

County Council



Cabinet Member Reports

9a. REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Brexit Task and Finish Group Update

Brexit negotiations with the European Union are now firmly underway, with three rounds of negotiations concluded. A significant proportion of central government time is being devoted to Brexit (8 of 27 bills on Queen's Speech) and a number of position papers and technical papers have been produced on a wide range of areas, many of which impact local government either directly or indirectly. The LGA is lobbying on behalf of local government with regular meetings taking place with DCLG and DExEU.

The Council is taking early action to recognise the local implications of Brexit and steps to mitigate or maximise emerging opportunities. We are keen to lobby strongly for Buckinghamshire, to ensure our future relationship with Europe and any potential changes to legislation are as beneficial as possible to local businesses, public sector partners and ultimately, our residents. We have set up a task and finish group which coordinates our Brexit preparations and have started collaborating and sharing best practice with other local authorities around the country. It is clear that the Council is being very proactive and leading the way with analysis and planning. There will be an all Member briefing on the 1st November and I urge all Members to attend.

High Speed 2 Update

Appointment of Main Civils Works Contractors

On 17 July, the Government announced the winning Joint Venture contractors for Phase 1 of the project. The two relating to Buckinghamshire are listed below:

- C1: Chiltern Tunnels and Colne Valley Viaduct – Align Joint Venture (Bouygues Travaux Publics, VolkerFitzpatrick, Sir Robert McAlpine)
- C2: North Portal Chiltern Tunnels to Brackley – CEK Joint Venture (Carillion Construction Ltd, Eiffage Genie Civil SA, Kier Infrastructure and Overseas Ltd)

The contracts were subsequently signed on 1 August 2017 and there will now be 16 months of detailed design. HS2 Ltd is currently undertaking an assessment of the detailed programme to relocate the Heathrow Express depot from Old Oak Common in London to Langley. The assumption is early works to assess the condition of the ground and to understand environmental and ecological constraints at the site will commence in the autumn. This will inform the timescales for actually building the facility and it becoming operational.

Construction Commissioner's Report

Gareth Epps is the (interim) independent Construction Commissioner whose role is to mediate and monitor the way in which HS2 Ltd manages and responds to construction complaints. The Construction Commissioner will mediate any unresolved construction

related disputes between HS2 Ltd and individuals or bodies, and can be contacted by email (complaints@hs2-cc.org.uk) or by visiting his dedicated website (hs2-cc.org.uk).

The Chilterns Society has set up a website (<http://www.HS2Watch.org.uk>) to record contractor activity and to assist anyone with complaints and also to look out for any problems common to several complaints, which need escalating.

England's Economic Heartland Strategic Alliance

England's Economic Heartland Strategic Alliance brings together nine local authorities and four Local Enterprise Partnerships that sit at the heart of the corridor of growth from Cambridge through Milton Keynes and Northampton to Oxford. Two of the Alliance's core ambitions – the development of an over-arching Transport Strategy for the corridor and the creation of a Sub-national Transport Body (STB) – have taken major steps forward this summer.

The Alliance established the Strategic Transport Forum to provide the forum for a single voice on strategic transport issues. As part of the Forum's work programme, jointly funded by the Strategic Alliance and DfT, consultants WSP have been commissioned to develop an interactive databank that will be used as a key building block on which the Transport Strategy will be developed.

The databank will bring together the information available on future growth (housing and commercial development) and combine it with information of strategic infrastructure investments. Integral to the databank will be an interactive mapping capability that will show how the timing of future growth relates to future infrastructure. This will result in a single overview of baseline information across the Heartland area. It is being designed to enable partners to update and amend the information as it changes over time. The data bank should be completed by February and then used as a key building block in the development of the over-arching Transport Strategy.

In parallel, the Strategic Alliance has begun a wider engagement with stakeholders on the development of a proposal to establish a Sub-national Transport Body. The importance of a having a single voice on issues of strategic importance was highlighted by the National Infrastructure Commission in its Interim Report (published last November). In July, the Department for Transport published its Transport Investment Strategy, which further emphasised the importance of sub-national leadership on issues of strategic importance. The Strategy, which explicitly referenced the work of England's Economic Heartland, sets out how emerging Sub-national Transport Bodies will be at the forefront of 'fundamental change' in the way major infrastructure decisions are made.

The Department's Strategy makes it clear that STBs will be given 'unprecedented access' to Government decision-making on national investment strategies. It also set out the Government's commitment to give 'special recognition' to the 'busiest and most economically important local authority A- roads' by supporting the identification of a Major Roads Network. It goes on to set out that a proportion of the soon to be established National Roads Fund (created by ring-fencing Vehicle Excise Duty from 2020/21) will be allocated for investment in the MRN and there will be a 'key role' for STBs in its management at a regional level.

For Buckinghamshire this is potentially significant in that the Major Road Network is likely to pick up the extent to which the scale of growth set out in emerging Local Plans will increase the pressure on our more significant roads. If that is the case there may be opportunities to make the case for additional investment funding through the

National Roads Fund. As part of the work to develop our proposal to move from the Strategic Transport Forum towards a Sub-national Transport Body an initial engagement with prospective partners and stakeholders is underway.

As part of this work the current governance framework for the Forum is being reviewed in light of experience over the first 12 months of its operation and in particular to ensure that: Linkages with local planning authorities, public transport operators and groups representing users might be strengthened. Initial views will be considered by the Forum at its meeting on 15th September in order to shape the next stage of work.

**MARTIN TETT
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

9b. DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORTATION

East West Rail (EWR)

As Chairman of the East West Rail Consortium's Joint Delivery Board for the Western Section, I had a meeting with Secretary of State for Transport, Chris Grayling, in London on July 17.

We discussed how important East West Rail is in terms of unlocking the region's economic growth potential.

I was delighted that the Secretary of State once again confirmed the Government's commitment to delivering East West Rail.

Our meeting came during the middle of Network Rail's consultation on Phase Two of the Western Section, which took place over July and August. Phase Two includes the Milton Keynes line via Aylesbury, Berryfields (Aylesbury Vale Parkway) and Winslow; and the route from Bicester Village to Bedford via Winslow (Oxford to Bicester was opened last year).

Ten public exhibitions about the proposals took place across the route, including five in Buckinghamshire. They were well attended, attracting a total of 1,787 visitors. The best attended event was in Winslow, with 327 visitors. Members of the public were able to speak to representatives from Network Rail about any issues they may have had. They were able to provide their feedback on the proposals, which Network Rail is now analysing ahead of submitting a Transport and Works Act Order, which subject to due process gives authority to build the line. It is hoped it will be built and running on the Western Section by the 2020s.

Work is also progressing on linking Bedford to Cambridge, due to be completed in the early 2030s.

Road Safety

Drink Drive – Morning After campaign - Transport for Bucks (TfB) has been promoting the 'Morning After' drink drive media campaign throughout the summer. The campaign used social media to coincide with events such as regattas, weddings and festivals. Thames Valley Police has been conducting roadside breath tests at locations throughout Bucks supported by TfB at checks in at Chalkshire Road, Butlers Cross and Marlow.

Eco – Driving – Following two successful training courses for local driving instructors TfB is offering eco-driving assessments to local businesses and drivers to help reduce fuel costs and collision risks.

Driving for work - A presentation has been developed and delivered to 25 drivers at a local company. The presentation is now available to other organisations and links to eco-driving assessments.

Motorcycling - TfB delivered two successful motorcyclist assessment courses in partnership with Thames Vale Advanced Motorcyclists (TVAM) and will aim to deliver 6 rider assessment days during 2018.

Partnership event – A partnership event was held at Tesco Buckingham with Thames Valley Police (TVP) and Bucks Fire to promote safer driving in advance of TVP enforcement on the A421.

A Road Safety **casualty reduction scheme** at A421 Padbury Road, Thornborough has been completed.

Networks Operations

Pay and Display Tariff Changes

Our pay and display charges have not altered for over a decade, even though the RPI index has increased by 65.6 for the same period.

The Parking Governance Board agreed that the tariffs needed to increase and recommended at its March meeting the range of tariff changes for the County.

The implementation required a Key Decision Report which was signed in early June and became effective from the 16th June. Details can be seen on our website at: <https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=6757>

The effect of the changes is that overall 60% of the tariff locations remain unchanged, 34% increase, largely to reflect the shift in the town centre in High Wycombe, and 6% of the locations have a lower tariff.

The process for implementing the changes is carried out by Notice of Variation under the provisions of the Road Traffic Regulation Act. These are currently being advertised and are due to come into effect on or after the 4th September 2017.

Strategic Highway Maintenance

Carriageway Resurfacing - The three headline treatments associated with the 2017/18 surfacing programme have been confirmed and are progressing well with resurfacing work commencing in April and preparatory patching associated with the surface dressing and micro-surfacing programmes already completed. With the surface dressing programme expected to be completed by the end of September focus will now turn to the delivery of the micro-surfacing treatment.

Design activities associated with the remaining programmes of work continue, with lists of schemes expected to be announced by the end of September.

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

Conventional Resurfacing (including National Productivity Fund Schemes) - 41 schemes are on the 2017/18 programme. Resurfacing work has already commenced with 25 schemes already completed. The remaining schemes are programmed to be completed by the end of November 2017.

Surface Dressing – 26 schemes are on the 2017/18 programme. The preparatory patching and headline treatment activities have now been completed with all lining and studding is expected to be completed by the end of September 2017.

Micro-surfacing – 34 schemes (some including multiple roads) are on the 2017/18 programme. Preparatory patching has now been completed and the headline treatment

activity has commenced. The reinstatement of road markings and ironwork adjustments are expected to be completed by the beginning of December 2017.

Plane and Patch - 4 schemes have already been completed ahead of the main programme of works that is due to commence on site in October/November. A full list of schemes to be delivered as part of the 2017/18 programme is expected to be announced by the end of September.

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. Multiple potholes have already been repaired across the county following the use of the Jetpatcher, a device which cleans out crevices with a blast of high-pressure air before filling them with a mixture of sand and bitumen. Further schemes to be delivered as part of the 2017/18 programme are expected to be announced by the end of September, with work due to commence on site in October/November.

Joint Sealing – A list of schemes to be delivered as part of the 2017/18 programme are expected to be announced by the end of October, with work due to commence on site early in 2018.

Footway Resurfacing

Footway Structural Repairs – 4 schemes have already been completed ahead of the main programme of works that is due to commence on site in October/November. A full list of schemes to be delivered as part of the 2017/18 programme is expected to be announced by the end of September.

Heathrow

The County Council response to the Government consultations on the draft National Policy Statement and on Airspace Change set out that whilst supporting Heathrow expansion, Buckinghamshire is committed to securing all necessary mitigation from Heathrow and Government.

Our current priorities include seeking to secure funding for the Iver Relief Road, supporting rail connections linking High Wycombe to Old Oak Common and public transport to enable residents from all parts of the county to access jobs and apprenticeships at Heathrow and related businesses that will grow with expansion and improved trade links.

On airspace change, new flightpaths must be designed to minimise or remove impacts on currently unaffected communities and southern Buckinghamshire residents and business must have equal treatment in planning respite periods so they know when they won't be affected by aircraft noise.

Freight Strategy

The Transport Strategy team continues work on producing a new Freight Strategy. A public consultation was held in July which received over 1000 responses. Key issues raised were HGVs using inappropriate rural routes, SatNavs, and road safety.

Particular locations of concern include (but not limited to) Ivinghoe, Iver, Denham Green, Waddesdon and Newton Longville. Also in July the team attended three LAFs, and has begun visiting areas to understand local freight issues further.

Analysis is underway with TfB teams to support the production of a freight route network which will inform asset prioritisation. The team will be at the TfB Stakeholder Conference on September 12th to share work to date with Members and Parishes.

Draft transport Development Management Policy – consultation

The Transport Strategy and Highways Development Management teams are working on a draft Development Management Policy. It is intended to help developers create great places and thriving communities - which contribute to the Council's vision for Bucks. It provides developers with the information they need to prepare successful transport proposals.

To ensure the Policy works well, we are holding a public consultation. You can see the draft Policy and take part at:

<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/mgConsultationDisplay.aspx?ID=3290>.

The consultation remains open until 25th of September 2017. Responses will inform a final draft of the Policy, which the Council will consider for adoption later in the year.

Parish Council Conference

The annual Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB) conference will be taking place on Tuesday 12th September at the offices of Aylesbury Vale District Council. Parish and Town Councillors and Clerks and District and County Councillors will attend to discuss transportation service priorities.

The delegates will have an opportunity to 'Be a Highway Authority for the day' at the event and inform Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) how they would prioritise work if it was their responsibility.

There will be ample opportunity for the delegates to spend time with TfB staff and other BCC colleagues as they visit the market stalls which will cover everything through Road surfacing, Parking, Street lighting, Flooding, HS2 construction traffic planning and much more. I will be delighted to open the event.

MARK SHAW
DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORTATION

9c. CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Front Line Visits

Over the summer period I have undertaken a large number of site visits and attended team meetings, and I have enjoyed meeting staff in a variety of locations to better understand the wide range of Children's Services that the County Council offers, and to hear about the challenges that face our staff when dealing with some complex and difficult situations.

In addition to the Fostering Awards and Celebrating Achievement events detailed below, I have attended and visited:

- Fostering recruitment drive at the Buckinghamshire County Show
- Met the frontline Children in Need team in High Wycombe
- Visited the CATCH (Children and Teenager Community Help) Service in High Wycombe
- Met with the Children in Care Team based in High Wycombe
- Visited Merryfields in High Wycombe, a short breaks service for children with disabilities
- Attended a fostering panel
- Met with the Youth Service team
- Visited our children's home and met with staff and the children, listening to their thoughts and ideas over an informal lunch
- Observed a child protection conference in Aylesbury
- Visited an Early Help session with parents and children in Aylesbury
- Had a team meeting with the Aylesbury based Children in Care and Aftercare Social Workers and Personal Advisors
- Met with the Child Protection Team and discussed the many challenges that they face with families in crisis or breakdown
- Met two of our children representatives from the SEND Forum and Youth Voice, who also attended a recent Select Committee to share their views on how we hear their voice as Corporate Parents
- Attended a We Do Care focus group
- Attended the South East Lead Members Forum in London to discuss current issues and government policy

I will be continuing my frontline visits into the autumn.

I have also established the new Children's Partnership Board and held two meetings with a range of our partners. This is a great forum to discuss the issues affecting children's health and wellbeing and other outcomes. As Chair of this partnership I am able to represent the partnership and contribute to the Health and Wellbeing Board and ensure children's issues feature at a strategic partnership level.

Celebration Event for Looked After Children

Around 70 of Buckinghamshire's children in care and care leavers had their achievements celebrated at a special awards event on Wednesday 30 August 2017 which was attended by over 200 guests.

The County Council hosted the annual event, now in its seventh year, which is held to recognise and celebrate the personal, academic and sporting achievements of the county's looked after children and young people leaving care.

Children and young people in care, ranging from babies to young adults, were nominated by carers and other professionals in a number of categories including overcoming difficult circumstances, coping admirably with change and for achievements within education, training or sport.

At the event the audience heard an inspiring speech from a Buckinghamshire care leaver and were also treated to a special performance by rapper and motivational speaker Mikel Ameen. Outside there was a host of different activities for the guests to take part in and be entertained by, including wandering entertainment by the Flying Seagull Project, Green Park's outdoor adventure activities and a chill-out zone for teenagers. A prize draw was held for the children and their families with prizes donated by generous local businesses and organisations.

The County Council holds the celebration event every year to recognise and celebrate achievement among the children in its care and its care leavers.



Foster Carer Awards Ceremony

This year's Foster Carer Annual Awards Evening was held on 8th September 2017. This annual awards ceremony is an evening giving the fostering service an opportunity to celebrate foster carer's achievements and thank them for their valued support of children and young people in Buckinghamshire.

The event was attended by over 100 people including foster carers, their guests and other professionals. Certificates and plaques were awarded to recognise foster carer's achievements throughout the year in the categories of; 'long standing service', 'best newcomer', 'above and beyond', 'services to children with disabilities' and 'outstanding service'. Foster carers were nominated by foster carers, social workers, young people and other professionals.

The 'outstanding social worker' award was presented to a newly qualified social worker for providing exemplary support to young people and families. The event concluded with a raffle of donated prizes and a magician who amazed the audience with tricks.

Corporate Parenting Panel Update September 2017

Corporate Parenting Panel are developing relationships with children and young people and are interested in the role of the care service. It is recognised that involvement from a variety of sources who are affected by the corporate actions and decisions is imperative. Going forward, Corporate Parenting Panel will be attended by representative foster carers, care leavers and Personal Advisors who will update the

panel and advise about the role of the Aftercare Services and important issues for young people leaving care. The Care Service currently works with 205 Care Leavers who are aged 18 + and they are required to guide these young people towards independence up to the age of 25. Some of the outcomes for our Care Leavers are:

- Young people 'staying put' in their foster placement has increased from 22 (January 2017) to 27 (July 2017) which means young people are more supported into education and work opportunities
- The number of young people in suitable accommodation is now at 94%,
- 28 young people are in further education and 13 are in higher education, including one completing a Masters
- We have 67 care leavers aged 18+ who are maintaining their own tenancies.

Ofsted fourth monitoring visit - 25th and 26th July 2017

Ofsted's latest monitoring visit letter has been published, setting out the outcome of their fourth monitoring visit to the County Council which took place in July.

During this visit inspectors looked at:

- progress made in increasing the stability of the social care workforce
- the effectiveness of support for care leavers including governance and quality assurance
- the quality of staff and case supervision within the aftercare service
- the effectiveness of key aspects of the local authority's governance arrangements in supporting the improvement of services for care leavers
- how quality assurance arrangements and performance information assist leaders and managers in overseeing and improving services for care leavers.

In summary, Ofsted's findings were that senior and political leaders work together to prioritise vulnerable children in their strategic plans, and have ensured that quality assurance arrangements and performance data provide them with a much clearer view of frontline practice than at the time of the 2014 inspection.

Inspectors noted sustained progress in important areas, such as an increase in permanent staff in almost all teams, however, they reported that sufficient improvements in the experiences of care leavers were not evident, and practice remains inconsistent. In addition, the corporate parenting panel does not meaningfully engage with care leavers which reduces its effectiveness.

I am pleased that Ofsted inspectors recognised that the County Council is making sustained progress and that we are on the right track with the improvements we are making to our safeguarding services. The inspectors have quite rightly noted some aspects of our work where we need to do better and make changes more quickly. We are already working on these issues and the Council fully commits to doing this. The continued hard work of all our social care staff means that we are on an improving path, however, we need to continue to apply all of our collective efforts to achieve our aim of providing an even better service for all of our children.

The Ofsted monitoring visit letter can be read in full at:

https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/local_authority_reports/buckinghamshire/055_Monitoring%20visit%20of%20LA%20children%27s%20services%20as%20pdf.pdf

Parenting Courses

The Family Resilience Service has successfully completed two parenting programmes for parents of teenagers (10-16 year olds).

The course aims to improve family communication through learning how to listen and de-code what pre-teen/teenagers are really saying or needing. As pre-teen/teenagers develop and change, this course helps to increase parents' knowledge of effective behaviour management skills which will help them feel more in control, yet still sensitively respond to their pre-teen/teenagers psychological, physical and emotional needs. The programme also covers key parental concerns such as drugs, drink, sexual health and aggression in young people. This course is mindful of the parents'/carers' needs and emotions as well as the teenagers.

The course has been positively received by parents and feedback received from those who have completed the course includes:

"I liked the humour, the ability to relax, the understanding and the camaraderie...Lots of good ideas...I feel more confident in having strategies now. Things have 'calmed down' as a result."

"I liked sharing experiences. This helped make me realise I am not the only parent struggling to fit all the pieces together. The facilitators were knowledgeable, their fun and energetic delivery of the programme made sharing the more difficult areas of parenting easier.....I listen more...think before I respond"

"My daughter is happier, I'm happier. There are fewer conflicts..... A more general realisation of what's important and what's not. I have enjoyed the course, both as an experience and the results it delivered. Some of my old ways of doing things even seem comical now."

The Family Resilience Service has two facilitators who have nearly completed their training as trainers for the programme and ten Family Workers who are now trained to roll out delivery of the course to parents over the next few months.

Early Help Consultation

The consultation on a new approach to supporting children and families with early help has been extended until 16 October 2017 and further detail has been added following a mid-consultation review. Available online at www.buckscc.gov.uk/earlyhelp, the consultation seeks feedback on a new way of supporting children and families at an earlier stage to prevent them needing more intensive help from social care services in the future. The consultation which launched on 14 July 2017 has received almost 1900 responses to date.

The consultation outlines proposals for a new approach to helping children and families, to ensure small problems don't get bigger and too difficult to manage. From money worries, parenting tips and behavioural issues right through to support with mental health and domestic abuse - the proposal is to work with families to tackle all of their problems at the same time. This will mean changes to existing early help services that the council deliver or commission, bringing them together to create one service with teams of family workers at nine bases within the local community. This will mean they can reach out to families and work with them at home or in the places they are most

comfortable. This could be a local community venue, their school or a coffee shop. Families will be invited to activities or one to one support and these bases will be used to offer group sessions such as parenting courses and partner led sessions (for example, breastfeeding support run by health visitors) for those who need this support. Other group sessions may be run in other community settings such as schools or village halls, depending on the demand. In the proposed new service, there will not be a 'drop in' option at the new early help bases for children and families.

Proposals for change follow a review of current services supporting children and families and best practice taking place across the country. This highlighted that support isn't always reaching children and families who are most in need of help quickly enough, or in the right ways. It also showed there are many families who get support from a number of organisations but this isn't always joined up.

Executive Director for Children's Services

Tolis Vouyioukas will be starting in his role as Executive Director for Children's Services on Monday 2nd October 2017, although he is already involved with some major work programmes. Gladys Rhodes White will work alongside Tolis until December 2017, to ensure a seamless handover.

Qualified Social Workers

The national shortage of social workers continues to be a key resourcing challenge. Updated actions taken since the report in June 2017 to address the shortage of social workers include:

- A refreshed Newly Qualified Social Worker campaign is about to be launched to replace those candidates now transferring to Qualified Social Worker roles. This program has been very successful in developing a talent pipeline for BCC delivering c.40 candidates in 2016/17 with 3 in pipeline.
- A new campaign to target BCC's hardest to fill Social Workers in Child Protection and Court roles has gone live in August. The campaign uses a mixture of digital, social and traditional techniques and will continue over the next 6 to 8 weeks.
- IR35 legislation regulating the engagement of off payroll agency workers continues to have limited impact on agency Social Workers. There has been no increase in pay rates and numbers remain stable.

In Q1 (Apr to Jun) 2017/18, there have been 13 external new starters in hard to fill QSW roles (excluding agency workers) with 8 in pipeline. There have been 5 voluntary leavers in equivalent period.

In 2016/17 financial year, there were 60 external new starters. There were 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.

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

Metric	Sept 2015 Data	July 2017 Data	Target
% of qualified social workers on an agency contract (includes all agency workers including those covering absence, maternity and perm requirements)	25%	23%	20%
Number of qualified agency social workers in permanent posts in Children's Services (agency workers covering perm posts only)	57	51	27

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

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

9d. CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH & WELLBEING

Dementia Action Alliance

Buckinghamshire Dementia Action Alliance (DAA) group was established consisting of representatives from health, social care, and emergency services. Action plans were submitted by members outlining actions to work towards becoming more Dementia Friendly. A DFC toolkit was developed for businesses and the wider community to support with the set-up of new alliance groups.

The initial pilot sites were Buckingham, Great Missenden, Stokenchurch and locally-led roll-out sites in Burnham and Denham.

The Dementia Action Alliances support local communities to work together and respond more positively towards those individuals living with dementia or memory impairment. They do this by:

- Increasing public awareness and understanding of dementia and memory impairments and how it affects a person's ability to complete daily activities.
- Better supporting individuals living with dementia and memory impairments to continue accessing services, facilities and activities safely and confidently.
- Enabling people living with dementia and memory impairments to remain independent for longer and exercise more choice and control over their lives.
- Encouraging people with dementia and memory impairments and their carers to seek help and support.

Memory Support Service

In addition, a memory support service, jointly commissioned between the CCG's and BCC, provides pre and post diagnostic support for patients with a memory concern, dementia and carers. The service is county wide and every GP practice has a named worker.

Seeleys Respite Service

Seeleys provides residential respite care for vulnerable adults, principally people with learning disabilities. The service was part of Bucks Care which the Council brought back in-house in December 2016. One of the reasons for doing so was the CQC inspection of Seeley's in November 2016 having rated the provision as 'inadequate'.

Since then an improvement plan has been implemented with significant organisational and management changes and staff training. Throughout this period, the Council has maintained close contact with the CQC.

The CQC re-inspected Seeleys at the end of June and, recognising the progress that has been made, has taken the service out of special measures but also highlighted a number of areas where further improvements are needed. As a result, the improvement plan has been refreshed with a strong emphasis on embedding practice improvement, performance management and robust quality assurance.

Sustainability of the social care "market place" in Buckinghamshire

The 2014 Care Act created a new and substantial responsibility for local authorities – to support the stability of the "care market place" and ensure that it provides a range of quality and choice that meets the needs of our residents, regardless of whether their care is being purchased by the Council or the resident themselves. You will know from everything you hear in the media that this is really challenging.

We are doing a lot in Adult Social Care to address this responsibility and ensure people in Buckinghamshire can be confident that they have a choice of good quality care.

I want to take this opportunity to highlight the work done by the Quality In Care Team (QiCT). Jointly funded by BCC and the NHS, QiCT works with care providers in Bucks to help them provide really good quality of care.

QiCT interventions include management support and up-skilling of care staff. The kinds of issues they help with include poor communication and documentation and a lack of understanding of how to make support more personally tailored to meet the needs of the individual and their family.

This year the Quality in Care Team (QiCT) has:

- Assisted the first 'Outstanding' CQC rated home in Buckinghamshire
- Run 30 workshops in falls assessment to reduce A&E admissions from care homes
- Created a focus on dementia through
 - Dementia workshops
 - Dementia Passport
 - 25% increase in diagnosis of dementia and depression in care homes
- Run 38 wellbeing workshops
- Run the "My Home Life" programme for 25 care home managers
- Created and run 64 study days involving 651 care home staff
- Saved £43,000 in pharmacy costs in 4 care homes
- Dealt with 246 referrals for assistance

In doing this, the team has worked with 66 different organisations and 75 care homes which represent 70% of the county's care home beds (a total of 3,062 beds). It is a massive programme of work. One example of impact is that the 3 Care Homes which took part in the QiCT My Home Life programme and have now received 'Outstanding' in the 'well-led' category of CQC inspection.

We have also established a regular forum for care home providers in Bucks – the first meeting was at the end of July – so that we can have a direct dialogue, share issues and collaboratively work on solutions.

And lastly, one of our home care providers – Simply Together – went into administration in July. Adult Social Care has worked hard to make sure that all of the clients that we provided Home Care to through Simply Together were transferred to one of our other accredited providers. Working with our providers, we sought to minimise any possible disruption with many of our clients continuing to receive their care from the same staff.

**LIN HAZELL
CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH & WELLBEING**

9e. CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Unite Ambassadors Scheme

We are delighted with the news that the Youth Service has been awarded €127,530 (£117,096) from the Erasmus+ Program to create, pilot and publish the Unite Ambassadors Scheme within schools working in partnership with six partners across Europe, including Lauriston School in Buckinghamshire.

Unite Ambassadors aims to build an online scheme to help foster cohesion, social education and inclusion within schools and is led by a trained and accredited team of peer ambassadors, providing a greater understanding and responsiveness to social, ethnic, linguistic and cultural diversity which will be beneficial within education and surrounding communities.

Virtual School Update September 2017

The Virtual School is a multi-disciplinary team based in New County Offices, Aylesbury whose aim is to raise the educational achievement and school attendance of children in care to Buckinghamshire including those who are placed outside of Buckinghamshire.

The Virtual School delivered an excellent Annual Multiagency Conference this year for foster carers, social workers, designated teachers and Buckinghamshire County Council colleagues. There were close to 100 attendees, 67 of whom gave detailed feedback. 66 of that 67 thought Dr Margot Sunderland, the Director of Training at The Centre for Child Mental Health was an excellent and knowledgeable speaker on child development linked to managing behaviour.

Additional training has been delivered to foster carers, newly qualified teachers, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and the Pupil Referral Unit.

Two A level students have recently achieved excellent results of AAC and BBD, enabling them to attend their universities of choice (Birmingham and West of England respectively). Both were supported to attend grammar schools and have benefited from long term support from the Virtual School.

Two older pupils have just graduated from university; one received a 2:1 from Oxford and the other a good degree in mental health nursing. The latter is already employed and is looking forward to a good career after returning to education following a very poor start to adult life.

A young person who came into our care as an unaccompanied asylum seeking child from Eritrea has just graduated from the University of East London with a 2:1 in Sociology and Criminology and is hoping to study for their Masters. This student had to work very hard with the Virtual School to gain their English qualifications to enable them to progress.

Another former pupil has just graduated with a 2:1 in Psychology and has secured a job in Bedford prison service. The young person worked against the odds for their GCSE exams which was sat at the Virtual School classroom in Amersham whilst they were living in a residential unit in Wiltshire. The student recently did an inspirational talk at the celebration event for looked after children.

Adult Learning Update September 2017

Over the summer, Adult Learning has received the results for its English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provision in both Wycombe and Aylesbury. These are very challenging courses with 200 students in all attending; overall they achieved a fantastic pass rate of 93.5%. This is a great accomplishment for these students and is a significant help to them in progressing their lives.

Ofsted Good News

This summer term was a busy but positive one for school inspections. The inspection results most recently published were carried out in May and all the schools listed maintained their 'Good' Ofsted rating.

Well done to the staff, students and Governors of: The Chalfonts Community College, The Misbourne School, Broughton Junior School, Great Marlow School and Robertswood School.

New Headteachers' Programme

Buckinghamshire County Council is working closely with the Buckinghamshire Association of School Leaders (BASL) to support the new Headteachers who will be starting in the county this month.

Those new to headship or new to Buckinghamshire have already received the fully revised Handbook for New Headteachers and received letters of introduction from their School Liaison Officers. In October, the Schools Team is organising an induction day for the new Headteachers where they will have the opportunity to find out more about the role of the Local Authority and the teams within the Council that work with and support schools.

Buckinghamshire County Show

Buckinghamshire County Council Family Information Service (BFIS) and Early Years Commissioning held a joint stall at the recent County Show. Over 100 families made contact and the following enquiries about early years have progressed:

- 73 families including 1 Councillor asking for clarification about 30 hour places for young children as they were hearing different information in the press which was conflicting and they were not sure how to progress. Positive outcomes resulted from all enquiries.
- 1 enquiry for support to set up a group for children aged 0-5 with SEN.
- 4 enquiries from people looking to become a childminders.
- 3 childminders enquiring to offer free 2, 3 & 4 year old education places.
- 14 families enquiring about two year old places.
- Sharing information with the Care Team for looked after children to support children to access a two year old funded place.

Key Stage 2 Results

The Department of Education released provisional 2017 Key Stage 2 results on 31 August. These showed that:

- 63% of Buckinghamshire pupils reached the expected standard in all of reading, writing and mathematics compared to 61% nationally. Buckinghamshire results increased by 6 percentage points from 2016.

- 10% of Buckinghamshire pupils reached the higher standard or were working at greater depth across all of reading, writing and mathematics. This is an increase of 3 percentage points from 2016. Nationally, 9% of pupils achieved this benchmark.
- Results in all individual subjects increased at both the expected and higher standard. Of particular note is the increase in writing teacher assessment results at the expected standard, which increased by 5 percentage points in Buckinghamshire compared to the 2 percentage point increase seen nationally. This brings Buckinghamshire results in line with national averages, having been below national in 2016.

MIKE APPLEYARD
CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND SKILLS

9f. CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PUBLIC HEALTH

Arts Council England funding for the Buckinghamshire County Museum Trust

Recently, Arts Council England announced their new National Portfolio for 2018-22. In all, 831 organisations will receive a total of £1.6 billion over four years for 844 projects. The good news for Buckinghamshire is that the County Museum Trust was one of the organisations who successfully applied for some of this funding.

The Museum Trust is one of Buckinghamshire County Council's thriving Alternative Delivery Vehicles, delivering museum services on behalf of the local authority. National Portfolio Organisation status for the Museum Trust means that the Trust has been awarded £400k over four years and this money will enable them to build audiences, reaching out to people who do not currently visit the museum or are aware of its wider offering. The funding will start next year at which point the museum will be able to recruit additional posts to start exciting new projects for residents to engage with.

Trading Standards

A local builder has been jailed for 22 months for Fraud Act offences committed in the Aylesbury area after being investigated by the Trading Standards Service. He has also been banned from being a company director for 10 years. Graham Thorne of Lavelle Building Co took thousands of pounds for building work that he did not undertake. Following conviction, the Court also agreed a timetable for hearings under The Proceeds of Crime Act.

A long running case reached its conclusion in the summer with a national double glazing company, Zenith Staybright Ltd, being fined £80,000 for 10 'unfair commercial practice' offences to which the company had pleaded guilty to in July 2016.

Following a successful bid to host the National Trading Standards Scams Team, work is now underway to move the team from their current hosting arrangements into the service. The National Trading Standards Scams Team is funded from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) through National Trading Standards to help tackle mass marketing scams and disrupt the operations of perpetrators behind mail scams. It works in partnership with agencies across England and Wales to identify and support victims of mass marketing fraud. The team provides guidance, best practice and establishes a centre of excellence to assist local authorities in supporting local victims and taking local enforcement action.

In addition to the positive reputational impact of being chosen to host a national team, we are confident that the arrangements will also further strengthen our local approach to people targeted by scams.

NOEL BROWN
CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH

9g. CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES

Digital and Social Media Advertising Strategies

Proactive advertising & marketing strategies launched in 2016 / 17 continue to be improved in 2017/18. Key successes include the following stats for website performance which compare favourably with benchmarked sites:

- Website visitors have been increasing significantly quarter on quarter. Number of visitors in Q1 2017/18 are up by 42% (67,422 unique visitors) compared to the same period in 2016/17.
- Website indicators remain strong: users are visiting on average 5 pages and spending just under 4 minutes per visit

Continued activity is important to refresh and develop the careers website and maintain its position in the organic Google rankings. This means that BCC careers website is generally 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 or remain stable;

Search term	Google (organic) ranking Q1 (16/17)	Google (organic) ranking Q2 (16/17)	Google (organic) ranking Q3 (16/17)	Google (organic) ranking Q4 (16/17)	Google (organic) ranking Q1 (17/18)
Buckinghamshire jobs	2 nd	1 st	1 st	1 st	1 st
bucks council jobs	1 st	1 st	1 st	1 st	1 st
teaching jobs bucks	1 st	1 st	1 st	1 st	1 st
Social care jobs bucks	5 th	3 rd	4 th	4 th	3 rd

Supplier and Contract Management

The council spends around £292m on goods, works and services with third parties, which accounts for around 70% of our budget. This makes effective management of our contracts and suppliers crucial to ensuring good quality services and achieving value for money. The council's internal audit team has recently undertaken a review of contract management practice across the organisation, sampling 20 contracts across the organisation and assessing them against 11 themes, including governance, risk management and market development.

The review revealed some areas of very good practice across the council and some areas for improvement. The findings of the review have been organised into an improvement plan which has been approved by the Corporate Management Team and Regulatory & Audit Committee. The plan will be delivered over 12 months, with a 6 month update in February 2018.

Part of the improvement plan is further investment in the behaviours and skills of those involved in contract management. Training of different types will be made available at all levels in the organisation to relevant individuals, from frontline contract managers to Executive Directors and Members.

JOHN CHILVER
CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES

9h. CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

Environment

Oversees major archaeological investigations and finds

This summer major archaeological excavations have been taking place overseen by the archaeologists in the Council's TEE Environment Team. We advise councils and developers on archaeological matters; where development affects archaeological remains these are either preserved in situ or recorded by excavation. The results feed back into our Historic Environment Record, which contains details of all known heritage features in the county.

The £8.5m (of which the Council is contributing £1.25m) Marlow Flood Alleviation Scheme is currently being constructed. This involves the creation of a large flood storage lake on a site with at least three Bronze Age burial mounds on this site, which will be preserved. Excavations within the lake area have so far discovered an extensive Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement including a burial, a trackway and cooking pits containing 3,000 year-old bone and charred acorns. In addition at a quarry site in Taplow a large Iron Age and Roman ladder settlement has been found (the original ribbon development). This is an extensive Roman settlement and farmsteads with burials, kilns, wells and corn driers.

TVP Police Commissioner praises BCC fly-tipping enforcement

Anthony Stansfeld, Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley has written to all Local Authority Chief Executives in the Thames Valley area praising the excellent work of Buckinghamshire County Council's enforcement team in investigating and prosecuting fly-tipping offenders. He noted that last year following over 60 successful prosecutions the team recouped £59,378 in fines (these go to the Treasury) and £75,422 in costs and urged other authorities investing in a similar resource. He noted that the benefits in tackling this problem and the cost effectiveness of employing such teams are evident from Buckinghamshire's experience. The letter followed a presentation by a representative from BCC Planning and Enforcement Team to the Thames Valley Rural Crime Partnership meeting in July.

Flood Management

£245,000 Flood Defence Equipment given first 'dry run'

Flood defenders turned out on Saturday to test-drive £245,000 worth of emergency equipment designed to protect the vulnerable Willows estate in Aylesbury. The 'dry run' by the 30-strong Willows Flood Deployment Force aimed to test the equipment and train the team.

The day, organised by Buckinghamshire County Council Flood Management Team is a milestone in the recovery from the February 2014 flash floods in Aylesbury, in which 79 properties in the Willows estate suffered from flood damage.

Although the 79 households were offered £5,000 compensation to protect against future flooding, the possibility of future flood damage to more houses should the river burst its bank was seen as too much of a risk. This led the Residents Flood Committee, led by Gary Wade, to pool the money to buy equipment that would protect all 450 households in the estate.

Delivered in January 2016, the equipment includes around half a mile of emergency flood barrier, which works with six pumps that can shift the equivalent of 120 bath tubs of water in a minute.

County Councillor Steve Lambert said: "I am delighted that the first 'dry-run' of the equipment went so well. All of the residents can rest assured knowing that some of the best equipment is in place to protect them".

Bill Chapple OBE, Cabinet Member for Planning and the Environment said: "Since the disaster in 2014, the Willows community has shown an amazing level of community spirit. To pool all the government granted compensation together to protect all 450 households is a real testament to the community of the Willows estate."

The Willows Flood Deployment Force is made up of County, District and Town Councillors, Council officers and members of the 20-strong Bucks and Oxon Response Group who used their four-wheel drive vehicles to move the defences from the County Council's Griffin Lane Depot to the Willows estate.



Bucks and Oxfordshire Response Group, County and District Councillors, Council officers and Residents at the event.



Bucks and Oxfordshire Response Group, County and District Councillors, Council officers and Residents with the pump.

Waste Management

Redevelopment work at High Heavens Waste Complex

Buckinghamshire County Council has the statutory duty to dispose of the waste produced by householders across the County. In 2016-17, that amounted to nearly

250,000 tonnes of waste, not all directly handled by the County Council, but still representing a huge challenge. This figure highlights the need to always look ahead and future proof the service preparing for housing growth, legislation changes whilst continuing to meet and understand what our customers need. We are always looking to ensure our waste infrastructure is resilient and ready for the new challenges ahead.

The High Heavens Waste Complex is in High Wycombe, has been part of the county's waste infrastructure for over 50 years. Most residents will largely be aware of the Household Recycling Centre (HRC) on the complex. During autumn 2017, there are two separate development proposals which will be moving through the planning process at the complex. Both looking to ensure the complex can continue to provide the County with excellent waste management facilities to handle the various waste streams we produce:

- 1st phase - Remediation works
- 2nd phase - Bio-Waste Transfer Station

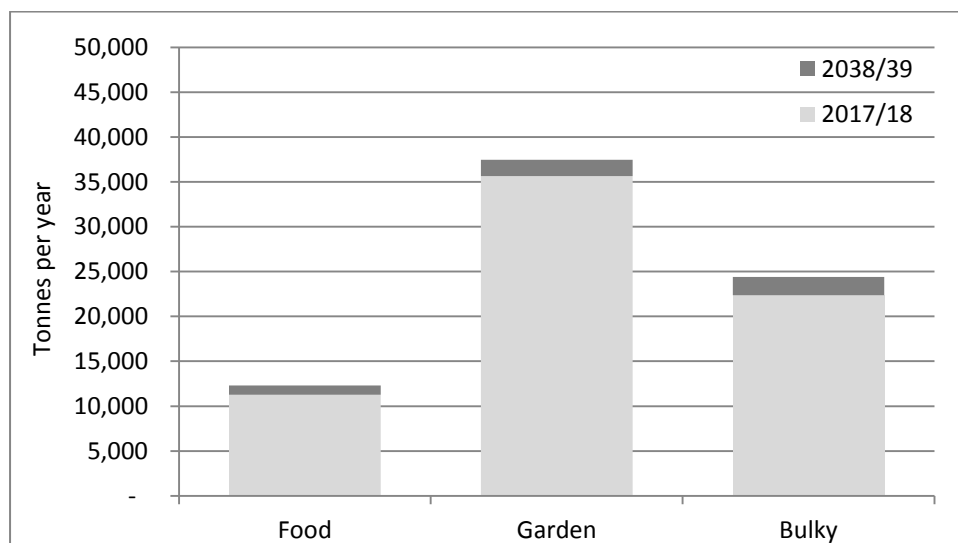
Exhibition events for the 2nd phase will be held at Christ the Servant King, on the corner of Cressex Road and Sycamore Road, HP12 4TJ as follows:

Thursday 28th Sep – 5-9pm,
Friday 29th Sep – 9am-5pm
Thursday 5th Oct – 5-9pm
Friday 6th Oct – 9am-5pm

Key facts:

The County Council is the minerals and waste planning authority and both applications will be managed through the Councils independent democratic development control process.

The overall tonnage currently managed on site is below, with the expected total with population growth the total tonnage expected by 2038/39 included.



Country Parks

Go Ape Nets Kingdom – Black Park Country Park

After a hectic spring spent constructing a brand new £500,000 tree top adventure, Go Ape's first Nets Kingdom opened at Black Park Country Park at the end of July. The

new course comprising of a series of tree top trampoline style nets, walk ways, tree houses and slides opened to great public acclaim on Friday 22nd July. The Nets Kingdom allows families to explore the woodland from huge nets suspended 9 metres up in the canopy of some spectacular trees. Go Ape at Black Park activities now includes Tree Top Adventure, Tree Top Junior, Forest Segways and Forest Bikes attracting over 51,000 visitors during the 2016/17 financial year it is hoped that the new Nets Kingdom will attract a further 15,000 visitors.

Growth

Draft Bucks Minerals and Waste Local Plan

The Council is in the process of reviewing its adopted local plan policies for minerals and waste. This is to ensure we continue to have an up to date plan in line with government guidance. We are doing this by preparing a new comprehensive Minerals and Waste Local Plan. We are now at a key stage where a draft of the proposed new Minerals and Waste Local Plan is being consulted on at <https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/mgConsultationDisplay.aspx?ID=3285>.

The County Council welcomes comments and observations on this Draft Plan for Consultation, the consultation will run from Wednesday 3 August to Wednesday 27 September 2017. Full documentation and the opportunity to respond to the survey can be found on the Council's website. Alternatively, further information on the consultation can be obtained from the Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Team mineralswastepolicy@buckscc.gov.uk

Bucks Strategic Infrastructure Plan

Buckinghamshire County Council is taking a positive approach to planning for growth in Buckinghamshire both in the delivery of services and strategic infrastructure investment. Cabinet recently agreed a report which set out the progress so far on the preparation of a non-statutory Bucks Strategic Infrastructure Plan (BSIP) see <https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?AllId=55463> for more details.

The decision included agreement on phase 1 spatial principles which are based on the County Council's Strategic Plan outcomes (2017-2020). The BSIP is intended to set out the County Council's position on growth in relation to County Council services and strategic infrastructure investments. The County Council is working with the Districts on the development of the Bucks Strategic Infrastructure Plan and recently held a number of workshops with County Council officers and Members. A further report on the BSIP is expected once more clarity over decision-making for strategic infrastructure investment has been reached.

District Local Plan timescales

Buckinghamshire County Council continues to work with the Districts on their Local Plans, County Council Members and officers continue to meet over the coming weeks and months. However the timetable for all the District Local Plans has been delayed:

- Draft Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) - A joint Aylesbury Vale District Council and Buckinghamshire County Council Members meeting will be held on 20th September to discuss. The timetable for preparing the VALP has been extended to ensure that all essential evidence is in place, before submission in October. The proposed submission plan will be considered by VALP Scrutiny on 26 September, Cabinet on 10 October and Council on 18 October. The plan will then be published for public comment, before being submitted for independent examination in January - two months later than previously publicised. The plan, which will help to accommodate national growth demand, allows for around

27,000 new homes in the Vale by 2033 – around half of this housing requirement is either already completed or has planning permission.

- Draft Wycombe Local Plan – the timetable for the Wycombe Local Plan has also slipped a couple of months. The proposed submission plan will be considered by Wycombe District Council in September 2017 ahead of six weeks consultation in October. The plan is expected to be submitted in March 2018 to the Planning Inspectorate with hearings expected in June / July 2018. Wycombe District Council expects to adopt the Wycombe District Local Plan in early 2019.
- Draft Chiltern and South Bucks Local Plan – the timetable has also slipped. The Councils will be considering a report at their 7th November 2017 Joint Committee which is expected to review the Local Development Scheme (officers anticipate recommending that the Draft Plan consultation stage is revised from October/November 2017 to March/April 2018). More detail is available on their website at:

<http://www.southbucks.gov.uk/planning/localplan2014-2036>

Aylesbury Garden Town

The proposal for an Aylesbury Garden Town was a joint initiative between Aylesbury Vale District Council, Buckinghamshire County Council, South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership and Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership. A project working group has been meeting over the summer to maintain momentum and the first meeting of a Shadow Board is planned in September. Mark Kemp and I are the County Council representatives on the Shadow Board and officers from the Growth, Strategy & Highways team are involved with the project working group. More details to follow in the next update.

BILL CHAPPLE
CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

