

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Buckinghamshire County Council convened and held on Thursday 21 May 2015 in The Oculus, AVDC, Gatehouse Way, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF, commencing at 9.30 am and concluding at 10.28 am.

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, Mr N Brown, Mr A Busby, Mr T Butcher, Mr D Carroll, Mr W Chapple OBE, Mr J Chilver, Mrs A Davies, Mr D Dhillon, Mr T Egleton, Ms N Glover, Mr P Gomm, 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, Mrs J Teesdale, Mr M Tett, Mr D Watson, Mr W Whyte and Ms K Wood

DIGNITARIES PRESENT

Sir H Aubrey-Fletcher, Mrs F Skelton DL, Mrs M Clayton, Mr M Colston, Mr P Lawrence, Mrs G Miscampbell OBE DL, Mr D Polhill and Mr R Pushman

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Ms J Blake, Mrs L Clarke OBE, Mr C Ditta, Mr C Etholen, Mr P Hardy, Mr A Stevens, Ms R Vigor-Hedderly, Julia Wassell and Mr B Allen

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The retiring Chairman, Mr Zahir Mohammed, expressed his thanks for the support he had received over the past year from Members, officers (particularly Joe Bradshaw) and from his wife Atifa.

Mr Mohammed reported on his year in office, highlighting the 125 anniversary of the creation of Buckinghamshire County Council and the commemoration of the start of the Great War. Council heard that the year had provided the retiring Chairman with the opportunity to explore more about the County and to see the excellent work undertaken by volunteers, in schools, the judiciary & by the armed forces. Mr Mohammed particularly praised the cutting edge research being carried out by medical detection dogs in Buckinghamshire.

The retiring Chairman asked for nominees for Chairman for the ensuing year. Mr William Chapple was nominated by Mrs Margaret Aston and seconded by Mr Roger Reed.

RESOLVED

That Mr William Chapple be elected as Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

Mr Chapple read and signed the Declaration and Acceptance of Office. The new Chairman paid tribute to the work of Mr Zahir Mohammed during his term of office and presented a commemorative book and past Chairman's badge.

MR CHAPPLE IN THE CHAIR

2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Chairman invited nominations for the position of Vice Chairman. Mrs Valerie Letheren was nominated by Mrs Wendy Mallen and seconded by Mrs Netta Glover.

RESOLVED

That Mrs Valerie Letheren be elected Vice Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

Mrs Letheren read and signed the Declaration and Acceptance of Office.

3 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2015 were agreed as a correct record.

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Francesca Skelton, High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire, to the meeting.

4 PETITIONS

Mr Brian Adams presented a petition on behalf of the residents of Wiseman Close, Aylesbury in relation to incomplete work on roads and footpaths undertaken by Persimmon Homes. The Chief Executive agreed to liaise with Aylesbury Vale District Council in relation to associated District Council matters.

5 COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman informed Council of the recent illness of Mr Ditta and passed on his best wishes on behalf of the Council.

A minute's silence was held for the death of Sir Peter Fry, who had been a County Councillor representing High Wycombe West from 1961-67.

6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

7 THE LEADER'S ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS TO CABINET

The Leader announced appointments to Cabinet as follows:

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing	Mr Mike Appleyard
Cabinet Member for Children's Services	Ms Lin Hazell
Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Public Health	Mr Martin Phillips
Cabinet Member for Planning & Environment	Mr Warren Whyte
Cabinet Member for Education & Skills	Mr Zahir Mohammed
Cabinet Member for Resources	Mr John Chilver
Cabinet Member for Transportation	Mr Mark Shaw

The Leader also announced appointments to Deputy Cabinet Member positions:

Health & Wellbeing	Mrs Wendy Mallen
Children's Services	Mrs Jean Teasdale
Community Engagement & Public Health	Mrs Margaret Aston
Planning & Environment	Mrs Netta Glover
Education & Skills	Mr Noel Brown
Resources	Mr David Watson
Transportation	Mr Paul Irwin

8 APPOINTMENTS TO COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Council considered the report on Appointments to Council Committees and Substitutions.

RESOLVED

- 1. Agreement of the appointments to Council Committees as set out in Appendix 1 in line with the proposals put forward by each of the political group leaders for the year municipal 2015/16 year.**
- 2. Agreement of the substitute members as listed in Appendix 2.**
- 3. Agreement to delegate to the Monitoring Officer powers to vary the membership of a Committee by appointing substitute members on a permanent or causal basis upon the written nomination of a Group Leader. These appointments would be made from within the membership listed in Appendix 2.**

9 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SELECT COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Council considered the annual report of the Chief Executive on the Select Committee Structure.

RESOLVED

Council agreed the proposed structure for Select Committees (as set out in Appendix 1) for the municipal year 2015/16 in order to discharge the Council's statutory overview and scrutiny functions.

10 NOTICES OF MOTION

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by the Leader, Mr Martin Tett

“This County Council resolves to release £3 million from General Fund Reserves to implement a 'plane and patch' programme for the county's roads. This will be specifically targeted towards our unclassified roads, particularly those in rural areas. Planning for this programme will begin immediately with implementation to commence as soon as possible in 2015/16”.

Mr Tett informed Council of the investment being made by the Council on the maintenance of the County's roads (£25m this year) but recognised that in rural areas additional investment was needed for unclassified roads, which although important for residents, might not otherwise be part of the Council's improvement programme.

Mr Tett advised that if passed, the Notice of Motion would enable patching and repair of approximately 300 sections of road across the County. The Council was assured that the authority's reserves would remain above the 5% historic level of reserves.

Mrs Angela Macpherson seconded the Motion.

The Motion was debated and welcomed by Council, with the following issues raised:

- The importance of ensuring the quality of work undertaken, full costings and planning
- The need to ensure proportionality of allocation
- The significant number of concerns raised by rural residents regarding the state of local roads
- The need to ensure the adequacy of roads being used by the Women's Cycling Tour of Britain in June
- The funding challenges faced by the Council in other key areas, particularly people-focussed, and the need to ensure the Council takes a balanced view of demands
- The similar issues in urban areas

The Cabinet Member for Transportation acknowledged Members' concerns and assured the Council that plans would be carefully drawn up in consultation with local Members. The work would be started during this financial year. In relation to quality concerns, Mr Shaw informed Council that improvements were being made but that this needed to be sustained.

Mrs Macpherson stressed the issues raised and reiterated the need for a robust quality monitoring plan to ensure effective and efficient use of public money.

Mr Tett concluded the debate by acknowledging the pressures on funding and the importance of spending taxpayers resources wisely to deliver value for money.

The Motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED

That £3 million is released from General Fund Reserves to implement a 'plane and patch' programme for the county's roads. This will be specifically targeted towards our unclassified roads, particularly those in rural areas. Planning for this programme will begin immediately with implementation to commence as soon as possible in 2015/16.

CHAIRMAN

Appendix 1 – Appointments to Council Committees (current 21 May 2015)

Committee	Nominations
Development Control (8)	<p><i>6 Conservative Group, 1 Lib Dem Group, 1 UKIP Group</i></p> <p>Roger Reed (C) Brian Roberts (C) David Schofield (C) David Shakespeare (C) Jean Teesdale (C) Netta Glover (C)</p> <p>Chaudhary Ditta (LD)</p> <p>Andy Huxley (UKIP)</p>
Pension Fund (6)	<p><i>5 Conservative Group, 1 Lib Dem Group</i></p> <p>Trevor Egleton (C) Peter Hardy (C) Richard Scott (C) David Martin (C) John Chilver (C)</p> <p>Steve Lambert (LD)</p>
Regulatory & Audit (8)	<p><i>6 Conservative Group, 1 Lib Dem Group, 1 UKIP Group</i></p> <p>Janet Blake (C) Tim Butcher (C) Bill Chapple (C) Trevor Egleton (C) Peter Hardy (C) Richard Scott (C)</p> <p>Avril Davies (LD)</p> <p>Alan Stevens (UKIP)</p>
Rights of Way (8)	<p><i>6 Conservative Group, 1 Lib Dem Group, 1 UKIP Group</i></p> <p>Margaret Aston (C) Patricia Birchley (C) Lesley Clarke (C) Dev Dhillon (C) Carl Etholen (C) Katrina Wood (C)</p> <p>Chris Adams (UKIP) Robin Stuchbury (LD) *</p> <p><i>* Labour Member, part of Lib Dem Group</i></p>

Senior Appointments and Bucks Pay Awards (7)	<p><i>5 Conservative Group, 1 Lib Dem Group, 1 UKIP Group</i></p> <p>Mike Appleyard (C) Tim Butcher (C) John Chilver (C) Martin Tett (C) Warren Whyte (C)</p> <p>Avril Davies (LD)</p> <p>Brian Adams (UKIP)</p>
Select – Children's (11)	<p><i>9 Conservative Group, 1 Lib Dem Group, 1 Independent Group</i></p> <p>Margaret Aston (C) Patricia Birchley (C) Janet Blake (C) Paul Irwin (C) Val Letheren (C) Wendy Mallen (C) David Watson (C) Katrina Wood (C) Ruth Vigor-Hedderly (C)</p> <p>Robin Stuchbury (LD) *</p> <p>Phil Gomm (Ind)</p> <p><i>* Labour member, part of Lib Dem group</i></p>
Select – Health (11)	<p><i>8 Conservative Group, 1 Lib Dem Group, 1 UKIP Group, 1 Independent Group</i></p> <p>Vacant (C) Janet Blake (C) Noel Brown (C) David Carroll (C) Angela Macpherson (C) David Martin (C) Roger Reed (C) Jean Teesdale (C)</p> <p>Julia Wassell (LD)</p> <p>Darren Hayday (Ind)</p> <p>Brian Adams (UKIP)</p>
Select – Finance (8)	<p><i>6 Conservative group , 1 Lib Dem group, 1 UKIP group</i></p> <p>Bill Bendyshe-Brown (C) Bill Chapple (C) David Martin (C)</p>

	Brian Roberts (C) David Shakespeare (C) David Schofield (C) Steven Lambert (LD) Alan Stevens (UKIP)
Select – Environment (8)	<i>6 Conservative Group, 1 Lib Dem Group, 1 Independent Group</i> Bill Bendyshe-Brown (C) Tim Butcher (C) David Carroll (C) Bill Chapple (C) Lesley Clarke (C) Dev Dhillon (C) Phil Gomm (Ind) Avril Davies (LD)

Buckinghamshire Fire Authority

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. The nominations received from political groups in line with proportionality are as follows:

1. Bill Bendyshe-Brown (C)
2. Adrian Busby (C)
3. Lesley Clarke (C)
4. Netta Glover (C)
5. Wendy Mallen (C)
6. Roger Reed (C)
7. David Schofield (C)
8. Ruth Vigor-Hedderly (C)
9. David Watson (C)
10. Steven Lambert (IDI&BL)
11. Andy Huxley (UKIP)
12. Phil Gomm (Independent Group)

Appendix 2 – List of Potential Substitutes for Council Committees (All County Councillors by Political Group)

<p>Conservative Group (37) Mike Appleyard Margaret Aston Bill Bendyshe-Brown Patricia Birchley Janet Blake Noel Brown Adrian Busby Timothy Butcher David Carroll Bill Chapple OBE John Chilver Lesley Clarke OBE Dev Dhillon Trevor Egleton Carl Etholen Netta Glover Peter Hardy Lin Hazell Paul Irwin Valerie Letheren Angela Macpherson Wendy Mallen David Martin Zahir Mohammed Martin Phillips Roger Reed Brian Roberts David Schofield Richard Scott David Shakespeare OBE Mark Shaw Jean Teesdale Martin Tett Ruth Vigor-Hedderly David Watson Warren Whyte Katrina Wood</p>	<p>Liberal Democrat, Independent and Buckingham Labour Group (6) Avril Davies Chaudhary Ditta Raj Khan Steven Lambert Robin Stuchbury Julia Wassell</p> <p>UKIP (4) Brian Adams Chris Adams Andy Huxley Alan Stevens</p> <p>The Independent Group (2) Phil Gomm Darren Hayday</p>
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Item 9: Appendix 1 – Select Committee Remits 2015/16

In addition to the general functions of the Select Committees set out in the Council's Constitution, the broad remits of the four Select Committees are set out in the table below. This information is intended as an indicative guide to the remits of the Select Committees, recognising that a number of potential topics could span at least one Select Committee.

Where the lead responsibility for scrutiny is unclear the relevant Chairmen will agree how best to take forward the work, including agreeing one committee to take lead responsibility for approving the set-up of an inquiry and follow-up.

Finance, Performance and Resources Select Committee (FPR)

The role of the Finance, Performance and Resources Select Committee is to hold decision-makers to account for improving outcomes and services for Buckinghamshire.

It shall have the power to scrutinise all issues in relation to the Council's strategic performance, financial management and corporate issues. This will include all areas under the remit of the Council's Headquarters and Business Services Plus (Business Unit). This includes, but not exclusively, responsibility for scrutinising issues in relation to:

- The Strategic Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan
- HQ Assurance responsibilities—including scrutiny of the strategic oversight of capital
- HQ Strategy & Policy responsibilities—including the strategic commissioning of Council resources.
- HQ Enterprise—including the commissioning of services from Business Services Plus such as legal services; and ICT; and the Council's strategic approach to communications and customers.
- The overall effectiveness of the scrutiny function
- Strategic alliances and partnerships with others externally—nationally, regionally and locally.

By convention the Chairmen of the other Select Committees are invited to participate in the annual budget scrutiny inquiry, whereby the Executive's draft budget is automatically referred for scrutiny as part of the annual budget setting process.

Transport, Environment and Communities Select Committee (TEC)

The role of the Transport, Environment and Communities Select Committee is to hold decision-makers to account for improving outcomes and services for Buckinghamshire.

It shall have the power to scrutinise all issues in relation to the remit of the Transport, Economy, and Environment Business Unit. In addition it will also have within its remit all areas relating to Communities issues/services (currently structurally under the Communities, Health and Adult Social Care Business Unit).

This includes, but not exclusively, responsibility for scrutinising issues in relation to:



- Strategic business planning & commercial development
- Growth & Strategy (including economic development)
- Regeneration & Infrastructure
- Environment Services (including country parks and waste management)
- Transport Services (including highways maintenance)

Communities issues

- Localism strategy & Voluntary and community sector engagement
- Libraries
- Resilience (emergency planning)
- Crime and disorder and crime and disorder reduction partnerships (community safety partnerships)*
- Museums; Registrars & Coroners.
- Impact of Welfare Benefits Reforms.
- Local Emergency Support

** In accordance with the BCC Constitution, this Committee shall act as the designated Crime and Disorder Committee and will hold the countywide Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership to account for the decisions it takes and may take part in joint reviews with District Councils of District Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships.*

Children's Social Care and Learning Select Committee (CSCL)

The role of the Children's Social Care and Learning Select Committee is to hold decision-makers to account for improving outcomes and services for Buckinghamshire.

The Children's Social Care and Learning Select Committee shall have the power to scrutinise all issues in relation to the remit of the Children's Social Care and Learning Business Unit. This will include, but not exclusively, responsibility for scrutinising issues in relation to:

- Nurseries and early years education
- Schools and further education
- The Bucks Learning Trust
- Quality standards and performance in education
- Special Educational Needs (SEN)
- Learning and skills
- Adult learning
- Children and family services
- Early intervention
- Child protection, safeguarding and prevention
- Children in care (looked after children)
- Children's psychology
- Children's partnerships
- Youth provision
- The Youth Offending Service

** In accordance with the BCC Constitution, this Committee shall act as the designated Committee responsible for the scrutiny of Education matters.*

Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee (HASC)



The role of the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee is to hold decision-makers to account for improving outcomes and services for Buckinghamshire.

It shall have the power to scrutinise all issues in relation to Health and Adult Social Care. This will include, but not exclusively, responsibility for scrutinising issues in relation to:

- Public health and wellbeing
- NHS services
- Health and social care commissioning
- GPs and medical centres
- Dental Practices
- Health and social care performance
- Private health services
- Family wellbeing
- Adult social services
- Older people
- Adult safeguarding
- Physical and sensory services
- Learning disabilities
- Drugs and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT services)

** In accordance with the BCC Constitution, this Committee shall act as the designated Committee responsible for the scrutiny of health matters holding external health partners to account.*

