated income which demonstrates the

potential of the 'Buckinghamshire economic powerhouse' .

Income - Summary

In overall terms the resources available to the County Council, falls from **£108.4m** in the current year to an estimated **£100.4m** next year. That of course is a cash reduction before inflation or the substantial 'demand led' pressures that the Council faces, which makes the real gap much larger.

Expenditure

As the Council moves from the current financial year into the next the estimate is that price inflation will cost an extra **£2.65m** and across the whole of the 3 year planning period an additional **£8.08m**. Unavoidable growth driven mainly by those new duties the Leader spoke of earlier and demand pressures are estimated at **£23.87m** next year and an eye-watering **£40.47m** over the three year period. Additional grant does cover some of the additional responsibilities, at least in theory, but this still leaves some very hefty figures resulting from demand pressures.

Ofsted inspectors have found the Council wanting in terms of the rigour with which the duty of care towards the most vulnerable children and young people is carried out. Addressing those shortcomings is requiring substantial additional resources to be put into the budget.

In the current financial year following both the work of the Task and Finish Group and the Ofsted inspection the Council have added a total of **£7.5m** to the Children's Services budgets. Despite this, the latest budget proposals assume the addition of further substantial resources, so that the Children's Services Budget at **£53.8m** is some **£14m larger** than anticipated it would be when the medium term plan was set this time last year. That is an increase of 35%. Not only that, but the Council is also proposing contingencies of over £1m to cover increased risks in this still volatile area. This is a firm commitment to deliver on agreed responsibilities towards these vulnerable young people!

Efficiencies

The Future Shape programme is a major drive in this direction, although many of the savings from this will not come until years 2 and 3 of the Medium Term Plan. Savings will be delivered through staff restructuring and moves to increased digital access to services. Overall the Council is assuming efficiencies in Portfolio budgets of £15.1m. This includes continuing to push forward with the initiatives that began some years ago in respect of both Home to School Transport and Day Care services. It includes working in partnership, particularly with colleagues in Health to find more joined up ways of working, as well as the partnerships such as the newly established Alternative Delivery Vehicles, such as the Buckinghamshire Learning Trust and Buckinghamshire Care.

Increased Income

The Council will generate more income. Sometimes this will mean charging services users, but this also includes more commercial income streams such as through the Energy from Waste plant when that comes live and making better use of property assets to generate income. Overall in 2015/16 the Council is assuming that they can generate nearly **£2.8m** of additional income.

Service reductions

In some cases the Council needs to reduce, or completely stop some of the things that are being undertaken today. The Council is assuming that they will achieve savings of **£3.0m** in 2015/16 through service reductions. This will include reducing some community safety initiatives, such as support for PCSOs and back office services. More difficult still, the Council is reducing the Supported Living programme and the Economic Development budget. The Leader will continue to attempt to find new innovative ways to support economic development. Through economic prosperity income can be generated to both Buckinghamshire and the country as a whole to pay for essential public services.

Use of Reserves

Within expenditure plans are a number of one-off items, most particularly to support the Ofsted improvement programme. As well the savings outlined, in order to balance the books, the Council is proposing to fund these one off items by the use of just under **£3m** of reserves. This follows on the back of the Council using over **£10m** of General Fund Reserves in the current financial year. The Council had the ability to top up reserves a little following some of the late improved funding announcements. As it is reserves will now stand at less than 6% of Net Budget Requirement. The Council is facing some difficult decisions in striking a balance between supporting the most vulnerable in the community and financial sustainability.

Capital

In total the Council is planning to spend **£92m** in 2015/16 and some **£412m** over the three year life of the programme. Of course, by far the largest element of this is investment in the Energy from Waste plant at Greatmoor, which will bring the Council huge revenue savings when it is up and running in 2016 and thus not only help the Council with environmental sustainability, but also financial sustainability. The plans for 2015/16 include bringing forward the roads & footpaths programme so that the Council will be spending **£26.6m** in 15/16, before easing back to a steady state at **£10m p.a.** The Council will find new creative ways of further adding to this programme. The programme also includes a very substantial **£23m** in 2015/16 and **£81m** over three years investment in schools. Despite these large sums this may still not be enough to cope with a rapidly rising school population and the Council is yet to have some challenging conversations with DfE over how to handle this situation. The capital programme also now reflects very considerable investment in infrastructure to support the growth of the local economy undertaken in partnership with the Local Enterprise Partnership.

Council Tax

There is the option of the Council Tax Freeze Grant. There are however several problems in accepting the Freeze Grant. First of all it is a specific grant which could very easily be removed and never has such vulnerability been greater than in advance of a potential new government. However, this separate grant is subsequently built into the core grant the RSG and, this is being cut itself at a phenomenal rate. So very quickly this additional sum will be eroded away. This is no way to sustain the financial position. Reluctantly, the Leader concluded, as have the majority of other county councils, to increase the base funding position and thus increase the Council Tax.

The Government have now confirmed that the referendum limit for Council Tax increases is set at **2%**. He therefore proposed that the Council continues with its plans for a **1.99%** increase in the Council Tax as originally set out in the draft budget plans proposed by Cabinet back in December. For a Band D property this represents an

increase of just **42p per week**.

Conclusion

With these grant cuts and increases in costs pressures, it has been the toughest of budgets in his ten years with the County Council to set. Nevertheless, Cabinet have done their best to propose a budget that reflects the priorities of Members and residents. With the public deficit still firmly large and a general election just around the corner that roller-coaster ride could still get more exciting yet.

Based on the best information, this budget is sustainable. It is a budget that tries to put in place the building blocks for a prosperous future for Buckinghamshire. But above all it is a budget that aims to protect the most vulnerable in their communities.

The UKIP Group Leader commented that the Government had difficult decisions to make on where their priorities lie and made the following comments:-

- the importance of protecting vulnerable children
- borrowing money or increasing the Council tax to restore the County's roads
- delivering Transport for Bucks in house
- the costs of social care should be reviewed
- reducing Police Community Support Officers was a step in the wrong direction
- to have no further depletion of reserves
- carers should receive more allowances
- Local Area Forums should be abolished
- There should be a freeze in Council Tax

An amendment was then proposed by Andy Huxley, seconded by Brian Adams as follows:-

I propose an amendment in respect to the Council Tax increase of 1.99% in that we freeze it for the year 2015/2016.

During discussion the following points were made against the amendment:-

- Funding cannot be found in the context of this budget especially with the Government grant it would be irresponsible to freeze the Council tax.
- The amendment does not support the ability to fulfil the statutory services of the Council
- 42 pence per week is not much to support vulnerable children and adults.
- Taking Transport for Bucks in house would mean the cost of a new direct labour organisation, reviewing social care could include the risk of reducing agency staff which would have an impact on social care and abolishing Local Area Forums would mean there was no delivery mechanism to devolve money to local community.
- The Government had thrown Local Authorities a lifeline to increase the cap level to 1.99% as they recognised the huge pressures in budgets, particularly with the demand in children's services across the Country increasing and it would be foolish to ignore this lifeline which would give an extra £2million into the budget.
- Taking the Council Tax freeze would mean a decrease year on year in the budget which would leave the Council in difficulties.
- The budget has been reviewed extremely carefully through the Budget Scrutiny

Committee and there are a number of risks already in the budget which will increase with further pressures.

- Social workers need a boost to their morale and consistent support rather than be reviewed.
- This Council must not endanger the most vulnerable in society and there are costs in discharging the legal, ethic and morale duty in relation to vulnerable children and adults.
- The Council was looking at making efficiencies where available, particularly in pooling budgets and integrating services with partners.
- The Leader concluded that a rise of 1.99% gave an extra £2.2 million of revenue and the Council was already borrowing on a large scale. Taking TfB back in house would cost more money and abolishing LAFs would not close the budget gap.

The above amendment was lost with 42 votes against the amendment and 3 for the amendment. A recorded vote was taken and the following Members voted in favour of the amendment:-

Mr Brian Adams, Mr Chris Adams and Mr Huxley.

The following Members voted against the amendment:-

Mr Appleyard, Mrs Aston, Mr Bendyshe-Brown, Mrs Birchley, Mrs Blake, Mr N Brown, Mr Butcher, Mr Carroll, Mr Chapple, Mr Chilver, Mrs Clarke OBE, Mrs Davies, Mr Dhillon, Mr Ditta, Mr Egleton, Mr Etholen, Mrs Glover, Mr Hardy, Lin Hazell, Mr Irwin, Mr Khan, Mr Lambert, Mrs Letheren, Mrs Macpherson, Mrs Mallen, Mr Martin, Mr Mohammed, Mr Phillips, Mr Reed, Mr Roberts, Mr Schofield, Mr Scott, Mr Shakespeare OBE, Mr Shaw, Mr Stuchbury, Mrs Teesdale, Mr Tett, Mrs Vigor-Hedderly, Mr Watson, Mr Whyte, Mrs Wood

The Group Leader of the Liberal Democrat, Independent and Buckingham Labour Party made the following points on the budget:-

- She expressed concern that this budget would not be able to achieve the key principles of sustainability.
- She congratulated Budget Scrutiny on their work on the budget but expressed concern that their recommendations struggled to be coherent as usual as the budget was being cut by service areas rather than looking at outcomes. The recommendations were split equally between high level and specific responses and there was a deeper consideration of risk and impact of cuts to the voluntary and community sector, which needed to be listened to and assessed more deeply and the knock on effect to services. The specific recommendations such as major capital projects, reablement, LAFs and the residual heat from the EFW plant, including the capitalisation of roads was not really responded to and reflects the piecemeal nature of the budget.
- The refresh of the strategic plan should be radical and practical. The budget was even more high risk with bigger and costlier risks of failing to deliver all together and increase burdens for future years.
- There are a large number of savings to be found which do not deal with demographic pressures and unfunded new statutory responsibilities. There was a lack of resource or the resource was in the wrong place.
- The Government have removed tax raising powers.

- The Group supported the Council tax freeze last year but this year it was not an option. The Council tax falls disproportionately on smaller incomes and it was impossible to dodge the 98% collection rate.
- A Band E cost £1300 which delivered high profile services such as roads, school provision and standards, and a civilised society which looked after the vulnerable, public health, libraries and learning. This was a good deal.
- Cabinet Member priorities need to be equitable, deliverable and alternatives given if difficulties arise.
- Children services should be a first priority and be remodelled to provide an effective and efficient service.
- Roads assets should be addressed and the return on investment to provide a strong economy. The cost of borrowing not only needed to be looked at but also the outcome value. There should be an open debate about prudential borrowing.
- Further reassurance was required on having a safely balanced budget rather than a budget which consisted of salami slicing which was becoming more difficult to achieve.

Members responded as follows on the Group Leaders speech:-

- There were risks in the budget and concern was particularly raised about the Future Shape Programme savings.
- The next two years of the budget were risky particularly looking at self-sufficiency in the immediate future.
- There was concern about there not being an Equality Impact Assessment for projects under £100,000.
- The funding across Local Area Forum's was not equitable.
- Concerns were raised about the changes to Home to School Transport, slippage to the Capital Programme and the overspend in Children's Services.
- A general comment was made about the tax evasion in the Country and the lack of funding in Local Government and also about projects costing huge sums of money such as HS2, with little proven benefit.

During general discussion on the budget recommendations the following points were made:-

- The Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing reported that her budget for 15/16 was proving more difficult and the principle challenge was the growth in older people and the implications of the Care Act. There were increasingly complex placements for people with Learning Disabilities and an expectation of considerable budget savings. In addition there was a shortfall of social care staff. To be on an equal footing with other Local Authorities her budget would need to be increased by another £6 million. Efficiencies were expected to be delivered in the market place.
- A Conservative Member reported that he supported the budget but they were facing a difficult time particularly with the Country's deficit. It was important to develop the tri-county proposals and economic development including Local Strategic Partnerships and the voluntary and community sector.
- A UKIP and Independent Member reported that the District Council had

agreed to a Council Tax freeze and commented that some Members were voting differently across the different tiers of Government.

- The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources reported that there were huge challenges relating to social care and that the Cabinet had worked closely together to find savings across the Council. He thanked the Service Director Finance and Commercial Services for his work on the budget.
- The Leader reported that the District Council had very different pressures to the County Council as they did not have to deal with vulnerable people but services such as planning, leisure and rubbish collections. Vulnerable people were a priority for the County Council. There were risks around some of the savings in the budget but the County Council had a good track record of delivering savings and the reserves were now at a reasonable level. He had concerns about using prudential borrowing for roads because there was no return on investment and roads had a maximum life of ten years. He therefore proposed the recommendation.

The original motion was agreed by 35 votes in favour, 6 against and 6 abstentions. A recorded vote was taken and the following Members voted against the motion:-

Mrs Davies, Mr Chaudhry Ditta, Mr Khan, Mr Lambert, Mr Stuchbury, Julia Wassell

The following Members voted for the motion:-

Mr Appleyard, Mrs Aston, Mr Bendyshe-Brown, Mrs Birchley, Mrs Blake, Mr N Brown, Mr Butcher, Mr Chapple, Mr Chilver, Mrs Clarke OBE, Mr Dhillon, Mr Egleton, Mr Etholen, Mrs Glover, Mr Hardy, Lin Hazell, Mr Irwin, Mrs Letheren, Mrs Macpherson, Mrs Mallen, Mr Martin, Mr Mohammed, Mr Phillips, Mr Reed, Mr Roberts, Mr Schofield, Mr Scott, Mr Shakespeare OBE, Mr Shaw, Mrs Teesdale, Mr Tett, Mrs Vigor-Hedderly, Mr Watson, Mr Whyte, Mrs Wood.

The following Members abstained:-

Mr Brian Adams, Mr Chris Adams, Mr Gomm, Mr Hayday and Mr Huxley.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the Revenue Budget for 2015/16 as set out in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 and a Net Budget Requirement of £331.839m be approved.**
- 2. That a Council Tax Requirement of £232.644m and a Band D Council Tax for County Council spending of £1,115.67 be approved.**
- 3. That the Capital Programme as set out in Appendix 5 of the agenda be approved.**

8 REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT PANEL ON MEMBER ALLOWANCES

The Council received the report of the Independent Panel on Member Allowances for the Council. The review by the Panel is a whole-scheme review which has to be undertaken every four years. An amendment was proposed by Mr T Butcher and seconded by Mr R Scott.

Mr T Butcher presented the following amendment:-

“This Council thanks the Independent Panel for their work and detailed review of Member Allowances. Council notes the Report and the Panel’s recommendations that there be again no general uplift in Members’ Allowances. Council resolves that:-

1. The current system of linkages for Member Allowances should be retained
2. The most fair and accurate means of evaluating a Member’s performance is by his/her electorate through the ballot box
3. Members be encouraged to write a regular account of their activities for their electorate and that Members be allowed to adopt the form and frequency most suited to their electorate”.

The proposer of the motion reported that democracy had to be paid for and also needs to attract all ages of people to become councillors and to represent their population and support their communities on a 24 hour basis; therefore they need an understanding employer. Being a Cabinet Member is a full time job and therefore there should be a link between allowances and officer pay. How do you judge Members performance when they represent different parts of County; urban and rural? If you use Parish Council attendances as a criteria then a councillor in the North of Aylesbury may have 36 Parish Council meetings to attend whereas a Councillor in the Chilterns may only have one Town Council meeting. How do you judge a Councillor’s work - by response to emails, attendance at meetings or contribution to the community and attending branch and constituency events. This can only be judged by the electorate.

The seconder of the motion, Mr Scott commented also that this was difficult to address. The workload of Member and officers were changing and whilst he supported the evaluation of performance it was difficult to see how it could be done fairly and accurately and having a process that could be objective. Members should be encouraged to keep their electorate informed using the Council website toolkit and holding surgeries.

During discussion the following points were made:-

- The Group Leader of the Liberal Democrat, Independent and Buckingham Labour Party agreed that democracy had to be paid for and that this should reflect the value residents place on democracy. It was up to individual Members how to respond to challenges of being a county councillor. She however would abstain on the amendment as she was not really clear why the recommendation of the Panel had been ignored and commented that the linkages to staff payments should have been made more clear. Should staff have to undertake a different system of performance review to Members? However, Members did have to face the additional hurdle of being evaluated through the ballot box. She commented that she would have liked to have heard the findings from the Panel at this meeting.
- A Liberal Democrat, Independent and Buckingham Labour Member echoed the views of the Group Leader, particularly that it would have been useful to have heard from the Panel directly and understood their rationale for the recommendations. County Councillors could be rang at all times of the day and one constituent rang him at 10pm on Christmas Day. He commented about the current system of election which should be changed and first past the post. He had given up his job to dedicate time to the work of a County Councillor and commented that they should be paid what they are worth. He would abstain from the amendment.

- A Conservative Member reported that allowances had been reviewed four years ago and allowances needed to be reviewed. The number of county councillors had reduced from 57 to 49 despite increases in population and the mileage rate had been dropped. The cost per voter was going down 20%. Members were eligible to join the Pension Scheme but this is being withdrawn in two years' time therefore the cost per voter would go down even further by 40%. It was important that people were attracted to become a county councillor in the future and he supported the amendment.

On a vote being taken the majority were in favour, 1 against and 4 abstentions.

RESOLVED

- 1. The current system of linkages for Member Allowances should be retained (for the financial year 2014/15, a one per cent increase in Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances, payable from 1st April 2014)**
- 2. The most fair and accurate means of evaluating a Member's performance is by his/her electorate through the ballot box**
- 3. Members be encouraged to write a regular account of their activities for their electorate and that Members be allowed to adopt the form and frequency most suited to their electorate".**

9 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (LGPS) - LOCAL PENSION BOARD

The Council received the report on the need to establish a Local Pension Board by 1 April 2015 due to the new Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. The Board would ensure the effective and efficient governance and administration of the Scheme, including funding and investments. The establishment of the Board had been agreed by the Regulatory and Audit Committee and the Pension Fund Committee.

RESOLVED

That Council note this report, dissolve the Pension Fund Consultative Group and approve the establishment of the Local Pension Board, its composition, its code of conduct and its terms of reference in accordance with its constitution.

10 NOTICES OF MOTION

The following Motion was presented by Mr M Appleyard as follows:-

"We are in danger of losing a generation of voters if we do not take action now. Since 1964 there has been a fall of 25% in the number of under 24 year olds voting in General Elections. This, during a period when the number of over 65s voting has remained fairly static.

Young people need to speak up, as it is they who inherit the actions of current politicians, and they who will lead the country in the future. We have a responsibility as a Council to promote local democracy. As members we have a duty to serve our communities, regardless of their political persuasion or their age.

I ask this Council to commit to working with our younger people, to discover what stops

them speaking up and taking part in democracy and engagement. When we know some of the answers, we can then work with our younger people to design programmes that will bring about an inclusive democracy in Buckinghamshire.”

The proposer of the Motion Mr M Appleyard reported that in 1964 76% of young people voted in the general election and in 2010 it was 51%, only half. This is a serious change. There are no statistics for local elections but they do not appear on the radar of young people who are turned off by jargon and the practice of politicians. This Council has regular contact with Youth Parliament and youth groups trying to give a strong voice to young people. The Council needs to communicate by social media through a rapid dissemination of ideas and adopt their style and reengage people who will be Leaders in the future. Young people need to take part in developing policy and delivery for which they will inherit. He challenged County Councillors to engage young people and take them door knocking etc and visit their schools. Officers would also look at research on making engagement stronger.

Mr W Whyte seconded the proposal. The Motion was discussed as follows:-

- The UKIP and Independent Group Leader welcomed the notice of motion but emphasised the importance of having a level playing field with all political groups. He referred to a recent school event where he had been criticised for not being there but was not aware of the invitation.
- A Liberal Democrat, Independent and Buckingham Labour Member commented that this would fail if there was more of the same but engagement is important. She had listened on 29 January to George the Poet, who was a 24 year old performer and poet who said young people were all engaged but will not take part as a conscious decision as they know the reality of political structures. Parliamentary structures are now organised where most votes don't count; there are a 100 marginal seats and 30 three way marginals. In Buckingham with the speakers seat convention the three major parties have declined to put up a candidate in respect of the office of speaker which was a disincentive to voting.
- A Conservative Member welcomed the fact that there were 6/7 young candidates for this election. At her Select Committee she commented that young people made good witnesses with their honest opinions and have something important to say. Youth parliament was a fantastic example of good engagement and she applauded people who took part and the importance of engaging with schools. She referred to a recent Inquiry on Cyber safety and ways to influence decisions for young people.
- A Conservative Member commented that action needed to be taken to address this by all County Councillors as ambassadors to speak to young people. However, she was concerned about spending resources especially at this time in the Council's new budget. Officers time was expensive in drawing up reports and suggested others ways this could be looked into. She agreed with the sentiment but with no additional resources.
- A Liberal Democrat, Independent and Buckingham Labour Member had attended the Sir Henry Floyd hustings. He commented that they had tried to contact UKIP. He welcomed this debate and referred to the debate in Scotland and for 16 year olds being able to vote, when they can get married and join the army at 16. In 1964 party membership was 8%, now 1% and this elite club needs to be broken down. Democracy when it works well was amazing such as the UN debate recently held. He expressed concern about the few women and bme representatives in politics and they should proportionally reflect the people

they represent. In 2010 Conservative has a turnout of 36% with 306 MPs, Labour 29% with 258 MPs and 23% for the Liberal Democrats with just 57 MPs. Since Liberal Government gave women the vote in 1918 369 female MPs had only been elected. 35% elected in the last 20 years. Residents were switched off by national politics but he supported the amendment.

- A Liberal Democrat, Independent and Buckingham Labour Member emphasised the importance of putting resources into this area as he felt young people had been neglected. When he attended events at schools he received complaints from young people that politicians were in it for themselves and fight amongst each other, also that they were controlled by Westminster. Party politics ruled rather than local politics. He commented that Members needed to engage young people and to send up a fund and a Committee and work with schools and young people.
- A Liberal Democrat, Independent and Buckingham Labour Member reported that she came to this Council when she was 16 for funding for an arts and youth project which was refused. She was disillusioned that politics was bankrolled by big business and could at times be threatening and intimidating. She was concerned about the behaviour of political organisations and the importance of speaking the truth. All politicians have DBS checks. 16 year olds were interested in Saturday jobs, no tuition fees for university and skate parks etc and County Councillors needed to be in tune with their needs.
- A Conservative Member supported the amendment. He coached cricket and football and talked to young people who did not understand the system. It was important to visit schools together and make the debate non-political.
- A Conservative Member emphasised the need for more women in politics. In 1918 women over 35 could vote and this again changed in mid 20s. However, politics was dominated by males. 31% of councillors are women only. Some people never have voted.
- A Cabinet Member supported the Motion. She was conscious from an early age of the democratic process through her parents. Women threw themselves under a race horse to get the vote they were so determined. She commented that people should vote because of this sacrifice. There was a disconnect with people and the political process. The Council could work with youth clubs and politicians overall needed to behave better
- A Conservative Member reported that the voting age should be reduced to 16 and politics should start in schools with a county wide debating competition promoted by BCC sponsored by local organisations.
- A Liberal Democrat, Independent and Buckingham Labour Member referred to Local Democracy Week where the speaker of the House of Commons had chaired a debate at the local school. As a Local Member he had encouraged other councillors to stand. Members needed to offer support to 16 years olds to have some influence over their future.
- A Cabinet Member reported that one of her granddaughters was President of the school council and a Member of the European youth parliament. The family have to pay for air fares but she was highly engaged and the Youth parliament was a good starting point.

The seconder of the motion reported that there was a duty to support the community regardless of age. John Bercow was a huge supporter of Local Democracy Week and Buckingham Town Council was highly engaged with young people. Councillors have a duty to look at local specific issues of interest for young people to get them engaged. This does not entail significant cost and they could use 'pester power' to ask their

parents why they are not getting engaged.

The proposer Mr Appleyard reported that he encouraged activities in secondary schools so that pupils could step out into the adult world and he was engaging headteachers in this project. Schools are governed by the Department of Education and Ofsted and it was important to get them to focus on the non-academic side of school education, which was a hard task. Many Councillors were Governors and had the opportunity to get things started in local schools. The Member Group would be action based and Members were invited to volunteer.

The Motion was carried.

RESOLVED that the following motion be agreed:-

“We are in danger of losing a generation of voters if we do not take action now. Since 1964 there has been a fall of 25% in the number of under 24 year olds voting in General Elections. This, during a period when the number of over 65s voting has remained fairly static.

Young people need to speak up, as it is they who inherit the actions of current politicians, and they who will lead the country in the future. We have a responsibility as a Council to promote local democracy. As members we have a duty to serve our communities, regardless of their political persuasion or their age.

I ask this Council to commit to working with our younger people, to discover what stops them speaking up and taking part in democracy and engagement. When we know some of the answers, we can then work with our younger people to design programmes that will bring about an inclusive democracy in Buckinghamshire.”

11 WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written questions and answers are available on the Council’s website: www.buckscc.gov.uk and the Members’ Library.

CHAIRMAN

5. ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES: REVIEW OF PROPORTIONALITY

Report of the Monitoring Officer

- 1 The distribution of seats on Committees is governed by Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, which require the allocation to accord with the rules on proportionality. It is incumbent on the County Council to satisfy itself each year that the rules on proportionality continue to be properly applied.
- 2 Members may recall that the Regulations state that seats on Committees must be allocated to each political group in the same proportion to the number of seats held by each of those groups on the County Council (rules of aggregation as well as being in the correct proportions on each Committee individually, in so far as this may be practicable).
- 3 Subsequent to the last proportionality review, Mr P Irwin has left the UKIP & Independent Group and joining the Conservative Group. In addition, Mr P Gomm and Mr D Hayday have left the UKIP & Independent Group (now known as the UKIP Group) and formed The Independent Group. The political balance of the Council is now 37 Conservatives, 4 Liberal Democrats, 4 UKIP, 2 Independents, 1 East Wycombe Independent and 1 Labour. There are four political groups comprising 37 (The Conservative Group), 6 (The Liberal Democrats, Independent and Buckingham Labour Group), 4 (The UKIP Group) and 2 (The Independent Group). From these figures is derived the entitlement to seats on Committees as shown in the following table.

Table 1 – Overall Group allocation to Seats

| Political Group | Seats on Council | % of whole | Entitlement to seats actual | Entitlement to seats rounded |
|--|------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Conservative | 37 | 75.5% | 56.63 | 57 |
| Liberal Democrat, East Wycombe Independent & Buckingham Labour | 6 | 12.2% | 9.15 | 9 |
| UKIP | 4 | 8.2% | 6.15 | 6 |
| Independent | 2 | 4.1% | 3.08 | 3 |
| Total | 49 | 100% | 75 | 75 |

The table below shows the normal distribution of the 75 seats on Committees.

Table 2 – Initial calculations before adjustments

| Committee | Size | Conservative | Lib Dems, East Wycombe Independent & Buckingham Labour | UKIP | The Independent Group |
|----------------------|-----------|---------------|--|-------------|-----------------------|
| Development Control | 8 | 6.04 (6) | 0.98 (1) | 0.66 (1) | 0.33 (0) |
| Pension Fund | 6 | 4.53 (5) | 0.73 (1) | 0.49 (0) | 0.25 (0) |
| Regulatory & Audit | 8 | 6.04 (6) | 0.98 (1) | 0.66 (1) | 0.33 (0) |
| Rights of Way | 8 | 6.04 (6) | 0.98 (1) | 0.66 (1) | 0.33 (0) |
| Senior Appointments | 7 | 5.29 (5) | 0.85 (1) | 0.57 (1) | 0.29(0) |
| Select – Education | 11 | 8.31 (8) | 1.34 (1) | 0.90 (1) | 0.45 (1)* |
| Select - Health | 11 | 8.31 (8) | 1.34 (1) | 0.90 (1) | 0.45 (1)* |
| Select - Finance | 8 | 6.04 (6) | 0.98 (1) | 0.66 (1) | 0.33 (0) |
| Select - Environment | 8 | 6.04 (6) | 0.98 (1) | 0.66 (1) | 0.33 (0) |
| Total | 75 | 56(57) | 9 | 8(6) | 2(3) |

** Strict rounding results in a remainder of one for the 'size 11' Committees. The largest fractional part belongs to the Independent Group so this remainder has been allocated to that group.*

The numbers in parentheses above indicate the entitlement to seats. The distribution resulted in an over-allocation of 2 seats to the UKIP Group therefore this has been adjusted to ensure overall proportions apply.

Following the agreement of all political groups the final allocations proposed are listed below.

Table 3 – Final allocations of Seats

| Committee | Size | Conservative | Lib Dems, East Wycombe Independent & Buckingham Labour | UKIP | The Independent Group |
|----------------------|-----------|--------------|--|----------|-----------------------|
| Development Control | 8 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Pension Fund | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Regulatory & Audit | 8 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Rights of Way | 8 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Senior Appointments | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Select – Education | 11 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Select - Health | 11 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Select - Finance | 8 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Select - Environment | 8 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 75 | 57 | 9 | 6 | 3 |

Other Council Committees

- 4 There are currently no other Council Committees where proportionality applies. If a new Council Committee is created and proportionality applies, it will be applied on the basis as

set out in Appendix 1.

Buckinghamshire Fire Authority

- 5 The County Council has 12 places on the Fire Authority which, applying the rules on proportionality, results in the following distribution of seats across the groups.

Table 4

| Committee | Size | Conservative | Lib Dems, East Wycombe Independent & Buckingham Labour | UKIP | The Independent Group |
|------------------|-------------|---------------------|---|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Fire Authority | 12 | 9 (9.06) | 1 (1.46) | 1 (0.98) | 1 (0.49) |

Strict rounding results in a remainder of one seat. The largest fractional part belongs to the Independent Group so this remainder has been allocated to that group.

Other Member Bodies

- 6 It is the current policy of the County Council that notwithstanding that the rules of proportionality do not apply to non decision making bodies, all member bodies should be appointed on a proportional basis whenever reasonably practicable. At its last meeting the Council agreed that it would wish this policy to be continued.

Recommendation

That the distribution of seats across Committees be as set out in Table 3 and Table 4, to accord with the rules on proportionality. This will come into effect immediately following the close of the full Council meeting.

**SARAH ASHMEAD
MONITORING OFFICER**

APPENDIX 1

| Size | Conservative | Lib Dems, East Wycombe Independent & Buckingham Labour | UKIP | The Independent Group |
|--------------------|---------------------|---|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| No of Seats | 37 | 6 | 4 | 2 |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | 2 | 0(1) | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | 3 | 0(1) | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 8 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 9 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 10 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 11 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 0(1) |
| 12 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 0(1) |

Note: The figures in parentheses indicate that strict rounding has resulted in a remainder. This remainder has been allocated to the Group with the largest fractional part.







2014/15 Annual Report of Buckinghamshire County Council Select Committees

Buckinghamshire County Council

April 2015



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How Scrutiny works at the County Council

The role of the Select Committees is to hold decision-makers to public account, providing a check and balance on the power of the executive. Scrutiny is a statutory responsibility and at the County Council the Select Committees work by conducting Inquiries into issues and making evidence-based recommendations for improvements.

At the County Council the majority of significant decisions are taken by the executive (Cabinet). Under this system of governance, scrutiny is a key way in which the other County Councilors—the non-executive—can improve the quality of life for Buckinghamshire residents by influencing the development of policy and practice.

The scrutiny function is carried out at Buckinghamshire County Council by four Select Committees. These consist of non-executive County Councillors and provide cross-party independent challenge.



Val Letheren

Chairman
Education, Skills and
Children's Services
Select Committee



Warren Whyte

Chairman
Environment, Transport
and Locality Services
Select Committee



Brian Roberts

Chairman
Finance, Performance
and Resources Select
Committee



Angela

Macpherson

Chairman
Health and Adult Social
Care Select Committee

Involving the Public

Select Committees aim to provide a voice for the public and involve residents in different ways. This includes:

A facility for the public to ask questions at Select Committee meetings.

- ⇒ Enabling the public to suggest topics for Inquiries.
- ⇒ Involving the public in Inquiries—for example this year the Education, Skills and Children's Select Committee gathered views from teachers across Bucks on how to improve internet safety.
- ⇒ Making meetings accessible for public viewings. All committee meetings are open to the public to attend, except in exceptional circumstances where confidential information is discussed. All Select Committee meetings are also webcast.
- ⇒ Engaging with our 400 followers on Twitter, enabling them to find out the latest news about the work of scrutiny.

Education, Skills and Children's Services

The Education, Skills and Children's Services Select Committee considers policies and services relating to education, skills, children and young people.

It comprises of eleven County Councillors, along with representatives from the primary and secondary school sectors, and representatives of the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church.

The top priority for the Select Committee has this year been supporting the Council's response to the Ofsted Inspection of Children's Services in light of the inadequate rating. Our work has included:

- ⇒ Regular monthly public Select Committee meetings holding decision-makers and senior officers to account for the development and delivery of the Improvement Plan.
- ⇒ Engaging with Council partners on joint working, in particular via the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB).
- ⇒ Observing informal project work stream meetings to ascertain progress in delivery of the Improvement Plan.
- ⇒ Holding an urgent emergency meeting of the Select Committee in November 2014 to consider the draft Improvement Plan. The Committee meet and made immediate recommendations to Cabinet highlighting the need for some changes. In particular, the need to clarify the actions for the BSCB.

Looking ahead 2015/16

The Committee will continue to monitor the performance of the new Children's Social Care and Learning Business Unit, including regular oversight of progress in Children's Services.

Key achievements:

- ⇒ Since September 2014 holding regular sessions to hold the executive and partners to account on implementing the Children's Services Improvement Plan, following the Ofsted Inspection.
- ⇒ Making a short report with recommendations to Cabinet on changes to strengthen the draft Improvement Plan in Autumn 2014, some of which were taken into account in the revised draft agreed by Cabinet.
- ⇒ Making an Inquiry report and recommendations to Cabinet and partners on Child Internet Safety.
- ⇒ Ensuring that there is public accountability for public services even when these are delivered by external providers, for example examining the services delivered by the Bucks Learning Trust.
- ⇒ Holding a special meeting to publically hold grammar school headteachers to account for the 11 Plus results and methodology.

Inquiries 2014/15

- ⇒ Children's Services Improvement Plan Inquiry (completed)
- ⇒ Internet Safety Inquiry (completed)

A new Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation will be launched to examine preventative action in Buckinghamshire.

Children's Internet Safety Inquiry

The Education, Skills and Children's Services Select Committee carried out an in-depth inquiry into Children's Internet Safety to consider how local partner agencies, including the County Council, promote children and young people's safe use of the internet. The Inquiry received evidence from local partners and national experts and through drawing together the evidence it has received aims to flag some of the examples of local practice and put forward recommendations to contribute to this important agenda for the protection of children. The Inquiry set out to consider how the key messages around cyber safety are being delivered to children, young people, parents and professionals and explore some current examples of good practice.

During the Inquiry Members of the committee were able to visit the McAfee Cyber Security Exhibition and tutorial centre at Bletchley Park, Buckinghamshire and seen first-hand the training facilities and training facilitators available to young people and schools to promote cyber safety awareness. Members of the Select Committee also visited schools and spoke to school leaders and see some of the activities first hand, including visits to Stoke Poges School in Buckinghamshire.



Members of the Select Committee visit the McAfee Cyber Security Exhibition at Bletchley

Membership

- Mrs M Aston
- Mr J Chilver
- Mr D Dhillon (Vice Chairman)
- Mr P Gomm
- Mr P Irwin
- Mrs V Letheren (Chairman)
- Mrs W Mallen
- Mr M Shaw
- Mr R Stuchbury
- Mr D Watson
- Ms K Wood

Co-opted Members

- Mr D Babb, Church of England Representative
- Mr M Moore, Roman Catholic Church
- Ms M Nowers, Primary School Sector

Environment, Transport & Locality Services

The Environment, Transport and Locality Services (ETL) Select Committee carries out the scrutiny functions for policies and services relating to environmental sustainability, planning & development, transportation, road maintenance and locality services. ETL Select Committee is also the local authority's designated statutory crime and disorder scrutiny committee.

Membership

- Mr. B Bendyshe-Brown
- Mr T. Butcher
- Mr. Carroll (Vice-Chairman)
- Mr. B Chapple OBE
- Mr. D Dhillon
- Mr. P Gomm
- Mr. S Lambert
- Mr. W Whyte (Chairman)

The year in summary

The ETL Select Committee has scrutinised and monitored a range of local services and topic areas over the last year. These include Transport for Bucks recommendation monitoring, the Community Safety Partnership Plan, External Funding Opportunities, S106 governance, processes and negotiations, Trading Standards joint service delivery model, Carbon Management and Energy Strategy, the Library Service and Flooding.

Key achievements:

- ⇒ The ETL's public transport Inquiry has resulted in the Council adopting a more integrated commissioning approach to transport delivery going forward, achieving better value for money for the Council and residents.
- ⇒ The ETL's Inquiry into the Council's internal processes and approach to s106 agreements has highlighted the need for clearer accountability, transparency and a coordinated approach across the Council to ensure it gets best value from developer contributions and appropriate mitigation measures are sought on behalf of residents.
- ⇒ Robustly monitoring the TfB inquiry recommendations, ensuring progress towards improvements. At the 12 month review the Committee were pleased to conclude that in their view 10 of the 12 recommendations made had been successfully implemented.
- ⇒ The Committee has contributed to the development of the vision for the Library Service by holding an informal workshop and feeding in views.

Inquiries:

- ⇒ S106 (completed)
- ⇒ Public Transport (completed)

Public Transport Inquiry: Scrutiny influencing and informing policy development and future commissioning.

What was the purpose of the inquiry? The ETL Select Committee conducted an in-depth Inquiry into public transport provision which looked strategically at all public transport provision, policy, financial support, and the role of community transport alternatives in order to consider how best to support an effective, affordable and sustainable transport network across the county towards 2020 and beyond.

Key Findings and Recommendations: The Committee held a 2 day evidence gathering session hearing from over 30 contributors, providing a wealth of views and experiences. The recommendations are designed to help the Council achieve a strategic and joined-up approach to future commissioning of public transportation, to ensure transport needs are met in the most effective way and the Council achieves value for money in the services it provides. The recommendations focused on:

- **Integration:** Members concluded that establishing an Integrated Transport Unit with integrated commissioning is the best way forward.
- **Policy:** Current policy is fragmented resulting in a correspondingly fragmented approach to the allocation of resources. To rectify these deficiencies the Committee made recommendations to improve the overall evidence-base of understanding the real needs of Buckinghamshire's residents.
- **Transport Solutions:** The Committee recommended that the current de-facto policy prioritising buses as the best transport solution for improving accessibility over other alternatives should change to achieve better outcomes and better value for money. In particular, the Council's should strengthen its approach to supporting the development of community transport solutions.

What changed as a result of scrutiny?

- ◆ The scrutiny Inquiry raised visibility of the transport issues and challenges the Council was facing with reducing budgets, applying a holistic overview.
- ◆ It drove a gear change to review the current policy, management and commissioning of public transport services encouraging a change in speed at which the issues were reviewed.
- ◆ It encouraged a more integrated and cross cutting approach to the consideration of the issues rather than silo reviews within service areas/Cabinet Member portfolios, and a more needs based approach.

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ETL Members examine s106 Governance and Processes

S106 Developer Contributions Inquiry

Early in 2014 Members raised concerns around the efficacy of the Council's internal arrangements for the management, delivery and commissioning of s106 negotiations and contributions. A number of key areas were highlighted for inclusion in the scope for further Inquiry work. These fall within the following categories:

- Internal governance, policy, and processes for the creation and monitoring of agreements.
- Member engagement and local insight and influence in future requirement of s106 funding .
- Delivery and Commissioning, developing an effective programme and management of delivery.

The Inquiry working group has now concluded its evidence-gathering and will be making recommendations to Cabinet in May 2015.

Looking ahead 2015/16

The ETL Select Committee will monitor the implementation of its Public Transport recommendations and will continue to have oversight of a wide range of Council services and policies. The committee held a work programming workshop to highlight areas they will examine in the forthcoming year. These include; scrutinising the crime and disorder partnership plan and exploring the issue of 'Legal Highs', alternative delivery models for country parks, and the council's approach to developer works, to mention a few. Committee items may lead to shorter Inquiry areas being identified for further work within these topic areas. The committee's next Inquiry will be a detailed review the council's response to flooding , exploring lessons learnt from winter flooding issues, and the partnership working and response to dealing with flooding across the county.

Finance, Performance & Resources

During the year the Finance, Performance & Resources (FPR) Select Committee has looked at many strategic important issues facing the Council. It has maintained a regular watching brief on the Future Shape Programme and it has developed questioning Cabinet Members and senior officers on different aspects. It has also looked at other important issues where there has been a significant financial element, for example in the Autumn we considered the in-year children's services financial pressures. The Committee has worked closely with other Select Committees to look at issues where these issues are cross-cutting for instance in scrutinising the Council's contract on grass cutting jointly with the ETL Committee.

Membership

- Mr. B Chapple OBE (Vice-Chairman)
- Mr. T Egleton
- Mr. S Lambert
- Mr D Martin
- Mr. B Roberts (Chairman)
- Mr. D Shakespeare OBE
- Mr. A Stevens
- Mr. D Watson

Key achievements:

- ⇒ Scrutiny of the 2014/15 budget within a tight timescale.
- ⇒ Production of the hard-hitting crisis support Inquiry report.
- ⇒ Oversight of the Future Shape programme, which has transformed the way in which BCC operates.

Inquiries

- ⇒ Emergency Crisis Support Inquiry (completed)
- ⇒ Budget Scrutiny (completed)

Crisis Support in Buckinghamshire Inquiry

A key piece of work for the FPR Committees this year has been an in-depth Inquiry into Emergency Crisis Support. This was a wide-ranging inquiry looking at all types of emergency crisis support for Buckinghamshire residents. In particular, the Inquiry looked at ideas for how the Council's funds could be used effectively to prevent as well as support those in crisis. Recommendations were made for improving the accessibility of information for those in crisis, access to credit unions and emergency support.

Budget Scrutiny Inquiry

As in previous years, the budget scrutiny process involved questioning each Cabinet Member in a number of hearings held from mid-December through to early January. Members of the Finance, Performance & Resources Select Committee were able to question Cabinet Members on their planning, assumptions and contingencies, with a particular focus on whether their objectives were properly funded by the proposed budget.

The work benefitted from valuable input from Citizen's Advice Bureau and Community Impact Buckinghamshire, each of which fielded representatives that gave an insight into the budget proposals from their organisation's perspective. They were also able to articulate the views of other organisations that they were involved with. The process resulted in 9 recommendations that were presented to Cabinet in early February.



Mr. Brian Roberts and Budget Scrutiny chairman Mr. David Shakespeare.

Looking Ahead

A new inquiry into the issue of the public being able to access Rent in Advance has been launched. This is a follow-on Inquiry as a result of concerns being raised to the committee on this issue from the voluntary and community sector. The Committee will also be looking at the issue of prudential borrowing and other financial matters in the year ahead.

Health & Adult Social Care

The Health & Adult Social Care (HASC) Select Committee performs the statutory local authority health scrutiny function, covering all NHS funded health services received by local residents; it also covers public health and adult social care. These Council services form the largest area of the local authority's spend (almost 35%), with its share of the budget set to grow further in future years. The challenge for the committee is to maintain an oversight over this broad remit whilst prioritising specific issues and topics to focus on in greater detail, through its meetings and inquiries.

During the year the Committee scrutinised the following issues:

- ⇒ The plans for the takeover of Heatherwood and Wexham Park NHS Trust by Frimley Park NHS Trust.
- ⇒ Progress in improving Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust services in light of it being placed in special measures.
- ⇒ Developments at Milton Keynes Hospital as many north Buckinghamshire residents rely upon their services.
- ⇒ How the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) is being recommissioned for 2015 by a sub-group.
- ⇒ Ambulance service performance, and have raised concerns with the provider and commissioners regarding response times in the county.
- ⇒ Looking at the work of the Better Healthcare Fund via a sub-group. We want to see the improved integration of services delivered at pace, and result in real improvements in health outcomes and quality of life, particularly among elderly groups.

Key achievements:

- ⇒ Completing the GP Services Inquiry with recommendations for improvements.
- ⇒ Looking at a variety of service issues relating to hospital provision across the county.
- ⇒ Scrutinising a variety of health services including the performance of the Ambulance Service.

Membership

- Mrs. A Macpherson (Chairman from Dec 2014—previous chairman Lin Hazell)
- Mr. Adams
- Ms. S Adoh – Healthwatch Bucks
- Mrs. M Aston
- Mrs. J Blake
- Mr. N Brown
- Mr. D Carroll
- Mrs A. Davies
- Mr. A Huxley
- Mr. T Green - Wycombe District Council Representative
- Mrs. W Matthews - South Bucks District Council Representative
- Mr. R Reed (Vice Chairman)
- Mrs. F Roberts MBE - Aylesbury Vale District Council Representative.
- Mr. B Roberts
- Mr. N. Shepherd - Chiltern District Council Representative
- Mrs. J Teesdale

General Practice Services Inquiry

The HASC conducted an Inquiry into GP services prompted by concerns at appointment waiting times and variable patient experience. Evidence was gathered from service users, commissioners, regulators, GP representatives and front line staff at 12 practices across the county. GP service provision is a complex area affected by funding levels, GP contracts and labour supply largely determined and influenced at a national level. Practices operate largely independently from each other, and service demand has increased significantly in the last decade.

The HASC made recommendations in a number of areas where it felt there were issues, and which could result in better and more consistent patient experiences of services. These areas included transparency over local service funding, stronger patient participation groups, better NHS engagement in land use planning, enhanced data and benchmarking of practice appointment waiting times, more coordinated demand management, and plans for how GP providers will be supported to deliver potentially radical future changes in the model of service delivery and investment in premises. The committee followed up this Inquiry with an item on the Primary Care Strategy at their March meeting, and will monitor how their Inquiry recommendations are implemented.



HASC Members visited Haddenham (left) and Cherrymead (Loudwater) GP surgeries as part of their evidence-gathering.

Looking Ahead 2015/16

During the year ahead the HASC will increase its focus on the scrutiny of adult social care services. At their February meeting the HASC agreed to undertake an Inquiry into local community services for adults with learning disabilities. They will report on their findings in 2015/16.

Some of the other issues that the Committee will be looking at are Adult Mental Health Services, the council's adult social care service trading company 'Buckinghamshire Care', the new CAMHS service, Better Care Fund progress, and the Council response to the Care Act requirements.

The Year Ahead

Each Select Committee has its own priorities for issues that it will be scrutinising in the year ahead. To support the scrutiny function work effectively here are some of the team priorities:

- ⇒ Supporting Members with getting timely information to be informed and hold decision-makers to account.
- ⇒ Supporting Members to have the knowledge and skills for example in organising the Annual Scrutiny Conference.
- ⇒ Ensuring that each Select Committee has independent policy advice support for research in conducting Inquiries with reports and recommendations to decision-makers for changes.
- ⇒ Ensuring that Select Committees involve service users and residents in their work. The benefit of this is to ensure that Select Committees are gathering evidence from outside of the Council on service delivery and community issues so that any recommendations are evidence-based.

Scrutiny Staffing Support

The new HQ Member Services team provides administrative, procedural and policy support for all four Select Committees and the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel (host authority). All the team support the scrutiny function. The current lead Committee Advisers for each Committee are:

- ⇒ Education, Skills and Children's Services: Reece Bowman
- ⇒ Environment, Transport and Locality Services: Kelly Sutherland
- ⇒ Finance, Performance & Resources: Clare Gray
- ⇒ Health & Adult Social Care: Kama Wager

To find out more about Scrutiny at Buckinghamshire County Council, please visit our webpages www.buckscc.gov.uk/democracy

or Follow our new twitter account @Bucksdemocracy

Email: democracy@buckscc.gov.uk



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7a. REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Strategic Plan and May Debate

As announced in February, a review of the Strategic Plan is currently taking place. A Members' workshop was held on 19th March to review the Council's priorities and another workshop is planned for 16th April after County Council.

For the past three years, the Member debate held as part of our Annual General Meeting in May has provided a useful opportunity for Members to consider the big issues facing Buckinghamshire.

As in previous years we have invited a national speaker to prompt the debate and I am pleased to announce that Mike Burton, Editorial Director of the Municipal Journal, will be joining us on 21st May. The focus for this year's AGM Debate will be on the big issues facing Buckinghamshire but with a particular emphasis on the implications arising from the General Election results.

Tri-County Partnership

The County Council continues to work with colleagues in Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire in exploring the opportunities and potential benefits of a co-ordinated approach to the strategic planning and delivery of infrastructure in support of planned levels of growth. The discussions, which are taking place in partnership with the three county-based Local Enterprise Partnerships, are looking at how to develop an integrated approach to the planning and delivery of strategic investment in transport infrastructure, digital infrastructure, economic development and skills development.

At the same time we are exploring the opportunity to develop a delivery model at the sub-national level that could form the basis for securing genuine devolution of powers, funding and accountability from Whitehall. Simplification of the existing plethora of funding mechanisms and incentives could help realise efficiencies that enables the proportion available for investment in services to be increased. If accompanied by greater certainty on the funding available over the medium term there is the very real opportunity to achieve significant benefits in planning and delivering strategic infrastructure.

The expectation remains that post-election the trend towards greater devolution of powers will continue: the current discussions provide the opportunity to develop a proposition for consideration by the incoming government.

Improving Children's Social Care Services

The Improvement Programme for Children's Social Care services is now well underway and the pace of change remains high. Over the next few months I expect to start to see the impact of the changes reflected in improved outcomes for children and young people.

I am a member of both the overarching Improvement Board and the Leadership, Governance and Partnership group. I have also attended meetings with both Police and Health partners to discuss improving joint partnership working. I have recently attended, along with the Cabinet Member, a workshop with staff from across Children's Services which enabled them to outline the changes they would like to see. There are significant actions needed to make the required changes and the Improvement Programme in Children's Services is my personal top priority in terms of where I focus my time and effort.

The Department for Education appointed advisers, Red Quadrant, submitted their first report to the Secretary of State at the end of February. This was and remains the property of the Department for Education. Whilst the final version of their report has not yet been officially published, I know that many people will have seen the draft report. I am very pleased that the advisers have recommended that further government intervention is not needed in Buckinghamshire. I accept all of the recommendations in the report and we are in the process of ensuring that these are embedded into the Improvement Plan.

There is clearly still a long way to go but I am confident that following the additional funding we have set aside for the Improvement Programme, together with the commitment of all staff and senior management across the Council, we will make the necessary improvements to services for our children and young people.

Broadband Update

Connected Counties rollout:

The Connected Counties programme seeks to ensure countywide fibre connectivity is extended to 90%+ of premises (business and residential). Areas that have been enabled to date are detailed here – www.connectedcounties/news. The website includes the ability to validate individual phone numbers and addresses and use a variety of maps for visual reference (www.connectedcounties.org/check-availability).

With the Connected Counties rollout past the halfway stage, a great deal has been achieved and there is more to come. Over 100 fibre cabinets have been installed in Buckinghamshire, serving over 23,000 homes and businesses. Recent activity has seen new exchange areas go 'live', including Haddenham and Long Crendon. A significant amount of additional fibre connected premises are expected before the end of Q4, which will benefit more homes and business in the county. Fibre to the premises work is also ongoing, which in some areas will enable access to ultrafast speeds of 330 Mbps.

Supporting communications and demand stimulation activity continues apace. The most recent take-up report shows continued increase in take-up across the project, approaching 19%. It has been acknowledged that the project is performing well in comparison to other areas and more case studies have been generated, which will be used for advocacy.

A variation to the contract is being negotiated which will deliver some further fibre broadband coverage to new areas in Buckinghamshire (6 new locations). This is being achieved by remodelling unallocated funding. It is hoped that an announcement will be made soon regarding the areas set to benefit.

Other activity:

The BT tender for the Superfast Extension Programme was received w/c 16th March. It is proposed that a change control exercise would be issued to enable BT to develop a solution for Buckinghamshire using allocated District Council, Local Enterprise Partnership and Central Government funding. It is anticipated that a contract will be signed by Herts CC and BT by the end of April, with a change control process initiated by Buckinghamshire thereafter. A number of neighbouring areas have now signed contracts with BT for additional fibre broadband coverage.

Work is taking place to support a variety of broadband activities, seeking to fill in the broadband 'gaps'. This includes: Village Networks as a local wireless provider - developing a superfast products; a community 'pilot; the LEP's 5G trials; and new

commercial/residential site consideration. There is a need to ensure this activity is coordinated effectively, so that this work is complementary. In parallel there is considerable activity in the marketplace, with the announcement of new investment, technology deployment, trials, mobile coverage commitments and acquisitions. Broadband also featured prominently in the most recent Budget.

Ofcom, as the industry regulator, has been busy as of late, focusing its efforts on reviewing its data on fixed and mobile broadband coverage in the UK, as well as benchmarking this against EU competitors. The headlines confirm that coverage and speed indicators have shown significant jumps, which places the UK in an advantageous position against the EU5. In addition, Ofcom is about to undertake a full review of digital infrastructure in the UK, focusing on competition and investment, future innovation and the availability of broadband, phone and mobile services.

HS2 Update

House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee Report

Following on from the evidence I gave to their inquiry in November 2014, this Committee published their report on 25 March. The conclusion is that the Government has not made a convincing case for HS2. It must do so before Parliament passes the Bill to enable the construction of the first stage of the railway to begin. The Committee concluded that, “the Government has not carried out a proper assessment of whether alternative ways of increasing capacity are more cost-effective than HS2” and on rebalancing, “London is likely to be the main beneficiary from HS2. Investment in improving rail links in the north of England might deliver much greater economic benefit at a fraction of the cost”.

These comments reflect what Buckinghamshire County Council has been saying for the last 5 years.

Select Committee Site Visits to Buckinghamshire

The Select Committee visited the Denham area of South Bucks in the Colne Valley on 15th January, as well as London Borough of Hillingdon. We lobbied for, and have now received, three dates from the Committee Clerk for the visits to the rest of Buckinghamshire. Starting in Amersham and Chesham (MP Cheryl Gillan’s constituency) on 20th May, moving on to Aylesbury (MP David Lidington’s constituency) on 21st May and finishing in north Bucks/Buckingham (MP John Bercow’s constituency) on 22nd May. As the County Council Annual General Meetings takes place on 21 May we did request a change to this date but were informed that this is fixed.

The HS2 team has worked up a draft itinerary in consultation with community groups and other stakeholders and is further refining this with the Clerk and HS2 Ltd ahead of the visits as well as involving the Buckinghamshire Compensation and Mitigation Panel Members in the organisation of the visit.

Select Committee proceedings

In the most recent Parliamentary briefing sheet for MPs, it was stated that as of the 19th February, the Committee had heard 230 petitions with a further 82 petitions having been withdrawn or not being appeared on. It is anticipated that by the time Parliament prorogues for the 2015 general election the number of petitioners heard will be around 400.

Local residents, landowners and amenity groups from the Colne Valley presented their petitions to the Select Committee in the second and third weeks of March. Although petitioners were well received by the Committee members, to date this has not resulted

in any revised proposals or assurances from HS2 Ltd. The County Council's appearance at the Select Committee to present on our petition issues for that area will be after the General Election. For more information please see the briefing sheet: www.parliament.uk/business/publications/research/briefing-papers/SN00316/railways-hs2-phase-1

The Select Committee has released a first Special HS2 Select Committee Report. The Select Committee set out advice for petitioners: being concise, not taking longer than 30 minutes to present. They discussed the 'Need to Sell' property compensation scheme and wanting to see this working correctly before the end of the Select Committee hearings, if this is not the case they will readdress. The Select Committee reserved judgement on Colne Valley issues, as they are only part way through hearings, and the issues are connected to the petitioners from The Chilterns. With regard to noise, they do not want to hear from individual petitioners on World Health Organisation guidelines; they would rather comparisons from HS2 or actual measurements came forward. They recommended that in The Chilterns area, petitioners group together, stating "arguments made once or twice are more powerful than those made several hundred times over". The three days' of Buckinghamshire visits are stated as 'provisionally planned'. The report can be read in full here: www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmselect/cmhs2/338/338.pdf

Further Additional Provisions to the Bill and an Updated Environmental Statement

We have to date received two letters from HS2 Ltd setting out a total of 29 further changes to the Bill, mostly relating to additional land required, realignment of access, alterations to rights of way and drainage infrastructure. We may receive further Additional Provisions which in time will be detailed by HS2 in an updated Book of Reference. The impacts of the additional proposals will be set out in an updated Environmental Statement expected in the summer. There will be a further opportunity to petition on those changes.

Heathrow Spur and Questions to the Secretary of State

In answer to a question put forward by Dominic Grieve MP, the Secretary of State for Transport Patrick McLoughlin has confirmed that the Heathrow Spur will not be built as part of either Phase 1 or Phase 2 of HS2. The reasoning given for this was that within the Airports Commission interim report of November 2014, it was found that a HS2 spur would be unlikely to be necessary to support any expansion of Heathrow Airport. This question and answer can be found on the parliament website at: www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-03-02/225879.

It should be noted that there are a number of questions to the Secretary of State asked by Cheryl Gillan MP. These include a question on the effect of tunnelling on the chalk aquifers of The Chilterns to which parts of the Environmental Statement are pointed. These can also be found here: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-03-09/226723>

HS2 Bernwood Green Infrastructure Hub

On 9 March I chaired a third stakeholder meeting in Hogshaw to engage residents and partners in developing our own mitigation ideas for the area. This is centred around the idea of creating a non-commercial, low impact, naturalistic type hub, which would be welcome in the area. The idea is to create a network of natural and semi-natural features, green spaces, rivers and lakes, interspersed and connected to villages in the area to counter balance the hard infrastructure that is coming with HS2. The proposal under the Bernwood brand was generally well received with discussion on the scope of

the area. A working group, with local representatives, will be established to take this work forward.

Buckinghamshire Compensation and Mitigation Panel (BCMP)

The BCMP is now meeting every two months, and is likely to increase in frequency as we approach the Councils' representations before Select Committee. All local members whose areas are affected by HS2 are invited to attend along with community representatives and representatives from the District Council, National Trust, Chilterns Conservation Board, Bucks, Berks and Oxon Wildlife Trust, and HS2AA.

Community support meetings

There will be further 'drop-in' sessions arranged to give 1:1 support to petitioners. Also, officers will be canvassing for interest in further community meetings to explain what assurances are being requested as well as supporting petitioners to co-ordinate and organise the sequence of their presentations as well as ensure they meet the Select Committee's requests for short and concise presentations with minimal repetition.

**MARTIN TETT
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

7b. REPORT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Secondary Allocation 2015

The initial offers were sent to parents on 2nd March. It has been a more difficult year in that the overall number of residents in the transfer group has increased by 349 (5813 residents this year compared with 5464 residents last year) – this is over 11 forms of entry.

- 86% (87% in 2014) were offered their highest preference for which they are qualified. However, this is an increase in real terms getting their first preference school.
- 97% (95% in 2014) of grammar qualified Buckinghamshire resident pupils were offered their first preference grammar school.
- 82% (84% in 2014) of upper school qualified pupils were offered their first preference upper school.
- 238 (219 in 2014) children were allocated to a school that was not their preference.
- More parents made timely applications this year.

But despite a larger cohort:

- All the upper schools that use catchments, except Great Marlow School, have offered to all their catchment children with the school as a preference
- All the grammar schools except Dr Challoner's Grammar School have offered all their catchment qualified pupils a place
- Highcrest (All ability school) has exhausted Bands A and B and bands C and D have gone to a further distance than last year

Bulge classes were created in 2 upper schools – Sir William Ramsay and St Michael's in High Wycombe. We continue to monitor the Great Marlow situation. Dr Challoner's High school chose to increase their intake this year by a class. Further allocations will be made in due course as the admissions process continues. Appeals will be held after Easter.

Promoting democracy to young voters

I have made a number of responses and am establishing a Youth Voice steering group to coordinate how the council and its partners involve and consult with children and young people. We have had our first meeting and we will be holding our next meeting to agree a work plan before the end of April. As example of what is happening is Buckinghamshire Member of Youth Parliament Charlotte Tosti and Deputy Member Evie Towersey have been working hard to encourage young people in Buckinghamshire to register to vote. As a part of their campaign they organised a Question Time event for young voters on 6th March at Aylesbury High School, chaired by John Bercow MP Speaker of the House of Commons. The panel had myself and cross party representatives from Labour, UKIP, LibDems as well as an independent expert.

Over 100 young people attended the event and raised questions to the panel ranging from tuition fees, radicalisation of young women, youth unemployment, the pink bus and TV debates. There was also an opportunity to debate why do young people seem less inclined to vote?

The event was promoted live on social media and links were sent out to inform young people about how to register to vote.

Closing the evening, young people were made aware of Buckinghamshire County Council Youth Voice and the many projects that they can get involved in to have their voices heard. This work is supported by the Youth Service and the next Youth Voice event is on 4th June where young people will be debating about Mental Health awareness.

Business Plans

The Business Plan for Children's Social Care (0-25) and Learning has been published and highlights the breadth of work across the Business Unit to keep children safe and support young people to reach their full potential. The key functions of the business plan are: Early Help, Children's Social Care, Early Years, Education and Skills, Youth and Youth Offending.

MIKE APPLEYARD
DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND SKILLS

7c. REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Registration Service

On 2 March 2015 the second phase of the Immigration Act 2104 was implemented which introduced further changes to prevent sham marriage. From this day, the waiting period for all couples giving a Notice of Marriage/Civil Partnership was extended to 28 days (from 16 days), and for those couples where one or both are a non-EEA national, the waiting period may be extended to 70 days under the Government's new Referral Scheme. The extension period is determined by the evidence and documentation provided by the couple. This extension provides the Home Office with time to investigate suspect marriages further and, where appropriate, take action with the couple before they try to marry.

There has also been a tightening up of documentation required to give a Notice of Marriage/Civil Partnership, including the need for documentation to be valid within a 3-month period.

This is a national change for registration services across England and Wales and is part of the Government's public protection and counter fraud agenda.

Trading Standards

Cot Bed Safety Case

Following a complex investigation by Trading Standards, on 16th March a Company (Baumhaus Limited) and its' Director both pleaded guilty to offences under the General Product Safety Regulations of placing an unsafe product on the market. The product was a cot bed which presented a serious strangulation hazard to very young children. The problem came to light when a parent was watching their toddler climbing out of the cot through a visual baby monitor and watched as their head became trapped in a gap at the end of the cot and their body was left hanging below. Fortunately due to the quick actions of the mother no serious harm occurred and following her report the Trading Standards team then worked hard to get other cots recalled or their design amended so that they no longer presented the same hazard.

Both defendants will be sentenced on 13th April.

Joint Service

The Joint Trading Standards between Buckinghamshire and Surrey is now (from 1st April) in operation. The first Joint Committee was held on 1st April where Buckinghamshire County Council was represented by Martin Phillips and Surrey County Council represented by Helyn Clack, the Cabinet Member for Community Services in Surrey.

The joint service aims to provide a better quality service to consumers, businesses and our partners, building on the strengths and successes of the current teams. We will have access to a wider range of expertise and capacity to create a stronger, more resilient service. The joint service will have greater impact and influence locally, regionally and nationally and will be more innovative in developing new services and protecting residents.

Local Priorities Budget

The Local Priorities Budget is the funding provided for members to allocate in their communities via the County Council's LAFs. It is with regret that, in the current period of austerity, I have had to reduce the amount by £100,000 to £780,000 from 2015-16. The apportionment of this budget across the 19 Local Areas had not been reviewed since the original transportation monies were allocated in 2008. In applying the reduction, I have taken the opportunity to review the total allocation of this budget using a formula developed by our Research Team based upon:

- Local population
- The risk of being vulnerable
- Accessibility and transport
- Health, ageing and social isolation
- Social cohesion

The new allocations will provide a base budget of £30,000 per local area, and distribute the remaining balance by the needs-based formula, illustrated below.

| Local Area | Local Priorities Allocation (£30k min. per LAF) |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Amersham | £40,100 |
| Beaconsfield | £38,300 |
| Beeches | £40,400 |
| Buckingham | £39,900 |
| The Chalfonts | £38,700 |
| Chepping Wye Valley | £41,200 |
| Chesham & Chiltern Villages | £44,200 |
| Gerrards Cross & Denham | £39,500 |
| Gt Brickhill, Wing & Ivinghoe | £39,500 |
| The Missendens | £38,300 |
| Greater Aylesbury | £51,700 |
| Haddenham & Long Crendon | £39,200 |
| High Wycombe | £52,000 |
| NW Chilterns | £39,600 |
| SW Chilterns & Marlow | £41,500 |
| Waddesdon | £37,900 |
| Wendover | £38,800 |
| Wexham and Ivers | £41,100 |
| Winslow and District | £38,000 |
| Total | £780,000 |

Community Safety

Safer Bucks Plan

The Safer Bucks Plan for 2015/16 identifies priorities in some new and emerging crime and disorder areas such as fraud, cyber-crime, exploitation of children and adults whilst retaining focus on key areas such as domestic violence and substance misuse. The Plan is due to be approved by mid-April and will be a published document, available to all. The County Community Safety Team will then draw together the actions that will sit under the plan, and are shared across the broader partnership.

Project Evolve

Project Evolve, which provides housing support for IOM offenders and other probation clients with an acquisitive crime background, has been extended for a further 11 months until 31 March 2016. A variation to contract has also been applied so that Evolve also includes the Wycombe Connections Floating Support contract, which provides 5 dispersed flats owned by Paradigm. A pre-tenancy waiting list is also managed by Connection Floating Support where selected probation clients are prepared for upcoming tenancies. WDC provide 2 Band B nomination rights per year.

Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) Awareness Campaign

During the week commencing 24 November 2014, Community Safety at BCC delivered the biggest Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) awareness campaign of recent years. The reporting of incidents of DVA in Buckinghamshire has been increasing year on year for the past 5 years, but 2014 experienced the highest increase in reports of DVA incidents in recent years. In particular, the final week of November (24-30) experienced an above average increase of 42%. The campaign itself was delivered through roadshows and media, one of which was Mix 96 advertising. Due to the success of this campaign we have used Mix 96 advertising between 09 February 2015 and 29 March 2015 to build on reporting and awareness of DVA.

**MARTIN PHILLIPS
CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

7d. REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The Care Act goes live

From the beginning of this month, the first phase of the Care Act came into effect. It brings with it the most fundamental changes in sixty years to how care and support will be delivered, not least in making it fairer and more consistent across the country for everyone.

All of us will know someone who needs care and support and it is estimated that one in three of us will need care at some point in our lifetime, so it is important that all of us are aware of what support we can expect and how to find out what's available.

A range of posters and leaflets have been designed by central government for local authorities to adapt and use. These will be the basis for information for service-users, carers and the general public to let them know what the changes will mean to them. A letter and leaflet will be going out to all our service-users and carers in the next few weeks. Posters and leaflets will be displayed in public places, including libraries, GP surgeries, reception areas in council offices, etc. A series of articles have also appeared in local newsletters and magazines.

A key strand of the Care Act is to provide Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) for all our residents who might need care and support. So we have developed a great new [website](#) (entitled 'Care Advice Buckinghamshire') with useful information. The new site provides IAG, an e-Marketplace for Care Services in Buckinghamshire and the ability for clients to Self-Serve. Later in the year the site will be enhanced to allow clients to view their Care Account and their progress towards the Care Cap. The site also demonstrates our commitment to be Digital First and leverage digital technology for the benefit of our clients.

In summary, the key changes introduced by the Act are:

- National eligibility criteria
- New carers rights
- Deferred payments
- New Charging Policy
- Ordinary residence
- New Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) platform

Buckinghamshire Care

Buckinghamshire Care claimed a top national accolade at the prestigious Independent Specialist Care Awards 2015 – hosted by the healthcare experts Laing Buisson. It won the coveted 'Innovation' award through its project creating paid work opportunities for people with a disability across its many services.

By employing more disabled people on equal pay and terms and conditions – working directly alongside our workforce – this service will raise expectations among the target groups and provide a pioneering platform for others.

Buckinghamshire Care has also been nominated as a finalist for the Buckinghamshire County Council's Dignity Awards for the same project and an arts project, which saw their clients create art to be displayed at the new Aylesbury Opportunities Centre, was also highly commended for the Dignity Awards.

UK National Sexual Health Awards

Buckinghamshire County Council was a finalist in the UK National Sexual Health Awards in March 2015. This is an annual award ceremony led by Brook and the Family Planning Association (FPA). Buckinghamshire County Council was delighted to be awarded the 'highly commended' category for our sexual health young people's programme led by the Public Health team. The nomination for the award focuses on Buckinghamshire's use of creative techniques and social media to address the sexual health needs of some of Buckinghamshire's more vulnerable young people.

Mental Health Awareness Week – Art Competition

Buckinghamshire County Council is working in partnership with libraries, Carers Bucks, Buckinghamshire Health Trust, Healthy Minds and Buckinghamshire Mind to run an art competition entitled '*This Moment – connecting with the present*' which reflects the national 2015 Mental Health Awareness week theme 'mindfulness'.

1 in 4 people experience a mental health problem in the course of a year. 75% of people with mental ill-health do not seek or receive treatment. These statistics need to change – and we all have a role to play. The art competition is about raising awareness of mental health and the value of mindfulness in promoting mental wellbeing. It is open to anyone aged 11 years or over who has been touched by mental health issues through personal experience or connection to someone who has experienced mental ill-health. The closing date for entries is Friday 10 April 2015.

There are three age categories (11-15, 16-24 and 25 years plus). The winners of each category will be informed week commencing 11 May, ready for Mental Health Awareness Week (11 – 17 May). The *This Moment* art exhibition will be touring around the county from 20 April to 18 May.

Please look at <http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/mentalhealth> for more information.

Launch of Active Bucks – Move more, feel great stakeholder event

Invitations have been sent out for the Active Bucks stakeholder launch event which is taking place on Thursday 23 April at Aylesbury Waterside Theatre from 9:15 – 1pm.

A quarter of adults who live in Buckinghamshire are inactive and many more are simply not exercising enough to benefit their health. *Active Bucks* aims to better understand opportunities to engage inactive people, and make physical activity more accessible and enjoyable for everyone. As part of the Active Bucks project, each Local Area Forum (LAF) is being offered a funding allocation for local physical activity provision, based on what physical activity each community says they want to engage in.

The stakeholder launch event provides a unique opportunity to shape the project. Each LAF has been given two allocated place for the event.

For further information, on the Active Bucks initiative please contact, Tom Burton tburton@buckscc.gov.uk in the Public Health team.

New Psychoactive Substances (NPS or “Legal Highs”)

Buckinghamshire Drug and Alcohol Team (DAAT) commissioned the first national study of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) to look at the emerging issue around their use in Buckinghamshire. The study was carried out online and face to face; the online aspect was carried out nationally and the face to face work was carried out specifically in Buckinghamshire. The report has since been published and the DAAT is now implementing actions to address them, starting with briefings to Members and key stakeholders around the findings and recommendations.

The DAAT is working closely in partnership with Trading Standards, Community Safety and the Police to address one particular supplier in High Wycombe, resulting in the supplier ceasing the sale of these substances. Work is continuing to address awareness, education and training around these substances and practice is being shared with neighbouring counties: Northamptonshire, Milton Keynes, Bedfordshire, Oxfordshire, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire.

Integration of Health and Social care - The Better Care Fund

The Better Care Fund (BCF) S75 is a national requirement of every health and social care economy. Health and social care partners have established a pooled budget in place from April 1 2015. Buckinghamshire County Council, and the Aylesbury Vale and Chiltern Clinical Commissioning Groups have jointly submitted BCF plans which were approved by the Secretary of State in December 2014.

These plans and the underpinning S75 pooled budget build on the work on integration which has taken place over the last few years in Buckinghamshire. A clear commissioning strategy has been developed which articulates the changes that will be made. The first priority is a county wide Rapid Response & Reablement Service. This alignment of services will enable health and social care colleagues to work more effectively by streamlining services and improving service user experience.

Dementia-Friendly Communities

Dementia-Friendly Communities is a new initiative in Buckinghamshire aimed at improving social inclusion and quality of life for people living with dementia and memory impairments in the county.

This year in Buckinghamshire, more than 6,500 people over the age of 65 are recorded as having diagnosed dementia and this is projected to stand at over 8,000 by 2020.

The initiative aims to increase public awareness and understanding of dementia and support local communities to work together and respond more positively towards people living with dementia or memory impairment, and their carers. By developing a

dementia-friendly community, it should enable people to remain independent for longer and have more choice and control over their lives.

Three areas across the county have been selected to pilot becoming Dementia-Friendly Communities. These are Stokenchurch, launched in January, Great Missenden, to be launched at the end of April, and Buckingham in July.

PATRICIA BIRCHLEY
CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

7e. REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

Country Parks

Comprehensive events' programme for the Country Parks has just been published and circulated in the local community. Full details of the events can be found on the website at <http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/3032150/WEB-2015-Event-Prog.pdf> Highlights of the new programme include the Lakeside Fair on 27 May, Fun in the Park in July and August and Outdoor Theatre (Twelfth Night) and Cinema (Stardust and The Blair Witch Project) in August, plus much more.

Following another excellent year for the Country Parks, visitor numbers have increased by 11% on last year's figures and now exceed 850,000 per annum. This has been reflected in the income generated on site, with the Country Parks and their partners, San Remo Catering and GoApe (Black Park), generating a combined turnover of £2.45m in 2014/15. It is also worth noting that these three business units also employ in excess of 70 people from the local community.

Greatmoor Energy from Waste Programme Update

I am pleased to be able to continue to say that Construction of the Energy from Waste (EFW) facility at Greatmoor is proceeding well. The month of March marked one year to go until the facility is fully operational (March 2016). There is a slight delay (29 days) reported against the original construction plan, however this delay is small and not expected to have any significant financial implications.. Furthermore it is hoped that at least some of this delay can be caught up over the next year.

The construction phase of the main facility is due to be completed by late May this year, following which sees a 9-10 month commissioning phase. Commissioning is divided into two main stages; Cold Commissioning which is essentially about ensuring the facility is fully working in terms of all processes except the burning of waste, and then Hot Commissioning which is about testing the facility with actual residual waste. The first testing with Buckinghamshire's waste is anticipated for October this year.

For further information on progress, there are regular updates on the County Council website and on FCC's website, which also includes a live webcam (see following links).

<http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/environment/waste,-recycling-and-treatment/energy-from-waste/>

<http://fccenvironment.reachtimelapse.co.uk/greatmoor/ie8.php>

Whilst the construction of the Greatmoor facility continues, critical to supporting the facility is the development of two waste transfer stations (WTS) for the bulking up of waste from the south of the county. A WTS at High Heavens, near High Wycombe is already under construction and it is expected that this will be available for the Hot Commissioning phase of the main EFW facility.

For the second WTS, proposed to be at London Road Depot near Amersham, FCC submitted a planning application which was validated at the end of August last year. Since then County Council planning officers have requested a number of additional areas of information from FCC and this process has delayed the initial anticipated date that the Development Control Committee (DCC) would have considered the

application. The date of determination following the submission of this additional information is yet to be decided.

Speaking for the Waste Disposal Authority, whilst it is FCC's application, a second WTS is a clear benefit to BCC's contract with FCC and ultimately to the council tax payer. In addition, I would expect there to be a clear benefit to Chiltern and South Bucks District Councils with a local tipping point; and increased efficiency for their collection services due to a reduction in mileage driven by their refuse collection vehicles. However as would be expected of any waste planning application of this type there is some local opposition, led in this case by a group calling themselves "The Wasters". On behalf of the Waste Disposal Authority I have been in regular correspondence with representatives of The Wasters group and will continue to openly communicate with them and others who have concerns about the WTS proposal.

Funding Secured for Feasibility for Potential Heat Network

The Resource Strategy team has secured £30,150 in grant funding from the Heat Network Delivery Unit (HNDU – part of the Department for Energy and Climate Change) to fund an initial feasibility study on the potential for a heat network to be created in central Aylesbury. A heat network (also known as district heating scheme) comprises a network of insulated pipes used to deliver heat, in the form of hot water or steam, from the point of generation to an end user (e.g. business or home). The study will show what basic configuration a heat network might take and the diversity of heat demand present (how much heat required and at what time of day) from which the technical and financial viability of a heat network can be determined. Should a heat network be viable and be brought through to completion, it would allow BCC to reduce the operating costs of its premises in central Aylesbury, whilst generating additional revenue from the sale of heat to connected users.

Collective Energy Switching

In February, Buckinghamshire County Council teamed up with iChooser to join one of their 3 annual collective energy switching auctions that are promoted to local residents. Approximately 60 Local Authorities took part in the February iChooser auction. The good news is that almost 800 Buckinghamshire residents registered to take part in this auction, which was the 4th highest across all the Local Authorities who took part. Of those Buckinghamshire residents who signed up, collective switching has been a great success, with 83% making a saving and the average saving being £292. The actual switching rate in Buckinghamshire was confirmed as 40%. The project was coordinated by the Resource Strategy team.

RMWLP Consultation Spring 2015

A first consultation as part of the work to prepare a 'Replacement Minerals and Waste Local Plan' was undertaken between 19 February and 02 April 2015. All District and Parish Councils were notified, as were neighbouring authorities (County, District, Unitary and Parish), as well as many statutory and non-statutory parties. This consultation was primarily to 'scope' the contents and direction of the Plan, and included a 'Call for Sites' for possible later allocation for either mineral extraction or waste recovery uses.

212 representations have been received from 53 parties. The representations received will be reviewed, and will inform the development of new policies for the draft Plan and will help to identify issues to be taken on board. The environmental

implications of different options for policies will be assessed, before specific detailed policies are recommended to the Cabinet Member. In addition, the potential sites resulting from the 'Call for Sites' will be subject to Sustainability Appraisal by consultants before officers review them and then recommend Preferred Areas. It is estimated that developing policies, site allocations, and a comprehensive draft Plan for the next consultation, may take a further 18 months.

LESLEY CLARKE OBE
CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

7f. REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES

Update on Head of Legal Services

Buckinghamshire County Council has appointed Hugh Peart as its new Shared Head of Legal to succeed Anne Davies, who is retiring. Hugh is currently Director of Legal and Governance Services at London Borough of Harrow. Hugh will divide his time between the two authorities, and explore ways in which the two councils' legal functions can work more closely together to share expertise, cut duplication and reduce costs. He starts on April 1.

Currently BCC and Harrow are the only two Councils in the country that have been successful in forming ABS companies. Hugh's appointment to the joint council role will be separate from both companies' operations. Working with Harrow will give BCC additional opportunities for our legal team to generate income from new customers.

I would like to thank Anne Davies for her hard work over the years and send our best wishes for retirement.

Provision of OD Service to London Borough of Harrow

The BCC People and Organisational Development Team led by Frances Mills will be providing organisational development services to Harrow Council with effect from 1 April 2015 for three years in the first instance. The team will be developing new organisational values and behaviours, leadership programmes and engagement strategies as well as embedding Harrow's new employee appraisal scheme and supporting organisational change programmes. The arrangement will allow us to retain and grow our existing OD team keeping existing expertise and growing new skills and to generate income in line with our Future Shape ambitions.

Future Shape Update

The Future Shape organisation officially went live on 1st April 2015. A lot of work has been undertaken in the Business Units and across the Council to ensure we move to our new operating framework successfully. Two areas are yet to go through their consultations and restructure. Work is being undertaken to progress this for staff in the Communities, Health and Adult Social Care Business Unit and the Children's Social Care and Learning Business Unit.

The new shape organisation may mean a change to roles and responsibility for many employees. A leaflet detailing the key changes is available to all Members and information is available in the Member zone of the intranet. Work is continuing to deliver the benefits from the programme through a range of projects including redesign of the organisation, digital programme, strategic options appraisals and ensuring that we deliver value from our asset base.

Enhanced technology and Mobile working for Social Workers

A key element of our response to the OFSTED improvement plan is improving the technology support for social workers in the field. Staff in Children's Social care and IT have been working closely together to develop mobile solutions and improved business processes.

We are in the process of trialling a comprehensive package of technology improvements that include a variety of laptops that are light and easy to use matched with a companion device such as the latest mobile phones. These changes will ensure that we have provided our social workers with the best possible equipment and opportunity to communicate and work in an agile fashion. IT and social work staff are also exploring the options for applications that will improve efficiency in the field and critically enable more social work time to be spent with the family and young people. We have also rolled out tablets to improve efficiency in fostering and adoption panels.

Social Worker Recruitment

A national shortage of Social Workers has had a massive impact on our ability to attract and retain qualified staff over the past couple of years. Since the start of the year we have renewed our effort to attract staff aided by an enhanced reward package. To date we have attracted 12 permanent social workers from the UK and also made 13 permanent offers following a successful campaign in Romania. We have also had a great response to a 'return to social work campaign' to attract social workers who have taken time out, back into the profession, supported by appropriate training. We are also continuing to invest in the recruitment and training of new social workers and have recently launched a major new training scheme called the Social Work Academy, a formal partnership between Buckinghamshire County Council and Buckinghamshire New University. This will consist of regular masterclasses for students, new social workers and more experienced staff, providing ongoing up-to-date training for whoever needs or wants it.

NCO Mezzanine re design /refurbishment project

The Regeneration and Infrastructure project team is undertaking a redesign of the New County Offices Mezzanine meeting area. The target is to provide multi-functional modern meeting space built to facilitate the up-to-date business needs of Buckinghamshire County Council.

The project has aims to be fully operational by the end of 2015. The development will provide totally flexible meeting provision, enabling an offer of a large meeting space able to accommodate 200 people, which can be divided into a maximum of 5 individual meeting spaces for 15 people each as well as a number of other possible configurations.

The specification will include:

- Flood WIFI
- Specialist AV provision including webcam where required
- Adjustable lighting
- Screens in all rooms
- Toilet facilities in the circulation areas
- Air conditioning

**PETER HARDY
CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES**

7g. REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Improving Children's Social Care Services

I am pleased to report that the Department for Education appointed advisers have confirmed that the updated Improvement Plan is fit for purpose and that the recent accelerated pace of change across the programme, with involvement and ownership from colleagues across the Council, is continuing.

One of the areas of concern has been in relation to how well effective partnership working is in Buckinghamshire and our partner agencies not understanding our social care thresholds or their role in the safeguarding of children. A 'Making Partnerships Working Work for Children and Young People in Buckinghamshire' workshop was held on 23rd March. The event was well attended by colleagues from across the partner agencies. The Chief Executive led the event; we came away with commitments to a set of partnership working principles and agreed solutions to a number of the current issues. These solutions will now be embedded into the relevant workstream project plans.

Courageous Conversations

Staff from the Children's Social Care and Learning Business Unit took part in an event called 'Courageous Conversations' starting on the 23rd March. The event saw 5 days of staff representatives from the various teams across the service working through values, mission and vision statements, exploring user journeys, and sharing and finding solutions to challenges and barriers. I, along with the Leader and Chief Executive, attended the feedback sessions led by staff on the 27th March and was very impressed at how staff engaged not only during the day but how they also discussed progress each evening with their colleagues. This ensured a larger number of staff had the opportunity to shape the future of our social care services. Presentations and discussions were very informative and there were some wonderful suggestions on how to move our service forward. Staff will have further opportunities to remain involved and we look forward to hearing how these suggestions are progressing.

Placement Service

The First Step and Fostering Teams put on three Information Sessions in our most recent campaign to recruit new foster carers in Buckinghamshire. The Information Sessions were held in January in Buckingham, Aylesbury and High Wycombe. Representatives from the two teams and approved foster carers spoke at the sessions. Over the three areas, 70 people attended expressing an interest in becoming a foster carer and we are undertaking assessments with this now.

Parents' Event to Raise Awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation

The Buckinghamshire Children's Safeguarding Board child sexual exploitation working group held their first 'Be Wise, Know the Signs' community event for parents, carers and people working with young people in Chesham on the 23rd March. The event focused on raising awareness of sexual exploitation, focusing on how to spot the signs, what you can do to keep your children safe and where to go if you are concerned. The evening was led by key agencies across Buckinghamshire who are working together to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation including the County Council, Barnardo's RUSafe?, Thames Valley Police and Chiltern District

Council. Around 40 people attended the event and participated in discussions about sexual exploitation and what they could do to help in the local area, with many parents sharing ideas on how to raise awareness with other parents, family and friends. The working group will use this feedback now to plan events for the other district areas across Buckinghamshire.

Families First (Troubled Families)

We are pleased to confirm that Buckinghamshire has successfully supported the turnaround of the lives of 471 families as at the end of February 2015. This government funded programme is moving into Phase 2, where we aim to turn around the lives of 2000 families by 2020.

**LIN HAZELL
CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

7h. REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORTATION

Transport for Bucks

Last April an independent health check of the TfB contract was undertaken at my request by Gate One Ltd. Their findings were that there were serious shortcomings on both sides of the partnership – client and contractor – resulting in failings in governance, strategic partnering and value for money. A series of recommendations were made to improve the contract and its implementation by BCC and our contractor, Ringway Jacobs.

One year on, the situation is much improved. The governance of the contract has been revitalised and relaunched. TfB has completed a reorganisation that has resulted in better engagement with Members; strengthened and streamlined management; more focus on local area-based working; and driving a culture based on:

- Ownership and local empowerment
- Customer service
- Quality
- Delivery on promises

The BCC client team has been augmented and is much more actively holding TfB to account for its promises, through more regular inspections of works and a revamped, targeted set of key performance indicators.

It is anticipated that savings from improved efficiency and value for money will be reinvested in the service, focusing on innovative approaches to improve service delivery.

The ETL Select Committee has recognised this progress, with 10 of its 12 recommendations closed or considered substantially complete.

I know that much remains to be done to drive through greater accountability for quality and delivery of promises, and therefore provide better, more reliable service to members and residents. I recognise members' concerns and am always happy to work with them.

**RUTH VIGOR-HEDDERLY
CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORTATION**

Information on decisions taken by Cabinet Members since the last County Council agenda

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Skills - 19 Nov 2014

DLES23.14 - Consultation on a proposal by Westfield School to redesignate from 1 January 2015 (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member:

AGREED with effect from 1 January 2015 to the change of designation of Westfield School to one meeting the needs of students with Social, Emotional and Mental Health difficulties, with a secondary designation of meeting the needs of students with Communication and Interaction difficulties.

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Skills - 19 Nov 2014

DLES22.14 - Chiltern Way Federation (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member:

AGREED to the change of designation of Chiltern Way Federation to meet the needs of students with Social, Emotional and Mental Health difficulties, with a secondary designation of Communication and Interaction difficulties, with effect from 1 January 2015 and to agree that post 16 students and girls can be educated on the Wendover House campus (including boarding for girls).

Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources - 26 Nov 2014

R14.14 - Buckinghamshire Law Plus (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member:

- a. APPROVED the commencement of trading of Buckinghamshire Law Plus from 24 November 2014.**
- b. APPROVED the establishment of a company Board with a representative of the Fire Authority consisting of:**
 - The County Council's Director of Legal Services (undertaking the role Compliance Officer for Legal Practice (COLP))**
 - A Legal Services officer (undertaking the role of Compliance Officer for Finance and Administration (COFA))**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



- The Deputy Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources and/ or other County Council members appointed to the Board
- Other Board Members with the appropriate expertise from business and the public sector
- An Employee Representative undertaking work for and employed under a Joint Contractor between Buckinghamshire County Council and Buckinghamshire Law Plus

- c. NOTED the provisions with regard to changes to the Memorandum and Articles of Association.
- d. APPROVED the quarterly reporting of the Buckinghamshire Law Plus Board to the County Council Shared Services Board.

Cabinet Member for Transportation - 2 Dec 2014

T13.14 - Latchmoor Avenue, Chalfont St Peter - Proposed Prohibition of Motor Vehicles Traffic Regulation Order (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member for Transportation:-

- AGREED:** That the proposed 'Prohibition of Motor Vehicles' TRO be introduced in Latchmoor Avenue as advertised - with the exception that the proposed form of closure (concrete bollards) be reconsidered / replaced, in discussion with Latchmoor Avenue residents, with a more appropriate aesthetically pleasing viable alternative. See Consultation Letter and Drawing 10000 / 03 / 15 Rev F in Appendix A
- NOTED:** The content of the 5 objections received

Cabinet Member for Transportation - 2 Dec 2014

T12.14 - To approve the alignment of Ringway Jacobs Task Orders to SAP budgets (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member:

- APPROVED** the alignment of the 14/15 financial year budgets on SAP with the agreed Task Order values.

Cabinet Member for Transportation, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources - 8 Dec 2014

T10.14 - Aylesbury Link Road, East of Aylesbury - Land Acquisition (Decision taken)

That the Cabinet Members for Transport and Finance and Resources authorise officers to commence negotiations with landowners to secure acquisition of land by agreement and if negotiations are not successful to use the Council's powers under the Highways Act and secure the compulsory purchase of land required to deliver the Eastern Link road

Cabinet Member for Transportation - 8 Dec 2014

T07.14 - Fleet Trading Account (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member for Transportation has agreed the Fleet Trading Account budget, car leasing budget and rebate budget for 2014/15 in line with Financial Regulation 13.6.

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Skills - 10 Dec 2014

DLES25.14 - Proposed change of designation of the Additional Resource Provision (ARP) at Misbourne School (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member:

AGREED to the proposed change of designation from 1 January 2015 of the Additional Resource Provision (ARP) at Misbourne School from meeting the needs of children with Behavioural, Emotional and Social difficulties to meet the needs of students with Communication and Interaction difficulties and that up to 15 places at the school should be reserved for children identified with Complex Communication and Interaction Difficulties including those with Autistic Spectrum Disorders.

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Skills - 10 Dec 2014

DLES26.14 - Padbury CE School, Padbury, Buckingham (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member:

AGREED that the school changes its category from 1 September 2015 from Community to Voluntary Aided status.

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Skills - 10 Dec 2014

DLES24.14 - Dagnall School, Edlesborough (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member:

AGREED that the School changes its category on 1 April 2015 from Community to Voluntary aided.

Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment - 12 Dec 2014

PE06.14 - Commons Act 2006 (Part 1 Implementation) Applications Charging Schedule (Decision taken)

The Cabinet member:

- a) APPROVED the proposed charging schedule for schedule 2 (paragraphs 6-9) Commons Act 2006 applications by providing for an upfront payment of £1,445 to be submitted with the application; and further costs being invoiced should they be incurred.**
- b) AUTHORISED the Head of Place Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member to review and revise the policy as soon as DEFRA release the final regulations and guidance; within 6 months; one year after; and at appropriate intervals thereafter.**

Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment - 12 Dec 2014

PE05.14 - Land Charges Charging Review (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member:

- a) **APPROVED** the proposed increase to supplying a standard Highway Extent Search from £31 to £38.
- b) **AUTHORISED** the Head of Place Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member to review and revise the policy one year after and at appropriate intervals thereafter.

Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources - 17 Dec 2014

R14.14 - Contract for Temporary Staff Resourcing (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member:

AGREED that Buckinghamshire County Council re-contract with the existing supplier for 3+1 years through a direct award under the existing MSTAR Pro 5 Framework, allowing BCC to take the new contract through to 2018/19

Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment - 22 Dec 2014

PE09.14 - Regulation 18 consultation on Replacement Minerals and Waste Local Plan (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member has approved the consultation document concerning the Replacement Minerals and Waste Local Plan for a consultation under Regulation 18 of the Local Plan Regulations 2012 (2012/767), subject to any amendments to be agreed between the Director of Growth and Strategy and the Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment.

Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources - 23 Dec 2014

PE07.14 - To declare surplus to the Council's requirements and Dispose of The Walks, Brill (Decision Taken)

APPROVED

The Cabinet Members have agreed to:

- (i) **Declare surplus to Council's requirements The Walks, Brill and**
- (ii) **Negotiate terms for the disposal of The Walks, Brill to Brill Parish Council**
- (iii) **In the event that terms cannot be agreed with Brill Parish Council, to offer The Walks on the open market**

Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources - 23 Dec 2014

PE08.14 - To declare surplus to the Council's requirements and Dispose of The Windmill, Brill (Decision Taken)

APPROVED

The Cabinet Member has agreed to:

- i) **Declare surplus to Councils requirements The Windmill, Brill and**
- ii) **Negotiate terms for the disposal of The Windmill, Brill to Brill Parish Council**

Cabinet Member for Transportation - 24 Dec 2014

T14.14 - High Street Aylesbury - Experimental Pedestrianisation Traffic Regulation Order (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member:

AGREED: that, with the exception of two disabled parking spaces in Buckingham Street, the ETRO be made permanent as advertised. See Scheme Consultation Letter in Appendix A.

NOTED: 10 objections received

Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing - 29 Dec 2014

AF09.14 - Specialist Accommodation Procurement (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member:

APPROVED this policy & process to support future development of Specialist Housing in Buckinghamshire.

This policy should be reviewed on an Annual basis.

Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing - 5 Jan 2015

AF10.14 - Community Meals Service - Award of Tender (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member:

AGREED to award the contract for the provision of Community Meals Service to Provider A.

Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment - 12 Jan 2015

PE10.14 - Revised Statement for Community Involvement (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member:

- 1. APPROVED** the Revised Statement of Community Involvement
- 2. ADOPTED** the Revised Statement of Community Involvement on behalf of the Council

Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment - 12 Jan 2015

PE11.14 - Local Aggregate Assessment for 2014 (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member:

APPROVED the Local Aggregate Assessment (LAA) for 2014 and agreed its publication by the Council.

Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources - 29 Jan 2015

L01.15 - Allocation of Aylesbury Vale Advantage Monies to Property Capital and Revenue Budgets (Decision Taken)

The Cabinet Members AGREED:

That the allocation of funding shown in the Resources section below be agreed as the spending plan for the monies received from Aylesbury Vale Advantage.

That any monies that may remain following the completion of the names projects be used to fund further projects to aid the regeneration of Aylesbury Town Centre.

Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment - 30 Jan 2015

PE02.15 - Procurement of electricity & gas supplies for 2016-2020 (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Members:

AGREED that Buckinghamshire County Council continues to use the LASER flexible procurement contract for 2016-20, and to delegate the decision on specific contract structure to Director of Strategy & Growth; Transport, Economy & Environment. Energy contract values to be negotiated at a later date.

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Skills - 4 Feb 2015

DLES01.15 - Schools Term Dates 2016-2017 (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member AGREED:

That the proposed School Term and Holidays Dates in the report be approved for Buckinghamshire Maintained Schools for the Academic year 2016/2017.

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Skills - 16 Feb 2015

DLES02.15 - School Funding Formula 2015/16 (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member AGREED:

- a. Transfer of £500k of funding from the schools block to early years block.**
- b. Transfer of £2.4m of funding from the schools block (of which £0.6m is for two years only) to high needs block**
- c. That the mainstream school formula factors changes as follows:**
 - i. prior attainment rates for secondary increased to £1,829 per pupil**
 - ii. lump sums for secondary increased to £125,000 per school**
 - iii. EAL rates for primary and secondary increases to £260 per pupil**
 - iv. All Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) rates increases by c. 7.55%**
- d. That growth funding is increased by £250k**

Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment - 27 Feb 2015

R01.15 - To declare surplus to the Council's requirements and Dispose of Red Barn Farm, Aston Abbotts (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member has agreed:-

- to declare surplus to Council's requirements Red Barn Farm, and

- to negotiate terms for the disposal of Red Barn Farm to the current tenant
- in the event that terms cannot be agreed with the current tenant, to offer Red Barn Farm on the open market.

NB the sale price has been reduced by £5,000 due to roof repairs.

Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing - 2 Mar 2015

AF01.15 - Award of Call-off Contract for Outreach NHS Health Checks in Community Venues (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member AGREED:

that a call-off contract is awarded to provider X (a provider already on the Framework Agreement) to provide outreach NHS Health Checks which aim to engage key target groups who are at higher risk of cardiovascular disease and who are less likely to be reached by NHS Health Checks provided by GP practices. The target groups will vary over the period of the contract according to need.

Cabinet Member for Children's Services - 4 Mar 2015

CS01.15 - Decision to Adopt the Care Leavers Staying Put Policy (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member:

APPROVED the Adoption of the Staying Put Policy for young people leaving care

Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment - 4 Mar 2015

PE03.15 - Bulky Waste Strategy & Re-use and Recycling Credit Policy (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member:

AGREED the adoption of Buckinghamshire County Council's Bulky Waste Strategy, the Bulky Waste Re-use and Recycling Credit Policy (which states there is to be no provision of bulky waste credits) and the Bulky Waste Strategy Implementation Plan, and to delegate the decision on reviewing the Policy to the Head of Waste, Transport, Economy & Environment (TEE) if there are changes in the market place or to the modelled assumptions.

Leader of the Council - 9 Mar 2015

L02.15 - Strategic Economic Plan and Infrastructure Feasibility Approval (Decision taken)

The Leader:

- 1) APPROVED acceptance of £378k of Growing Places Funding via BTVLEP for advanced development of the priority transport schemes listed in Table 1.
- 2) APPROVED the infrastructure programme submitted to the Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership (BTVLEP) to

secure bids for £44.2m of Government Local Growth Fund and recognises the council's support for the Strategic Economic Plan.

Cabinet Member for Transportation - 10 Mar 2015

T01.15 - High Street Amersham Old Town - Proposed 'No Waiting at Any Time' Traffic Regulation Order (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member:

AGREED: That the proposals be amended, to reflect respondents' requests to remove the proposed gap on High Street and to extend the proposed restrictions in Mill Lane, and that a further full formal consultation exercise be taken upon them.

NOTED: The content of the 4 objections received.

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Skills - 11 Mar 2015

DLES03.15 - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Home to School Transport (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member AGREED:

- i) That pick-up points other than the home (a multi-pick-up point) for some children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) entitled to home to school transport is trialled as a pilot.
- ii) That children and young people with severe and complex needs namely, behaviour, emotional and social difficulties and physical disabilities and difficulties entitled to home to school transport will continue with the current arrangement of a home pick-up and drop off.
- iii) That independent travel training for some children and young people with special education needs (SEND) entitled to home to school transport is made available where feasible and appropriate.
- iv) That the flexibility and availability of a personal budget, for those who have an Education Health and Care (EHC) plan and are eligible for school transport, is considered.
- v) That public transport routes may be considered for some home to school transport for SEND pupils in the future, but this is regarded as a low priority.

Cabinet Member for Transportation - 16 Mar 2015

T04.15 - Filming on the Highway Charges (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member AGREED:

To increase the existing administration fixed fee for filming applications from £200 to £300 to cover costs; where a road closure is not required.

To increase the fixed fee for Officers to attend site/location meetings to discuss filming requirements/traffic management arrangements from £100 to £150 per site visit; where a road closure is not required.

To continue to offer fee exemptions to students and charitable organisations for productions that do not require traffic management; where a road closure is not required.

Current fixed fees for road closure Orders for road works is £1,690 and relates to processing standard utility company requests. Filming request are likely to be more complex, and will involve additional work.

To introduce a fixed fee for Filming Notices requiring road closures lasting no more than 24 hours, depending on the complexity (i.e. number of conditions applied to the Notice). The fees should be £1,000, based on the current fee for short notice closures is £845.

To introduce a fixed fee for Filming Orders requiring road closures lasting more than 24 hours, depending on the complexity (i.e. number of conditions applied to the Order). The fees should be set to £2,500 per order to recover costs related to the work involved in processing a filming order. This work will include legal fees, liaising with Thames Valley Police, assessing risk assessments and methods statements, checking public liability insurance, checking traffic management plans and related accretion checks for the traffic management, and conducting any site meeting that will be required.

This fee does not include charges for the removal and reinstatement of street furniture or road markings however will include any event advertising costs.

To review the fixed fees in 12 months' time, to ensure full recovery of Buckinghamshire's costs.

Cabinet Member for Transportation - 16 Mar 2015

T03.15 - Parking restrictions A418 Oxford Rd, Silverdale Rd, Serpentine Rd & TA Centre, Aylesbury (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member:

APPROVED the removal of the proposed waiting restrictions on the as yet un-named road, commonly referred to as the "Serpentine Road" from the original schedule. This will allow faster progression of implementation of the other restrictions in the schedule and address the security concerns of the TA building raised by the Army.

And;

APPROVED the making of an amended Traffic Regulation Order. This will allow for formalising the TRO and enforcement of the sections of road where no objections were received.

Cabinet Member for Transportation - 16 Mar 2015

T02.15 - High Wycombe Town Centre Masterplan - Westbourne Street and Frogmoor (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member:

AGREED: To the implementation of Westbourne Street as shown in Appendix F on Drawing no. B12798A1/0000/D/100 'General Arrangement, Sheet 1 of 2', as amended, following consultation, as shown in Appendix B

AGREED: To the implementation of the proposed layout of Frogmoor Street as shown in Appendix G on Drawing no. WDC/BCC/015/101 'General Arrangement' as shown in appendix G, following consultation, as shown in Appendix C

Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources - 24 Mar 2015

R02.15 - Legal Services Decision (Decision Taken)

The Cabinet Member

Welcomes the opportunities which a closer relationship with the London Borough of Harrow might offer, and agreed the proposal for a shared Service Director Legal with the London Borough of Harrow on the basis discussed in the report.

Agreed to Delegate to the Chief Executive authority to execute agreements with the London Borough of Harrow and to appoint their Director of Legal & Governance Services to the position of Service Director Legal for Buckinghamshire County Council on a part time basis.

Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing - 25 Mar 2015

AF02.15 - Adults Communities and Health Business Unit Plan (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Members:

| **APPROVED** the Business Unit Plan

Cabinet Member for Community Engagement - 25 Mar 2015

CE01.15 - Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Infrastructure Support 2015-17 (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member AGREED that:

1. Buckinghamshire County Council continues to support investment in voluntary and community sector (VCS) infrastructure support for the period 2015-17.
2. The County and District Councils jointly fund a contract for the countywide provision of VCS infrastructure support services for this period.

Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources - 26 Mar 2015

R03.15 - Corporate Debt Management Strategy (Decision Taken)

The Cabinet Member APPROVED the Corporate Debit Management Strategy

Leader of the Council - 27 Mar 2015

L02.15 - High Speed 2 - Chilterns AONB Tunnel Options (Decision taken)

The Leader supports the Chilterns Long Tunnel (CLT) proposal and support Chiltern District Council to appear before the HS2 Select Committee for this mitigation. This would be in the form of written formal support for the Chilterns Long Tunnel as well as verbal statement of support within the Buckinghamshire County Council representation before the HS2 Select Committee.

If this mitigation is rejected by HS2 Ltd, the Leader recommends pursuing other tunnel options in conjunction with Chiltern District Council and other partners; information about these options is included within the report.

Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Skills - 27 Mar 2015

CS02.15 - Children's Social Care (0-25) and Learning Business Unit Plan 2015/16 (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Members:

APPROVED the Children's Social Care (0-25) and Learning Business Unit Plan 2015/2016 Plan

Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing - 30 Mar 2015

AF04.15 - Fairer Charging for Adult Social Care Services (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member **AGREED** the recommended changes to the fairer charging policy and meals charging policy, to be effective from 1 April 2015 as follows:

Recommendation 1 - To make a set-up charge of £450.00 for setting up a Deferred Payment Agreement and to charge an annual administration fee of £70.00

Recommendation 2 – To charge a one-off fee of £250.00 for arranging an adult social care package.

Recommendation 3 - To increase the charge for homecare, personal care and similar services for all clients to £18.84 per hour (£37.68 for double handed care).

Recommendation 4 - To increase the charge for Laundry to £14.00 per load

Recommendation 5 - To increase the charge for Telecare to £4.20 per week.

Recommendation 6 – To increase the cost of hot meals (delivered to the home or in day services) to £4.60 per meal and to increase the cost of the “tea box” service to £3.40.

Recommendation 7 – To implement the flat charge of £8.00 for return journeys to and from Day Opportunity Centres.

Recommendation 8 – To increase the cost of Day Care from £32.00 to £38.00 per day. (Note: The charge for high dependency cases remains at £64.00 per day)

Please note that an updated Equalities Impact Assessment has been published with this decision as a result of a representation.

Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing - 30 Mar 2015

AF05.15 - S.75 and Commissioning Strategy – our approach to integration (Decision Taken)

The Cabinet Member AUTHORISED the signing of the Better Care Fund S75 Agreement

Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing - 30 Mar 2015

AF03.15 - Sexual Health Approval to Tender (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member:

AGREED the proposal in the business case and commercial strategy for Option 3 as the preferred option.

Option 3: Tender the sexual health service under one contract in lots for the different levels of the service

- 1. An integrated level 3 sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing and treatment and contraception specialist service with a robust pathway to HIV treatment and care services and a joint approach with NHS England.**
- 2. An integrated level 1 and 2 service in outreach locations across the county with a targeted package for at risk groups for example, young people under 25.**

It is proposed that the contract length should be five years with an option to extend for a further two years. The reason for this is to offer stability to the providers as identified in the RFI or soft market testing exercise and efficiencies for the council in tendering a high value and mandated service for a longer period of time. This means that the total contract value will be approximately 15.7m over a five year contract period.

Cabinet Member for Transportation - 9 Apr 2015

T07.15 - Hollow Hill Lane, Iver - Proposed Prohibition of Motor Vehicles Traffic Regulation Order (Decision taken)

The Deputy Cabinet Member for Transportation and the Managing Director for Transport, Economy & Environment on behalf of the Cabinet Member for Transportation:

AGREED: That the proposed 'Prohibition of Motor Vehicles' Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) be introduced in Hollow Hill Lane as advertised.

NOTED: The content of the three objections received.

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education and Skills - 9 Apr 2015

DLES04.15 - Consultation on a proposal to close the ARP at Disraeli School and Children's Centre on 31 August 2015 (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member:

AGREED to the closure of the Language ARP at Disraeli School and Children's Centre, High Wycombe on 31 August 2015 and that on 1 September 2015 the ARP at the school for children on the Autism Spectrum is increased from 12 to 18 places.

Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing - 10 Apr 2015

AF06.15 - Award of Call-off Contract for Outreach NHS Health Checks for patients of GP practices that are not providing NHS Health Checks (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member:

AGREED that a call-off contract is awarded to provider X (a provider already on the Framework Agreement) to provide NHS Health Checks to eligible patients of GP practices that are not providing NHS Health Checks themselves. The exact practices covered will vary according to need.

For further information please contact: Clare Capjon on 01296 387969

