

# County Council



## Cabinet Member Reports

### 7a. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

#### **Brexit**

The country has taken the historic decision to leave the European Union and seek new international trading relationships outside. The County Council did not have a policy either for or against Brexit. In the light of the developments since the vote it is important that, whatever side of the debate Members took, we again come together to provide the strong, united leadership that our residents expect from their elected Councillors.

Of particular importance is that we send a clear message that all parts of our community should enjoy equal respect and any inappropriate behaviour towards minority communities is completely unacceptable. The County Council stands firmly against intolerance.

#### **Modernising local government in Buckinghamshire**

The County Council took the decision in early May to look at options for modernising local government in Buckinghamshire, including developing a business case for an entirely new, single unitary council based upon the county boundaries. Our business case is being worked up, and we will be engaging with our stakeholders and public about their priorities for the future shape of local government in the county.

Two months ago, I wrote to the four District Councils to invite them to work with us in evaluating any other options based on common methodology and a shared evidence base. However, the Districts have recently made the decision not to collaborate with us but to jointly commission their own review of options for future local government.

While it is clearly disappointing that the Districts have decided not to work together with us, I have asked for them to reconsider this as I fully believe it to be in the best interests of our residents and businesses.

#### **Health and Wellbeing Board update**

The [NHS Shared Planning Guidance 16/17 – 20/21](#) has asked every health and care system to come together to create their own ambitious local blueprint known as a Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STPs) for accelerating implementation of the [Five Year Forward View](#).

STPs are place-based, multiyear plans built around the needs of local populations. The Health and Wellbeing Board has been focusing on the STP for our local footprint which includes Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West, known as BOBW. Our footprint covers a population of 1.8million and a £2.5bn place-based allocation. In terms of governance, there are 7 Clinical Commissioning Groups, 17 Foundation Trusts and

NHS providers and 14 Local Authorities. The challenge is to bring these organisations and their plans together to ensure synergy and alignment.

One of the key challenges for Buckinghamshire is around integrating and aligning health and social care needs to address the issue of long hospital stays. Our STP also includes key goals around prevention and self-care.

The Health and Wellbeing Board will have continued involvement and oversight of the key priorities, governance structures and the engagement process with key stakeholders for the STP. The final submission of the STP is required by mid-September with an outline plan submitted in June. The Board will be looking at the STP in more detail at its September meeting.

## **Strategic Plan**

Members will recall that the Council undertook a review of the Strategic Plan in 2015 and refocused it around 3 clear themes:

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

This year, we are facing a set of major national reforms which will lead to radical changes in both the shape and purpose of local government. These include the funding arrangements for local government, the devolution of new responsibilities as part of the transfer of Business Rates, Health and Social Care integration, the growth agenda and the role of the Council in Education. We are also facing significant change to the size and profile of our population, which has wide ranging implications for the way in which public services will need to be delivered in the longer term.

Given this context, we need to revisit the Strategic Plan to ensure it is fit for purpose to hand over to the new Council in May 2017.

The AGM Annual Debate in May provided an opportunity to start a discussion with Members on the implications of these reforms for the Council's future priorities. To summarise, the debate covered:

- The importance of prevention and how to shift towards 'stemming the flow'
- The challenge in getting Bucks voice heard & the most appropriate level to work at to address different issues
- The fundamental importance of partnership working in tackling the issues we collectively face
- Keeping disabled people active & in their own homes; childhood obesity; children's mental health services
- Understanding and planning for growth, including knowing the population and investing in infrastructure
- The need for a new relationship with businesses as we move to the repatriation of business rates.

We are planning to hold a series of events over the next six months to provide Members with the opportunity to consider key policy areas and to identify priorities to be reflected in the next Strategic Plan.

## **The Growth Agenda: District Local Plan Position**

Momentum around the Local Plans for Buckinghamshire is gathering pace as the Draft Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan and the Draft Wycombe Local Plan are published for public consultation.

Buckinghamshire is proposing to deliver an additional 50,000 new homes across the County by 2033, led by the District Local Planning Authorities. This presents many challenges for the County not least in terms of additional infrastructure needs and services but also in terms of infrastructure investment and delivery.

As a County Council we are working with the Districts to ensure the development of the County is plan led rather than ad hoc and random according to the whims of developers. This is important, not only to meet the Government's deadline of up to date Local Plans to be in place by April 2017 but also to ensure that infrastructure needs are identified and integrated into future development schemes.

The Draft Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan is open for consultation from 7th July until 5th September and is available to view on the Aylesbury Vale District Council website at <http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/vale-aylesbury-local-plan-draft-plan>. The Draft Wycombe Local Plan was launched for public consultation on 27th June available at <https://www.wycombe.gov.uk/pages/About-the-council/Have-your-say/Current-consultations/Planning-consultations/Consultation-draft-Wycombe-district-local-plan.aspx> and the closing date for comments is 8th August 2016.

The Strategic Planning & Infrastructure team is co-ordinating the County Council response. A Member Briefing on the Draft Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan was held on the 22nd June and a Member Briefing on the Draft Wycombe Local Plan held on the 30th June. The Growth Board will meet on 4 August to manage the County Council response for both Local Plans.

The County Council submitted a representation to the Districts on the issues and options for the emerging Local Plans. The County Council's representation covered a number of matters which seek to enable well planned sustainable communities, including the following:

- Highlighting concerns about the removal of land from the Green Belt and the impact of additional development in the AONB, including concerns about the evidence base underpinning the removal of land from the Green Belt.
- Improving local physical and social infrastructure and ensuring that appropriate mitigation measures are secured to support the delivery of the proposals in the plan, including the need for transport infrastructure, schools and community infrastructure.
- Highlighting the need to meet specialist housing need alongside the proposals for general housing.
- Protecting the natural and historic environment, including the protection of public open spaces provision.

Any queries on the above should be directed to the Strategic Planning team at [strat\\_planning@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:strat_planning@buckscc.gov.uk)

## High Speed 2 Update

### House of Lords Select Committee Visit to North Bucks

On the 25 May the House of Lords Select Committee visited areas in the north of Buckinghamshire from Turweston and Chetwode through to Steeple Claydon. Lord Walker (Chairman), Lord Freeman, Baroness O’Cathain and Lord Young were in attendance. Neither Lord Brabazon nor Lord Jones attended. Lord Plant had just resigned from the Committee and Lord Elder had not yet been appointed.

The visit, unlike in the Commons, followed standard, fact finding format, with a small number of people on the bus and no public meetings. An officer from the Council accompanied the visit to ensure a fair representation of the facts but Members were not invited. A small pack of maps and illustrations was handed out by HS2 Ltd and referred to throughout. Buckinghamshire County Council was not allowed to hand out the brochures produced for the Commons visits. However, the Committee was made aware of the substantial impact HS2 will have on this area and also the mitigation requested by local petitioners.

It was made clear that there would be a further visit to take in Calvert and the rest of the county.

### House of Lords Select Committee programme and update

The House of Lords Select Committee has held its first hearings which consisted of introductions to the scheme and technical areas such as noise. The Committee also heard Locus Standi challenges (Right to be Heard) from 7 June onwards. Of the 821 petitions deposited, 414 of these were challenged by the Promoter, including those of all 8 MPs along the route. At the time of writing it is not known when the County Council’s petition will be heard although it is possible it could be before the rise of Parliament on 21 July 2016.

### HS2 bidders for £12bn engineering contracts invited to tender

There are nine companies bidding to win at least one of seven HS2 main civil engineering contracts worth up to £11.8bn that have been invited to tender. The companies, mostly made up of consortia featuring some of the biggest names in the national and international rail sector, were shortlisted for the major packages in late March. The shortlist is as follows:

- **Align JV:** BouyguesTravaux Publics, Sir Robert McAlpine, Volkerfitzpatrick
- **ASL:** Acciona Infraestructuras, John Sisk & Son (Holdings) Ltd, Lagan Construction Group Ltd
- **Balfour Beatty Vinci BeMO (BBV JV):** Balfour Beatty Group Ltd, Vinci Construction Grands Projets, Vinci Construction UK Ltd, Vinci Construction Terrassement SAS, BeMO Tunnelling GmbH
- **Catalyst:** Bechtel Ltd
- **Carillion-Eiffage-Kier (CEK) JV:** Carillion Construction Ltd, Eiffage Genie Civil S.A. (previously Eiffage TP), Kier Infrastructure and Overseas Ltd
- **Fusion:** Morgan Sindall Construction and Infrastructure Ltd (previously Morgan Sindall plc), BAM Nuttall Ltd, Ferrovia Agroman (UK) Ltd
- **LFM:** Laing O’Rourke Construction Ltd, FCC Construcción S.A., J. Murphy and Sons Ltd
- **Momentum Infrastructure:** Dragados S.A., HOCHTIEF Infrastructure GmbH, GallifordTry Infrastructure Ltd
- **SCS:** Skanska Construction (UK) Ltd, Costain Ltd, STRABAG AG

Firms that successfully go through the tendering process, or “deliver the best results in terms of value and efficiency”, can bid for packages which are worth between £1.8bn and £3.3bn.

The seven Phase 1 packages cover a series of areas, such as the Chiltern Tunnels and Colne Valley Viaduct (C1 sector) and the route from South Heath up to Turweston (C2 sector).

Most tenderers are bidding for the maximum allowance of four packages each, although Catalyst (Bechtel Ltd) and ASL are just bidding for one each. HS2 Ltd said it expects these major contracts will be finalised in spring 2017, with work on the 140-mile stretch of the phase 1 scheme set to start the following year.

### **England’s Economic Heartland Strategic Alliance**

The second quarter of 2016 has seen the Strategic Alliance initiative continue to gather momentum locally.

The Alliance’s Strategic Transport Forum has considered east-west connectivity and the potential benefits for north-south movements. The Forum’s discussions are timely given interest in the National Infrastructure Commission’s work on the same issue. The Forum is also leading the Alliance’s work on developing an overarching Transport Strategy.

In parallel the Alliance Leaders continue to meet. I will be chairing meetings of the Leaders group for the next 12 months with my colleague Cllr James Jamieson (Leader of Central Bedfordshire Council) as the deputy chairman.

The Leaders group continues to oversee the work underway to develop a proposal to establish a statutory Sub-national Transport Body (STB): an opportunity created following the enactment of the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act. A background briefing on the opportunity afforded by a STB was shared across the Heartland area in April as part of an initial round of engagement. The briefing document was also shared with adjoining Local Transport Authorities. Two briefing workshops were held and attended by a range of partners. The potential of a STB was seen by attendees as being as an opportunity that should be explored and there was support for a sub-regional approach to strategic transport infrastructure.

Over the course of the summer we will continue to develop our thinking on what an STB might look like, including a further round of engagement with stakeholders. The outcome of that engagement will then need to be considered by the Alliance Leaders in the autumn.

Meanwhile the momentum behind the Strategic Alliance is bringing with wider recognition nationally. Highways England invited officers from the Alliance to attend a workshop to discuss the process for developing their input into the next round of the Roads Investment Strategy, a real opportunity to ensure that their work and that of the Alliance complement each other moving forward.

The next meeting of the Alliance Leaders will see the opportunity to meet with the National Infrastructure Commission and discuss the strategic context for the Commission’s work on east-west connectivity.

## Broadband Update

Buckinghamshire Broadband Programme has received an impact assessment from BT indicating where and how many premises could be covered by the proposed Superfast Extension Plan (Contract 2). Working with the Government's broadband authority, BDUK, the Programme Team has been assessing the information and the proposed changes to the existing contracts.

The initial headline findings are that the proposed second phase is targeted to deliver high speed broadband to almost 10,000 premises. Over 2,000 premises that were mistakenly assigned to Hertfordshire in the earlier impact assessment last March have been removed from the calculations. Based on expected timelines the programme is still foreseen to complete delivery by mid-2018.

The specific postcode data does not normally match target data because of the variance between what the computer model allocates to specific areas and what the on-the-ground planning and surveys determine. However our best district level calculations at the moment are as follows:

<b>SCT June 2016</b>			
	A. Superfast Broadband Premises (more than 24Mbps)	B. Basic Broadband Premises (less than 24Mbps)	Totals (A+B)
Aylesbury Vale	3,584	998	4,582
Chiltern	1,405	323	1,728
South Bucks	1,012	247	1,259
Wycombe	2,890	718	3,608
<b>Buckinghamshire County Total</b>	<b>8,891</b>	<b>2,286</b>	<b>11,177</b>

Initial assurance checks on the impact assessment suggest that the data is valid although questions are now being posed to BT to test the baseline assumptions for new target and the implications of the changes.

Work has also been taking place with BDUK to test value for money. Subject to a few clarification checks, the proposal from BT seems to offer value for money because its associated costs are in keeping with programmes elsewhere in the country.

Evaluation reports will be prepared in advance of an opportunity for the Buckinghamshire Digital Infrastructure Group to review the impact assessment and agree a way forward before being reported to the Programme Board for sign-off in July/August.

### BDUK Better Broadband Scheme and National Broadband Programme 2016

In other news, BDUK is expanding its supplementary scheme into a renewed Better Broadband Scheme (BBS) which will provide a financial subsidy to individuals wishing to order an improved broadband service in premises that meet the eligibility criteria and has a wider scope to include other technologies beyond satellite.

The eligibility criteria are defined as a premises within the Local Authority area where it is not possible to install or access a service of over 2Mbps at an affordable price by any other reasonable means and where there is no clear, credible and declared plan from any supplier to be able to offer such a service in the foreseeable future.

The Government is also introducing a new National Broadband Programme 2016 aimed at supporting the further roll out of superfast broadband to reach the final percentage of premises not covered in the two phases of the current programme. This national programme relates to the new EU state aid notice, which should permit bespoke deployments in hard to reach places and could potentially include a range of providers.

### **National Representation**

Early in July, I and a number of fellow Councillors attended the Local Government Association's Annual Conference in Bournemouth. The event was well attended, with some interesting speakers and panel members including Greg Clark, Kim Johnson (President of the National Association of Head Teachers), Brian Reynolds (One Public Estate), Joanna Killian (KPMG), Michael Burton (The Municipal Journal) and Harold Bodmer (President of the Association of Adult Social Services). The Conference provided the opportunity for us to raise the profile of the excellent work being done in Buckinghamshire, as well as the challenges we face.

**MARTIN TETT  
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

## **7b. DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH & WELLBEING**

### **New academy launched for social workers**

The Social Work Academy, a high-quality centre of excellence for the training of social workers in the county, was unveiled on the 16<sup>th</sup> June in Aylesbury with the aim of addressing a serious skills shortage.

The Academy is a partnership between Buckinghamshire County Council, Buckinghamshire New University and Aylesbury College and will offer a variety of entry routes for training social workers. As well as increasing recruitment into social work, the Academy aims to develop the skills of current social workers, promote research into best practice and improve staff retention rates.

The Bucks Social Work Academy will provide a one-stop, employer-led, high quality centre of excellence for the training of Social Workers in Buckinghamshire.

The Academy will support the training of those currently working in the sector but also promote a 'careers pathway' for school leavers into the profession and provide an entry route for adults wanting a career change. The offer will range from entry level through to Masters, including full, part-time and work-based delivery models.

The Social Work Academy includes a range of courses that those seeking a career in social work can undertake. The courses, run at University Campus Aylesbury Vale for adult learners, include an Access to Social Work course and the Foundation Degree in Health and Social Care. Buckinghamshire New University runs a BSc and MSc in Social Work and for 16-18 year olds there is the A-level equivalent BTEC Diploma in Health and Social Care at Aylesbury College.

The launch received high profile positive coverage in the local media and was covered by BBC South in their main regional TV news bulletin.

### **Autism Friendly Town**

Health professionals, in partnership with Buckinghamshire County Council, are running a project to support autistic people within Buckinghamshire.

The local Clinical Commissioning Groups commissioned an Autism Community Development Worker role, to work in collaboration with the local authority to support Buckinghamshire residents affected by autism. In the last year and a half over 90 people with autism have been helped, many of whom had found it difficult to get a job.

Paulette Hunn, our Community Development Worker, is also helping the National Autistic Society to make Aylesbury the UK's first 'Autism-Friendly Town'. As part of this, the charity is working with local businesses and shops to improve their understanding of autism and the simple adjustments they can make to become more accessible to people with autism.

Mrs Hunn's role is very much about raising awareness among the community about how autism affects people, providing training to not only health and social care professionals but to community-facing services such as the police and the Department of Work and Pensions, so that they may make the necessary reasonable adjustments and thereby provide an efficient service.



Many people with autism would be tremendous assets to businesses due to their general reliability, honesty and attention to detail. However, some experience extreme sensory difficulties, which may make them very sensitive to smells or noises, while others may have problems with social interaction.

Tom Purser, Community Campaigns Manager at the National Autistic Society, said he was delighted to be working with Paulette and Buckinghamshire County Council to make Aylesbury the first 'Autism Friendly Town' in the UK and that although a number of different businesses are already involved, they want to work with even more to help them to also become autism friendly.

### **Memory Support Service**

Buckinghamshire Memory Support Service, run by the Alzheimer's Society, was officially opened on 10<sup>th</sup> May. The ribbon was cut by Professor Alistair Burns, Professor of Old Age Psychiatry and Vice Dean for the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences at the University of Manchester.

The service, which started on 1<sup>st</sup> April, helps Buckinghamshire county residents who are concerned about their memory to receive an early diagnosis of dementia and will offer information, support and guidance. The service provides consistency across the county and means that people can expect to get an initial diagnosis within two weeks wherever they live in the county.

Over 6,800 people over the age of 65 in Buckinghamshire have been diagnosed with dementia, and this is expected to rise to over 8,000 in the next four to five years.

### **Provision of Specialist Learning Disability Health Services**

The provision of Buckinghamshire's specialist learning disability health services will be transferring from Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust (SHFT) to Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (HPFT) from the summer of 2016, with the transfer completing on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016.

Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust is well respected for its expertise in specialist services for people with learning disabilities and is one of the leaders of the new national model of learning disability care. Work towards transforming specialist health services in line with the national programme has been taking place for more than a year now. Service users, families and carers and staff working within learning disabilities were initially asked for their views about the current service and our plans for the future.

Some of the main things that people said were important to them included:

- More specialist healthcare for people closer to home
- More support for people to stay at home instead of going into hospital
- A better understanding in mainstream services about how to work with people with learning disabilities.

The new contract with Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust will deliver improved care in ways that people told us they wanted. It will mean that there will be more specialist healthcare services in the community which will further reduce the need for specialist learning disability inpatient admissions.

As part of the new contract there will be a strengthened Intensive Support Team, which will increase support in the community. In recent months we have established the Transforming Care Partnership Board for Buckinghamshire and representatives from HealthWatch, Carers Bucks and TalkBack have been most helpful in planning these changes. In addition, we are also setting up a group which will include people who use services, their carers and families.

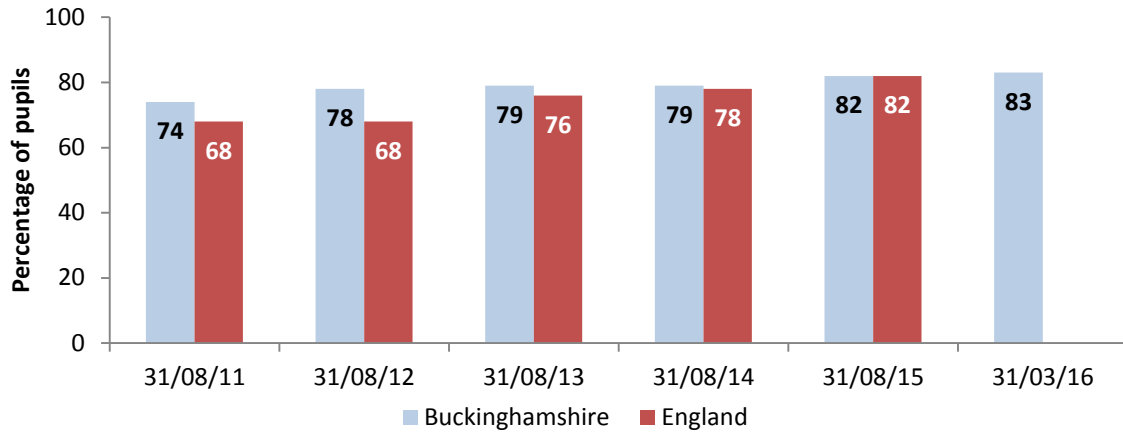
**MIKE APPLEYARD**  
**DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH & WELLBEING**

## 7c. CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND SKILLS

### Ofsted Inspections in Buckinghamshire

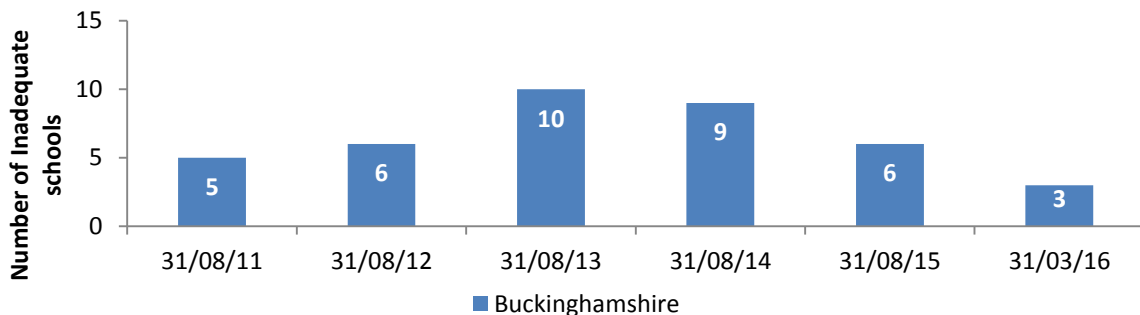
The percentage of pupils attending a school rated as good or outstanding by Ofsted is increasing

After a number of years of relative stability, the percentage of pupils attending good or outstanding schools in Buckinghamshire is increasing.



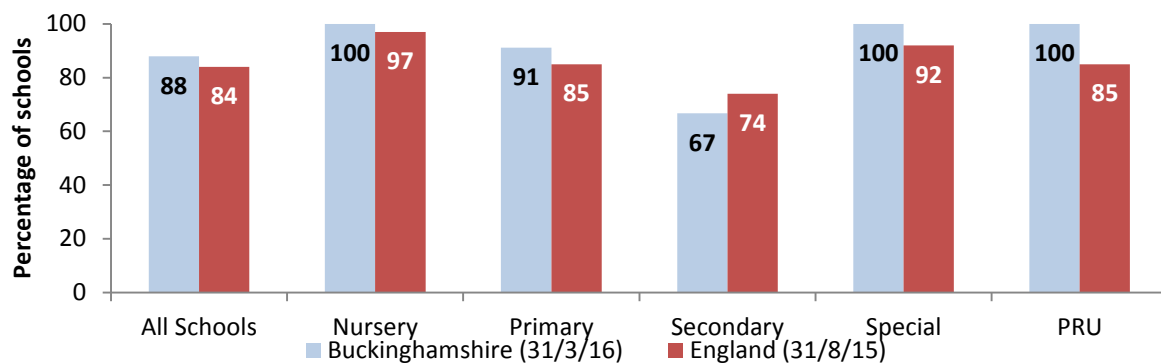
Fewer Buckinghamshire schools than ever are judged as inadequate

Currently there are only 3 schools in Buckinghamshire that are judged as Inadequate by Ofsted. This equates to 1.3% of schools in Buckinghamshire. As at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015, 2% of schools nationally were judged inadequate.



Every nursery and special school, as well as all pupil referral units, have been judged as good or outstanding

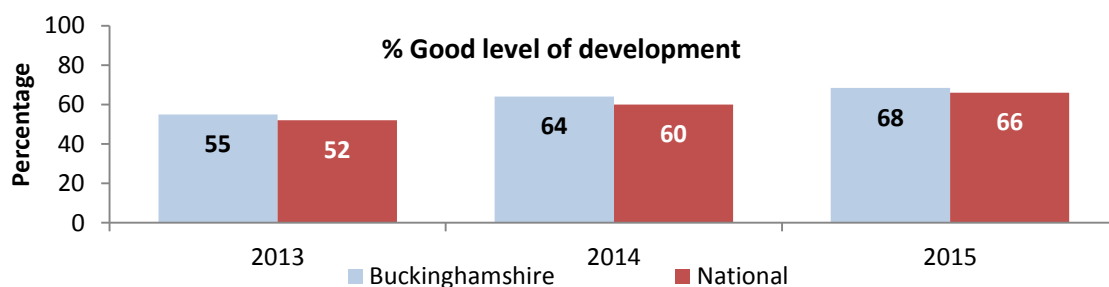
For all types of schools, apart from secondary schools, a greater percentage of Buckinghamshire schools have been judged as good or outstanding by Ofsted compared to national results. A lower proportion of secondary schools have been judged as good or outstanding compared to national.



## Early Years Foundation Stage Profile

Attainment of a “Good Level of Development” has continued to increase and is above national

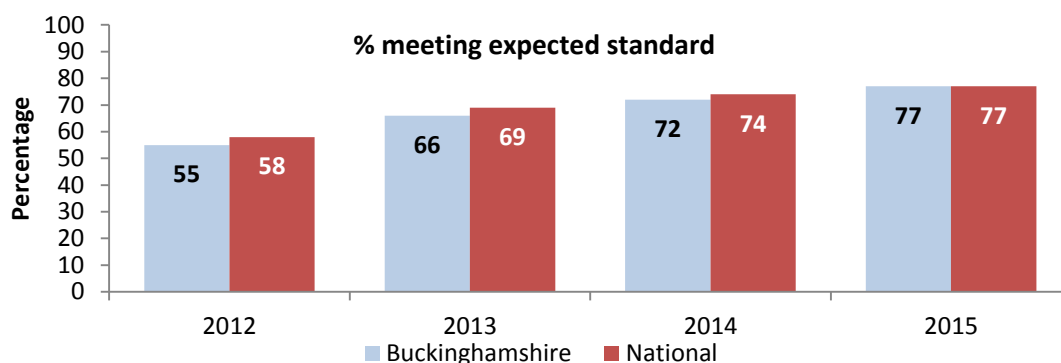
Buckinghamshire results increased from 64% in 2014 to 68% in 2015. Nationally results increased at a faster rate, improving by 6 percentage points. However Buckinghamshire results are still above national.



## Phonics Screening Check

Attainment in the year 1 check has increased, and is now in line with national

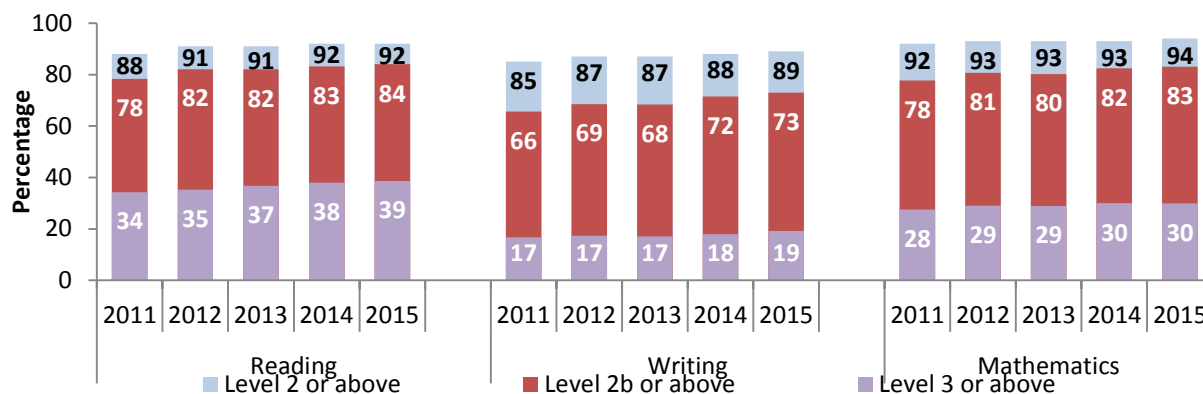
Buckinghamshire results increased by 5 percentage points between 2014 and 2015, bringing Buckinghamshire results up to the same level as national results for the first time.



## Key Stage 1

### Attainment is increasing and is above national

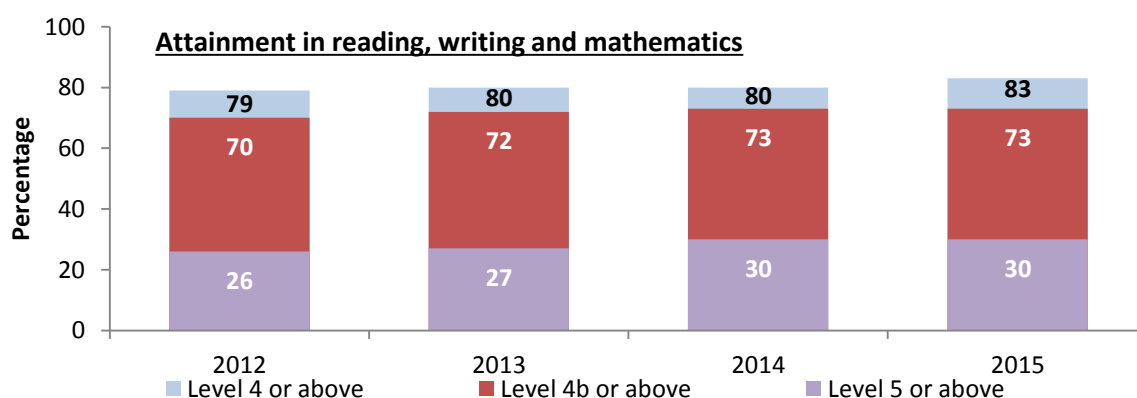
In Buckinghamshire results for all subjects and levels have increased by 1 percentage point since 2014, except for level 2 and above in reading and level 3 or above in mathematics which have remained unchanged. Attainment at all levels in all 3 subjects is higher than national results.



## Key Stage 2

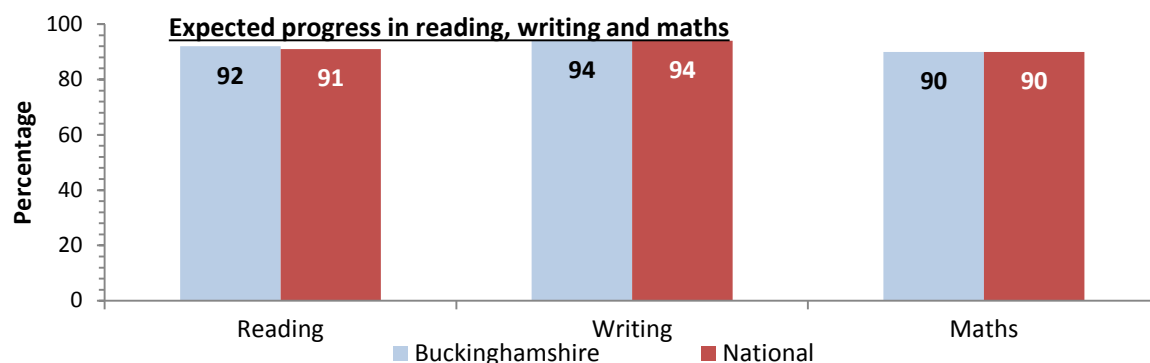
### Attainment is increasing and is above national

In Buckinghamshire 83% of pupils achieved level 4 or above in all of reading, writing and mathematics, compared with 80% in 2014. Attainment at level 4 or above increased in grammar, punctuation and spelling (83%) and writing (88%). There was no change in reading (91%) and mathematics (88%). Buckinghamshire results were above national results for each individual subject and for reading, writing and mathematics combined.



## Progress is in line with or above national

Buckinghamshire 2015 results for the percentage of pupils making expected progress were above national in reading, and equal to national in writing and mathematics. In Buckinghamshire the percentage of pupils making expected progress in writing has increased by 2 percentage points to 94%. The percentage of pupils making expected progress in reading has decreased by 1 percentage point to 92%. There was no change in the figure for mathematics.

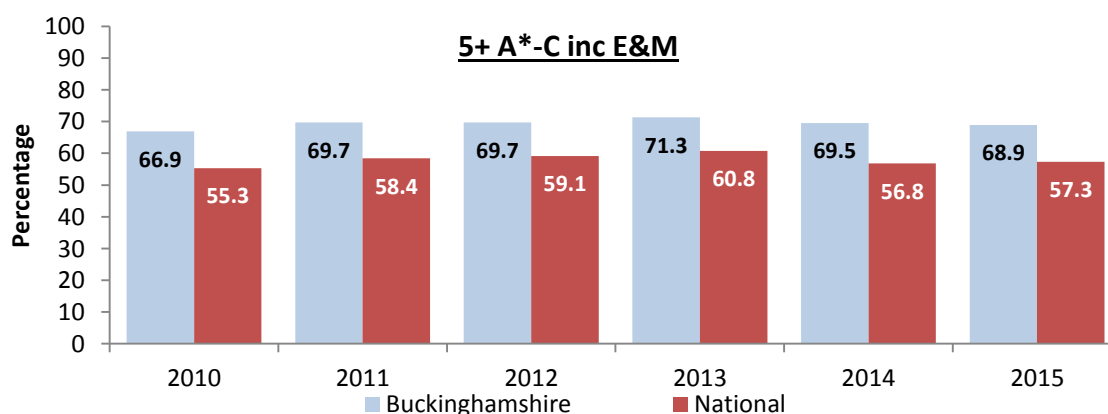


## Key Stage 4

### Attainment has decreased, but continues to be above national

In Buckinghamshire 68.9% of pupils achieved 5 or more A\*-C grades including English and mathematics GCSEs, compared with 69.5% in 2014.

Nationally results have increased slightly, from 56.8% in 2014 (for state-funded schools) to 57.3% in 2015.



Further information about all of the above can be found in the 2015 [Buckinghamshire Education Standards Report](#)

## Early Years - Early Learning for Two Year Olds, February 2016

Local authorities have a statutory duty to provide up to 15 hours of funded Early Learning for eligible two year olds. Eligibility criteria are:

- Low income measured through benefits
- Children receiving a current statement of SEN or an education, health and care plan
- Children attracting Disability Living Allowance
- Children looked after by the Local Authority

- Children leaving care through special guardianship or through an adoption or residence order

In March 1441, Buckinghamshire children were eligible for a place of which 84% (1211) were reached and took up the free offer, placing Buckinghamshire top compared with our statistical neighbours, second in the South East and 20<sup>th</sup> Nationally.



**Early learning  
for two-year-olds**

**Buckinghamshire**

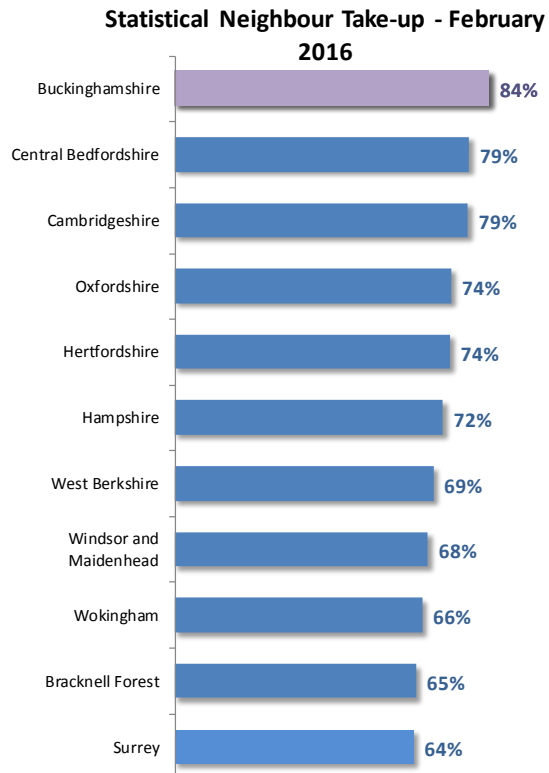
In February 2016 Buckinghamshire reported take-up of the entitlement to early learning for two-year-olds as 84% or 1211 children.

This is a change of -5.2ppts from November 2015.

Within the South East region the average take-up was 71%, placing Buckinghamshire 2 out of 19.

Within statistical neighbours the average take-up was 72%, placing Buckinghamshire 1 out of 11.

Nationally the average take-up was 70%, placing Buckinghamshire 20 out of 152.



Take-up rate based on DWP eligibility list - August 2015 and November 2015

## Flackwell Health Opening

Bucks' Life Skills Centres were designed from the bottom-up to help young people aged 16 – 25 with learning disabilities and/ or other disabilities to become more independent and work-ready. They offer personalised, bespoke learning designed specifically around each student's needs and learning interests.

Following the outstanding success and immediate over subscription of the Life Skills Centre at Aylesbury College in 2012, a similar centre was opened in 2016 in Flackwell Heath in partnership with Amersham and Wycombe College.

A student's programme also works side by side with Adult Services that supports the Preparation for Adulthood agenda.

Buckinghamshire County Council has invested £4m setting up the two centres but the outlay should repay itself within three years, given how expensive it was to support so many young people being sent out of the area into residential colleges. The centres have helped over 200 young people since 2012. Now fewer than 10% of young people are sent out of the county, compared with 90% five years ago.

Helen Backus regularly appears at conferences showcasing the Council's approach to other authorities.

<http://www.amersham.ac.uk/future-life-centre-opens-high-wycombe-give-young-people-learning-support-needs-chance-learn-life-work-skills/>

**ZAHIR MOHAMMED  
CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND SKILLS**



## **7d. CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

### **Social Work Academy**

The new Social Work Academy reported in the Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing's report above is also good news for my portfolio. The Academy will not only encourage new people to the profession in a variety of ways but also ensure there is a comprehensive package of support to retain staff by having a focus on professional development opportunities. Following last year's success there is a timetable of master classes and pop up events scheduled.

### **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

There have been five public information events in June to raise awareness for parents. The aim being to increase confidence around recognising the signs of CSE, understand how to make referrals and how to keep children safe. All the events were held in schools across the County: Buckingham School, Mandeville School, Chiltern Hills Academy, Cressex School and Grange School

### **Mind Of My Own (MOMO)**

The Mind of My Own app was launched on the 26<sup>th</sup> May. This important tool helps us understand the wishes and feelings of the children with whom Social Care are working. The app is a fun, easy way for children aged eight and over to ensure their views are captured and become the centre of planning; it also frees up Social Worker time and helps improve relationships. So far 179 Social Workers have the app and have helped children to either access or download the app onto their own electronic device so they can use it at any time. Over 70 children have already used the app to put forward suggestions and requests and give positive feedback. The app is currently being developed to support younger children and those with a disability; it is anticipated this will be launched in January 2017.

### **HR Operations**

The national shortage of Social Workers continues to impact our ability to attract and retain qualified staff. Actions taken since April's Cabinet meeting to address the shortage of Social Workers are:

- Phase 2 of the South East Memo of Co-operation was implemented on the 1<sup>st</sup> April which implements consistent pay rates across region and improves referencing process. The Memo of Co-operation commits BCC to work with other Local Authorities to manage demand for agency Qualified Social Workers.
- Launch of new careers website in January with clear employer brand and easily accessible vacancies. The website was supplemented in Q1 2016/17 by a targeted advertising campaign to promote hard to fill vacancies. This has resulted in appointments to Child Protection Conference Manager, Independent Reviewing Officer and Child Protection Conference Chair vacancies which were specifically promoted.
- Training for new recruitment and selection materials was rolled out in April with positive reception from Managers and Applicants. Materials were piloted for Newly Qualified Social Worker recruitment days in May which resulted in four new recruits. New techniques are adding value in terms of the rigour and quality of selection decisions.

- Strategy for building stronger relationships with our best performing Recruitment Agencies was presented to the Children’s Social Care and Learning Resource Group in March and implemented in Q1 2016/17. Improvements are beginning to be made to quality of CVs received saving managers time in sifting out poor quality CVs.

In Q1 2016/17, there were nine external new starters in hard to fill Qualified Social Worker roles (excluding agency workers). There were seven leavers due to resignation in the equivalent period.

In 2015/16 financial year, there were 63 external new starters in hard to fill Qualified Social Worker roles (excluding agency workers). There were 27 leavers in the equivalent period.

The key agency metrics monitoring social worker recruitment are given below:

<b>Metric</b>	<b>Sept 2015 Data</b>	<b>May 2016 Data</b>	<b>Target</b>
% of qualified social workers on an agency contract (includes all agency workers including those covering absence, maternity <b>and</b> perm requirements)	25%	23.55%	20%
Number of qualified agency social workers* in permanent posts in C&F (agency workers covering perm posts only)	57	50	27

This data was reported in June as part of the Workforce Development Improvement Plan.

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

## **7e. CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORTATION**

### **Capital Maintenance Programme (CMP)**

The CMP has begun in earnest with preparatory work for the surface dressing and micro-surfacing programmes taking place countywide. We have had up to five gangs working to prepare the roads for the main treatment programmes to follow behind. Surface dressing has already commenced, but has been a victim of the weather already. Mark Shaw was interviewed on BBC News on 8<sup>th</sup> June where he celebrated the investment in the network and explained what we are doing to arrest the decline in the condition of our road network.

The TfB team has demonstrated its flexibility by bringing forward a couple of schemes to address accelerated deterioration on roads across the county. These early works have been well received by elected members and the wider public.

Our more traditional surfacing programme commenced on 20<sup>th</sup> June with the first scheme being undertaken in Moor Road, Chesham. Now that scheme treatments, and therefore costs, are better defined, the team has been able to publish a baseline programme for elected Members. This in turn will allow Members to share the information more widely.

### **Stoke Hammond Bypass**

The bypass, opened in 2007, has been subject to some in depth analysis of the road construction following the failure of parts of the surface. This work is likely to continue well into the summer with TfB coordinating a number of tests to be carried out prior to a report being published on its condition. In the meantime the team has stepped up the level of safety inspections to ensure the safety of the travelling public.

### **The Supported Transport Programme (STP)**

The STP is a cross-cutting transformation programme, led by Transport, Economy, Environment (TEE). This work encompasses both supported public transport services (managed by TEE) and client transport services (managed by TEE and commissioned on behalf of Children's Social Care & Learning (CSCL) and Communities, Health & Adult Social Care (CHASC).

Officer work-groups have been established to deliver this year's Future Shape savings, allocated to each Business Unit. All the work in this programme is aimed at reducing cost and improving service efficiency. In addition, members may be aware that formal consultation has been initiated on mainstream home to school transport. This consultation has the potential to bring about policy changes aimed at removing provision that exceeds statutory requirements.

### **East West Rail**

The East West Rail (EWR) Consortium continues to press the case for completion of the western section (Bicester to Bedford and Milton Keynes to Aylesbury and beyond via Princes Risborough) within this Parliament (by 2020). Whilst the overall national railway infrastructure delivery programme continues to look very tight in terms of funding and capacity, the economic case for EWR remains strong.

In terms of the scope of the EWR scheme, there has been further consideration by Network Rail about the need for improving the existing single track line between Aylesbury and Princes Risborough. The following extract from the latest Information Sheet from Network Rail on the EWR web site reads:

Consultation on EWR2 was carried out in September/October 2015 and our original plans involved substantial work to allow an increased line speed of 80mph along the Princes Risborough – Aylesbury line. However, further development of timetable modelling has concluded that the line speed improvements are not now required to achieve the planned service pattern of one hourly passenger train (in each direction) and capacity for freight trains. As a result of this, it is no longer proposed to increase the line speed along the route and therefore the associated construction work is no longer required. EWR2's likely scope of work involves extending the platforms at Little Kimble, Monks Risborough and Princes Risborough to allow longer four car trains to operate; and the EWR2 project will continue to develop options for the closure of Marsh Lane level crossing. We are also working closely with HS2 to, as best practicable, integrate the projects where they overlap.

<http://www.eastwestrail.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Info-Sheet-PR-Ayl-May-2016.pdf>

A recent development has been the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) chaired by Lord Adonis being tasked by the Chancellor to –

“...make recommendations [to government] to maximize the potential of the Cambridge – Milton Keynes – Oxford corridor as a single, knowledge intensive cluster that competes on the global stage, whilst protecting the area's high quality environment and securing the homes and jobs the area needs. The commission will look at the priority infrastructure improvements needed and assess the economic case for which investments would generate the most growth.”

EWR is attracting the interest of the NIC and the Consortium is seeking to ensure that this is used to positive effect in promoting the merits of early completion of the western section and progressing the case for the central section that would connect the western section onward to Cambridge.

The next key milestone for Network Rail's programme, known as “GRIP 3”, is due for completion by December 2016. This includes further development of the emerging design work to inform costed options for the Department for Transport (DfT) and others to consider and confirm appropriate funding. It will be at this point that more informed decisions on the financing and associated programme dates for EWR can be considered and taken by DfT. In the meantime the next stage of public consultation for the EWR Transport & Works Act proposals is anticipated to be held in autumn 2016.

### **Stocklake Link Road**

The Stocklake Link Road Highway Improvement Scheme is one of six major highways projects which Buckinghamshire's Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) has identified to improve the Council's strategic transport network. It will provide a new road alignment, service road and public realm enhancements along Stocklake, Aylesbury from its junction with Park Street to the west and the Oakfield Road / Douglas Road junction to the east. Funding (£5.3m) for the scheme is from Central Government's Local Growth Fund (LGF) via the Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership (BTVLEP). It is also in part funded through the Strategic Infrastructure projects funding, s106 Developer and Local Transport Board contributions.

The 45 week construction phase started in January 2016 and with the completion of the new link road and its opening to two way traffic in June 2016, the project is now in its second phase where the focus is on service road and public realm enhancements. Construction is due to be completed in November 2016.

### **A355**

The A355 Improvements scheme is a brand new relief road east of Beaconsfield designed to ease the heavily congested A355 and London End roundabout as well as to improve north-south connectivity.

It will connect to the network through a new junction at Maxwell road at the northern end and with Pyebush roundabout at the southern end.

Being a Local Growth Fund scheme it has to be completed by March 2019, ahead of HS2 construction traffic utilising the new road from summer 2019.

The Planning Application due to be submitted imminently, following this the next steps are to agree the land deal and to procure detailed design. Construction is due to begin in 2018.

### **A4 Sustainable Travel Scheme**

The A4 Sustainable Travel scheme is primarily an east-west cycle way proposal that connects Taplow Station to the Bishop Centre and Slough train stations. It aims to encourage better bus, walk & cycle travel from and to stations facing a likely increase in demand following a station access programme underway to accommodate new Crossrail services. The proposal is at the design stage and designers are currently considering the safety of junctions and possible crossings along the route, and how these could work with the busy Bath Road traffic flows. A draft plan is expected to be ready to share with residents and community groups in a consultation later in the summer.

### **A413 Sustainable Travel Scheme**

The A413 Sustainable Travel Scheme will introduce a safe 9km shared cycleway that interconnects Buckingham and East-West rail station at Winslow, as well as to Winslow town centre. The scheme aims to encourage sustainable travel (bus, cycle, walking) between the new East-West rail station and other local destinations hubs along the A413. Works are due to get underway from Monday 04 July 2016 for a duration of about five months.

### **Town Centre Masterplan**

Public consultation is ongoing on the design of the Alternative Route (phase 2 – Westbourne Street & Desborough Road). Events to date have included: consultation exhibitions have been held at the Arts4Every1 Centre on Desborough Road; a drop in session specifically for local residents; and a business breakfast for traders on Westbourne Street and Desborough Road.

County Council and Wycombe District Council officers are also presenting the scheme at Eden Shopping centre to inform residents and visitors of High Wycombe of the

planned construction works. Once a contractor has been appointed, work is expected to commence in late August.

Once the construction of phase two in summer 2017 is finished, work will begin on the last phases of the alternative route. This will involve construction of the new link road through the old Gas Works site up to Suffield Road with road improvement works running along Suffield Road & Queen Alexandra Road up to the existing mini roundabouts by the hospital and Buckinghamshire New University. We will be speaking to local residents, businesses and other stakeholders about the design and construction of these future works in 2017.

Procurement for the detailed design of the Oxford Road project (including remaking the river) is ongoing, with a decision to appoint the chosen consultant expected in the coming weeks.

### **England's Economic Heartland Strategic Alliance - Strategic Transport Forum**

The Strategic Transport Forum met for the second time in May.

The key focus for the Forum initially is to prepare an overarching Transport Strategy for the Heartland area. This work, which draws on the evidence base that already exists, will be considered in more detail at the Forum's next meeting in mid-July.

As part of that work the Forum looked at a couple of the major pieces of work, both of which are focused on addressing poor east-west connectivity; namely Highways England's on-going Expressway study and East-West Rail. The Forum pushed the Expressway team to take greater account of the extent to which the benefits of improved east-west connectivity spread beyond the immediate study corridor. Both projects are of particularly strong interest to the County Council. The Forum's work to develop its overarching Transport Strategy offers the opportunity for a strategic perspective of how these two projects – both of which benefit Buckinghamshire – complement each other.

The debate built upon a previous discussion that had supported the proposal to identify a Major Road Network as part of the Transport Strategy. The concept of the MRN has been developed in recognition of the reality that economic activity and growth is supported by a combination of Highways England's Strategic Road Network and the more strategic roads owned by local transport authorities. For the County Council the work usefully highlights the strategic importance of a number of our roads – including the A418, A41 and A421. Moving forward the concept of a MRN would offer the Alliance to make the case for that strategic importance to be reflected in additional funding.

The overarching Transport Strategy – once agreed by the Forum – will be used by the Strategic Alliance to develop its priorities for the next round of strategic planning for Highways England and Network Rail: work on which begins this autumn.

The next meeting of the Forum is 22<sup>nd</sup> July: all meetings of the Forum are held in public.

**MARK SHAW**  
**CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORTATION**

## **7f. CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES**

### **Launch of Careers Website**

A new careers website went live in January 2016 which asks candidates to 'rethink their tomorrow' and choose Buckinghamshire County Council.

(Link: <http://jobs.buckscc.gov.uk/>).

The website is designed to compete in a candidate-driven market and make BCC stand out as a less typical Local Authority with a clear employer brand. It is based on extensive and continuous research with employees across the organisation regarding their customer journey and is continuously monitored and updated.

It is still too early to assess the impact of the website and associated promotional activities as these tools take time to build and engage an audience. However, key successes in Q1 2016/17 include:

- Hugely improved SEO (search engine optimisation) – the Council's careers website is now organically (i.e. not paid) listed in the top 4 results on Google (most often at the top). This is important because 75% of job searches start on Google. Prior to launch of website the Council was not even on the first page of results for 'jobs in Buckinghamshire' but is now top of first page and first for many keywords typed into Google by our candidates eg. 'social work jobs buckscc' and 'bucks jobs'
- Website indicators of engagement are positive since launch; pages viewed per session increased from 2 to 7, bounce rate (i.e. % of users who land on website and leave immediately with no further exploration of site) reduced from 46% to 25%, new users per month increased by 5000
- Number of impressions on our social media channels (Linkedin, Twitter & Facebook) have increased significantly as a result of the promotional activity associated with the website improving our visibility in the market
- Direct appointments have been made in previously hard to fill social care vacancies (particularly Child Protection and Independent Reviewing Officer)
- Successful campaign in TEE Highways Development and Transport Strategy generating 36 applicants, 12 interviewed, 4 internal appointments and 1 external appointment

It is intended to continue to work on promoting the website via on-going promotion sponsored by Business Units and the use of video highlighting our employee stories.

**JOHN CHILVER  
CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES**

## **7g. CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PUBLIC HEALTH**

### **New Bereavement Guide**

Buckinghamshire's Registration Service has launched a Bereavement Guide which is being given to everyone who registers a death in Buckinghamshire.

It can be a difficult time when someone close to us dies, consuming our thoughts and lives and so many things need to be arranged, just when we feel the least able to do so.

The Guide is produced to help those through a difficult time, providing guidance, support and reassurance and is also being distributed through key outlets such as bereavement offices, nursing and residential homes, GP surgeries and libraries.

### **The National Paralympic Heritage Trust**

The National Paralympic Heritage Trust officially launched at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, London on 11 May 2016. Established with financial support from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) the Trust will safeguard, share and celebrate the heritage of the British Paralympic movement, bringing its stories of human endeavour to life.

Sir Philip Craven, MBE, the Honorary President of the Trust (and President of the International Paralympic Committee), was joined at the launch by the Trustees (including our Service Director for Communities, Phil Dart) and a distinguished group of Honorary Vice Presidents including Tim Reddish, OBE, Chairman of the British Paralympic Association, and Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher, Buckinghamshire's Lord Lieutenant.

### **Live Well, Stay Well**

Buckinghamshire County Council has been working in collaboration with both Aylesbury Vale and Chiltern Clinical Commissioning Groups on the launch of 'Live Well, Stay Well'. 'Live Well, Stay Well' will bring together a range of lifestyle services and programmes for those diagnosed with a long term health condition.

The new service will mean that residents now have a single point of access to a wide range of health improvement initiatives such as:

- Lifestyle services (e.g. weight management, stop smoking, physical activity)
- Long Term Conditions Self-management courses
- Telephone support and self-help materials
- Nutrition advice from the Community Dietetic Service
- New digital technologies e.g. Apps and on-line health programmes

The service went live on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016. More information can be found on the website: [www.livewellstaywellbucks.co.uk](http://www.livewellstaywellbucks.co.uk)

### **Active Bucks**

The Active Bucks Programme will encourage more people to be more physically active more often. Following resident engagement, that took place in May – Sept 2015, 142 new activity programmes have now been commissioned by Public Health. Each programme will be funded by the Council for a period of 6 months (equating to 3408 individual sessions) and during that time providers will be asked to develop a



sustainability plan to ensure they can continue beyond the Active Bucks funding period. Active Bucks activities are either free or a maximum of £2 per person per session. Active Bucks activities will be focused on engaging inactive/less-active residents where the greatest health gains can be made.

Activities include a range of traditional and more innovative activities. Examples of the activities available include: Rounders, Walk/Jog/Run groups, Family Cycling, Buggy Fit, Orienteering/Scavenger Hunt, Scooter Skills, Tai Chi/Pilates, Olympic Multisports, Parkrun/Junior Parkrun, Dads and Toddlers, Parent Fit, Strength and Balance, Parkour, Flag Football, Baseball & Softball, Walking Football, Social Ballroom, Multisport Activities, Yoga/Pilates, Bootcamp, Running Group, Nordic Walking, Simply Walks, Walking Netball, Dance, Bushcraft, Conservation, Photography lessons, Environmental art, Mystery trail, Live Action Role Play (LARP), Quidditch, Woodland/NERF games.

In addition a countywide Active Bucks promotional campaign - [www.activebucks.co.uk](http://www.activebucks.co.uk) – has been launched to help residents find an activity of their choice that they will enjoy, within 20 minutes of their home or work, on a day and time that suits them, from a database of thousands of activities that charge a variety of prices, as well as the Active Bucks activities identified above.

The campaign offers a free first activity session from over 1500 different activities across Bucks, through registering for a voucher.

### **Director of Public Health Annual Report (DPHAR)**

The production of a DPHAR is an annual statutory duty of the Public Health team, and this year's theme was *How to have more fun, make new friends, be happier and healthier – Be More Active!* The document is used to advocate the importance of participating in regular physical activity for different audiences – children & young people; adults and older adults.

The document highlights how physical activity can support and enhance wider agendas through creating active environments; embedding physical activity as a key prevention/treatment pathway and developing active communities.

By sharing this document, we can help influence wider services to ensure physical activity is embedded into their work, helping improve the health and happiness of residents.

### **Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP)**

The NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) requires NHS leaders to come together as one team and improve the health and wellbeing of our residence in Buckinghamshire. Buckinghamshire County Council is also working closely with the NHS on the STP, including on actions to achieve better health and social care integration.

Public Health is leading on prevention on behalf of the system and we are working closely with the CCGs and other partners to ensure prevention and early intervention is a strong theme in the STP and the NHS work on prevention is aligned with BCC's prevention model.

A stakeholder engagement event/workshop on Prevention was organised by Public Health on 26th May which was well received by participants. The aim of the workshop

was to generate ideas for the STP and agree the next steps. Following the workshop a multi-agency working group has been set up to facilitate the development of the STP in the next few months. All the local NHS organisations are involved in this including local Clinical Commissioning Groups, Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust and Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust. Buckinghamshire County Council also has representatives from Public Health, Adults and Children's services

**MARTIN PHILLIPS**  
**CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH**

## **7h. CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT**

### **Waste Enforcement Update**

There have been significant changes to some of the more difficult waste enforcement cases over the last three months. These include:

- Progress at Riverside Farm, Pitchott where the new owners have cleared the site entrance and much of the majority of the waste on the site
- A planning agent has now been appointed to regularise the unauthorised waste and recycling operation at Field Farm, Denham
- The owner of Rhencullen Farm, Aston Clinton has agreed to remove the waste from the site following legal action by the County Council
- The owner of Christmas Tree Field, Aston Clinton has given his tenant notice to quit as he did not comply with the Enforcement Notice issued by the County Council. It is envisaged that prosecution of the tenant will continue as he has still not complied with the enforcement notice. He is, however, complying with the Stop Notice and is no longer burning waste on the site.
- An Enforcement Notice has been issued in relation to composting at Alderbourne Farm, Fulmer as operations are continuing without planning permission.
- The Inquiry relating to enforcement action at Farnham Lodge, Burnham was postponed by the Planning Inspectorate as the site operator claimed that he was too ill to attend. The Inquiry is rescheduled to take place in November.

### **Seventh Floor Lighting Upgrade**

The new energy efficient lighting installation for the 7th floor was undertaken last month. The LED lighting has been designed to reduce the number of lights required, taking advantage of the higher lighting output of LEDs. The reduction in the number of lights, together with LEDs will provide greater efficiency and a significant reduction in electrical power consumed. In addition, new sensors have been installed that will both dim the lighting when the outside natural light is bright, and will switch the lights off when the office is empty. Confirmation of New County Office roll out to other floors will be imminent.

### **Greenhouse Gas Report 2015-2016**

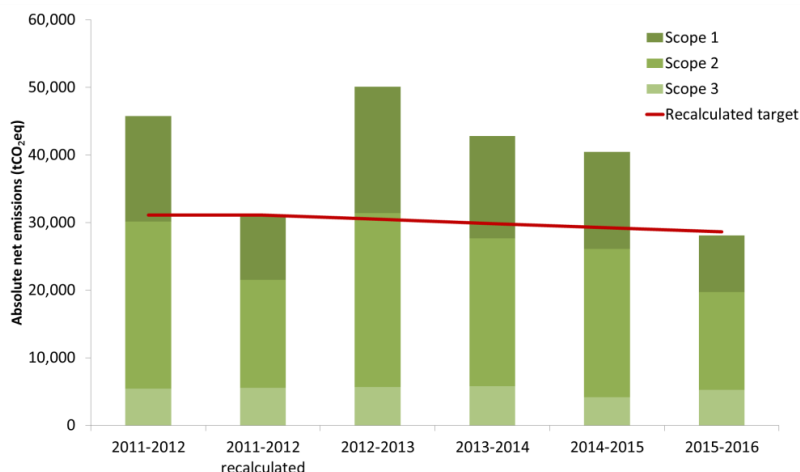
In 2015-16 the Council's total net Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions was 28,124 tCO<sub>2</sub>eq (excluding biomass emissions), a 2.1% reduction compared to last financial year (2014-15)<sup>1</sup> and an 8% decrease compared to the Council recalculated base year; showing that our 10% Carbon Management Plan (CMP) target is being achieved according to plan as shown on figure 1 below.

For the first time, the base year (2011-2012) was recalculated to reflect current the Council's portfolio changes and adjustments in GHG emissions accounting and reporting. This ensures a more accurate like for like comparison between the reporting year and the base year. The remaining financial years were not adjusted to maintain consistency from previous reports.

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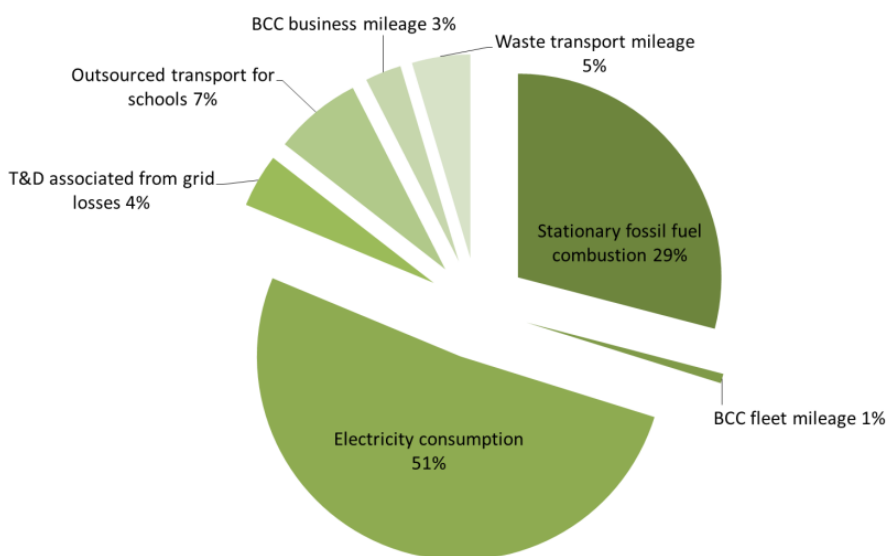
<sup>1</sup> To ensure a like for like comparison, GHG emissions based on energy consumption (i.e. Electricity and fossil fuels) in 2014-2015 were recalculated reflecting the current building portfolio. Total absolute emissions include the original value to ensure consistency from previous reports.

It was advised in June last year that The Department of Climate and Energy would discuss with the Local Government Association our approach to this exercise for 2013-14 and inform of our decision in due course. The Department of Climate and Energy has reviewed this requirement and have concluded that it is still important that authorities measure and report emissions from their own estate and operations for local accountability and for the public sector to show leadership.



**Figure 1.** Total absolute net emissions by scope against recalculated target

Evidence shows the most significant source of our emissions comes from building energy use, which represents 80% of total net emissions, followed by outsourced transport service for schools (7%) and outsourced waste transport service (5%) as shown below.



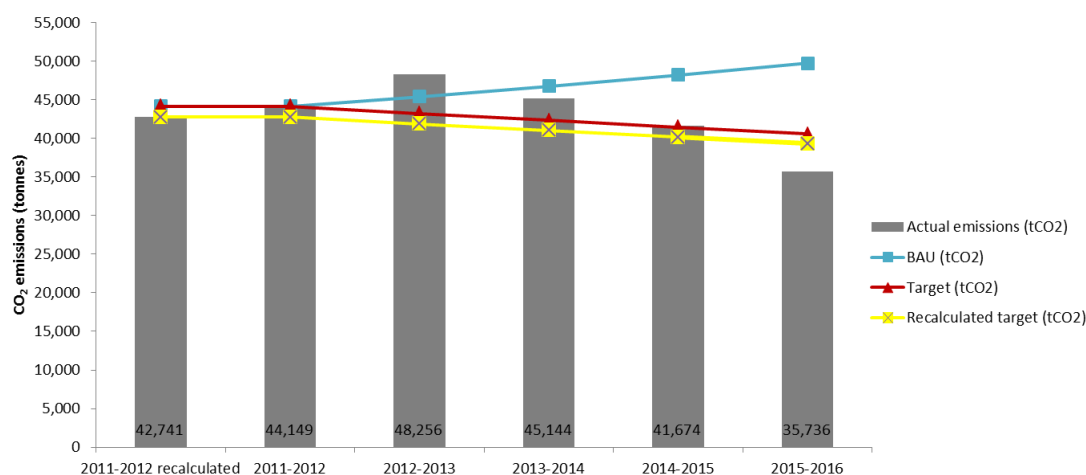
**Figure 2.** BCC GHG emissions breakdown for 2015-2016

Substantial GHG emissions savings have been achieved largely due to investments in high level energy efficiency projects; optimisation of transportation routes and policies; cleaner fuels for heating purposes; and changes in our internal business transport policy. The weather effect was partially responsible for our GHG emission savings, a milder winter compared to last financial year meant less burning of fossil fuels for heating and therefore emissions related to this activity have dropped considerably.

## Carbon Management Plan 2015-2016

In 2015-16 the Council's total net carbon emissions was 35,736 tCO<sub>2</sub> (excluding biomass emissions), a 14% decrease compared to last financial year (2014-2015) and approximately 16% compared to the recalculated baseline year of 2011-2012. By comparing BAU scenario and both targets, evidence shows that we are on track to the established 10% carbon reduction objective as shown on figure 1.

To track our emissions over time, the baseline has been retroactively recalculated to reflect significant structural and methodology adjustments that would otherwise compromise the consistency and relevance of the CMP report. The remaining financial years were not recalculated to maintain reporting consistency from previous CMP reports.



**Figure 1.** Value at stake bar chart displaying the actual tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions compared to the Council's BAU and Targets

This decrease in carbon emissions is due to reasons mentioned below (in order of impact):

- Successful implementation of our current energy efficiency projects (i.e. LED street lighting; new PV panels, boiler replacement programme; cavity wall, loft and pipe work insulation projects; lighting upgrade at school and non-school buildings; and window replacement at New County Offices)
- 2015-2016 was milder than the previous one which meant less energy demand for heating
- Changes in portfolio (i.e. sold or demolished assets and schools becoming Academies)
- Changes in accounting methodology (i.e. updated conversion factors, more accurate data gathering, new data estimation method for corrupt and missing data)
- Corrupt or missing data in some Academy sites that aren't under our LASER energy procurement framework. As a consequence some of this data had to be estimated from the last financial year
- Decrease on carbon emissions associated with the operation of Buckinghamshire's Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs), transportation of the materials, composting and landfill resulted from less waste to landfill and more recycled material
- Exclusion of carbon emissions from biologically-sequestered CO<sub>2</sub> (i.e. from the combustion of Biomass for heating generation)

- BCC investment in more efficient fleet and up to date maintenance
- Less staff business mileage due to a more digitally focussed and centralised service
- A significant increase of business staff mileage using hybrid vehicles.

## **Strategic Flood Management**

### **Local Flood Risk Management Strategy**

Part of the statutory duty of Buckinghamshire County Council as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) is to produce the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS). The first version of this was produced in 2013 and was not due to be reviewed until 2019/20.

There was considerable flooding in the winter of 2013/2014 and we experienced some flooding in the north of the County this spring. This flooding, and the subsequent work done, has increased our understanding of the local flood risk and in particular of groundwater flooding. This understanding was not reflected in the previous LFRMS. The other change has been that since April 2015, the LLFA has become a statutory consultee on drainage aspects of major planning applications and encouraging sustainable drainage. These two factors have meant that the LFRMS needed a major refresh. This has now been completed and is on the BCC website.

<http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/environment/flooding/strategic-flood-management/flood-management-strategy/>

The strategy is open for comment until the end of July, and we have asked partners at County, District and Parish level as well as neighbouring authorities and other interested organisations to take a look and make comments. There is a link to it from the front page of our website so members of the public can also access it and comment.

### **Energy From Waste**

21<sup>st</sup> June marked the final completion of Buckinghamshire County Council's new energy from waste (EfW) power station at Greatmoor, near Calvert. This new waste treatment facility, which generates electricity from waste that cannot be recycled, is the single biggest investment ever made by the County Council, and stands to save the county's taxpayers £150 million over 30 years through avoiding landfill charges and selling the electricity – enough to power 36,000 homes. The plant will be run on behalf of the Council by FCC Environment, one of the UK's leading waste and resource management companies, in a 30-year partnership.

With the contract now moving into the operational phase, this major milestone marks the culmination of over ten years' planning and development, a project with which many of the Council's officers and Members have been heavily involved. I would like to thank the staff and past Members who have diligently brought the project to conclusion.

### **Black Park Car Park Extension**

The extension to Black Park Car Park was completed and handed over to the country parks team on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July by the contractor C Dowdy Ltd. The extension provides 150 additional spaces on top of the 350 spaces available in the existing car park.

## **Langley Park Cafe**

Construction has been slow with the roofing sub-contractor experiencing issues with the design provided by the main contractor English Heritage Buildings. The main issue has been the designed profile of the roof not allowing enough space to accommodate the required insulation. This has now been resolved and the building should be fully watertight by the middle of this week, with internal lighting and floor construction due to be completed by early next week. We are now working to an opening date of the 1<sup>st</sup> August allowing time for the fit out of the café following the completion for construction work.

## **Denham Country Parks Play Area**

The new play area in Denham Country Parks which was funded by Grundons and facilitated by Groundwork South has opened to the public following its RoSPA (Royal Society of the Prevention of Accidents) safety inspection. Designed and installed by Timotay Play, initial reactions from visitors have been very positive. New path infrastructure has also been installed and the café is undergoing refurbishment by Groundwork South, with a view to it opening in time for the school holidays.

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