

County Council



Cabinet Member Reports

8a. REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Elections

The elections have naturally been a focal point in the news and have brought some changes to the Ministerial teams. Brexit dominated the delayed Queens speech with 8 of the 27 bills, other aspects included measures to boost the economy, enhance consumer protection and introduce wide-ranging data protection reform. We continue to reflect on what it means for Local Government, particularly the uncertainty around future funding and business rates retention. We await the green paper on social care as it is a significant pressure point for the Council both now and as the county grows. Although we are unlikely to have much clarity until the Autumn statement in November, we will continue to be active in representing our concerns and offering solutions as we need a sustainable way forward.

Health and Wellbeing Board Update

The Health and Wellbeing Board agreed a roadmap for health and social care integration by 2020 at the March meeting. This ambitious plan set out the opportunities to improve the health and wellbeing of our residents and better manage demand on our services. We are already making great progress in working with local NHS partners to join up GP, community, mental health, hospital and social care services – but as a system we are ambitious to do more. Therefore, we are pleased that NHS England has confirmed Buckinghamshire as one of the first eight Accountable Care Systems around the country.

This partnership with our local NHS organisations will give us greater local control to fast track improvements such as providing more care closer to home, to reduce lengths of stay in hospital; GPs and mental health teams working alongside hospital teams in A&E; improving access and joining up; and doing more to help people stay well and live independently for longer. Buckinghamshire's ACS involves six organisations: Buckinghamshire County Council, Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, NHS Aylesbury Vale and Chiltern Clinical Commissioning Groups, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust and FedBucks.

The national recognition is not only testament to the rapid improvements we have already made to patient care over the past two years, but also to the strength of our plans to transform and the commitment of all partners to get this right. The ACS is in the early stages of development, there will be a further update on progress at the next Health and Wellbeing Board on the 14 September. Plans are also in place for a 'Big Tent' stakeholder event on health and social care integration in the autumn, where there will be opportunity to hear from local leaders about Buckinghamshire's Accountable Care System, the shared priorities and what this will mean in practice

High Speed 2 Update

The HS2 Hybrid Act has received Royal Assent and received a mention in the Queen's Speech. HS2 Ltd is on programme to appoint their Main Civils Works Contractors in August 2017. There will then be around a year and a half of detailed design and main works activity on the ground will not commence before March 2019. Some early works are taking place, including the construction of the Stoke Mandeville relief road which is expected to be completed by 2020. An Additional Mitigation Plan for the extra £3m which was secured during petitioning for the Colne Valley has been drafted and consulted upon. Priority projects are currently being identified and costed. There is still no confirmation of whether the Hillingdon Outdoor Activity Centre (HOAC) can be relocated to New Denham Quarry. We understand that cost is an issue and that negotiations are currently taking place between HOAC, HS2 Ltd and London Borough of Hillingdon. HS2 Ltd contractors will be carrying out highway condition surveys from mid-August to mid-December 2017.

The HS2 Ltd Residents' Charter has been updated and now includes 12 community commitments. A new Freephone number is now operational with the 24/7 HS2 Enquiries (08081 434 434). Quarterly meetings are now taking place with me, the Chief Executive, HS2 Ltd Chief Executive and the Department for Transport HS2 sponsor. Some HS2 events and local engagement is taking place currently but it is still reactive and we are keen to see a sharing of the programme of events. We understand a Community Engagement Strategy is currently being developed.

An Incident Management Meeting was convened by the County Council with South Central Ambulance, Bucks Fire and Rescue and HS2 Ltd security staff. This will continue to meet regularly to discuss emergency services and any incidents that arise as a result of HS2. The relocation of the FCC Energy from Waste Plant sidings inquiry takes place for 4 days from 18 July 2017.

England's Economic Heartland Strategic Alliance

The England's Economic Heartland Strategic Alliance brings together 9 local authorities and 4 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) that sit at the heart of the corridor of growth from Cambridge through Milton Keynes and Northampton to Oxford. The strategic priority is to maximise economic growth through increasing the productivity of existing businesses and unlocking the creation of new jobs across the Heartland, including the provision of any enabling infrastructure.

Momentum with the Strategic Alliance's work programme continues to gather. The Strategic Transport Forum's work programme, co-funded with money from the Department for Transport, is moving forward with work to commission the first stages of the new Transport Strategy beginning. Specialist advice has been commissioned on the potential scope and remit of the future Sub-national Transport Body: this will report to the Forum in the summer ahead of a wide ranging stakeholder engagement. A key focus remains ensuring that East West Rail is delivered at the earliest opportunity. The officer team have been working closely with Rob Brighouse and his team as they look at opportunities to achieve this. It is anticipated that a way forward will set out later this summer.

Meanwhile, the Leaders' group has been looking at the issue of digital connectivity – both fixed and mobile connections: essential to our ambition to realise the economic potential of the Heartland area. An initial discussion has identified a number of key areas where the Strategic Alliance is well placed to work with the network operators (both fixed and mobile) to provide the leadership required in this area. We will take this

forward over the course of the summer and into the autumn, as part of our work on wider strategic infrastructure issues.

The Strategic Alliance partners have been working with other local authorities across the Heartland area on the response to the National Infrastructure Commission's discussion paper on strategic planning, with the Alliance secretariat providing support for that work. For the Strategic Alliance partners the key issue remains the need to address strategic infrastructure issues and in that regard the partners remain committed to delivering the Alliance's work programme.

**MARTIN TETT
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

8b. DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORTATION

Road Safety

Drink Drive – Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB) has been promoting the summer 'Morning After' drink drive campaign during June and this will continue through July. This involved a Road Safety Officer accompanying Thames Valley Police and conducting roadside breath tests to remind drivers of the consequences of drink driving.

Eco-driving - A second training course for Local Driving Instructors to deliver eco-driving assessments took place on Friday 23 June 2017.

Motorcycling - TfB delivered its first motorcyclist assessment course in partnership with TVAM on 17 June, and is promoting further events through social media and news releases.

Mobile Phones – A successful mobile phone event was held at Bucks University over 2 days to raise students' awareness of increased penalties for using a hand held phone.

UN Global Road Safety Week was promoted during May with a focus on not speeding.

Safety Schemes - A Road Safety improvement scheme was installed in June at A421 Thornborough junction in order to reduce casualties. We are also awaiting the outcome of Department of Transport bid for funds to improve the road safety of the A40 between West Wycombe and Stokenchurch.

Income targets

The two principal income sources for TfB are on-street parking and Streetworks activities. Both of the TfB teams responsible are tasked with aiming to cover their costs in the medium to long term, thereby reducing the burden from the tax payer onto the user. This is done through a combination of income from parking charges, licences for undertaking works on the highway and fees for inspections as well as penalty charges for such activities as parking in contravention of a regulation or incorrect traffic management at a work site.

At this point in the financial year, both of these services are receiving income slightly above the original planned profile. This is largely as a result of an increase in the number of road closure bookings and expansion of Pay and Display bays in Aylesbury. Further roll out of Pay and Display parking this year will help to move the parking service toward a breakeven point and away from its current significant deficit.

Customer Comms Update

On Monday 19 June, TfB's planned schemes programmes were made available online to Members and Parishes. This is just the first stage in getting information of our programmes communicated, and we will be developing this further over the coming weeks and months.

The current version contains details of the following areas of work:

- Carriageway resurfacing - broken down into surfacing, micro surfacing, targeted patching and surface dressing
- Drainage improvement schemes
- Traffic signal refurbishments
- Casualty reduction schemes
- Safety barrier schemes
- Structures schemes

The programmes can be found using the following link:

<http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/transport-and-roads/road-maintenance-and-repairs/programmes-of-work/>

In addition, a number of customer-focussed business improvement projects have been identified and will be programmed in July for delivery over the coming months.

Strategic Highway Maintenance - Carriageway Resurfacing

The three headline treatments associated with the 2017/18 surfacing programme have been confirmed and information sent to Members, with the majority of design activities now complete. An excellent start has been made with these treatments, with resurfacing work commencing in April and preparatory patching associated with the surface dressing and micro-surfacing programmes commencing in May.

Design activities associated with the remaining programmes of work continue with lists of schemes expected to be announced from the beginning of August.

The following summarises the position with the 2017/18 overall programme:

Conventional Resurfacing - 40 schemes are on the 2017/18 programme. Resurfacing work has already commenced with 8 schemes already completed. The remaining schemes are programmed to be completed by the end of November 2017.

Surface Dressing – 25 schemes are on the 2017/18 programme. Preparatory patching has commenced and the headline treatment together with all lining and studding is expected to be completed by the end of September 2017.

Micro-surfacing – 35 schemes (some including multiple roads) are on the 2017/18 programme. Preparatory patching has commenced and the headline treatment together with all lining and ironwork adjustments is expected to be completed by the end of November 2017.

Plane and Patch - A list of schemes to be delivered as part of the 2017/18 programme are expected to be announced by the beginning of August, with work due to commence on site in October.

DfT Pothole Fund – In 2017/18, this fund has risen by approximately £300,000 to £852,000 and will be spent in-year on pothole prevention. A list of schemes to be delivered as part of the 2017/18 programme is expected to be announced by the beginning of September, with work due to commence on site in October.

Joint Sealing – A list of schemes to be delivered as part of the 2017/18 programme is expected to be announced by the beginning of September, with work due to commence on site in October.

Other Capital Programmes

Footways – A list of schemes to be delivered as part of the 2017/18 programme is expected to be announced by the beginning of August, with work due to commence on site in September.

Drainage – 23 priority schemes are on the 2017/18 programme, with 4 completed by the end of May and a further 3 commencing in June 2017. Priorities continue to be identified through Members, Local Area Technicians or third party notifications where

lack of highway drainage provision is identified to be a primary contributor to road safety concerns or to problems of water ingress to property.

Safety Fencing – 7 priority schemes are on the 2017/18 programme, with all 7 schemes programmed to be completed by the end of September 2017.

Structures Maintenance – Priority is being given to completing the planned improvements to all 11 countywide pump stations together with design and pre-construction activities associated with the refurbishment of the London Road footbridge, Buckingham. Design and procurement is underway on a further 11 priority schemes, with construction programmed later in the year.

Street Lighting – Street light, illuminated sign and feeder pillar replacement programmes are currently being developed with installation expected to commence in August 2017.

Network Safety – 4 priority schemes are on the 2017/18 programme, with all 4 schemes programmed to be completed by the beginning of November 2017.

Traffic Signals – 14 priority schemes are on the 2017/18 programme, including the refurbishment of the signalised junctions along the A412 at George Green, which are programmed to commence in September 2017.

Parking – 2 pay and display schemes are on the 2017/18 programme, with the scheme in Cressex to be delivered in July/August 2017.

East West Railway

The East West Rail (EWR) Consortium continues to lobby for completion of the Western Section (Bicester to Bedford and Milton Keynes to Aylesbury and beyond via Princes Risborough) at the earliest opportunity. This has included meeting the Transport Secretary Chris Grayling prior to the General Election who has commissioned Rob Brighouse to identify how EWR can be delivered faster for less cost. Rob is due to submit his updated recommendations to the Secretary of State by the end of June/early July. The DfT is not expected to confirm a definitive target date for delivery of EWR until the Secretary of State has fully considered the recommendations.

Work is ongoing to coordinate design and construction with HS2 where the existing East West Rail track bed needs to be moved to accommodate HS2. This is critical to delivering EWR at the earliest opportunity, and to minimise disruption for residents and maximise efficiency in construction. This is mainly in the Calvert area but also impacts south of Marsh Lane Crossing near Stoke Mandeville. The Consortium continues to press the need for Network Rail and HS2 Ltd to communicate with all residents and stakeholders clearly and appropriately.

Following a short postponement due to General Election purdah, a second round of public consultation for the EWR Transport & Works Act Order, which gives authority to construct and operate the railway, will now take place during July 2017. Dates and details are being circulated widely, with those in Buckinghamshire scheduled to be held at Winslow (12/7); Waddesdon (14/7); Newton Longville (17/7); Charndon (20/7); Princess Risborough (21/7). See <http://www.eastwestrail.org.uk/summer-2017-consultation/> for further details.

MARK SHAW
DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORTATION

8c. CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Team Visits in Children's Services

Since I started my new role as Cabinet Member for Children's Services, one of my top priorities has been to meet with the staff in the Service and see first-hand the valuable work they do. So far I have been able to visit the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), First Response, SWAN Unit, the Children in Need (CIN) Team, and our Finance Team. I was very pleased to have the opportunity to speak to staff, hear their views and learn more about what they do and have a clearer picture of the challenges they face.

From the visits I have done so far I have been particularly impressed with how collaboratively we work together with other agencies and how effective and established this practice is so that we aim to achieve the best outcomes for children in Buckinghamshire, including Thames Valley Police and the many parts of the NHS we work with.

In the forthcoming months I plan to visit more teams within Children's Services and some more of our key partners.

Ofsted Monitoring Visit Feedback from June 2017

On the 13th June we received the feedback letter from our third OFSTED monitoring visit which took place on 11th to 12th April. During this monitoring visit the inspectors looked at the quality of assessment and planning for children looked after, the quality of care placements and placement support and how the County Council fulfils its 'corporate parenting' role for looked after children.

The letter said that the County Council is "making steady progress in improving the quality of services to children looked after". Ofsted inspectors noted that 'improved practice is evident in respect of services and support provided to children looked after' and that 'an improved focus on care planning has resulted in the majority of children's plans having clear actions and timescales'. Inspectors also stated that 'the development of an increasingly stable workforce, with manageable caseloads, has been critical to the progress achieved to date. Social workers spoken to by inspectors are positive about working in Buckinghamshire and morale is good.' Whilst progress is being made, the inspectors noted that there is more work to be done to ensure consistency of practice to further improve outcomes for children.

I am pleased that Ofsted inspectors are seeing the improvements we are making in Buckinghamshire and that it has been recognised that we are striving to understand children's views about their care, which is so important. We know there is more to be done in specific areas but overall this is another positive step for us.

I want to recognise and thank all of our committed staff, who are working very hard to bring all aspects of support for children and families up to the level they deserve.

View the Ofsted monitoring visit letter at:

https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/local_authority_reports/buckinghamshire/054_Monitoring%20visit%20of%20LA%20children%27s%20services%20as%20pdf.pdf

Looked After Children

In June, Cabinet approved a revised Corporate Parenting Strategy which set out how the Council and Partners will work together to improve outcomes for looked after children. As Cabinet Member for Children's Services I have specific responsibilities in this area and I chaired my first Corporate Parenting Panel at the beginning of July and welcomed new member colleagues onto the panel.

As you may already know, there is a lack of residential placements in the county to support our vulnerable children which means that we have to use placements that are out of the county and further away from places familiar to the children. We want to change this so we can keep Bucks children in Buckinghamshire.

We are working hard to improve services for looked after children by increasing the number who are placed in the county so they remain close to their family and local community. Following Cabinet approval in April, we are developing four new five bedded children's homes across the county with the first one scheduled to open in January 2018.

Qualified Social Workers

The national shortage of Social Workers continues to be a key resourcing challenge. Actions taken since the last Blue Book report in April 2017 to address the shortage of social workers include:

- Continued expansion of Newly Qualified Social Worker program – 37 NQSW started in 2016/17 with 4 in the pipeline. Career framework in place to support Newly Qualified Social Workers.
- Flow of permanent QSW CV's has been improved via partnership with best performing social care agencies to supply permanent candidates at a competitive rate
- New assessment process for Social Workers is improving the rigour in selection decisions and increasing positive candidate feedback making us attractive in the market.
- IR35 legislation regulating the engagement of off payroll agency workers has had limited impact on agency Social Workers. There has been no increase in pay rates and numbers remain stable.
- The South East Memo of Co-Operation, which commits BCC to implementing consistent pay rates across region and improving the referencing process, has helped to clarify a consistent approach to IR35 across South East authorities.

In 2016/17 financial year, there have been 60 external new starters in hard to fill QSW roles (excluding agency workers) with 5 in the pipeline. There have been 34 voluntary leavers in equivalent period. Please note that these figures are correct at time of report but can change on a daily basis due to a variety of factors such as candidates being counter offered or employees deciding to enter the contractor market place.

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:

Metric	Sept 2015 Data	May 2017 Data	Target
% of qualified social workers on an agency contract (includes all agency workers including those covering absence, maternity and perm requirements)	25%	21.95%	20%
Number of qualified agency social workers in permanent posts in C&F (agency workers covering perm posts only)	57	48	27

This data was reported in June 2017 as part of the Workforce Development Improvement Plan.

**WARREN WHYTE
CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

8d. REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES

Digital and Social Media Advertising Strategies

There have been a number of advertising & marketing strategies in 2016/17 centred around the new employment brand and careers site launched in Jan 2016. Key successes include:

- Improved search engine optimisation of website – the County Council careers website is organically listed at the top of Google search result for most key search terms typed in by our candidates. This is essentially free advertising and our position in the rankings continues to improve:

Search term	Google (organic) ranking Q1 (Apr to Jun 2016)	Google (organic) ranking Q2 (Jul to Sept 2016)	Google (organic) ranking Q3 (Oct to Dec 2016)	Google (organic) ranking Q4 (Jan to Mar 2017)
jobs in Bucks	5 th	2 nd	2 nd	2 nd
Buckinghamshire jobs	2 nd	1 st	1 st	1 st
transport jobs bucks	6 th	6 th	7 th	4 th
Social care jobs bucks	5 th	3 rd	4 th	3 rd

- Website indicators of engagement are stable since launch and compare favourably with benchmarked sites
- Users per month are at their highest in Q4 at 20,000 due to increased promotional activity

On-boarding – New Starter Portal

The New Starter Portal (NSP) has been live for six months. Recent joiners have been surveyed to find out their views on the portal and responses were positive, including:

- 90% said it helped them feel more prepared for their first day
- 80% said they found the portal either extremely or very useful

Example feedback included:

“I really loved the NSP. It was informative and friendly. I told my colleagues in my previous job about it, and also showed it to my daughter, who is an HR Advisor for a global organisation. The section about the Watergarden area and 'bring your own mug' made the presentation very personal and reassuring. Thank you for ensuring my first week got off to a good start and that I was well prepared!”

Buckinghamshire County Council was invited to showcase the New Starter Portal by the software supplier, Learning Pool, at a hosted event for local government and public sector clients across London and the South East. This resulted in raising the profile of the Council and significant interest from attendees.

Apprenticeships for All

Central Government is looking for public bodies to have 2.3% of their staff on apprenticeship programmes and to make maximum use of their Apprenticeship Levy.

This equates to a target of 63 new apprenticeship starts for Buckinghamshire County Council in 2017/18 (excluding schools).

Two programmes have been set up to achieve the target:

Staff Upskilling Programme: At the time of this report, 17 staff have been identified to start apprenticeship training to develop new skills relevant to their role and to support career progression. This figure is due to increase in the next few months as new apprenticeship standards become available for delivery. Qualifications include Management, Digital Technology Solutions, Associate Project Manager, Data Analyst.

New Talent Apprenticeship Programme: At the time of this report, there were:

- 24 apprentices hosted on this programme
- 12 being actively recruited

HR Shared Service

Our HR Shared Service went live successfully on 1st April, as planned. The process involved TUPE transferring 20 London Borough of Harrow (LBH) HR staff to Buckinghamshire County Council. Preliminary work in preparation for 1st April was extensive, involving close collaboration between LBH and Buckinghamshire on work streams relating to IT, communication and engagement, service design and many others.

The first few months of this ground-breaking partnership have gone smoothly, with no major issues arising. I can report that we are so far on track to realise £670k of savings across the two organisations, which have been delivered through reductions in management and the holding of vacancies.

Next steps in the development of the service will include actions to realise the full benefits outlined in the business case. Whilst the financial benefits are on track, we are also expecting to see the full benefit of the broader pool of HR expertise that is now in place. We also now need to maximise the income generation potential arising from our new foothold in the London market and identify ways of exploiting our new economy of scale when we come to renegotiate contracts.

Other activity that is ongoing includes the monitoring of the service through regular contract management meetings between the service managers and key stakeholders in Harrow. These meetings cover the essentials of running the service with the necessary quality and rigour, including consideration of business continuity, risk management, development opportunities and other matters of importance.

At the senior level, the Shared Services Joint Governance Board (JGB) continues to provide strategic oversight of the shared service. The JGB is the custodian of the Inter Authority Agreement that underpins the arrangement and includes the most senior Directors and Cabinet Members from the two organisations.

Whilst we have enjoyed success with our programme of shared services with LBH, we are not complacent and continue to seek out new opportunities to share services with partners. The shared service model gives us a great opportunity to release savings from support services in order to help fund frontline activity in the County.

Financial Implications of BREXIT

The impact of the UK public's decision to leave the EU will take time to determine as the exit is negotiated. The longer-term impact upon the economy will depend upon the nature of the negotiated post-Brexit relationship with the EU and with the rest of the world.

The market value of the Pension Fund was £2.669bn at 31 March 2017. The Fund, excluding private equity investments, achieved a return net of fees of 20.8% outperforming its benchmark return of 19.4% by 1.4% in the year to 31 March 2017. Following a strong 2016, the first quarter of 2017 saw broadly positive returns for both growth and defensive assets. Market swings are anticipated in coming months reflecting the large uncertainties involved, which may well give rise to some opportunities for active fund managers.

As the UK negotiates its exit from the EU and a new relationship with Europe the “low for longer” interest rate outlook is anticipated to continue.

Technology Services

The recent cyber-attack on the Health sector was an important reminder to public sector organisations of the importance of the safety and security of technology, data and business systems. When the attack was identified, immediate actions were taken within the County Council to suspend technical links with the Health sector and a few security enhancements were quickly and effectively introduced. This work was completed and tested ahead of re-opening Health links with minimum impact to service with no infections to the Council's technology. Enhanced on-line Cyber Security training for all County Council technology users is currently being tested and will be introduced over the coming months.

The Council continues to be work with Central Government on its online customer identification system - Verify. We are working in close partnership with Government Digital Services (GDS) on the programme which will provide customers with simpler and quicker access to services that require enhanced levels of personal identification. The current services being looked at are Blue Badge and Concessionary Bus Pass, but once successful will be able to be applied to other services that the Council offers improving the experience for our residents.

**JOHN CHILVER
CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES**

8e. CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH & WELLBEING

Accountable Care System

On 15th June 2017, Simon Stevens (Chief Executive of NHS England) announced in his keynote speech to the NHS Confederation conference that Buckinghamshire is among the first areas around the country to be designated as Accountable Care Systems. An Accountable Care System brings together local NHS organisations, often in partnership with local authorities and the voluntary sector, and NHS national bodies will provide these areas with more freedom to make decisions over how the health system in their area operates.

Becoming an Accountable Care System is a natural next step for Bucks, based on the long track record of successful partnership work between local NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups, NHS providers and the council to deliver better, safer and more joined up health and care for the communities we serve.

The partners involved in the Buckinghamshire Accountable Care System are NHS Aylesbury Vale and Chiltern Clinical Commissioning Groups, Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, Buckinghamshire County Council, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, FedBucks (which represents over 80% of Bucks GPs) and South Central Ambulance Service.

These partners are already making great progress in joining up GP, community, mental health, hospital and social care services and in helping our communities live healthier and more independent lives. Leading the way as one of the first Accountable Care Systems will give us greater control, freedom and added pace to our shared work, for example by providing more care closer to home to reduce length of stay in hospital, GPs and mental health teams working alongside hospital teams in A&E, and streamlining care for people with long term conditions such as diabetes.

Please note that the Accountable Care System will not affect the existing statutory roles or governance requirements of the partners involved.

Dignity & Respect Awards 2017

These Awards celebrate outstanding examples of how dignity and respect are demonstrated across Buckinghamshire and celebrate individuals, teams and organisations that have gone above and beyond to support people in a way that promotes dignity, respect and well-being.

The Dignity and Respect Awards 2017 were as popular as ever with everyone coming together on the 19th May at the Oculus in Aylesbury to celebrate achievements, share examples of best practice and announce the winners.

The winners and runners up are below:

Social Care

- WINNER Ionela Pintilii, Avondale Care Home, Aylesbury
- Runner up The staff at Woodlands Park Care Home, Gt Missenden
- Runner up Roshni Savaliya, Chiltern Support & Housing

Community

- WINNER The Space Project, Aylesbury
- Runner up Ian Whitehall, Men in sheds, Winslow
- Runner up Jean Peasley, Wye Valley Volunteers, Bourne End

Health Care

- WINNER Jonathan Algar, Adult & Community Health Care Trust, Aylesbury
- Runner up Thame Day Hospital
- Runner up Lucie Posnett and Janine Rocks, Stay steady, stay strong

Missenden Walled Garden

The Missenden Walled Garden was set up a few years ago by the County Council to provide a day service and employment opportunities for adults with learning disabilities. Sited in the grounds of Missenden Abbey, the Walled Garden is a beautiful setting and the service provides very meaningful activity for its users.

About a year ago, in response to a consultation on the service, some of the parents and carers of service users asked if they could take the service over – they had some really good ideas about how the service could be expanded and made sustainable under their management. Their proposals and business plan were impressive and over the last 12 months we've been working with them to enable the service to transfer to a new charitable organisation.

On June 1st, the formal transfer took place when the service was ceremonially handed over to Missenden Walled Garden CIO by Patricia Birchley, Chairman of the Council during a celebratory event at the garden.

What probably seemed like a simple proposition at the start has required a lot of hard work from both County Council officers and the charity members - I congratulate everyone involved for their determination which has resulted in the best outcome for the gardeners at Missenden Walled Garden. Credit also needs to go to Missenden Abbey and Bucks New University which own the site and which have been very supportive throughout of the new venture.

This outcome secures the sustainability of this service through an organisation (the Missenden Walled Garden CIO), rooted in the community, which will nourish the service and enable it to flourish long into the future, providing a really important service to adults with learning disabilities. It will also provide an excellent example of user and carer-led service provision which can be replicated elsewhere.

Missenden Walled Garden will be holding an open day on Sunday 16 July 2017 for members of the public to find out more. For more about the Open Day or Missenden Walled Garden CIO in general please email info@missendenwalledgarden.org or visit their [Facebook page](#) for regular updates.

LIN HAZELL
CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH & WELLBEING

8f. CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Update on the Education and Skills Strategy – June 2017

This is an update on the work undertaken so far on developing a new Education and Skills Strategy and what the next steps are to ensure that the views of key stakeholders such as parents, carers and the wider education community is fully represented and included in its realisation and implementation.

Background

This is a time of unprecedented local and national change impacting the educational landscape. Budget reductions as a result of a decrease in central government grants have had, and will continue to have, a significant impact on the centrally retained funding for school support services. The government drive for academisation and increasing selection has resulted in a diversity of school provision. The increasing rigour of Ofsted frameworks and inspections underpins the overall ambition to raise achievement and attainment and local authorities have to develop working relationships with a variety of external partners such as the Regional Schools Commissioner.

Our proposed education and skills strategy will be founded on 6 key areas, each of which has specific ambitions and objectives which will address the challenges and underpin our strategic intention:

- Infrastructure
- Early Years and Childcare
- School Improvement and Engagement
- Inclusion
- Special Educational Needs and Disability
- Post 16 Provision and Skills Development

Consultation

We want to ensure that there is a countywide debate regarding the strategy, and that key stakeholders which will include children, young people, schools, academies, Early Years providers, local Further Education and Higher Education providers and the business community can have an input into how the strategy will be formed and delivered. The main purpose of the consultation events will include:

- Agreeing our shared vision for all children and young people
- Identifying the key priorities that will help us realise this vision.
- Developing a delivery model that is right for us as an educational community which will enable us to address these key priorities at pace.
- Highlighting and allowing discussion regarding other elements of the Change 4 Children programme such as SEND and in particular, Early Help.

We will also be utilising our links with Youth Voice to access views of young people and there will be an online presence for other key stakeholders such as parents and carers to be able to provide a response.

Next steps

The overall consultation is due to close on 31 July 2017. The responses from the consultation will be considered at Children's Social Care and Learning Select Committee in September with a view to presenting the final strategy to Cabinet in late September/early October 2017.

Adult Learner of the Year Awards

Adult Learning held its annual Adult Learner of the Year awards at the Waterside Theatre, Aylesbury on 20 June.

120 people attended including nominated learners, tutors, learning support assistants and volunteers as well as staff and Cllr Mark Shaw, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation and Cllr Mike Appleyard, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills. Mr Shaw presented the certificates to all those nominated and the winners for the following awards: Adult Learner of the Year, Tutor of the Year and Classroom Supporter of the Year.

Disability Participation update for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Local Area Website

Six short information films have been completed about Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) post-16 provision. The films include a young person's tour of a college, therapies available on site, community provision by Macintyre and Talkback, and residential placements with Aster Lodge. The films show the fantastic SEND post-16 provision the County Council currently offers. They also help young people and their families better understand the Local Offer and how the different services can support young people with disabilities transition into adult services. They are all success stories in different ways which provides encouragement for young people and their families embarking on their post-16 journey.

OfSTED "Good" Grading for BCC Alternative Education Providers

The Progress Schools, independent schools which provide specialist education support for 13-16 year olds, have achieved the grade of "Good" in a recent OfSTED inspection of their two Alternative Provision sites in Buckinghamshire. This means that all Alternative Provision providers in Buckinghamshire are now rated "Good" or "Outstanding".

Free Entitlement Provision for Two Year Olds

Buckinghamshire County Council continues to work with the early years sector and parents to support families in finding suitable high quality free entitlement provision for eligible two year olds. As a local authority, our performance for take up of places continues to place the local authority in the top quartile for take up against the percentage of eligible children, achieving a minimum of 80% term on term. The national average has been just over 60%. Two year old eligibility is based on low income, looked after and disability living allowance so reaches some of our most vulnerable young children providing free high quality education and preparing them for school.

The Government no longer publishes statistics comparing local authorities as the project has now moved from start up to full implementation, but the Council has been contacted this month by the Department for Education (DfE) to learn and share how we manage to continue to achieve such outstanding results.

**MIKE APPLEYARD
CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND SKILLS**

8g. CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

Planning and Enforcement

A man has been ordered to pay £10,000 in fines and costs and handed a suspended prison sentence for dumping asbestos and green waste. Florin Arsene, of West Drayton Park Avenue, West Drayton, was sentenced at Aylesbury Crown Court on 15 June having admitted two offences of fly-tipping at an earlier hearing.

Arsene was filmed by a hidden camera installed by investigators from the Waste Partnership for Buckinghamshire. It recorded him dumping a van load of asbestos on the M40 emergency vehicle ramp at Fulmer on 10 July 2016. He admitted depositing both this waste and a second offence involving green waste on the other side of the motorway in August.

Judge Francis Sheridan sentenced him to four months' in prison, suspended for two years. He was fined £3,000 for the first offence and £2,000 for the second. Costs of £4,984.50 were awarded for the clear up and investigation, plus a victim surcharge. He was also disqualified from driving for four months for using a vehicle in connection with a crime under s146 of the Powers of Criminal Courts Act 2000.

This successful case comes on the back of the Planning and Enforcement team securing an outstanding 65 prosecutions for illegal dumping offences (over 1 a week) and achieving total fines and costs awarded against dumpers of over £133,000 during 2016/17.

Waste Management

On 21st June 2016, the Council owned Greatmoor Energy from Waste (EfW) facility received its acceptance certificate, and FCC Environment took over control for running the facility. In that time it has been producing over 22mw of energy, powering 36,000 local homes, accepting 112,000 tonnes of waste from Buckinghamshire, reducing waste transport mileage and engaging thousands of local people to reduce their waste.

The contract also employs an Education Centre Manager, who hosts community groups, schools and other local groups at Greatmoor. Groups are taken on a tour of the facility to see how it is run, and schools can also have interactive lessons alongside the tour. The Education Manager also visits schools across the county, to engage them in waste reduction lessons, or assemblies about Greatmoor. During the first year of operations, more than 1500 people have visited Greatmoor and the Education Manager has engaged more than 1700 at events across the County.

As there is such a big focus on waste reduction and engaging residents, it was fitting that on the first birthday of Greatmoor, the Council's Waste Team and the FCC Environment Manager were at the Big Bang at Bucks Schools Conference. Hundreds of school children visited interactive stalls to learn about Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). The Greatmoor stall gave the children an insight to what goes on at Greatmoor and the possible career opportunities in STEM subjects at Greatmoor.

So, in a few years' time, the facility will have saved even more taxpayers money, reduced waste to landfill and may have an engineer working there, who visited the Big Bang Conference in 2017!

If you want to find out more you can visit www.greatmoor.co.uk

Growth

There is a lot of Local Plan-making activity in Buckinghamshire which is gearing up for public consultation over the coming months. The Districts are all working on the final stages of their Local Plans and Buckinghamshire County Council has been very actively working with them, mainly in relation to housing distribution and strategic infrastructure issues. Having a Buckinghamshire plan-led framework for growth enables the County Council to respond more effectively to service pressures arising from an increase in population arising from housing growth and ensure the right infrastructure is in place to support housing growth. Plan-led growth rather than reactive growth as we have seen over the last few years is needed to deliver the right outcomes for Buckinghamshire; the County Council is working alongside the Districts and the Local Enterprise Partnership to ensure thriving, attractive communities and to defend the green belt from inappropriate development.

The County Council is leading on the development of a strategic infrastructure plan for Buckinghamshire which looks at managing strategic infrastructure and service needs to take account of planned growth in Buckinghamshire, the first stage will be reported to the County Council's Cabinet in July. Both the Draft Aylesbury Vale and the Draft Wycombe Local Plans should have been out for public consultation over the summer but have been delayed, the former until October and the latter until September so the public consultation on these plans will take place over the Autumn.

The proposed Chiltern and South Bucks Districts' Joint Local Plan is still at Preferred Options stage and is expected to reach public consultation later this year. The County Council will respond to all the District Local Plans and continue to work with them on their strategic infrastructure implications, both individually for each District and more strategically across the County as a whole.

Meanwhile the County Council is preparing for public consultation on the Draft Bucks Minerals and Waste Local Plan which will set out the minerals planning framework for future aggregate supply, mainly of sand and gravel in Buckinghamshire over the next plan period and the waste planning framework for disposal of household waste, commercial and industrial waste in Buckinghamshire. Public consultation on the Draft Bucks Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2016-36 is expected for eight weeks over August and September. More details will be available on the website.

**BILL CHAPPLE
CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT**

8h. CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PUBLIC HEALTH

Substance Misuse

Buckinghamshire County Council's Public Health team has successfully recommissioned a new Adult Substance Misuse Treatment Service. The new service called One Recovery will start on the 1st of October 2017. The service will be run by Inclusion, part of South Staffordshire and Shropshire NHS Trust and will bring different services together making it easier for residents to access support and for partners to refer. It will offer:

- Harm reduction interventions, including needle exchange services and targeted Outreach
- Substitute prescribing for opiate use and specialist prescribing for alcohol misuse
- Psychosocial interventions, including group work, talking therapies and counselling
- Life Skills, including education training and employment opportunities

In addition One Recovery Buckinghamshire will also provide:

- Family and carers support for those affected by others substance use
- Specialist substance misuse training for professionals in Buckinghamshire
- Better liaison with prisons to support Buckinghamshire residents on release from prison

One Recovery Buckinghamshire will offer services six days a week including evenings and at the weekends and have sites in the following locations:

- Aylesbury
- High Wycombe
- Buckingham
- Chesham
- Burnham

Community Engagement - Street Association pilot update

This is a joint initiative between Buckinghamshire County Council (Community Safety, Prevention Matters, Trading Standards, Community Engagement & Development) and Wycombe District Council, Hughenden Parish Council, Hughenden Neighbourhood Action Group and Thames Valley Police community initiative, the Hughenden Street Association. It aims to build community resilience by supporting residents to keep their neighbours safe and well.

To date the Hughenden Street Association has 60 members signed up across the parish to be the 'eyes and ears' on their street, identifying vulnerable neighbours, raising awareness of doorstep crime and scams, and signposting neighbours to available community support and activities and existing Council services. A number of workshops on relevant topics have been delivered in partnership with Thames Valley Police and Neighbourhood Watch to support members in their role, including loneliness and social isolation, cybercrime, doorstep crime and scams.

Building on the initial success of the Hughenden Street Association, funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner has been awarded to develop an additional three pilot schemes in 2017-18. Next steps are completing a needs assessment utilising social isolation indicators and incidents of doorstep crime and scams to identify the pilot areas as well as completing a stakeholder analysis

Archives - Spinal 2 Sport

The Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies has been successful in gaining external funding from the Wellcome Trust to employ three new members of staff to undertake archival cataloguing and conservation on three new collections relating to the history of the Paralympic movement in Buckinghamshire. The project will start later this year and run for two years. At the end of the project, full information about these collections will be published on the online catalogue so anyone can find out more about the pioneering work of Sir Ludwig Guttmann at Stoke Mandeville Hospital and how he started the Paralympic Games.

Chester Family of Chicheley Hall Archive Collection

The Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies has recently been allocated an archive collection by the government in lieu of inheritance tax. This is the first time that the Archives in Bucks have been fortunate enough to have received such an allocation. The collection in question includes architectural plans, estate papers, property deeds and family papers running from the early fifteenth century to the nineteenth century. The bulk of the collection has been held by the Archives since the 1960s, but the ownership of these records now passes to the County Council.

Registration Service - Annual Performance Report

The Registration Service produces an Annual Performance Report to the General Register Office in April each year. The report is via a self-assessment process which considers performance against statutory timescales and key performance targets in relation to births, deaths and marriages. The service also measures itself against operational and statutory standards across all activities in the service, and against a public protection and counter fraud framework (sham marriage, identity fraud, use of fraudulent documents). The latter links into Government policy via the Home Office which is where the General Register Office reports into.

The annual report has been considered by the General Register Office and they have noted "*The high level of service achieved by the local authority during the past year*" and the fact that 100% of customers rate the service as good or excellent.

Further information is available from Wendy Morgan-Brown, Head of Culture & Leisure.

Trading Standards

A roofing company director has been jailed for 27 months for fraudulent trading in several communities across Buckinghamshire after being investigated by the Trading Standards Service. He has also been ordered to pay the victims £10,000 compensation and been banned from being a Company director for 10 years.

Kumarapan Kunaratnam targeted elderly and vulnerable residents - some in their 90s - with a package of roofing work that the Court heard was unnecessary, of poor quality and overpriced.

NOEL BROWN
CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH