

11a. REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Tri-County Strategic Alliance

The momentum associated with the debate on devolution continues to grow with a number of proposals starting to come forward in response to the invitation by the Chancellor and the new Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for councils and Local Enterprise Partnerships to come forward with their proposition. In this context it is important that our initiative – the Tri-County Strategic Alliance – continues to make progress at pace if we are to secure a deal.

I have continued to work closely with the leaders of Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire County Councils and with the Chairmen of the three county-based Local Enterprise Partnerships to develop our proposition. All three County Council Cabinets have now endorsed the proposition in principle. The three Local Enterprise Partnerships will consider the proposition at their next meetings, all of which are scheduled to take place in the first half of July. Briefings have been offered to all of the partners involved in the Local Enterprise Partnerships, including district councils, business interests and academia. Where briefings have taken place the reaction from partners has been broadly supportive, recognising the added value to delivery of growth locally. There is growing recognition of the securing devolution of powers, accountabilities and funding from Government in relation to strategic transport and infrastructure, business support (including skills funding) and funding certainty will help us realise our economic potential faster and more efficiently. I have also briefed Buckinghamshire MPs on our proposition and they have expressed their support for it.

A meeting of the Strategic Leaders Board is scheduled for 17th July which will provide us with the opportunity to consider in more detail the nature of our ask of Government. In particular I am keen to see that we press ahead with our proposal to seek a new deal in relation to transport and infrastructure delivery at the earliest opportunity. This will provide us with the opportunity to engage in detailed discussions with the Government ahead of the autumn's spending review and autumn budget statement.

National Representation

I have attended various national meetings and events since the last Council which have given me valuable opportunities to explore the post-Election landscape and the implications of the new Government policy programme for Buckinghamshire.

On 3 June, I attended the Executive Meeting of the County Council's Network which provided an early opportunity for County Council Leaders to meet with Greg Clarke, the new Secretary of State for the Department of Communities and Local Government, and to start to understand his priorities. The meeting also featured an excellent input from Tony Travers (London School of Economics) about the financial and policy landscape facing County Councils post-Election. Another key item was a report on the Sustainability of Local Care Markets which looked at the findings of an independent study by LaingBuisson, the healthcare market specialists, into the impact of the Care Act. Buckinghamshire County Council was one of 12 authorities that commissioned the study in order to promote a better understand of the financial and sustainability risks arising from the Care Act.

On 25 June, I attended a meeting of the South East Strategic Leaders (SESL) and the South East England Councils (SEEC) Annual General Meeting. Due to budget pressures, I have given notice to cancel the Council's subscription to SEEC with effect from December 2015. However, the South East Strategic Leaders Group (SESL) will

continue to provide us with a forum for networking with South East authorities and working together on shared priorities.

Most recently, I attended the LGA Annual Conference in Harrogate, together with Mike Appleyard, Lin Hazell, John Chilver and Avril Davies. The Conference featured some excellent speakers including Greg Clarke, Simon Stevens (NHS England Chief Executive) and Jeremy Hunt (Secretary of State for Health) and provided opportunities to promote the work we are doing in Buckinghamshire and the challenges we are facing. In particular, I was able to raise with Greg Clarke the case for security of long term funding for local government and will be following that up with him separately.

At a local level, the new Cabinet has held two successful away-days focused on developing a shared understanding of the issues facing each portfolio. In addition, we had an excellent team building day volunteering at Lindengate in Wendover on June 2 to mark Volunteer Week.

The Cabinet also met with local MPs on 12 June to brief them on the key challenges and opportunities we are focused on at the moment, including the financial position, social care recruitment, Tri-County alliance, the Care Act implementation and an update with the roads programme. We were also able to talk through some of the new Government policies and enlist their support in promoting the Council's interests at a national level.

HS2 Update

On 8 June officers presented evidence to the House of Commons Select Committee considering HS2 issues in the Colne Valley. At the door of the Hearing, HS2 Ltd offered an Assurance to assess and then address the impact if construction traffic not did use new M25 slips roads to access the tunnel's southern portal construction area (east of Chalfont. St. Peter). This Assurance together with one offered on reducing the impact on ancient woodland will now be considered in detail ahead of a Cabinet Member decision by the Leader.

On 12, 22 and 26 June the Select Committee visited the Aylesbury, Amersham and Buckingham constituencies to look at the impact on local residents, business and the environment. Ahead of the 22 June visit HS2 Ltd announced they would no longer be using a site at Hunts Green Farm in the Chilterns to permanently tip some one million cubic metres of spoil. This 'concession' needs significant further detail to be provided by HS2 Ltd e.g. for how long will the site be used for temporary spoil tipping, what will happen to the spoil and how will it be transported if it is not dumped at Hunts Green Farm.

The next Hearing the Council is involved with is on 13 July 2015. The Select Committee will hear evidence from the County and District Council and partners petitioning for the Chilterns Long Tunnel. During that week HS2 Ltd will also publish new survey and assessment work in an updated Environmental Statement and information on additional areas of land (Additional Provisions) they require for the project. This information will be assessed to consider if new petitioning points need to be made by the Council and added to the evidence to be presented to Select Committee in September on route-wide, Buckinghamshire-wide and local concerns.

Broadband Update

Connected Counties

The rollout in Buckinghamshire is progressing well, with more than 35,000 homes and businesses connected to fibre broadband. Approximately 150 fibre cabinets are now 'live' across Bucks, with a significant number left to deliver by March 2016.

Some towns and villages which have recently benefited from access to superfast broadband include Askett, Beaconsfield, Brill, Chearsley, Frieth, Fulmer, Ivinghoe, Little Chalfont and Shabbington. More locations are going 'live' on a weekly basis.

In certain locations, delivery has proven to be challenging linked to BT's supply chain; this has been escalated to ensure improvements are made and any remedial actions taken. As the rollout pushes forward towards the latter stages of deployment, this may present further engineering challenges in more rural locations and where Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) technology is being installed.

Monthly data confirms that take-up has now increased to 22% in Buckinghamshire locations (as high as 70% in one Ward) where fibre upgrades have been completed. We are told that the project is considered to be performing well when compared against our peers, at similar stages of progress and relative to project size. We are continuing to work hard on communications and demand stimulation.

Universal Service Commitment

We are waiting to hear more detail on the anticipated voucher scheme and the role of local projects in administering this to homes and businesses that cannot access download speeds of at least 2 Mbps. More information is expected soon, such that the scheme will be up and running by the end of the year. Many local projects are pushing for the Government to enable beneficiaries to choose from local broadband suppliers, alongside nationally accredited satellite broadband providers.

There has been a significant recent focus on responding to a large number of broadband queries from MPs on behalf of constituents. Updates and briefings have also been provided for a number of audiences, including Local Area Forums, businesses and community groups.

Other Activity

With Buckinghamshire funding for the Superfast Extension Programme now confirmed by respective parties, work is underway to formalise arrangements to enable a change request to be issued to BT. This will ask for BT to model proposals for extended superfast broadband coverage using available funds, subject to specified requirements (ring-fenced District spend, allocation of preference areas). It is anticipated that the request will be issued to BT in Quarter 2 15/16, with an evaluation of their proposals thereafter. Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP is expected to use the funding to focus on areas of high economic activity. In addition, South East Midlands LEP recently announced its intention to provide a further £150k of funding to Aylesbury Vale District Council, to support further superfast broadband coverage in the Vale (subject to Government approval).

We are actively involved in the potential draw down of European rural funds for the purposes of enhancing superfast broadband coverage in the most challenging areas (the so called 'final 5%'). The LEP is likely to be the conduit for this and the development of an associated call for bids. In parallel, the Government is continuing to explore how it can support broadband extensions through further investment and policy.

At present, this is focused on a series of Phase 3 pilots which will determine investment and technology approaches going forward.

Work is continuing on engaging actively with broadband suppliers in the marketplace. This includes regular dialogue with Village Networks (a Bucks-based wireless broadband supplier) and meetings pending with Virgin Media and Avonline (satellite).

**MARTIN TETT
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

11b. DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH & WELLBEING

Adult Social Care Funding

The Association of Directors of Adult Social Services in England (ADASS) published a report in March of this year ('Distinctive, Valued, Personal – Why Social care Matters: The Next Five Years') which stated that 2015 is a critical year for adult social care and that there is now a funding crisis. ADASS said that the funding gap nationally for social care is estimated to reach £4.3 billion by 2020. This does not include the additional monies for implementing the Care Act that are required.

The financial challenges facing social care are not new. A succession of independent reviews and commissions (Sutherland, Wanless, Dilnot, Barker) over the last decade and beyond, have highlighted the structural fault lines between a universal NHS that is free at the point of delivery and used by most of the population and social care that is rationed ever more tightly to those who often have the highest needs and lowest means.

The need to place the funding of adult social care on a more sustainable basis is pressing. ADASS is asking for central government to ensure that social care funding is protected and aligned with the NHS, including making provision for the £4.3 billion gap in social care funding by 2020 alongside the £8 billion gap in health service funding over the same period.

Producing a sustainable Adult Social Care budget for future years in Buckinghamshire is likely to be the most significant challenge in the next Medium Term Plan round.

Care Act Update

The implementation of phase 1 of the Care Act continues at pace. A key development to date has been the introduction of a new charging policy which includes making Deferred Payment Agreements (DPAs) more widely available to self-funders. DPAs can be likened to a council run equity release scheme that enables clients to use the value of their property to fund their care. The Council is now permitted to charge interest and administration charges on the loan so that it becomes cost neutral. When the client eventually sells their property or passes away, the council reclaims the capital and the other charges from the estate.

Planning is also well underway looking at how we will cope with the expected 1400 additional self-funders in care homes and 2400 who receive care in the community who will need to be assessed in order to set-up their Care Account so that they can track their progress towards the £72,000 Care Cap. We aim to streamline the process as much as possible by using online assessment tools that will be integrated into our Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) site www.careadvicebucks.org.

Chesham Opportunities Centre

Chesham Opportunities Centre opened to the public in April 2015. This modern, bright and spacious centre is set over two floors and enjoys a fantastic view across the town and the surrounding Chilterns. The centre is a short walk from Chesham town centre and welcomes clients from surrounding towns. Chesham Centre supports:

- Adults with learning disabilities
- Adults with autism
- Older adults
- Older adults with dementia
- Those with mental health problems

The Chesham Centre is the third to open as part of the Day Opportunities Capital Programme, following Aylesbury and Buckingham and is managed by our trading company Buckinghamshire Care.

Like our other opportunities centres, the new Chesham Centre is able to offer support and fantastic modern facilities including:

- A state-of-the-art sensory room
- Activity rooms designed for people with a physical disability
- Modern washrooms and kitchens for food skills sessions
- Two balcony areas with artificial turf, making our outdoors area available to clients 12 months a year (should the weather be kind!)
- A modern, fully-accessible lift meaning clients can use all areas of the building

MIKE APPLEYARD
DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH & WELLBEING

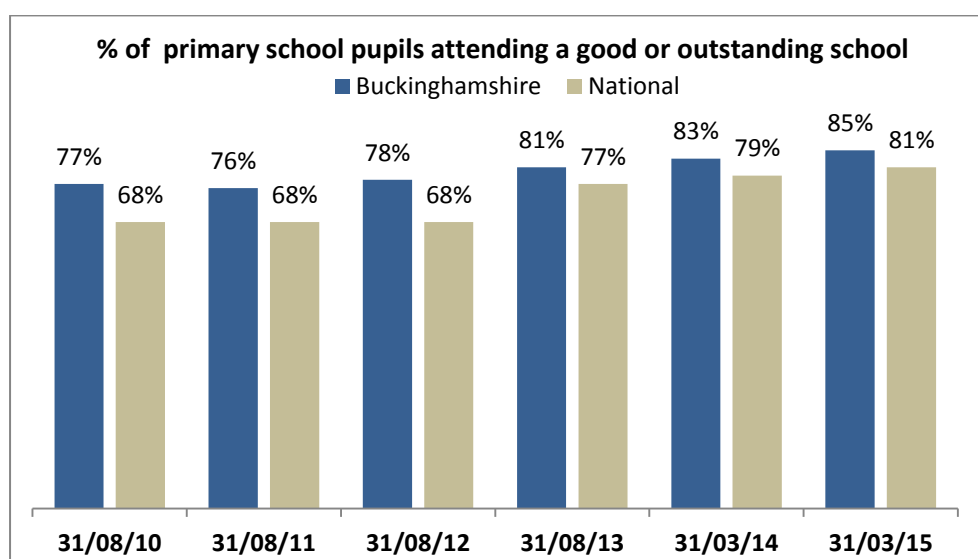
11c. CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Quality of Buckinghamshire schools

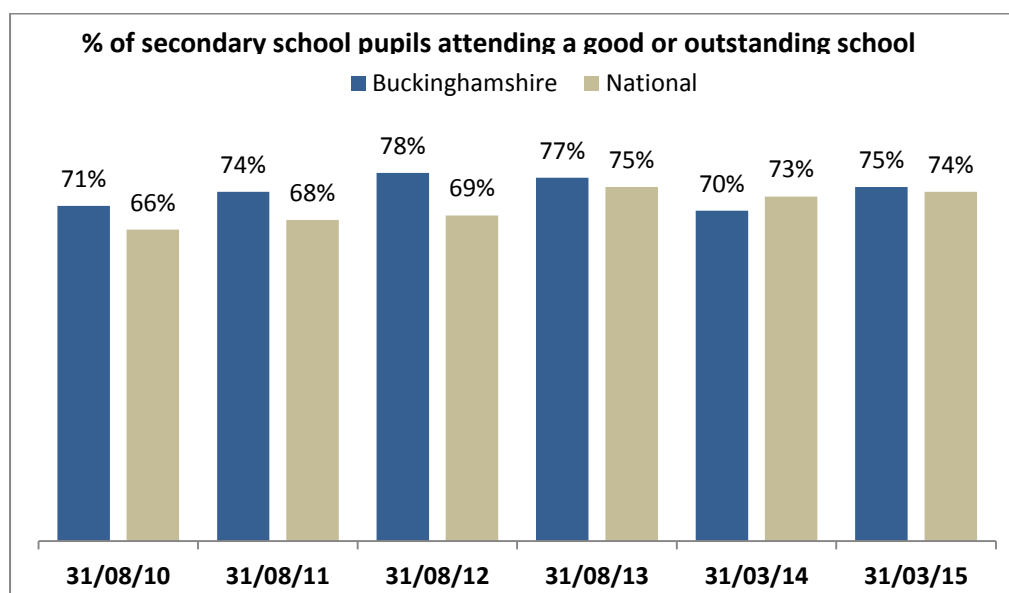
The percentage of pupils attending a good or outstanding school in Buckinghamshire is improving and is above the national picture for all categories of school. Latest figures from Ofsted as at 31/3/15 show that 81% of pupils in Buckinghamshire attend a school that is judged to be good or outstanding, compared to 78% nationally (31/3/14 - Buckinghamshire 77% compared to 76% nationally).

100% of pupils attend nursery schools which are good or outstanding.

At primary level, 85% of pupils attend good or outstanding primary schools, compared with nationally 81%. Buckinghamshire is the **highest** performing authority in the south east region for this measure, and show improving results over the last few years as below:



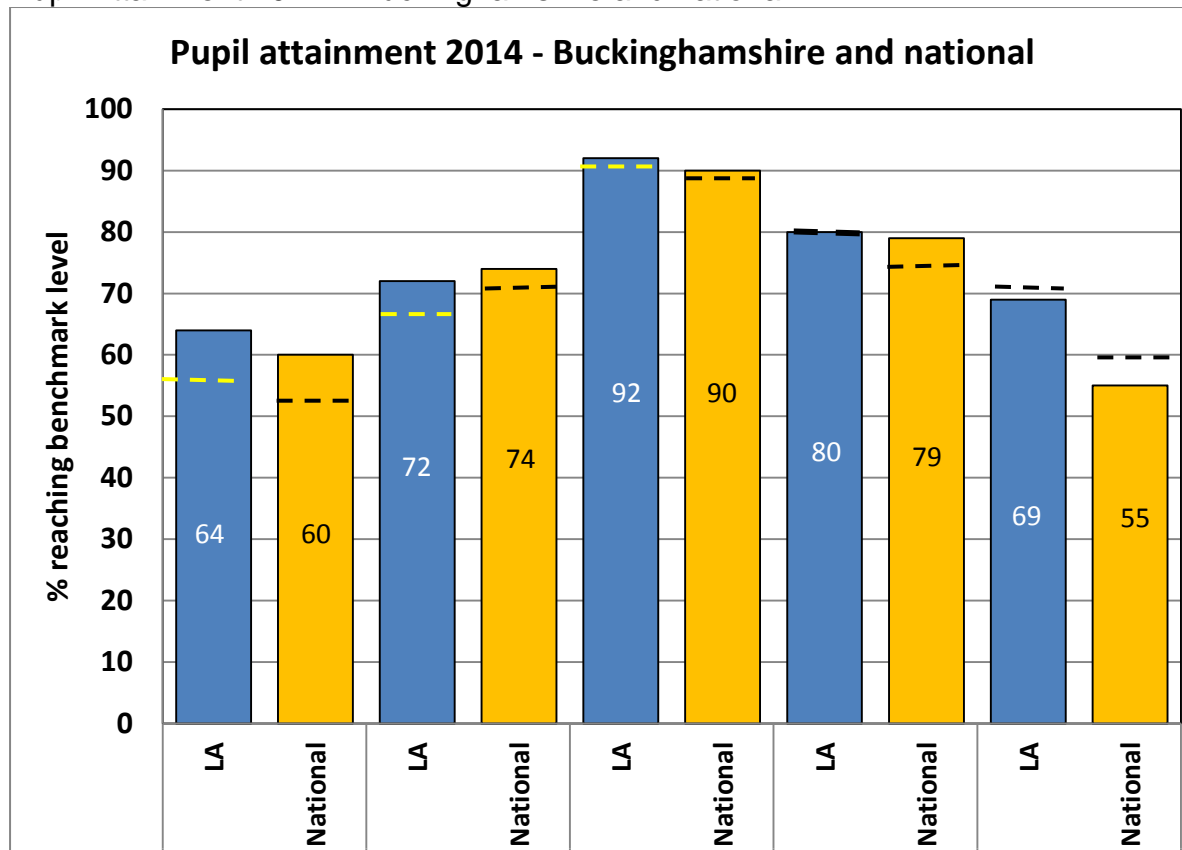
At secondary level the proportion of pupils attending a good or outstanding school in Buckinghamshire has improved from last year, up from 70% to 75%. This includes 100% of those attending selective secondary schools. Nationally 74% of pupils attend a good or outstanding school.



Additionally,

- 96% of pupils attend special schools that are good or outstanding, also above national.
- 100% of pupils attend Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) that are good or outstanding.
- Only 3% of Buckinghamshire pupils attend schools which are classed as inadequate, with 12% attending schools which require improvement, (2014 – 3% inadequate and 14% require improvement respectively), shows a slight improvement.

Pupil Attainment 2014 – Buckinghamshire and national



The table shows the percentage reaching the benchmark level at each Key Stage in 2014, compared to national. Dotted lines show 2013 results.

From September 2014 there was a new model of school improvement to support all schools through a schools review. School improvement work is ongoing with the BLT and the Local Authority working collaboratively, with the BLT running a number of projects.

Children's Centres

This July we are running a month-long promotion to celebrate our Children's Centres and the vital role they play in their local community.

All 35 Children's Centres across Buckinghamshire will be hosting a number of special events, activities and competitions during the month, in addition to their normal programme of events. The aim is to boost membership and raise awareness of what centres do.

On 01 June following a tendering process, Action for Children was awarded a contract to deliver 25 centres across Bucks, and Spurgeons was awarded a contract to deliver three centres in Aylesbury. The seven centres managed by schools were not part of

this process and continue under the management of their respective schools. Both organisations are national charities and have experience of running children's centres and other children's services across the country.

We are currently in a three month implementation phase until 01 September when the two new organisations take over full running of the centres. During this time, the centres continue to be managed by the current providers and there will be a staff consultation. The new providers will arrange to meet staff and other stakeholders to introduce themselves and this is likely to take place in July. Services will continue to run as usual and are likely to remain unchanged until the end of the year. The new providers will be undertaking a needs' analysis and consultation to inform any changes that are made. There will be an increased focus on providing targeted early help to families, while maintaining a universal offer for all.

Furze Down School New Build

After years in the planning, the new Furze Down School building opened to students and staff on 14 April. This new state of the art building replaces the old dilapidated buildings with fit for purpose facilities that will transform educational learning at the school for both pupils and staff. The new areas will inspire learning and enable the school to deliver the curriculum in new innovative ways, which will lead to greater improvements in educational outcomes for young people of Buckinghamshire. In addition, the new buildings will offer much improved facilities that will benefit the whole community. The old buildings will now be demolished and the grounds landscaped, with a view to all works being completed in the summer of 2015.

Post 16 Prospectus

The law has recently changed so that from this September, all young people must remain in some form of education or training until they reach the age of 18. Young people have the option to stay on at a sixth form but they also have a range of other learning options available to them including: starting an Apprenticeship; going to College; or training via a Training Provider. The Local Authority has a duty to encourage, enable and support young people to participate in Post-16 education and training and is therefore carrying out a series of activities and events to inform parents, carers and young people about all of their options.

A Post-16 Prospectus has been developed and will be sent out in September to every Buckinghamshire Year 10 and Year 11 pupil's household. This Prospectus details information about all Post-16 learning options, gives information about where to go for more advice and support, and gives an overview of every provider of education and training in the County and the surrounding areas.

Parents and carers will also receive an invitation to attend one of nine local events that are being organised by the Council working in partnership with Connexions Buckinghamshire. At the events, young people will have the opportunity to find out more information about their options and meet a range of Providers, Employers and Careers' Guidance Professionals.

Events

Thursday 08 Oct – Chesham
Tuesday 13 Oct – Aylesbury
Tuesday 20 Oct – Beaconsfield
Wednesday 21 Oct – High Wycombe
Tuesday 03 Nov – Chalfonts
Wednesday 04 Nov – Buckingham

Monday 08 Nov – Princes Risborough

Wednesday 11 Nov – Burnham

Thursday 12 No – High Wycombe

ZAHIR MOHAMMED
CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND SKILLS

11d. CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

Greatmoor Energy from Waste Programme Update

I am pleased to be able to report that the Construction of the Energy from Waste (EFW) facility at Greatmoor continues to proceed well. June sees the start of the nine month long commissioning (testing) process of the facility. 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 the Hot Commissioning phase which is about testing the facility with actual residual waste. Hot Commissioning and the first burning of Buckinghamshire's residual household waste is anticipated to occur late September or early October this year.

For further information on progress there are regular updates on the County Council website and on FCC's websites 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 and onward deliver to the EFW facility. A WTS at High Heavens, near High Wycombe, is well into construction and it is expected that this will be complete ahead of the Hot Commissioning phase of the main EFW facility.

For the second WTS, I am pleased to be able to report that on 29 May the Development Control Committee supported a planning application for a WTS at London Road Depot, near Amersham. This planning approval is subject to three conditions being met before formal planning consent can be issued; these being:

- a. That the Environment Agency (EA) withdraws its objection relating to what is termed a Source Protection Zone (for water) within the site.
- b. That following referral of the application to the Secretary of State (SoS), that the SoS does not intervene
- c. That a legal agreement on routing of bulkers is reached.

It is felt that the EA objection can be withdrawn quickly as in essence it just relates to some matters of clarification on the impact of the development. However the SoS referral will take some months due to the length of time the SoS is currently taking to consider such referrals. The legal agreement should be relatively straightforward however it too will take a few months to complete, though this can be twin tracked with the SoS referral. Given these matters it is believed that formal planning consent is not likely much before the end of the year.

Following the issuing of any formal planning consent there then remains the potential for a Judicial Review challenge. It is worth noting the main EFW facility was subject to three JR challenges and given the high profile nature of this application it is recognised that there is a high risk of this occurring. However I am confident that the Council can demonstrate that the planning application was conducted entirely correctly and as such any grounds for a JR challenge can be robustly defended.

Biomass Boiler Programme helps save fuel costs and also provides a long term income to BCC

The Resource Strategy Team has just completed the installation of 9 biomass (wood fuel) boilers at various sites across the estate in line with the BCC Energy Management Plan.

The installation of the biomass boilers is leading to numerous benefits:

- The biomass boilers will generate a net income to BCC from the government's Renewable Heat Incentive and heat sales of **£150,000 per annum** (cumulative £3m over the 20 year life of the programme)
- The sites themselves will save over **£30,000 per annum** in fuel costs per annum having switched from oil to biomass (cumulative £600,000 over 20 year life of the programme)
- Over **520 tonnes of carbon per annum** will have been saved per annum as a result of switching from oil to biomass (10,400 tonnes of CO2 saved over 20 year life of programme)

In addition to the switch to biomass boilers, the Resource Strategy Team have also just completed the move of a further 27 BCC sites from oil to gas or they are now gas ready meaning that more sites can benefit from lower fuel costs.

Feasibility for Potential Aylesbury Heat Network

The Resource Strategy team is about to tender for a feasibility study that will examine 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. The funding for the study has been secured from the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

**WARREN WHYTE
CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT**

11e. CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES

ICT

I am pleased to report that taxpayers are set for large cash savings thanks to a digital project being led by ICT to replace traditional telephones with headsets. Around 600 staff at Buckinghamshire County Council were given the headphones in a pilot scheme last November.

The devices plug into laptops and allow the user to make and receive County Council calls remotely, meaning they can work from home without incurring personal telephone expenses. Now the initiative will be rolled out to 2,500 more employees by September in what represents a major culture change at the County Council.

The headsets tie in to Microsoft Lync, an online programme which allows phone calls – as well as instant messages and videos – to be made with a few clicks on a laptop, bypassing the need to use a telephone. Telephony costs will be reduced thanks to an increased use of instant messaging and in reduced buying of traditional handset systems which are more expensive than headsets. There have been a few glitches in the pilot scheme with some staff experiencing difficulties in making internal calls. But this has been caused by the fact not everyone is on the same system so we are keen to ensure the rollout is completed as soon as possible

HR Operations

Social Worker Recruitment

A national shortage of Social Workers continues to have a massive impact on our ability to attract and retain qualified staff. Since the start of the year we have renewed our effort to attract staff aided by an enhanced reward package.

To date we have successfully appointed 20 permanent employees ranging from Heads of Service to Children & Family Workers as well as 9 Social Workers from our Romania Campaign. We have 7 new starters due between now and August with weekly interview panels likely to increase this number over the coming weeks. A second round of Romanian recruitment is due to commence in July which has the potential to deliver 9-12 new starters by end October. Finally, 11 Newly Qualified Social Workers from our Front Line and sponsored Open University programme have been placed in identified units for a September start.

**JOHN CHILVER
CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES**

11f. CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Early Help

It is in our best interests to support children and their families as early as possible as it can make a real difference to a child's progress in life. Preventive intervention can lead to some children not requiring our services later on in life, which by this time can be very costly.

To be effective, early help needs to be coordinated and relies upon good partnerships. I am delighted that the first of our Early Help Panels was held on 24th June in Aylesbury and was a success. These panels discuss complex early help needs for families with a variety of challenges. This was the first of our pilot panels and had representatives from Health (CAMHS, health visitors and school nurses), primary schools, Police, youth services and our family resilience team. They discussed 11 families, identifying lead agencies and appropriate services that would offer support. Dates are to be confirmed for the Wycombe and Chesham panels, which we are pleased that our colleagues in Police and CAMHS will be chairing.

Children Looked After Strategy

Children's Services are creating a new placement strategy for looked after children. This strategy will describe the services we need to ensure children can remain safely living at home, but will also identify the services we require when a child can no longer remain within their family.

The strategy will highlight the current gaps in provision from earlier intervention to therapeutic care, and to set out the commissioning plan to deliver these services. We aim to ensure that the Council looks after The Right Child, at the Right Time in the Right Place for the right cost.

Ofsted Improvement

The Department for Education appointed an Independent Chair for the Improvement Board in April in order to ensure that all partners are held to account for their role in improving safeguarding services for children.

At the last two Board meetings, the Chair has noted the evidence of improvement in some areas of work including the voice of the child being evident in social care practice and slow improvement in timeliness of initial case conferences. The Board have also welcomed the proposed developments in the coordination of early help services and the MASH.

Recruitment

Recruiting permanent social workers remains a key focus for all local authorities as there is a shortage nationally. Permanent social workers not only means a stable workforce which is more cost effective but also offers a consistency for the families we support, resulting in better outcomes for children. We have reduced our reliance on agency workers significantly, so far this year we have recruited 33 experienced social workers. We will have 9 Romanian workers starting after the summer and have a good induction planned. We have 11 social workers due to finish their training in the Autumn and it has already been identified on where best to be placed within teams.

As well as exploring more international recruitment in August, we are 'growing our own' by developing the social work academy in partnership with Bucks New University. We have had two master classes this year already where experts have run sessions on Child Sexual Exploitation and social work skills. This will help not only promote Bucks

as a place for students to come to after their training but also help us develop and retain our staff.

There is clearly more work to do but I am pleased to confirm that the workforce is starting to stabilise: by August, the Senior Management Team in Children & Families will be fully staffed by permanent appointments.

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

11g. CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORTATION

Enhanced Capital Maintenance Programme

The resources required to deliver the enhanced capital maintenance programme continue to increase, with the maximum output expected in August/September this year. The majority of the schemes has been carried out to programme and includes both carriageway and footway schemes. Improved site controls and works sequencing has resulted in follow-on activities (i.e. white lines and coloured surfacing) being completed soon after the new road surfacing has been applied.

Works packages for market testing, equating to approximately £10m, have been issued to eight tenderers. Two tenderers have declined, citing work type/mix or existing order book volumes as reasons. Tenders will be returned in early July for joint review and adjudication, with work expected to commence in August.

£3m Plane and Patch Programme

Following the Cabinet announcement in May to implement a £3m plane and patch programme, preparation work has already commenced.

It is proposed to deliver approximately £1m of the plane and patch programme during 2015/16, with the remainder being undertaken in 2016/17. A number of member communications has already been issued outlining the arrangements.

This first phase of the programme will focus on undertaking works on schemes that have already been identified, many of which have been consulted on with Members as part of the three year forward programme. This work is planned to start in September/October and finish by mid-November (to avoid the coldest and wettest part of the winter).

The second phase of this work, constituting the majority of spend, will be consulted on with Members through the remainder of this year, and be included with the TfB 2016/17 Annual Plan for delivery.

Area-Based Maintenance

Area-based working, built around the 4 depots across the County (Griffin Lane, Handy Cross, Amersham, and Gawcott) continues to improve. The defined depot-based resources and area-specific needs, which vary across districts, are becoming more visible and are being used to better inform service-specific operational boundaries. This will be enhanced with the introduction of the new workflow software, Confirm, which is scheduled to go live on 01 July, and will provide better use of mobile working and real time service performance data through summary dashboards.

An element of the area-based work has been devolved, primarily focused on grass cutting (along with a number of other local services). While some teething problems have been encountered in the early stages, the delivery of the devolution services by the parishes has, on the whole, been considered a success. Given this, consideration is now being given to Tranche 2, which is likely to be reviewed with Members in October 2015.

TfB / LAF Interface

Issues have been raised concerning TfB's performance in its interface with the LAFs. Issues include the quality, accuracy and the timeliness of submissions, as well as the delivery.

TfB's senior management team has recognised this and this has resulted in their attendance at the latest round of LAF meetings, with the aim of auditing TfB's representatives own performance. The outcome of this review will be dovetailed into the LAF development plan which already includes improvements to the provision of works estimates and information to support the actual costs incurred.

Additional resources have been brought into the area schemes team to give further support in the delivery of LAF funded schemes. The governance of this service element has also been improved through better reporting and management processes including particular discussion in the contract monthly review meetings.

Further consideration is being given to enhance the LAF service updates. This has initially been focused on improvements to the LAF report, which will be in place for the next meetings scheduled in October/November, and is likely to extend to TfB webpages.

East West Rail

The next significant milestone for East West Rail will be summer 2015 when the detailed scope of the enhanced East West Rail scheme between Oxford and Bedford, and Princes Risborough via Aylesbury to Milton Keynes is expected to be reviewed and confirmed by the Office of Rail & Road.

In the meantime Phase 1 construction is well under way and heading towards delivering new train services between Oxford Parkway (at Water Eaton) and London Marylebone via a re-modelled Bicester Village (formerly Bicester Town) Station by October 2015, and from Oxford by March 2016.

Preliminary work on Phase 2 that includes the Milton Keynes to Aylesbury strategic rail link and a new station at Winslow is making progress. The initial review work on the 104 crossings along the EWR route is now complete in Buckinghamshire. Public consultation meetings at Swanbourne, Steeple Claydon, Marsh Gibbon, Quainton, Stoke Mandeville and Princes Risborough were well received by those attending. Formal public consultation on the overall EWR scheme is scheduled to start in September 2015. Ahead of this, the intention is to provide some advance information to local Councillors across the Consortium together with an open invitation for Councillors to attend and support EWR consultation exhibitions in their local area. Dates and locations will be advised when confirmed by Network Rail.

Parsons Brinckerhoff continue to take forward ground investigation ("Geotech") surveys, rail infrastructure design, structural surveys and preliminary civil engineering design work that will enable the scheme to be developed to a point where the major contract for detailed design and construction can be awarded. Ground and structural surveys are well progressed along the mothballed section of the line in north Bucks with a compound successfully established near to Verney Junction.

A copy of the latest general EWR project update/newsletter can be found at the EWR website. <http://www.eastwestrail.org.uk/project-progress>

One Transport Bid

As part of a consortia of public and private partners, Buckinghamshire County Council secured £290,000 (out of a total of £4 million awarded to the consortia) from Innovate UK's Integrated Transport funding competition to deliver the OneTransport project, working closely with its tri-county partners.

Through sharing traffic data across the tri-county area and beyond, the OneTransport project will use up-to-date information from a variety of transport sources to build a connected transport data network. From this, app developers and providers will be able to produce public transport 'apps' for mobile phones and tablets, helping the public to effortlessly plan and make public transport journeys by combining bus, coach or train. From September 2015 the project will commence and will seek to develop the data platform and seek to deploy new sensors in certain locations across the transport network.

Highways Development Management Parsons Brinkerhoff Review

An independent review of Highways Development Management has taken place by WSP Parsons Brinkerhoff. The review included an examination of existing procedural documents, interviews with officers and members, as well as an assessment case study. The review also benchmarked with other authorities to compare with and define what 'best practice' looks like across the sector.

The report highlights 32 recommendations, of which 12 have been categorised as areas requiring immediate attention. The Highways Development Management team has already started implementing the required changes, and a progress report will be provided to Transport, Environment and Communities Select Committee in 6 months' time.

MARK SHAW
CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORTATION

11h. CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PUBLIC HEALTH

The National Paralympic Heritage Trust (NPHT)

The Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Public Health, along with the Director for Communities, is working to help establish a new charity to be called the National Paralympic Heritage Trust. The Trust will be a partnership between the British Paralympic Association, Wheelpower, Buckinghamshire County Council and Aylesbury Vale District Council, with each of those organisations having trustees on its Board.

The Trust's purpose is to capture and explore the heritage of the Paralympic Movement past, present and future, for generations to come, by delivering the following:

- A collection and archive mapped and built up, with appropriate storage and conservation, meeting national museum standards
- A permanent Heritage Centre at Stoke Mandeville Stadium
- A national network of long-term satellite exhibitions
- A virtual museum / website to ensure broader accessibility
- An education programme
- Outreach and special exhibitions

It is hoped to have the Trust formed by September 2015 but bringing it to life will take longer, with the intention of promoting its ambition at the launch of the Paralympic games in 2016.

Longer term (from 2018) it is likely that the Trust will have responsibility for the flame lighting ceremonies for both the summer and winter Paralympics. The Buckinghamshire County Museum Trust and our Archives service are likely to be providing services to the National Paralympic Heritage Trust.

Integrated Commissioning of Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) Services

In June, the Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Public Health along with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services agreed a proposal to pursue the integrated commissioning of Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) Services.

Within Buckinghamshire County Council DVA services are currently commissioned by three different service areas, Community Safety, Children and Young People and Public Health alongside some funding which is given to local support agencies by District Councils.

The funding, along with commissioning of DVA has grown over the last few years. The number of clients supported by the IDVA service increased 88% in 2013/14 compared to the previous year. There was a total of 123 women and 136 children accommodated in refuges in Buckinghamshire in 2013/14 but a further 206 families were refused refuge due to a lack of space. Reports to the police continue to increase year on year and responding to DVA and support for victims of DVA is one of the Governments top priorities.

The idea of adopting a countywide DVA tender for services to include District Councils was explored; however it was consequently agreed by the Safer and Stronger Bucks Partnership Board that the preferred option would be for Buckinghamshire County Council service areas to pursue the option of an integrated approach between the three service areas. The aim of the integration is to better meet increased demand and the needs of service users and enable a more co-ordinated approach to monitoring and evaluation.

Tenders are to be received by 3rd August 2015. Following this evaluation will take place along with interviews with prospective providers. It is envisaged that the new DVA support service will 'go-live' on 1st April 2016.

Health Visiting and Family Nurse Partnership

From 1st October 2015 the commissioning of Public Health services for 0-5 year olds (Health Visiting and Family Nurse Partnership) will transfer from NHS England to Local Authorities, as part of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

This will join up children's commissioning to include public health services, early years and wider family services as well as improve integration with social care and education. Responsibility for the 6-8 week GP review and the Child Health Information System (CHIS) will remain with NHS England.

The Healthy Child programme (HCP) is a prevention and early intervention public health programme offered to all families that lies at the heart of the universal service for children and their families. The health visiting service provides the lead service to all families with crucial evidence based support, expert advice and intervention in the first years of life as well as referring and directing them to other support services when required. As public health practitioners they work alongside other health professionals and frontline service providers to ensure and enable a holistic integrated provision focused on improving health outcomes and reducing health inequalities at individual, family and community level. The family nurse partnership is a licensed programme for first time young parents. It is an intensive programme starting early in pregnancy through until the child reaches 2 years.

The process for transferring the commissioning responsibility and contract involves three bodies, NHS England (NSHE) as the sending commissioner, Buckinghamshire County Council, the LA as the receiving commissioner and Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust BHT as the provider. (Both the Health Visiting Service and Family Nurse Practitioners will continue to be employed by their current provider, Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust.) The public health team have been working closely with colleagues within the council and with the area NSHE team on this process to enable the transfer to take place by 1 October.

MARTIN PHILLIPS
CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH