

# County Council



## Cabinet Member Reports

### 10a. REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

#### **Technology and Digital Award**

I would like to congratulate Cllr John Chilver on winning the Technology and Digital Award at the eighth annual awards ceremony for the 2017 Councillor Achievement Awards. John was selected for his outstanding work being a digital inclusion champion and leading projects that improve digital infrastructure and education. In particular, his work chairing the Paperless Board for councillors as well as the Resource Business Unit Board and being a member of the Customer Information & Digital Board.

Through the Paperless Board, John promoted paperless meetings and helped transition councillors to using iPads, rather than paper for meetings, saving the Council £17,000. He has improved accessibility for residents by changing the way they access services, including the 'find my child a school place' project. The work of councillors often goes unrecognised and it is great to see John acknowledged for his dedication. It highlights what an instrumental role councillors play in making our communities places where we all want to live.

#### **Brexit**

The Council's Brexit preparations continue to progress with significant work undertaken over the past few months, including regularly refreshing data and analysis for EU nationals in BCC employment and continuing ongoing conversations with suppliers regarding workforce planning. Working in partnership with the Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership (BTVLEP), the Council has also produced detailed analysis of Buckinghamshire's workforce, imports and exports by sector, with further in-depth analysis currently underway.

At a national level, we have continued to collaborate with partners and have shared our work with South East Strategic Leaders, the Local Government Association and Department for Communities and Local Government. This has been received positively resulting in the Council being cited by the LGA as an example of best practice in preparing for Brexit.

As part of our engagement with businesses and partners, we will be holding a Brexit Summit on the 8th of December, where Steve Baker MP, Minister at the Department for Exiting the EU will deliver a keynote speech and take questions from the audience. This event will be an opportunity to share research and best practice across the public and private sectors, and explore the local implications of Brexit, ensuring the best possible outcome for Buckinghamshire.

More information can be found in the monthly Buckinghamshire Policy Bulletin sent out to all Members, which includes a regular section on Brexit and how the Council is progressing with preparations.

## **Growth Strategy**

Cabinet supported the Buckinghamshire Growth Strategy 2017 to 2050 at its meeting on 23rd October 2017. The strategy was prepared by BTVLEP with the co-operation of all of the Buckinghamshire Local Authorities, with the exception of Aylesbury Vale District Council who have preferred to direct current dialogue with government and the National Infrastructure Commission through alternative routes.

The Growth Strategy is looking to capitalise on Buckinghamshire's geographic advantages and easy reach of Britain's expanding gateway at Heathrow, to create a melting pot for innovation and research to complement the global city of London and those seats of learning at Oxford and Cambridge that top the world rankings. This growth will be driven by technical innovation, embracing the latest digital technologies to provide the conditions for smart new integrated and connected communities to thrive, complementing and reinvigorating our major towns to create dynamic locations where individuals and businesses will aspire to invest.

## **Broadband**

The Connected Counties project (a project delivering broadband across Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire) phase 1 was completed in 2016. The Buckinghamshire element of the project involved Buckinghamshire County Council, TVLEP, Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) and BT. Originally estimated to achieve some 20% take up, phase 1 of the project has significantly over performed with most recent figures around 50%. The additional take up results in a share of the monetary benefit and in the summer of 2016, with take up at 36% BCC, BTVLEP agreed to reinvest this 16% share into further roll out of Broadband. The BCC and BTVLEP contribution to the next phase of the contract is £869,000 and when added to the delivery of phase 1 and district contributions to phase 2 we are anticipating achieving a coverage in excess of 96% by the time the contract with BT and BDUK comes to an end in 2023.

## **High Speed 2 Update**

### **Community & Environment Fund (CEF) and Business & Local Economy Fund (BLEF)**

To date, 11 applications for funding have been submitted from Buckinghamshire parishes and groups, of which 10 are to CEF and 1 to BLEF. In total across both funding streams 38 applications have been submitted for Phase One. We hosted an event on 12 October for Parish Councils to get more information about applying to the funds. The first awards will be announced before the end of this year.

## **Hillingdon Outdoor Activities Centre (HOAC) relocation**

HS2 Ltd/Department for Transport will now provide the London Borough of Hillingdon with £26.5m to implement the relocation of HOAC and they have approached BCC to progress delivery of the centre at New Denham Quarry. The relocation must be completed by 16 August 2020.

## **Complaints data for Buckinghamshire**

BCC's HS2 Communications lead officer met with David Gloster, HS2 Ltd's new Head of Public Response, on 6 October 2017. We repeated our ask for complaints statistics which HS2 Ltd is reviewing. They have since provided an initial report showing all contact which will be developed.

## **Enabling Works**

These are currently ongoing including environmental and archaeological surveys in preparation for works including utility diversions scheduled for early 2018 in the Calvert area. Habitat Creation Sites (sites to relocate protected species currently located along the proposed route) are programmed from January to March 2018. Works to construct

the temporary M25 slip roads near Chalfont St Peter is progressing quickly to allow access to the construction site on Chalfont Lane. The Council has received a formal request to approve a new temporary junction on Shire Lane to provide access to a new temporary link road to facilitate the closure of Chalfont Lane. The majority of the temporary link road is within Hertfordshire and Herts CC has received an application for consent to undertake associated works on Chalfont lane together with the new link road and junction with Hornhill Road. Commencement on site by the Main Works Contractors is planned for April 2019.

#### Heathrow Express (HEX) Depot

The Heathrow Express Depot is currently located on the Old Oak Common site in west London. In order to redevelop the Old Oak Common site for a HS2 terminus, the HEX Depot has to be relocated. The preferred relocation site has been identified by DfT as at Langley. This has knock-on traffic impacts for The Ivers during construction and makes delivery of the preferred Iver Relief Road alignment more technically complicated, due to the need to design around additional rail infrastructure. We have been seeking clarification from DfT that the project is still to go ahead and they have offered us a meeting in December/January.

#### 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.

England's Economic Heartland had a very successful two days exhibiting at the Highways UK Conference at the NEC on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> November. Highways UK is a major event bringing together those responsible for the planning, designing, building, maintaining, operating and future-proofing of the UK's road network. I spoke on 'Unpicking the Infrastructure Investment Strategy and interfaces across the Strategic Road Network and local and major roads networks' on the first day of the conference which was then followed by a discussion panel which included Tricia Hayes, Director General, Roads, Devolution and Motoring, DfT.

In September the Strategic Transport Forum published its position on strategic road investment priorities for the region. It is essential that future strategic road investment support the Government's commitment to enable the Heartland's economic potential. The paper sets out priorities for future Government funding rounds, including: commitments such as the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet scheme are delivered in full; investment priorities identified as a result of the strategic studies (i.e., expressway, A1 East of England, M25 southwest quadrant) are taken forward into delivery and additional investment priorities are determined on a joint basis between Highways England and the Strategic Transport Forum.

The Forum will be responding to the East Midlands Rail Franchise consultation, calling on the Department for Transport to revisit its proposals as a matter of urgency and work

closely with us so that they better reflect both the pressures and ambition that exist across the Heartland. The Forum also submitted initial views to help shape the UK's future aviation strategy.

In parallel with the work on physical infrastructure, a key aim of the Heartland is to improve the region's digital infrastructure. EEH are looking into commissioning a study to examine what the constraints are on digital connectivity, the prevalence of so-called 'not spots' in mobile and 3G/ 4G reception and possible solutions. The Strategic Alliance is also meeting with mobile phone providers to examine how the Heartland could work in partnership with them to improve digital connectivity. This includes how digital infrastructure can be installed at the same time as physical infrastructure such as road and rail is built.

### **Health and Wellbeing Board**

The Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) agreed a performance dashboard at its last meeting on 7 November. The dashboard is a tool for the board to seek assurance on the progress against the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy outcomes and will enable the Board to identify the themes and priorities where the Board can collectively take action. The Board will receive its first dashboard analysis report looking at the areas where Buckinghamshire is an outlier at its January meeting.

The Board also welcomed a presentation from Jenny Baker, CEO of Healthwatch on their Annual report and the impact of Healthwatch's work in 2017 and priorities going forward in 2018. The Board explored how we can utilise the work that Healthwatch carry out to make sure that the collective voice of people using health and social care services is heard at Health and Wellbeing Board meetings.

The Board agreed for the 2018 Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) formal 60 day consultation to start on 13 November. The PNA is a statutory responsibility of the Board and assesses the need for community pharmacies, and the services that they are commissioned to deliver. It is used by NHS England as a part of the market entry process, as well as by Buckinghamshire County Council and the Clinical Commissioning Groups to inform commissioning decisions.

I was delighted to be able to welcome partners to the health and social care integration 'Big Tent' stakeholder event on 16 November. The keynote speech was provided by Duncan Selbie, CEO of Public Health England who provided a national perspective on the integration agenda. There was then opportunity to hear from local leaders about Buckinghamshire's Accountable Care System, our shared priorities and what this will mean in practice. The event was well attended by health and social care providers and commissioners from across the county, voluntary and community sector organisations, patient groups and county, district and parish councillors. It was a valuable opportunity to explore together how we can innovatively change the way that health and social care services are delivered in future, to improve local people's health and wellbeing. Learning will be fed back to the Health and Wellbeing Board and partnership governance boards to shape planning for health and care integration programmes in the future.

### **National representation**

As part of my role of Chair of LGA's Economy, Environment, Housing and Transport Board, Lord Porter and I met Secretary of State for Transport Chris Grayling on the 25<sup>th</sup> October. The meeting was an opportunity to stress the importance of working together to provide our residents, communities and businesses a better and more effective transport system. We spoke of driving efficiencies and supporting innovation through

streamlining investment, delivering a road network that supports the modern industrial strategy and the importance of public transport that serves everyone. Whilst these are national issues, it was a useful opportunity to use local examples and highlight the county's needs.

**MARTIN TETT**  
**LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

## **10b. DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORTATION**

### **East West Railway**

The East West Rail Alliance, which is made up of Network Rail and its delivery partners, continues to consider the representations it received during the summer's consultation on the Western Section Phase Two (from Bicester to Bedford, and Milton Keynes to Aylesbury) and is revising its plans as appropriate. The Consortium is working with the Alliance to ensure that the impact of construction on local communities is minimised wherever possible.

The ambition remains for the Oxford to Bedford line to be in operation by 2022, and the Aylesbury to Milton Keynes link to be open by 2024. The first construction work took place in August, with the creation of environmental ponds in Launton, which will provide new homes for Great Crested Newts. Work on environmental mitigation is being carried out ahead of the main construction to allow the new habitats as much time as possible to bed in.

Network Rail has appointed a Social Value Manager, Danny Miller, to oversee East West Rail's employment, education and volunteering initiatives. Danny's work will include visiting places such as primary and secondary schools, colleges, universities and prisons, to teach rail safety and science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) skills, while inspiring young people to choose a career in the industry and offering local job opportunities and apprenticeships. Danny will also be promoting supply chain opportunities to local businesses.

### **Road Safety**

#### **Casualty reduction schemes**

The Network Safety Team implements an annual programme of road safety engineering schemes in order to reduce the number of people injured on Buckinghamshire roads. These locations are identified through collision analysis and investigation to prioritise sites that have the highest incidence of reported injury collisions, both in number and severity.

Two sites have recently been completed as part of the 2017/18 programme;

#### **A4020 Oxford Road, New Denham**

Collision data showed a number of injury collisions were occurring outside KFC drive-through. Red surfacing under the central line marking and slow markings to highlight the lane designation have been installed to improve driver discipline and raise awareness of potential turning vehicles. Also yellow backing has been added to the 30mph limit signage.

#### **A413 Amersham Road/London Road at Great Missenden**

Collision data showed a number of collisions had occurred resulting in serious injuries. As a result a Vehicle Activated Sign and 'Slow' markings have been introduced together with red surfacing under the cross hatchings to highlight the junction.

### **Road Safety Education Schemes**

**Eco-driving assessments** - Eco-driving assessments have been delivered to a number of high mileage staff within Transport for Buckinghamshire. The focus of the assessments is to reduce MPG through better anticipation and planning which helps to

produce a safer, smoother drive. To date a 10% reduction in MPG has been achieved. These assessments are subsidised by The Energy Savings Trust, making it a very cost effective way to deliver driver training. Local businesses are beginning to request Eco-driving assessments for their drivers.

**Winter driving workshops** - Have been organised across the county for November and December with new venues in Buckingham and Gerrards Cross. Bucks Fire and Rescue have provided the venues and GEM Motoring Assist is offering maintenance checks. Two workshops have already been delivered to staff at the Epilepsy Society, Chalfont St Peter.

**Safe Drive Stay Alive** –Campaign is in its twelfth year and will reach new and pre-drivers in an emotive and hard-hitting way, influencing behaviour and attitude on the roads. SDSA is delivered to schools and colleges at the Wycombe Swan through has 6 performance on 13, 14, 15 November 2017 is underway with all the performances at High Wycombe almost fully subscribed with over 5000 students booked.

**Older Driver Week** during October consisted of a presentation to The Breatheasy Group, a Social media campaign, promotion via Doctors Surgery screens and news releases. The main aim of the week was promoting the need to have regular checks (medical and driving assessments) to make sure drivers are fit to drive. I have conducted a radio interview with Wycombe sound.

**Tyre Safety month** was during October and was promoted via social media and press releases.

## **Networks Operations**

### **Parking Issues**

Businesses in Cressex Business Park have been invited to apply for Business Parking Permits as part of a pilot scheme in the area. Pay and Display (P&D) machines have been installed around the business park as part of a wider scheme to better manage parking. This was in response to complaints over parking, safety and access issues from businesses and the Local Member, Councillor Lesley Clarke OBE. The overall scheme will be implemented with an experimental Traffic Order, and interested parties are invited to make their views known on the Have Your Say pages of the BCC website.

A public drop-in session will be held at the Liston Hall, Marlow, for the public, local businesses and stakeholders. This is part of the ongoing consultation over proposals to introduce new parking restrictions and paid parking on-street in Marlow.

### **Parking 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 be reviewed. A Key Decision Report was signed in early June by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transportation and became effective from the 16th June. Details can be seen on our website here:

<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=6757>

Overall 60% of the charges remain unchanged, with 34% increasing, largely to reflect the shift in the town centre in High Wycombe. 6% of locations now have a lower tariff. Some locations in High Wycombe have had the allowed stay extended as a result of the review.

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 at the end of November 2017.

### **Strategic Highway Maintenance**

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 shortly.

## **Heathrow Expansion**

Government consulted on a draft National Policy Statement (NPS) between February and May 2017. The County Council submitted a response to the consultation, which following a County Council vote in April 2017, supported expansion subject to Heathrow Airports Limited (HAL) and Government providing appropriate mitigation for local Buckinghamshire residents and business, particularly those in the Iver area. A [second round of consultation closes on 19 December.](#)

A current Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) consultation is seeking views on the general impact of aviation noise. Members with parishes and residents affected by aircraft noise either due to their proximity to airports or in quiet locations which are affected by the flight paths may want to respond to the [CAA consultation](#). The consultation closes on 5 January 2018.

HAL are currently developing their planning application under the 2008 Planning Act, known as a Development Consent Order (DCO), which will be considered by a set of independent Examiners appointed by the Planning Inspectorate. HAL are working towards DCO approval in 2021 and construction of the third runway by the mid- 2020s. 2030 is the potential date when airport reconfiguration will be complete and the expansion will enable 130 million passengers per annum through the airport and a planned doubling of freight and trade.

## **Draft transport Development Management Policy**

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 through the existing planning process.

We recently completed a public consultation. Officers are analysing the responses received and developing the plan based on this feedback. We are also working with district colleagues to ensure the guidance aligns well with their plans.

**MARK SHAW**  
**DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORTATION**

## **10c. CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES**

### **Apprenticeship Training Strategy**

There have been significant changes in Apprenticeship training as part of central government reforms and their stated commitment to achieve 3 million new apprenticeship starts by 2020. All large employers are required to pay into the new Apprenticeship levy from April 2017 and Bucks CC administers a single levy account of circa £1.06 million giving access to apprenticeship training opportunities for all BCC service areas including maintained schools.

Local authorities have an additional duty with regard to the new Public Sector target for new apprenticeship starts of 2.3 % of headcount. For non-schools staff, this means a target of 63 to be achieved through our ongoing recruitment of New Talent Apprentices at entry level and enrolling existing staff on apprenticeship training relevant to their role and career progression. At this half-way point in the year, we have achieved 45 new apprenticeship starts and we are on track to exceed the target by year end.

### **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 £2.737bn at 30 June 2017. The Fund, excluding private equity investments, achieved a return net of fees of 16.4% outperforming its benchmark return of 13.8% by 2.6% in the year to 30 June 2017. Market swings are anticipated in coming months reflecting the large uncertainties involved, which may well give rise to some opportunities for active fund managers.

The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) sets monetary policy to meet the 2% inflation target, and in a way that helps to sustain growth and employment. At its meeting ending on 1 November 2017, the MPC voted by a majority of 7-2 to increase Bank Rate by 0.25 percentage points, to 0.5%. The decision to leave the European Union is having a noticeable impact on the economic outlook. The overshoot of inflation throughout the forecast predominantly reflects the effects on import prices of the referendum-related fall in sterling.

### **Digital and Social Media Advertising Strategies**

Proactive advertising & marketing strategies launched in 2016 / 17 continue to be improved in 2017/18. Key successes include:

- 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 <sup>nd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>
bucks council jobs	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>
teaching jobs bucks	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>
Social care jobs bucks	5 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>

### **Local Government Resourcing Partnership**

The Local Government Resourcing Partnership (LGRP) is a framework for public organisations to access a wide range of HR and recruitment services from approved suppliers. Buckinghamshire County Council submitted a tender to join the framework as a supplier of services, building on the success of our shared HR service with the London Borough of Harrow, our industry-leading model for Contribution Based Pay and the consultancy work we have done for clients such as Waltham Forest and Brent Councils.

Out of 80 bidders, BCC was one of only 8 organisations to secure a place on Lot 3 – Strategic HR Solutions. This achievement is made all the more impressive by the fact we are the only public sector organisation to have been appointed to this Lot and one of only two on the entire framework (the other being SOLACE for Executive Recruitment). This demonstrates the development of the council’s maturity in commercial activities and that we are now able to compete with well-established commercial providers, including national brands. The framework can be used by all public sector organisations in the UK, including local government, central government and the health sector, which gives us access to a very wide range of opportunities to generate new income for the benefit of Buckinghamshire residents.

More information about the framework can be found at <https://lgrp.co.uk/>

### **Innovation Summit**

In response to last year’s Select Committee inquiry into income generation, the council held its first Innovation Summit on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> October at the Waterside Theatre. The event challenged teams from across the council to develop outline business cases for income generating ideas in two days, supported by outside experts, local businesses, colleges and universities. This included proposals for e-bikes, an online care marketplace for children’s social care, a new marketing strategy for Thrift Farm and the winning proposal to commercialise the work we have done on SEND improvement, creating a consultancy offer for other authorities.

The event received excellent feedback, with 97% of the 120 delegates telling us that would attend a similar event again and 100% saying that they would recommend it to others. Customers were engaged through street polling and digital tools, including a live web chat with parents who have been through our school appeals process to understand their thoughts on how we could improve the service. A strong social media presence, making use of Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook helped to raise the profile of the event, generating many requests for information from other organisations nationally.

Working groups have formed around each of the 6 ideas and these are being developed into more detailed proposals for consideration by senior officers and Members.

### **Investing in Fossil Fuels**

Individual County Councillors have received some queries about the Pension Committee's investment in fossil fuels companies. The Buckinghamshire Pension Fund Committee manages the Buckinghamshire Local Government Pension Scheme on behalf of over 218 employers across the county, including the Buckinghamshire County Council, Milton Keynes Council and the District Councils. The first duty of all Pension Funds is to the long term interests of their members.

In its published Investment Strategy Statement, the Buckinghamshire Pension Fund Committee recognises that environmental, social and corporate governance issues, including climate change, can have materially significant investment implications. As a responsible investor, the Committee therefore considers such issues in all investment decisions. The Committee believe that engaging with their investee companies on all issues to deliver long term change delivers a more responsible investment approach than a blanket decision to divest from any group of companies. The Buckinghamshire Pension Fund Committee is working alongside the other Pension Funds within the Brunel Pension Partnership to further develop their approach on these issues and to improve the reporting in this area, including demonstrating the impact of our engagement with the fossil fuel companies.

**JOHN CHILVER  
CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES**

## **10d. CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH**

### **Public Health**

#### **Community Organising in East Wycombe**

Buckinghamshire County Council has funded Community Impact Bucks (CIB) and Citizens UK to deliver a pilot community organising project with the communities of Bowerdean, Micklefield and Totteridge. This project has established a network of local organisations and then worked through these organisations to hold 400 conversations with local people, to identify how local residents think the health and wellbeing of the community can be improved.

The local community has identified housing, the environment and the need for a programme of activities for those aged 5 to 18 years as their priorities. Work has been undertaken with key partners such as Buckinghamshire County Council, Wycombe District Council, Social Housing Providers, the Clinical Commissioning Group and with the network and community leaders to identify solutions.

In November an Assembly event was hosted by the Head Teacher and pupils at Ash Hill Primary School, with 61 attendees, to share the findings of the community organising project, with a commitment to work together to develop solutions. Work will be continuing in this area.

#### **Prevention at Scale**

Buckinghamshire County Council is one of 14 authorities that have been invited to be part of the Local Government Association (LGA) Prevention at Scale pilot. The pilot includes 20 days of expert support from the LGA which aims to assist the Council in the challenge of reaching, engaging and motivating residents to change their lifestyle behaviours. This will include developing a multi-agency whole system approach, to raising awareness of the information and support available, engaging priority groups and mobilising communities. A Buckinghamshire multi-agency Prevention at Scale stakeholder event will be held by Public Health in January.

This work will capitalise on our recently formed Accountable Care System (ACS) and local Sustainable Transformation Plan (STP) on prevention to mobilise health and care staff to make prevention part of mainstream business.

#### **National Council for Voluntary Organisations**

Buckinghamshire County Council, Buckinghamshire CCGs and Community Impact Bucks have been successful in being selected to be part of a National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) project to increase voluntary sector involvement in health transformation through the Accountable Care System (ACS). The focus of the project will be improved self-care and prevention, in relation to selected long term conditions.

The NCVO will be supporting this work by delivering 3 development days, between November 17 and March 18, for a local team of 5 statutory sector representatives and 5 voluntary sector representatives. The representatives are from Public Health, Adult Social Care, the CCGs, Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust, Chiltern District Council, Community Impact Bucks, Carers Bucks, Winslow Big Society, Buckinghamshire Mind and Bucks Vision. A wider local group will be established to disseminate the learning and identify and action opportunities.

### **Two Buckinghamshire physical activity programmes receive national recognition**

The Active Bucks programme and the Physical Literacy project, commissioned by the Council's Public Health team, have received national recognition as part of a recently published report. The report, which highlights physical activity projects that use best practice approaches to evaluation, rates projects against the nationally recognised NESTA Standards of Evidence – scoring each project between levels 1-5 with level 5 representing the highest possible standards of evidence. Nationally, only 17 projects scored a NESTA Level 3 and above and both the Active Bucks programme and Physical Literacy project scored a NESTA Level 4. In addition, Bucks was one of only a handful of local authorities to achieve this level of evidence.

The full report can be found here:

<http://researchinstitute.ukactive.com/projects/more/8268/page/1/moving-at-scale-promising-practice>

### **Sexual Health and HIV Testing Week 18 - 24 November 2017**

National HIV Testing Week starts on Saturday 18 November. The purpose of the week is to promote regular HIV testing and to reduce the rates of undiagnosed people and those diagnosed late.

In Buckinghamshire we also promote all sexual health testing during this week and will have a range of events going on throughout the week at Bucks New University and University of Buckingham. For more information please go to the Sexual Health Bucks Website on [www.sexualhealthbucks.nhs.uk](http://www.sexualhealthbucks.nhs.uk)

### **World Aids Day – 1 December 2017**

World AIDS Day is on Friday 1 December and is an opportunity to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS, support those living with HIV and tackle stigma associated with it.

As part of the awareness raising the Terrence Higgins Trust will be hosting a red themed event at the Healthy Living Centre in Aylesbury between 1:30 and 3:30pm, where people can hear directly from someone living with HIV and see a performance about HIV and stigma from the Berkshire College of Agriculture.

For more information please go to the Sexual Health Bucks website on [www.sexualhealthbucks.nhs.uk](http://www.sexualhealthbucks.nhs.uk)

## **Communities**

### **Mobile Library Services Consultation**

A public consultation on the future of Mobile Library services was launched on Wednesday 1 November. We are proposing that from May 2018 the current mobile library service is discontinued and that mobile library customers could be served by a range of different options including the Home Library Service, wider provision of online library lending services and working with interested local communities to develop community-based options such as 'click and collect' schemes.

When we reviewed mobile library usage over the last two years we looked at the number of customers using our library services. We found that 511 customers solely use mobile libraries and do not visit a library building. We also found that at one third of the service stops made by our mobile library vehicles there was only one mobile customer using the service.

We are asking customers and residents to let us know what they think of our proposals. We have designed a survey and this will be available online until the closing date of 31 December 2017 at [www.tinyurl.com/bucksmobile](http://www.tinyurl.com/bucksmobile). Paper copies of the consultation will be available on request at main libraries and at mobile library service stops. We are emailing all of the customers who solely use mobile libraries and for customers who have not provided an email address we will be posting a letter, copy of the survey and a freepost address. We are also writing to all Parish Councils, Town Councils and Local Area Forums.

**NOEL BROWN**  
**CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH**

## **10e. CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT**

### **Environment**

#### **Fly tipping Enforcement continues to buck national trend**

Buckinghamshire's strong performance in enforcing against fly tipping and waste crime has continued to be highlighted with the publication of the latest national statistics. Nationally there has been a 7% increase in fly tipping during the last year. Fly tipping levels in Buckinghamshire have halved since 2003 since when there have been over 630 convictions for illegal dumping, with over 90 cases during 2016/17 alone. During 2016/17 over £140,000 in fines and awarded costs were incurred by tippers successfully prosecuted in Bucks. There is a 1:40 chance of being prosecuted for fly tipping in Buckinghamshire compared to 1:638 (down 45%) nationally highlighting the success of Buckinghamshire's zero tolerance approach.

#### **Planning Performance continues to improve**

Buckinghamshire County Council's performance in terms of speed of decision making as measured by Department of Communities and Local Government has continued to improve. Speed of decision making for the 2018 round was 71.4% of planning applications determined in time which is above the 60% threshold for designation for the 2018 round. Looking ahead the assessment period for the speed of decisions in the 2019 designation round includes decisions made between October 2016 and September 2018. At the current time, Buckinghamshire County Council has determined 24 minerals and waste applications of which 23 were determined within the statutory time period or an agreed extended period. Performance is therefore currently showing at approximately 95.8% which is well above the 60% threshold for designation for the 2019 round, therefore highlighting the continued improvement on our performance as a planning authority.

#### **Waste Partnership – Fighting Food Waste Project**

A county-wide campaign to encourage more residents to recycle their food at home started in late September and continued throughout October. The campaign involved all residual bins in Bucks having stickers placed on them to highlight that food waste should not go into the general rubbish, but should be recycled in the weekly food recycling service offered by all four district councils in Bucks. It will help residents play their part in meeting the Waste Partnership's aim of recycling or composting at least 60% of our waste across Bucks.

Whilst stickers were placed on all rubbish bins, something which has been effective in other local authority areas, the three southern districts also delivered a service leaflet and free roll of kitchen caddy liners to all residents. Industry evidence suggests that a package of leaflets, liners and a sticker, are the most effective option for boosting food recycling. The additional activities in the south have already started to show an increase in the number of residents requesting new food recycling bins, and it is expected the amount of food recycled will begin to increase as well.

In parallel to the doorstep package (leaflet, liners, sticker) other methods have been used to promote the campaign countywide, including a strong social media presence, digital advertising and officers attending events. The County Council's waste and communications teams recently attended a Partnership workshop to identify innovative and effective ways to promote the messages of the Fighting Food Waste Project. This



work will continue the good start made by the large rollout of stickers and information and will further boost Buckinghamshire's food waste recycling performance.

The whole campaign has been utilising industry research, case studies and best practice to deliver real change, and reduce demands on the waste service overall.

### **Have your say – Household Recycling Centre Annual Survey**

Residents have been giving their opinions on how the ten Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) are run in our annual satisfaction survey. 2016's survey showed a 99% satisfaction rate, and helped officers understand how residents use the service and what aspects they value the most.

The survey, carried out on sites across Bucks, will be analysed in November and the results published in December.

2017's survey is the first to offer all residents a chance to fill out the survey online. Whilst the survey always records over 2,000 responses at the HRCs, the online version will increase the sample size and give residents who don't visit the sites often the chance to have their say. This additional function has been achieved without additional cost to the contract.

### **Country Parks**

A partnership project at Denham Country Park between the Environment Agency, the Wild Trout Trust, Bucks Berks and Oxon Wildlife Trust and the Country Parks on the River Colne and the River Misbourne has resulted in habitat improvement works around the rivers and their margins at no cost to the Country Parks service and has also included up to 10 days free training for rangers/volunteers. The works will see improved habitats for water voles and brown trout and general improvements along the river corridor.

The Pumpkin Trail event over the half term week saw over 1400 children complete the 2km long trail; the children had to solve clues along the way to earn a small treat once they had completed the witches spell. The event contributed over £4,000 towards the self-financing budget.

The three main Country Parks; Black Park, Langley Park and Denham Country Park, attracted almost 37,000 visitors over the Autumn half term equating to a 10% increase on last year's high.

### **Growth**

#### **Draft Bucks Minerals and Waste Local Plan**

Buckinghamshire County Council is in the process of reviewing its adopted local plan policies and site allocations for minerals and waste, see <https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/environment/planning/minerals-and-waste-local-plan/> for more details. 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 that will replace the Core Strategy, update the saved policies of the 2006 Minerals and Waste Local Plan and review site allocations to meet anticipated demands. More detail is available in the Local Development Schedule, which sets out the intentions of the review and the timetable at

<https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/environment/planning/minerals-and-waste-local-plan/documentation-local-development-scheme/>

Currently we are at the stage of collating responses received through the public consultation on the Preferred Options, which closed on 27 September 2017. The next stage is to consult on the pre-submission Draft Plan early in 2018 and then to hold an Examination in Public, with adoption of the refreshed Bucks Minerals and Waste Local Plan expected later in 2018. Please contact the minerals and waste policy team with any enquiries at [mineralswastepolicy@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto: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 to support the District Local Plans. Cabinet recently agreed a report from a Select Committee Inquiry on Growth in Bucks, see <https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/ielssueDetails.aspx?Ild=67505&PlanId=0&Opt=3#AI56324> which set out a number of recommendations, including the following:

1. That Business Units' Commercial Plans for 2018-2022 and other key plans & strategies reflect how services are planning for the impact of future housing and population growth and show links to the Bucks Strategic Infrastructure Plan.
2. That the Bucks Strategic Infrastructure Plan becomes one of the Council's key strategies for responding to growth and:
  - a. Makes explicit the links between housing and population growth and potential changes to demand for Council services
  - b. Is embedded across all Business Units
  - c. Demonstrates that all Business Units have been involved in its development.
3. The Bucks Strategic Infrastructure Plan should be promoted as a key strand of the Council's prospectus for growth to Government to demonstrate the Council's ambition and lever additional funding.

Work is ongoing, led through the Strategic Planning and Infrastructure service of Bucks County Council to develop the Bucks Strategic Infrastructure Plan, a report on progress is expected in February 2018.

### **District Local Plan timescales**

Buckinghamshire County Council continues to work with the Districts on their Local Plans, both the Draft Aylesbury Vale Local Plan (VALP) <https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/section/vale-aylesbury-local-plan-valp-2013-2033> and the Draft Wycombe Local Plan (WLP) <https://www.wycombe.gov.uk/pages/About-the-council/Have-your-say/Consultations/Consultation-Publication-of-the-Wycombe-District-Local-Plan.aspx> are out for their final public consultation ahead of public examination in Spring next year. Consultation on the Draft VALP closes on the 14 December and consultation on the Draft WLP closes on the 27 November. Bucks County Council continues to engage with the Districts on their Local Plans through the Bucks Planning Group. Comments from County Council officers and members are fielded through the Strategic Planning & Infrastructure service of Bucks County Council in order to effectively engage and influence the Local Plan process. The Chiltern and South Bucks Local Plan has been further delayed until Spring 2018, see a recent report to the Chiltern and South Bucks Joint Committee <https://isa.chiltern.gov.uk/democracy/documents/g3439/Agenda%20frontsheet%2007th-Nov-2017%2018.30%20Chiltern%20South%20Bucks%20Joint%20Committee.pdf?T=0>

### **Aylesbury Garden Town**

Bucks County Council is a joint partner with AVDC, SEMLEP and BTVLEP for the Aylesbury Garden Town project. Aylesbury was awarded garden town status in January 2017, which means targeted support from DCLG, DfT and HCA (Homes and Communities Agency) to deliver Garden Town principles through the growth of Aylesbury. Achieving Garden Town status is a unique opportunity to deliver added value to the growth of Aylesbury through infrastructure improvements and place-shaping. The garden town is set to grow by 16,000 homes by 2033 as stated in the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan and so far a joint Aylesbury Garden Town Board including representation across the four partners has been set up to administer the financial support from government, totalling almost £1million (£965,000). Work on communication, stakeholder engagement and master-planning is underway and more details are expected to be announced soon. Further details can be found at <https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/section/about-aylesbury-garden-town>

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

## **10f. CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND SKILLS**

### **Special Educational Needs and Disability Update**

**Educational, Health & Care Plans** - The government has set a target for all statements of Special Educational Need to be converted to Education, Health & Care plans by the 31st March 2018. The SEN Team have around 920 left to convert and are on track to convert all statements by the deadline date.

**Pilot Dealing with Exclusions and EHCPs** - Currently in Buckinghamshire, there is a high level of exclusions, high numbers of EHC plans and a high spend on out of county placements. In order to try to address this, the SEN team have been working with the exclusion and reintegration team along with other agencies such as therapy services, Specialist Teaching Service and schools in order to identify how we can try to address some of the issues being raised by our providers. This pilot will offer support at the earliest stage to schools and settings to support young people that are causing concern. We will use professionals to target support to try to stop the escalation of behaviours that can then result in exclusions. In order to identify the schools to be included in the pilot we have looked at the data on exclusion rates, numbers of children with SEN support, EHC plans and numbers of requests for EHC assessments. Based on this we have decided that the schools in the Aylesbury area will be the first to receive this increased level of support. The results and feedback of the pilot will determine further roll out.

**Staffing** - The SEN Team are about to go through a restructure programme which is due to launch in a couple of weeks. This will give an opportunity to review the current structure and consult with staff to see if changes can be made that would enable improvements to be made to the service provided.

### **Buckinghamshire County Council Induction Day for New Headteachers**

An induction day for all Buckinghamshire new Headteachers was organised by the Schools Team and held on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October. The aim of the day was to provide all new Headteachers with an introduction to the services delivered by Buckinghamshire County Council and how these services help support schools. The event closed with an inspirational talk from Sue Stamp, the Headteacher of Long Crendon School, about her school's award-winning outdoor learning programme. This day was part of a comprehensive new Headteachers' programme delivered for Buckinghamshire County Council by the Buckinghamshire Academy for School Leadership. The Schools Team were very pleased to receive 100% positive feedback on the day.

### **Schools Funding**

Buckinghamshire has been one of the lowest funded Councils nationally (3<sup>rd</sup> lowest amount per pupil). Buckinghamshire is part of the F40 (lobbying group of lowest funded councils) that has been successful in influencing Government proposals.

The National Funding Formula (NFF) aims to create a fairer funding system where the funding for pupils is the same across the country. Approximately 80% of the funding to schools is driven by pupil numbers, 10% funding for the school and 10% targeted at pupils with additional educational needs. The NFF will mean Buckinghamshire will receive an additional £10m funding in 2018/19 growing to about £20m in 2019/20 on the baseline of about £300m. The increases in funding are the 6<sup>th</sup> highest per pupil in the country.

We are currently consulting with all of our schools to determine how we will apply the NFF in Buckinghamshire. We have modelled the implications across typical types and sizes of schools and the proposals benefit most schools over the next three years, although there will be some exceptions. The priorities within the Education and Skills Strategy will be presented for consideration as part of the consultation.

Consultation will close on 19<sup>th</sup> November and the final decision will be made in December. Implementation will begin on 1st April 2018 but schools will be advised of their individual budget shares in early January.

### **Ofsted Inspection Results**

Well done to the staff, students and Governors of the following Buckinghamshire schools who have all had good or outstanding inspection reports published recently: St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, St George's Infant School, Holmer Green Junior School, Danesfield School, Marsh Infant and Nursery School, Khalsa Secondary Academy, Oak Green School, Chenies School, Claytons Primary School, Foxes Piece School, Twyford CE School, Woodside Junior School and Marsworth CE Infant School.

### **Buckinghamshire Adult Learning**

Students in Quarrendon are set to benefit from brand new facilities as the new Adult Learning Centre officially opened on the 26<sup>th</sup> September.

The centre opened in a newly refurbished building with state-of-the-art facilities with five flexible classrooms including an ICT suite and a kitchen classroom. All classrooms have a smart TV along with enhancement equipment for the hard of hearing. Wi-Fi is available throughout the centre and there is onsite parking. The new centre is a result of a site-wide redevelopment which will include the demolition of the old Adult Learning building to create a new secondary school.

### **Good news from Buckinghamshire Schools**

**Haddenham St. Mary's Infant School** has opened new four new classrooms this term

**Stoke Mandeville Primary School** opened their new library on 3rd October

**Padbury CE School** have been successful in bidding for an Enthuse Award for Science to support development of science in the schools

**Marsh Gibbon CE School** have been awarded £10,000 from National Lottery for new playground equipment

**Waddesdon CE School** has been awarded an Excellence in Governance award

**Whaddon First School** has achieved a Woodland Trust Gold Award

**North Marston School** has been awarded Eco-School Green Flag for the 2nd year running; they now have Ambassador status and can offer training and support to other schools

**Three Schools; Swanbourne CE School, Mursley CE School and Drayton Parslow School** achieved the Primary Science Quality Mark

**Hughenden School** has been nominated for Modeshift National Award for their school travel plan

**Marsh Infant School** have been awarded a Whole School Nurture Award

### **Bucksinspired Traineeship Programme**

The Bucksinspired traineeship programme is nearing the end of its first cohort.

The programme run by the Youth Service and in partnership with Bucks Adult Learning is an opportunity for 16-24 year olds who are NEET to gain the skills and experience employers are looking for. The programme has included employability skills workshops

run by our creative youth work team, Maths and English support and 100 hours work experience placements with local employers which all the trainees have loved! The trainees have been out on placement all around the county; designing websites, maintaining roads, supporting arts workshops, working in a garden centre, selling shoes and learning the ropes of business administration and finance. Each individual has grown so much through their experiences. Recruitment is now taking place for the next group of trainees.

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

## **10g. CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

### **Front Line Visits**

I have continued my visits to many of our Children's Service teams and have found meeting our managers and front-line staff very useful. Visits have included:

- LADO team (Local Authority Designated Officer)
- IRO team (Independent Reviewing Officer)
- Fostering recruitment team
- Adoption team
- Amersham office – including meeting the assessment team, child protection and court team and child in need team
- Accompanying the High Sheriff visit to our early help team and the MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub)
- Energy and Family Information event in Buckingham

I have also attended the National Children and Adult Services conference organised by the Local Government Association which was very useful to meet colleagues from other councils and to take part in the extensive plenary and seminar sessions on children's services good practice, government policy and future ideas.

### **Early Help Consultation**

Members will be aware that the consultation on our early help review closed on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017 and we are currently reviewing and taking on board the messages from the consultation to further develop the Early Help model. The review of our early help offer is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to design responsive services that are based on local need across the county. Our fundamental objective is to get it right for Buckinghamshire's children and families so that we can continue to improve their outcomes. We have therefore agreed to extend the timeline for a final decision until the beginning of the new calendar year.

It is also important to say, however, that many of the children's centre sessions, such as health visitor clinics, post-natal and antenatal support and parenting classes, will continue through our health partners and as part of our early help offer.

During this extended period, we will also be considering options for repurposing the Children's Centre buildings to ensure that we maximise the use of these buildings for the benefit of local families and communities. With this in mind we have opened discussions with schools, Early Years providers, partner organisations, voluntary and community groups to generate ideas for whether and how the buildings could continue to be used by and for local communities. I would like to emphasise that no decisions have yet been made; the Early Help Review will go to Cabinet on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

### **Achievements of Looked After Children**

Some of our looked after children can achieve the most amazing things! One young person was recently selected to take part in a sporting World Championship in October 2017 where they managed to win a bronze and a gold medal! The young person lives with their aunt and uncle and is described as an 'inspirational and talented' young person.

Another young person recently passed their AAT Level 3 MMAC Management Accounting and Costing Exam achieving an impressive 89%.

## **The Children and Social Work Act**

The Children and Social Work Act received Royal Assent on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017. The Act is intended to improve support for looked after children and care leavers, promote the welfare and safeguarding of children, and make provisions about the regulation of social workers. The Act sets out corporate parenting principles for the council as a whole to be the best parent it can be to children in its care. Local authorities will be required to publish their support offer to care leavers and to promote the educational attainment of children who have been adopted or placed in other long-term care arrangements. The Act makes changes to the arrangements for local child safeguarding partnerships and the serious case review process, including provision for a central Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel for cases of national importance. It also establishes a new regulatory regime for the social work profession.

The Act also places a duty on the Secretary of State to make regulations that require all schools in England to provide relationships education to pupils receiving primary education, and relationships and sex education to pupils receiving secondary education. This is welcomed in Buckinghamshire as, following the recent Serious Case Review into Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), we need to ensure the responsibility for educating and safeguarding children in relation to sexual exploitation is spread across all agencies and sectors.

## **Ofsted inspection**

Buckinghamshire County Council's Single Inspection Framework inspection of its safeguarding services started on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017. The inspection will last four weeks and the report will be published in the new calendar year.

## **Culture and Leadership**

Better Every Day management training has been rolled out to around 70 middle managers across Children's Services and has been very well received. Children's Services senior leadership team has actively supported the introduction of these events and played an important role in reinforcing messages about leadership and workplace culture.

The permanent appointment of Tolis Vouyioukas, as the new Executive Director of Children's Services, and Sarah Callaghan, as Service Director Education, will provide further stability and enable the Wider Leadership Team to set a clearly integrated Children's Strategy and help develop the workforce culture to meet future service challenges.

## **Organisation Design and Change**

In the last year Children's Social Care has reviewed its front line service structures to create slightly bigger, more resilient teams allowing more opportunity to train and support newly qualified staff and retain greater control of caseloads – helping to improve some of the workforce issues identified in this section of the report. The Change for Children programme will also shift the way services are delivered and present further opportunities for reviewing structures, designing roles and embedding new workplace behaviours. Early Help, Education and Special Educational Needs will all be in scope, alongside the opening of new Residential Children's Homes.

## **Qualified Social Workers – Recruitment**

There is a national shortage of qualified Social Workers and the County Council continues to be affected by it. A number of actions have been and continue to be taken to address this resourcing challenge:



- A Newly Qualified Social Worker (NQSW) campaign was launched in September to replace those candidates now transferring to Qualified Social Worker roles. This program has been very successful in developing a talent pipeline for Buckinghamshire County Council delivering around 40 candidates in 2016/17 with 6 in the pipeline. Further NQSW Assessment Centres were due to take place on 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> November.
- A new campaign to target Buckinghamshire County Council's hard to fill Social Workers in Child Protection/Court roles went live in August. The campaign used a mix of digital, social and traditional techniques and continued for 6 to 8 weeks. This campaign enabled us to bring in a further 4 experienced Qualified Social Workers.

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

## **9h. CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

### **Delayed Transfers of Care**

Delayed Transfers of Care (DToC) refers to delays in discharging patients from hospital and has received considerable coverage nationally due to the cost to the health service and the impact on vulnerable people kept delayed unnecessarily in hospital.

Nationally, the health and social care system is volatile and subject to factors that are beyond the control of local system partners. However, in performance terms, Buckinghamshire is performing well in relation to our comparator group, being 3<sup>rd</sup> overall and 1<sup>st</sup> for performance on avoiding social care delays. With our Health partners, we are driving down delayed transfers of care further through a number of measures, which focusses on actions which have a high impact on the system, and through our Continuing Health Care Plan, which provides fully funded NHS care outside of the hospital setting.

Trusts outside Buckinghamshire with residents from Buckinghamshire are currently showing disproportionate contributions to delays. Actions being taken include ensuring Buckinghamshire patients are highlighted as early as possible during their admission and ensuring there is a whole system approach to both acute and community hospital. In addition the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee Inquiry undertaken into DToCs identified a number of actions which NHS and Adult Social Care agreed to work even closer together to ensure the most effective solutions possible. Progress against this Improvement Plan is being formally reported back to the Scrutiny Committee on 28 November 2017.

### **Home from Hospital service**

I am pleased to announce that we have just completed the recommissioning of our "Home from Hospital" service. Through this service, the Red Cross (using volunteers) will help a vulnerable person settle back at home following discharge from hospital. It is a very valued service, providing reassurance to individuals and their families, and plays a role in avoiding swift readmissions to hospital.

### **Assistive Technology**

We know that most people want to live independently in their own homes for as long as possible and it is important that our Adult Social Care service does as much as possible to help people achieve this. One of our key programmes in Adult Social Care is introducing wider use of Assistive Technology to help vulnerable people to live at home for longer. We now have 7,309 people that we provide technology enabled support to – a 41% increase since January 2016.

Whilst it will not be right for everyone, for many people and their carers it can be a less intrusive and relatively inexpensive solution. Examples include an alarm call system for people who require immediate support, remote monitoring to indicate if someone has had a fall and a Wellbeing Check Call system to provide reassurance and assistance for clients who require a small amount of support to maintain their independence but who do not require personal care. Very importantly, it can also play a critical role in delaying the need for a person to receive more intensive home care visits or move into residential care.

Some care homes have also benefitted from a trial being run by the CCG to enable Care Homes to consult with a medical professional over video link and so avoid unnecessary emergency hospital admissions or GP visits

A new training programme is being rolled out to ensure that potential referrers have the knowledge and skills needed to confidently recommend Assistive Technology – where appropriate - for people at all stages of their social care experience to maximise independence and to support them to manage their own care needs.

### **Missenden Walled Garden**

Missenden Walled Garden (in the grounds of Missenden Abbey) was a service developed by the County Council to provide a supported and safe environment for adults with disabilities to learn about horticulture, develop new skills, make friends and become part of a team, working together with experienced staff and volunteers.

On June 1st of this year, Buckinghamshire County Council was delighted to announce that it had handed over the Missenden Walled Garden service to a charity, formed for this purpose, which now run the garden. Since then, the enterprise has gone from strength to strength which is a tribute to the dedication and ambition of the new trustees and the staff.

Client numbers are increasing and the charity has developed a closer working relationship with Missenden Abbey including supplying vegetables from the garden to the Abbey kitchens and taking on some disused areas to maintain and develop them. The Charity has also developed much closer ties to the village and local community with more local residents people taking an interest by either volunteering or by buying produce, flower baskets or giving donations. The Great Missenden Village Association has donated some Gardening equipment (mower, strimmer and leaf blower) as well as providing the Charity with a stall at their Christmas event and nominating us as the charity for the event.

With funding from the County Council's Local Area Forum, it is now able to offer Health and Safety, Manual handling, mower and blower level 1 training to its clients free of charge.

The Missenden Garden is an excellent example of how a community run service, rooted in its local community, can thrive and I am confident that it will continue to go from strength to strength.

For more information (and hopefully to plan a visit to the Walled Garden), see its [facebook page](#) or its [web page](#).

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