

Buckinghamshire County Council Strategic Plan 2017 - 2020

Welcome to Buckinghamshire County Council's Strategic Plan. This is the key document for the authority as it sets out our key objectives and priorities for the next three years. It also sets out the values that guide the council's work and where it works with valuable partnerships. The plan also contains an annual report, updating residents on the work to date and areas we will focus on in the short term.

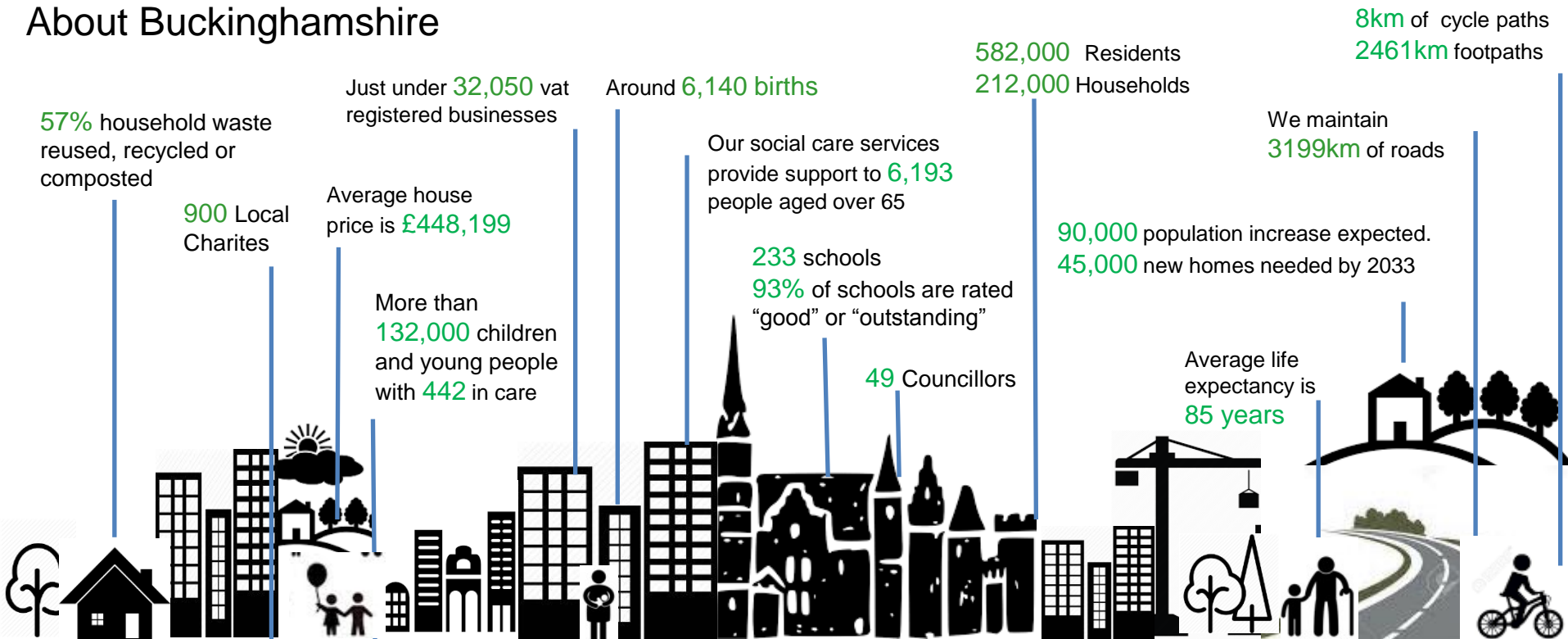
We believe now is the right time to modernise local government. We are backing a new single unitary council because evidence demonstrates the current configuration is no longer fit for purpose or affordable. By reforming now Buckinghamshire's residents, businesses and partners will have better services both now and in the future.

Our Aims

- Safeguarding Our Vulnerable**
- Creating Opportunities & Building Self Reliance**
- Ensuring Buckinghamshire is Thriving & Attractive**



About Buckinghamshire



Demography shifts and growth

Substantial population growth is anticipated. The population over the age of 65 is increasing, as are levels of disability, and lower socio-economic groups. Buckinghamshire is becoming more multi-cultural and diverse.

These changes are resulting in increasing demand for some services including children's and adults' social care, supported transport, school places specialised and supported housing, and health services.

The changing nature of crime (online, modern slavery, sexual exploitation), the threat of radicalisation and terrorism and our growing insight into the inter-relationship between mental health, domestic violence and substance misuse requires new approaches.

It is not just services that will need to grow but infrastructure, energy systems, waste removal and local jobs.

Budget

Like all Local Authorities, we have challenging financial circumstances so need to target our resources carefully. The future of public spending budgets is unclear. What is apparent, is the demands of an increasingly ageing population have the potential to put huge pressure on local government and health budgets.

We need to target our resources to the most vulnerable, have ambitious plans for cost avoidance / demand management. We must be more commercial, proactively managing markets and be innovative in our solutions for some specialist services.

We must continue to fully understand and challenge where new requirements on local authorities place unfunded burdens on already stretched resources.

Embracing Technology

The way the public communicate and transact is changing at a rapid rate. The take up of mobile technology creates great opportunity for us to change our model of service and information for the public. This presents us with opportunities as an employer, enabling our staff to work more flexibly and efficiently as well as in meeting customer expectations.

Residents expect ever better services and customer experience e.g. access information and services online 24/7, as they can with many other providers such as banks or travel agents.

We must create a culture of continuous business improvement, actively looking at opportunities to digitise

Being innovative with 'Smart' technology means we can transform local services and address difficult issues such as congestion, traffic management and energy management. We must be at the forefront of the technology revolution.

Legislation

Implementation of new laws will profoundly affect our role: Potential changes in education, adoption, care and support, business rates retention, housing, planning, Brexit.

Increasing integration with Health is evident in many plans, but the exact nature of the changes – and the funding regime to support them is not yet clear.

Devolution opportunities are also under discussion but their potential is equally uncertain.

Important issues for Buckinghamshire

The need for collaboration

There is a change in the nature of relationships with people, moving towards a more collaborative way of working, empowering people to influence decisions where they live.

We must develop collaborative solutions, working across the Council and with our partners in districts towns, parishes, neighbouring authorities and other public services.

Safeguarding Our Vulnerable

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

This means that we will work with our partners to:

- 1. Safeguard vulnerable children and adults**
- 2. Keep children in their own home where it is safe to do so and only bring children into care when it is the best option for them**
- 3. Deliver effective interventions and family support in an integrated and coordinated way to achieve better outcomes for all children and reduce the need for children and families to access statutory services**
- 4. Identify and take action where we find exploitation of children and young people and give care and support to those affected**
- 5. Improve outcomes for children and adults with special educational needs or disability.**
- 6. Ensure that our older, disabled and vulnerable people receive the support that is right for their needs, delaying the need for care through earlier diagnosis, intervention and re-ablement**
- 7. Provide understanding and dignity in end of life care**
- 8. Support our most vulnerable adults to lead independent lives**
- 9. Help and support those unpaid carers who give their time and energy to look after relatives and friends who cannot take care of themselves**




Examples of how our services made a real difference to vulnerable people in Bucks

Creating Opportunities and Building Self Reliance

Buckinghamshire residents have the aspiration and opportunities to lead successful and independent lives, taking responsibility for their own health and wellbeing and supporting each other in their communities. Children should have the best start in life, young people should thrive in Buckinghamshire schools enabling them to progress to good jobs and training opportunities in the County

This means that we will work with our partners to:

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



Examples of how our services made a real difference to vulnerable people in Bucks

Ensuring Buckinghamshire is Thriving and Attractive

Buckinghamshire is growing rapidly and its economy is one of the strongest in the country. As it grows our challenge is to shape quality places, ensuring they are prosperous, thriving and attractive. We will continue to plan and deliver early interventions with our partners to drive forward and secure good jobs, good road, rail and other essential infrastructure which will meet the current and future needs of our residents. Proactively protect and mitigate the impact of development on the county's unique natural environment.

This means that we will work with our partners to:

- 1. Repair our highways (roads, footpaths, street lights, bridges and drainage) as effectively and speedily as possible.**
- 2. To work with the England Economic Heartland / Local Enterprise Partnership's and other partners to maximise investment in the County, to deliver, manage and maintain local services and strategic infrastructure including digital highways, in line with changing demands.**
- 3. Enable the right conditions and incentives to attract new and growing businesses to Buckinghamshire, driving economic growth.**
- 4. Enable the right conditions to attract people to live, learn and work in Buckinghamshire**
- 5. To improve the connectivity and reliability of Buckinghamshire's transport network to stimulate economic growth and promote more sustainable travel**
- 6. Protect and enhance our high quality environment and major towns including protecting the Green Belt, AONB, Rights of Way and Green Spaces**
- 7. Mitigate the impact of strategic national infrastructure projects i.e. HS2, Heathrow expansion**
- 8. Promote and encourage sustainable approaches to the use of natural resources and waste. Improving our natural environment, water management, biochemistry, recycling and animal welfare.**



Examples of how our services made a real difference to vulnerable people in Bucks

Our Strategies and Policies *(to have web links embedded)*

Corporate

- [Medium Term Financial Plan](#)
- [Operational Framework](#)
- [Equality and Diversity](#)
- [Digital Strategy](#)
- [Risk Management Strategy](#)
- [Treasury Management Strategy](#)

Adult Social Care

- [Adult Carer Strategy](#)
- [Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy](#)
- [Market Position Statement](#)

Children's Social Care

- [Looked After Children Strategy](#)
- [Children's Strategy](#)
- [Early help Strategy](#)
- [Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#)

Community & Community safety

- [Emergency Planning Strategy](#)

Education, skills & employment

- [Skills Strategy](#)
- [Children's Strategy](#)
- [School Improvement Strategy](#)
- [SEND Strategy](#)
- [Education Strategy](#)

Environment & waste

- [Energy Strategy](#)
- [Walking Strategy](#)
- [Minerals and Waste Core Strategy](#)
- [Flood Management Strategy](#)

Health & Public Health

- [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#)
- [Healthy Eating Strategy](#)
- [Substance Misuse Strategy](#)
- [Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#)

Housing

- [Market position statement](#)
- [Care leavers strategy](#)
- [Strategic economic plan](#)

Transport

- [Infrastructure Plan](#)
- [Transport Strategy](#)
- [Strategic Economic Plan](#)