

# **STRATEGIC PLAN**

## **Our Vision**

In 10 years' time Buckinghamshire will still be a great place to live and work and our economy will be one of the strongest in the country. The role of the County Council will have changed radically. Residents will take greater responsibility for meeting their own needs, and those of their families and their communities. Aspiration, rather than dependency, will be valued, and everyone will play their part in the success of the County. Within this context, the Councils' resources will be focused on enabling the conditions in which our communities can prosper. Working with our partners, we will continue to find new and innovative ways of securing services so that we deliver value for all residents in the County.

## **Our Values**

As a Council we have 3 core values which shape all we do:

- to protect our most vulnerable and those unable to help themselves
- to promote opportunities for all of our residents to live their lives to their full potential
- to encourage and support ambition and self-determination for all our residents and local communities

## **Our Plan**

Our plan is focused on delivery of three themes:

- Safeguarding Our Vulnerable
- Creating Opportunities and Building Self Reliance
- Keeping Buckinghamshire Thriving and Attractive

Throughout all our work, we are committed to achieving the best possible value for money. We will continue to focus on delivering all of our services as efficiently as possible.

## ***Safeguarding Our Vulnerable***

*Most residents live healthy lives but some need extra support. The Council, working closely with our partners, is successful in equipping our most vulnerable children, adults and families with the support and skills they need to do more for themselves and to get back their independence at the earliest opportunity.*

This means that we will work with our partners to:

1. Safeguard children
2. Increase the number of foster parents and those willing to adopt so that children are placed in more stable long term family settings
3. Ensure that vulnerable children fulfil their potential, including their emotional and physical development as well as their educational achievement, training and employment prospects
4. Tackle sexual exploitation of children and young people and give care and support to those affected
5. Support our most vulnerable adults to lead independent lives through Health & Social Care Integration (Better Care Fund)
6. Ensure that our older, disabled and vulnerable people receive the support that is right for their needs, delaying the need for care through earlier diagnosis, intervention and re-ablement
7. Provide understanding and dignity in end of life care
8. Support families on the edge of serious difficulties through delivery of our Families First programme
9. Help and support those unpaid carers who give their time and energy to look after relatives and friends who cannot take care of themselves

We will deliver the following results for Buckinghamshire residents:

- Vulnerable children are safe and protected from harm
- Vulnerable children are supported to fulfill their potential
- Vulnerable Adults are safe and protected from harm
- Vulnerable Adults are supported to lead independent lives

## ***Creating Opportunities & Building Self Reliance***

*Buckinghamshire residents have the aspiration and opportunities to lead successful and independent lives, taking responsible for their own health and wellbeing and supporting each other in their communities. Young people thrive in Buckinghamshire's schools enabling them to progress to good jobs and training opportunities in our County.*

This means that we will work with our partners to:

1. Ensure that our young children growing up are 'school ready' by providing help, support and advice to families with pre-school children
2. Enable and support our children to be successful and cared for throughout their school years, with a particular focus on promoting high quality education across all our schools
3. Ensure all our young people are prepared for the world of work and adult life by promoting volunteering, work experience and apprenticeships
4. Improve community safety and reduce crime and the fear of crime
5. Continue to improve the health and wellbeing of our residents and address major health risks
6. Support our voluntary and community sector to help our communities to help themselves
7. Devolve Council assets and services to town and parish councils where it makes sense to do so
8. Promote good citizenship

We will deliver the following results for Buckinghamshire residents:

- Buckinghamshire young people achieve excellent results throughout their education
- Improved health and wellbeing for all of our residents
- Buckinghamshire residents are skilled and ready for employment
- Buckinghamshire communities are safe places to live
- Buckinghamshire communities are supported to help themselves

## ***Keeping Buckinghamshire Thriving and Attractive***

*Buckinghamshire is a rapidly growing county and its economy is one of the strongest in the country. As it grows our challenge is to help it remain a thriving and attractive place to live and work, securing good jobs, good road, rail and other essential infrastructure to meet the current and future needs of our residents. The County Council is proactive in protecting the county's unique countryside, setting standards of excellence in its growth, including exceptional standards of sustainable development design*

We will work with our partners to:

1. Continue to invest in the maintenance of the County's existing roads and footpaths
2. Maximise external investment in the County's infrastructure, including high speed broadband, East-West Rail, road links in the county, and other public services
3. Create the right conditions for firms to flourish and succeed
4. Be proactive and innovative in developing strategic alliances with other local authorities which will benefit Buckinghamshire, such as the Tri-County Alliance
5. Continue to protect the Green Belt, AONB, Rights of Way and Green Spaces
6. Promote and encourage sustainable approaches to energy, water and waste
7. Mitigate the impact of HS2 on Buckinghamshire
8. Deliver the Government's expansion of childcare for working parents of 3 & 4 year olds
9. Get the best deal for Buckinghamshire from economic growth and development
10. Be proactive in securing external investment to preserve and enhance the County's cultural heritage for future generations

We will deliver the following results:

- Improved condition of roads and footpaths
- Improved road and rail connectivity
- Improved access to high speed broadband
- Sufficient school places for Buckinghamshire pupils
- Protecting our high quality natural environment
- The creation of more jobs for local people