



Agenda and Reports

23 November 2017

15 November 2017

To: All Members of Buckinghamshire County Council

SUMMONS

You are requested to attend the meeting of Buckinghamshire County Council to be held in **The Oculus, AVDC, Gatehouse Way, Aylesbury, on Thursday 23 November 2017 at 9.30 am**, to transact the business set out in the agenda overleaf.

Please note venue.

Immediately following the rise of Council, a hot meal will be served to those Members who have confirmed for lunch.

SARAH ASHMEAD
Monitoring Officer

If you would like to attend a meeting, but need extra help to do so, for example because of a disability, please contact us as early as possible so we can try to put the right support in place. For further information please contact Sara Turnbull on 01296 382876.

WEBCASTING NOTICE

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You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act. Data collected during this webcast will be retained in accordance with the Council's published policy.

Therefore by entering the meeting room, you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes.

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AGENDA

Page No

1 HONORARY ALDERMEN

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Following the County Council's decision at its meeting on 21st September 2017, a presentation of Certificates of Appointment will be made by the Lord Lieutenant to the Honorary Aldermen:

Mrs Margaret Aston
Mrs Avril Davies
Mrs Valerie Letheren

2 MINUTES

9 - 36

To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 21st September 2017.

3 PETITIONS

4 COMMUNICATIONS

- a To receive any apologies for absence
- b To receive any communications the Chairman wishes to present to the Council

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To disclose any Personal or Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

6 BUCKS YOUTH VOICE

Members of Bucks Youth Voice will give a presentation on the work of Youth Voice and feedback from their recent event held on 8th November.

7 ANNUAL PRESENTATION FROM THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

To receive a presentation from Chief Constable Francis Habgood

8 TREASURY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

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To Agree the Treasury Management Update report and the Prudential Indicators for 2017/18 to 2020/21.

9 SELECT COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN'S UPDATE

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To receive updates from the Select Committee Chairmen on the work of the Committees

10 CABINET MEMBERS' REPORTS

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To note the written report of Cabinet Members, and any written questions & responses received.

To receive any additional verbal updates from Cabinet Members on their reports, as well as provide an opportunity for any oral questions from Members.

A Leader of the Council

- B Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transportation
- C Cabinet Member for Resources
- D Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Public Health
- E. Cabinet Member for Planning & Environment
- F Cabinet Member for Education & Skills
- G Cabinet Member for Children's Services
- H Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing

11 NOTICES OF MOTION

12 CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS TAKEN - INFORMATION ONLY 85 - 88

13 EVENTS AND INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS - INFORMATION ONLY 89 - 90

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 22nd February 2018 at 9.30am in The Oculus, AVDC,
Gatehouse Way, Aylesbury.

County Council



Honorary Aldermen

Thursday 23 November 2017

Report of the Chairman of the Council

Purpose of this Report

County Council agreed at its meeting held on 21st September 2017 to appoint three new Honorary Aldermen, namely Mrs Margaret Aston, Mrs Avril Davies and Mrs Valerie Letheren.

An overview of the eminent service which the new Honorary Aldermen have given to the County Council can be found below:

Mrs Margaret Aston

Mrs Aston was Member of the Council from 1993 to 2013 for the Haddenham Electoral Division, and subsequently the Bernwood Electoral Division from 2013 to 2017. She was Chairman of the Appeals & Complaints Committee from 2007 to 2013 and Chairman of the Council in 2005/6. She served as a Cabinet Member in two roles – the Children & Young People portfolio from 2000 to 2004 and the Community Engagement & Public Health portfolio in her final year at the Council. Mrs Aston continues her work with the Council, serving as a co-optee on the Health & Adult Social Care and Children's Social Care & Learning Select Committees.

Mrs Avril Davies

Mrs Davies was Member of the Council from 2001 to 2017 for the Ivinghoe Electoral Division. She was a member of many committees during her time with the Council, including the Health & Adult Social Care Committee from 2007 to 2017 for which she chaired the 'Learning New Ways: Academies and the local authority in Buckinghamshire' Scrutiny Review. Mrs Davies was Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group from 2013 to 2017.



Mrs Valerie Letheren

Mrs Letheren was Member of the Council from 2001 to 2017 for the Terriers & Amersham Hill Electoral Division. She served as a Cabinet Member in two roles – the Children’s Services portfolio from 2004 to 2005 and 2011 to 2013, and the Transportation portfolio from 2005 to 2011. She chaired the Children’s Social Care & Learning Select Committee from 2013 to 2016. Mrs Letheren was Chairman of the Council in her final year with the Council.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Buckinghamshire County Council convened and held on Thursday 21 September 2017 in The Oculus, AVDC, Gatehouse Way, Aylesbury, commencing at 9.30 am and concluding at 11.50 am.

PRESENT

Mrs P Birchley in the Chair;

Mr R Bagge, Mr S Bowles, Mr N Brown, Mr T Butcher, Mr D Carroll, Mr W Chapple OBE, Mr J Chilver, Mr C Clare, Mrs L Clarke OBE, Mr A Collingwood, Mrs I Darby, Mr D Dhillon, Mr C Ditta, Mr C Etholen, Mr M Farrow, Mrs B Gibbs, Ms N Glover, Mr C Harriss, Lin Hazell, Mr A Hussain, Mr M Hussain, Mr N Hussain, Mr P Irwin, Mr R Khan, Ms A Macpherson, Mrs W Mallen, Mr D Martin, Mr P Martin, Mr R Reed, Mr B Roberts, Mr D Shakespeare OBE, Mr M Shaw, Mrs L Sullivan, Mrs J Teesdale, Mr M Tett, Julia Wassell, Mr D Watson, Ms A Wight, Mr G Williams and Ms K Wood

DIGNITARIES AND OTHERS PRESENT

Sir H Aubrey-Fletcher, Mr P Kara, Mr M Colston, Mr P Lawrence, Mrs G Miscampbell OBE DL, Mr D Polhill and Mr R Pushman

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Appleyard, Mr W Bendyshe-Brown, Ms J Blake, Mr D Hayday, Mr S Lambert, Ms J Ward, Mr W Whyte, Mr B Allen and Mr K Ross MBE DL

1 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 13th July 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

2 PETITIONS

There were no petitions.

3 COMMUNICATIONS

Apologies were received from Mr M Appleyard, Mr B Bendyshe-Brown, Mrs J Blake, Mr D Hayday, Mr S Lambert, Mr W Whyte, Mrs J Ward, Mr B Allen and Mr K Ross MBE DL.

A minute's silence was held as a mark of respect for the recent passing of County Councillor Alan Walters MBE.

The Chairman reported on events attended since the last Council (full list attached).

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5 REPORT OF THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE AND MILTON KEYNES FIRE AUTHORITY

Mr R Reed, as Chairman of the Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority (BMKFA), introduced the item and welcomed Mr J Thelwell, Chief Fire Officer.

Mr Reed started by thanking the other County Councillors who were Members of the Fire Authority. He went on to say that the local MPs had been lobbied to make representations to Government in a bid to relax the council tax referendum limits so that the Fire Service could increase its precept to increase the pay of the staff. Members were told that local MPs had offered their support as there was recognition of the great efforts of the Fire Service on behalf of local residents.

Mr Thelwell made a presentation to Council (slides attached) and the following responses were made:

- In response to a question about apprentices, Mr Thelwell explained that BMKFRS was leading the way nationally on the role of apprentices and currently had 22 operational firefighter apprentices.
- In response to questions about Grenfell Tower, Mr Thelwell stressed the importance of providing counselling services for staff and the importance of good mental health amongst staff. Members heard that discussions were currently taking place with Thames Valley Police about increasing counselling services through collaboration. Mr Thelwell said that a number of premises had been identified across the County and the materials had been tested and it was acknowledged that there was a lot of learning from Grenfell Tower, particularly in terms of inspections. Mr Thelwell confirmed that the Fire Service worked closely with all key stakeholders, including the District Council as the housing provider.

Mr Reed and Mr Thelwell were thanked for their presentation.

6 SELECT COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Chairmen of the Select Committees presented their update to Council.

Mr D Watson thanked the Members of the Finance, Performance and Resources Select Committee for their work on the Growth Inquiry. He went on to report that a special meeting had taken place recently to review a call-in and he thanked all the Members, particularly the Cabinet Member and officers.

Mr D Dhillon, Chairman of the Children's and Social Care Select Committee, reported that an item at the recent Select Committee focussed on the voice of the child. He went on to thank the Committee Members, Co-opted Members and Officers, who support the Committee. In response to a question about hearing the voice of diverse groups of children, the Chairman reassured the Member and explained that the item was a 6 month review and there would be a further update at 12 months.

The Chairman of the Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee, Mr B Roberts reported that the Committee was working well together and Members continued to attend health meetings across the County. He thanked Committee Members for their enthusiasm and support.

Mr D Carroll, Chairman of the Transport, Environment and Communities Select Committee reported that the Growth Inquiry would be presented at the next Cabinet meeting and that the Committee's next Inquiry would be looking at the issue of Modern Slavery. He thanked the Committee Members for their support.

7 APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY ALDERMEN

Mrs S Ashmead, Monitoring Officer, presented the report and explained that nominations for Honorary Aldermen were restricted to past Councillors who had given eminent service to the Council in line with the criteria set out in the report.

RESOLVED

Council AGREED the following persons be appointed as additional Honorary Aldermen - Mrs Margaret Aston, Mrs Avril Davies and Mrs Valerie Letheren.

8 PROPORTIONALITY REPORT

Mrs S Ashmead, Monitoring Officer, presented the report.

RESOLVED

Council AGREED the political balance in the distribution of seats across Committees be as set out in Tables 1 and 2, to accord with the rules on proportionality.

9 CABINET MEMBERS' REPORTS

9a. Leader of the Council

In response to a question from a Member, the Leader of the Council Mr M Tett confirmed that the Sub-national Transport Body (STB) was not a regional group. Mr Tett explained that the STB was a bottom-up defined coalition which stretched across regional boundaries.

In response to a question about the expectation of the Brexit task and finish group, Mr Tett explained that the group was led by a senior officer who was working closely with the LGA to discuss which powers should be returned to local government.

9b. Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transportation

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transportation Mr M Shaw reported that the Secretary of State had reconfirmed his commitment to deliver the East/West Rail project. Mr Shaw showed his support for Project Edward Day (European Day Without A Road Death) and encouraged other Members to support this initiative.

Mr Shaw read out a message from Mr B Bendyshe-Brown who was recovering in

Hospital.

In response to Members' questions, Mr Shaw made the following points:

- The A4 cycle way strategic link had been discussed at two public consultation meetings and a written response to the consultation had been prepared. Mr Shaw confirmed that he had listened to the local views and substantial changes had been made to the scheme.
- The Governance Board was chaired by the Deputy Cabinet Member and going forward any changes to the charging policy would be discussed with the local Member.
- Mr Shaw agreed to follow-up the contract of work between Ringway Jacobs and Wycombe District Council.
- The consultation around the proposed parking scheme in Marlow would be commencing soon.
- There was a small budget of £1.5m for repairing footways.
- Mr Shaw stressed that taxi ranks were a District Council responsibility but the Council had worked closely with the taxi groups and other key partners to make Aylesbury a thriving town.
- The Council had devolved grass cutting to certain parishes and the Council continued to work closely with Parish Councils to enhance facilities for their local areas.
- The congestion on the London Road had been a challenge for some time but Mr Shaw welcomed the local Member involvement in shaping the plans.

(Mr C Etholen left the meeting)

9c. Cabinet Member for Children's Services

The Deputy Cabinet Member, Mrs J Teesdale highlighted the success of the "Looked After Children" event at Green Park.

In response to Members' questions, the Deputy Cabinet Member for Children's Services made the following points:

- The Early Help consultation was due to finish on 16th October and the results would help shape the delivery of services.
- Mrs Teesdale asked the senior officer to respond after the meeting to concerns raised about the progress made from Ofsted's last monitoring visit.
- The Council was expecting an Ofsted inspection shortly.
- In terms of Children's Centres, the aim was to put resources in the right place where those most in need would have access to them.
- Mrs Teesdale would look into why Walton Court had not been listed as a Children's Centre.

9d. Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing

In response to Members' questions, the Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing, Ms L Hazell made the following points:

- There were some care homes that were not sustainable but the Council did

- believe that it was paying the correct rates.
- Regular meetings took place between the Council and Seeley's House, including the users of the facility. The recent CQC report rated Seeley's House as "required improvement". Ms Hazell confirmed that the Council would continue to run the facility until an alternative could be found. Day services were also available across the County. Any further changes in the provision of respite care would be shared with Members.
 - Ms Hazell confirmed that she had not yet engaged with the Dementia Action Alliance but would be doing so.

9e. Cabinet Member for Education & Skills

Mr A Hussain, Deputy Cabinet Member for Education & Skills, made the following points in response to questions from Members.

- The Council would work hard to continue funding the Erasmus programme post-Brexit.
- Mr Hussain said he would come back to the Member about the response from the Council on Aylesbury Vale Academy's recent Ofsted report.
- The Council recognised the increased pressures and demands placed on Headteachers and support and advice was provided by the Council when required.

A Member commended the work of the Aylesbury Study Centre.

9f. Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Public Health

Mr N Brown, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Public Health reported on the County Show and thanked all those involved in making the event such a success. He paid particular thanks to his Deputy Cabinet Member, Mrs A Wight.

A Member congratulated the County Museum Trust on their recent funding success.

In response to a question about the National Trading Standards Scams team, Mr Brown reported that the joint trading standards team between the Council and Surrey County Council had been very beneficial and receiving national involvement would only help to strengthen this area of work.

9g. Cabinet Member for Resources

The Cabinet Member for Resources, Mr J Chilver responded to an earlier question and explained that the value of risk was a complex formula that measured volatility of investments. Members were told that the Council's risk was minimal as most investments were cash deposits with only a small amount being invested in property funds and that risk management was covered in the Treasury Management Strategy.

Mr Chilver made the following points in response to Members' questions:

- The importance of contract management was acknowledged and an extensive training programme would be rolled out shortly, including best practice across the Council.

9h. Cabinet Member for Planning & Environment

Mr B Chapple OBE, Cabinet Member for Planning & Environment reported on the Government's recent housing figures.

In response to questions from Members', Mr Chapple made the following points:

- He confirmed that he would be happy to visit Marlow to see the flood system.
- There was a national agreement to increase housing and Buckinghamshire had to take a share of the increased housing but he would continue to lobby MPs.
- The Energy from Waste plant had been deemed a success but local concerns were acknowledged. Mr Chapple would be attending Parish meetings to listen to the local concerns.
- Infrastructure would be looked at in light of the Infrastructure Strategy which included schools and roads.
- The flooding prevention scheme at the Willows appeared to be working well. He acknowledged the work of County Councillor Steven Lambert.
- An initial meeting had taken place to discuss Aylesbury Garden Town and the intention would be to consult with many key stakeholders as the plans develop, including the Town Council.

The Leader of the Council added that housing was a District Council responsibility and he urged Members to make representations to their District Council Leaders. Mr Tett told Council that there was a £2.3bn national infrastructure fund and the County had put bids together for part of this funding.

The Chairman commented on the flowers in Aylesbury and wished to record her thanks to the Town Council.

10 NOTICES OF MOTION

The following Motion was proposed by Mr M Tett and seconded by Mr N Brown.

"This Council resolves to recognise the unique cultural contribution made by David Bowie to Aylesbury and agree to support the concept of a statue to David Bowie in the town."

During debate, Members expressed their support for the Motion, reiterating the importance of recognising the musical heritage of Aylesbury.

RESOLVED

The Motion was AGREED unanimously.

(Mr M Appleyard joined the meeting)

11 CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS TAKEN - INFORMATION ONLY

The information was noted.

12 EVENTS AND INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS - INFORMATION ONLY

The information was noted.

CHAIRMAN

Chairman's Events July – Sept 2017

Date	Attendee/Host	Event
09 July 2017	Past Chairman Richard Pushman	Commemoration Service for 2nd Lt Frederick Youens VC
09 July 2017	Vice-Chairman	Bucks Scouts AGM
14 July 2017	Chairman	Simply Walk 15th Anniversary - Volunteers' Celebration
15 July 2017	Chairman	120th Anniversary Reception to commemorate the King of Siam's visit to Taplow Court
16 July 2017	Chairman	Horses, Hounds and Heroes
16 July 2017	Chairman	Japanese State Ministers Visit - Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology; and Cabinet Office
24 July 2017	Chairman	Dinner
30 July 2017	Chairman	Chesham Remembers 1914-1918
03 August 2017	Chairman	Visit to Burnham Opportunities Day Centre
06 August 2017	Chairman	Queen's Award for Enterprise - Symply Pet Foods
31 August 2017	Chairman	Bucks County Show
05 September 2017	Chairman	Ground Breaking Ceremony - Vinson Centre for Liberal Economics
06 September 2017	Chairman	RAF Halton Annual Reception
07 September 2017	Chairman	Graduation Ceremony - Bucks New University
08 September 2017	Vice Chairman	Fostering Awards Dinner
09 September 2017	Chairman	Wycombe MIND Health and Wellbeing Day/Wycombe Festival of Wellbeing
11 September 2017	Chairman	Opening Ceremony - Pitt and Rubens Boarding Houses
15 September 2017	Chairman	University of Buckingham Dinner in honour of a visit by Dr. Hon Dak Chung
16 September 2017	Chairman	Best Kept Village Competition Winners Tour
17 September 2017	Past Chairman Val Letheren	Wycombe Battle of Britain Service
17 September 2017	Vice Chairman	Town Mayor's Civic Service
20 September 2017	Chairman	AVDC - Deathtrap Performance



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Presentation to Buckinghamshire County Council



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Financial position and RSG

- Reduction in RSG –
- Between 2013-14 and 2017-18 RSG has decreased by 52%
- Between 2013/14 and 2019/20 reduced by 66%
- Reduced from £6.8 Million to £2.3 Million out of a £28 Million budget



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Council Tax

- Lowest council tax level for any Combined Fire Authority in the country, currently £60.88 per year
- Council tax per year in 2010 - £59.13
- There has been an increase in council tax of 25 pence per year since 2010.
- Buckinghamshire is 18% lower than the national average for CFA's
- Average council tax for CFA is £74.44 per year.



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Our Approach to Prevention

- Targeted community visits
- Youth engagement structure
- Wider community support
- Use of BFRS Premises
- All leading to a different public perception of the fire service, helping BFRS to be more diverse and inclusive



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How have we changed?

- Reduction in staff, we have reduced our wholetime establishment from 348 in 2010 to 252 (28%)
- Retained establishment 207 to 116
- Introduction of a bank system and different way of working
- Different employment propositions to attract and retain a flexible, diverse workforce
- Introduction of new skills including medical response



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Results

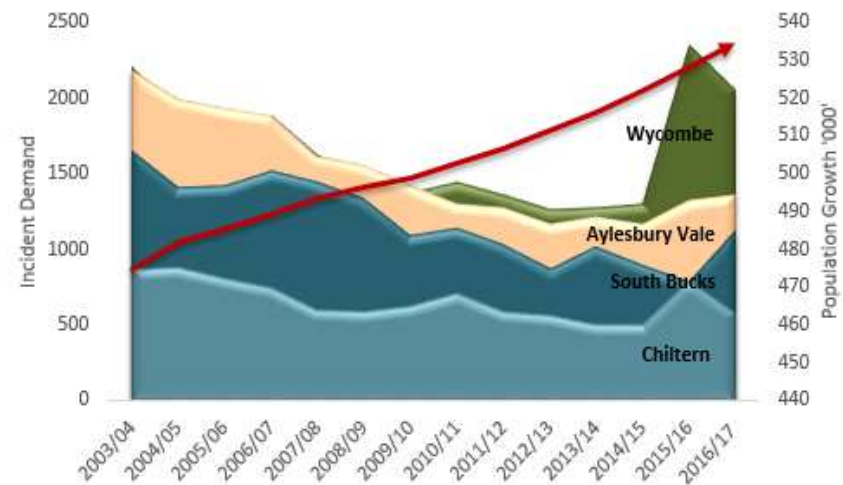


Change in demand within Buckinghamshire

Number of incidents per 10,000 population

	2003/04	2016/17	% Difference 2003/04 to 2016/17	Change in demand year on year between 2015/16 and 2016/17	
Buckinghamshire	163	74	↓ 54%	-4%	Decline
Milton Keynes	201	92	↓ 54%	9%	Increase
Aylesbury	35	15	↓ 56%	7%	Increase
High Wycombe	36	29	↓ 20%	-14%	Decline
Buckingham	5	6	↑ -28%	-1%	Decline
Beaconsfield	18	11	↓ 40%	32%	Increase
Gerrards Cross	17	10	↓ 39%	50%	Increase
Amersham	8	5	↓ 39%	-20%	Decline
Marlow	5	4	↓ 14%	-17%	Decline
Brill	1	1	↓ 50%	-7%	Decline
Chesham	8	4	↓ 53%	-45%	Decline
Great Missenden	3	3	↓ 16%	-6%	Decline
Haddenham	2	1	↓ 37%	-21%	Decline
Princes Risborough	3	3	↓ 15%	-12%	Decline
Stokenchurch	2	2	↑ -14%	-3%	Decline
Waddesdon	2	1	↓ 26%	-16%	Decline
Winslow	2	2	↓ 22%	7%	Increase

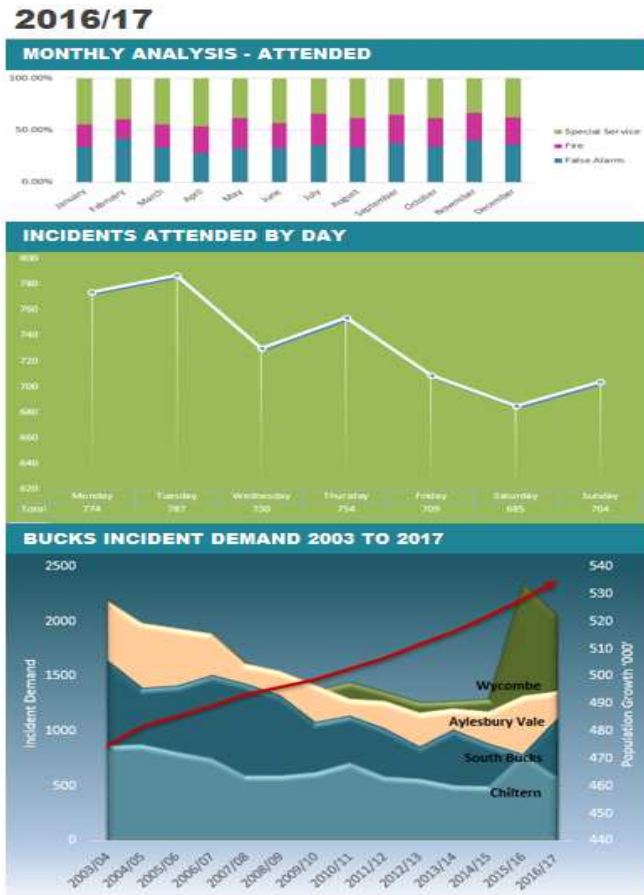
Buckinghamshire Snapshot
 April 2003 to March 2017





Buckinghamshire highlights

5138	Incidents attended
1373	Incidents attended in Aylesbury Vale
582	Incidents attended in Chiltern
1126	Incidents attended in South Bucks
2057	Incidents attended in Wycombe
2027	Special Service Incidents Attended
1798	False Alarms Attended
1318	Fires Attended
23/02/2017	Most Incidents Attended In One Day in Bucks
30	Most Incidents Attended In One Day
98%	Customer Satisfaction - Very Satisfied



389 People Rescued

2,570 Home Safety Checks

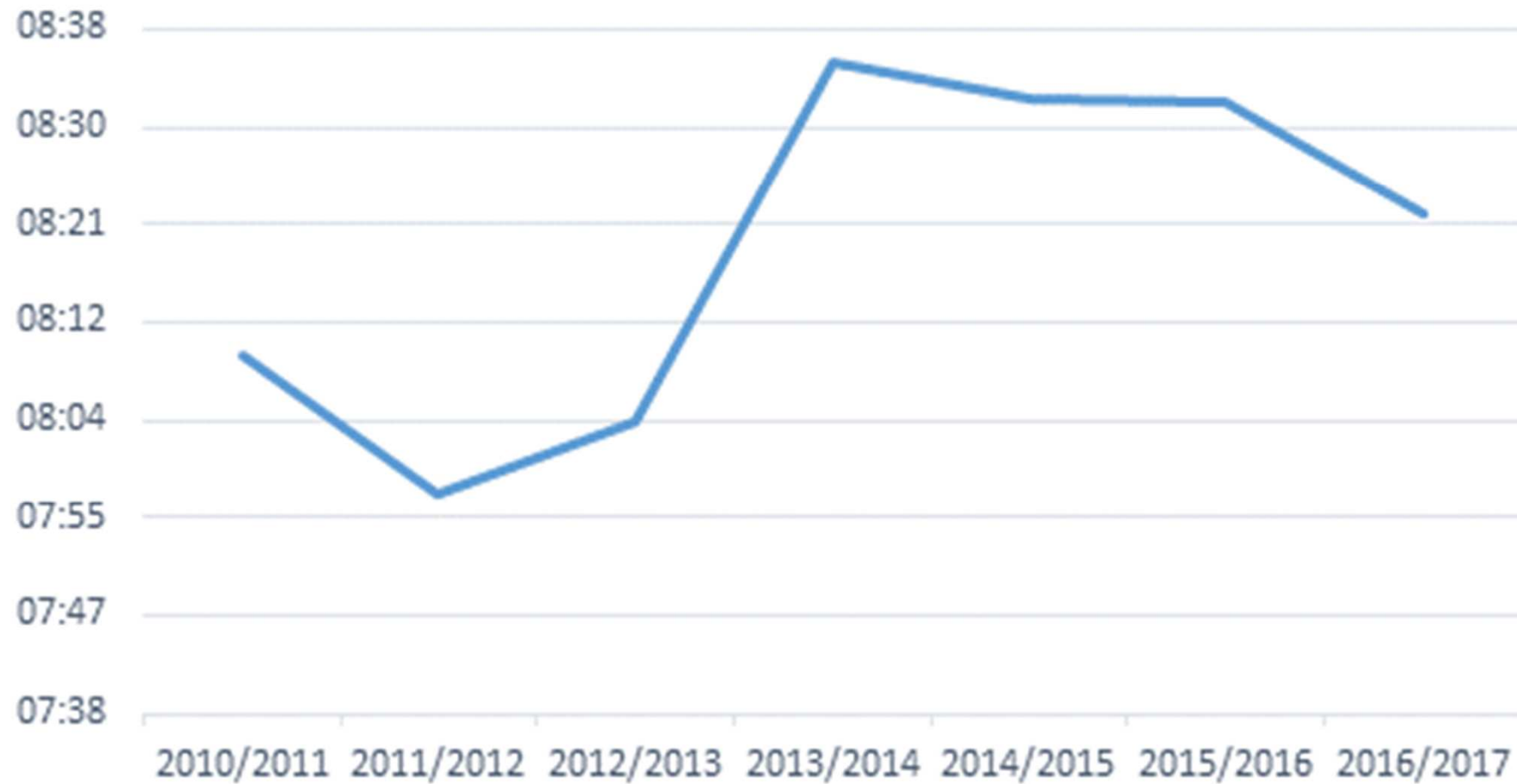
1,056 Medical Emergencies co-responder

Improving Attendance Times



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BFRS Average Attendance Time (exc co-res)





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Replenishing the workforce

- Blended approach, with transferees in.
- Balance skills, improve age profile and diversity
- Continue with our apprenticeship programme, by 2020 nearly 20% of our operational workforce will have come from apprenticeships, largely from your local communities.



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Response to Grenfell

- Joint inspections of high-rise premises by operational crews and inspecting officers
- Re-assurance messages to the public
- Supported other agencies and partners in reviewing fire safety arrangements
- Working with national groups to influence the outcomes of the reviews and changes to regulation and statute
- Using information gained to improve our service delivery



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What have we not done?

- Closed one fire station.
- Removed one fire engine.
- Made one Firefighter redundant.



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Investment - Vehicles

- £4.3m in 17 new pumps/water tenders/driver training vehicles up to 2021
- Recently delivered:
 - 3 no. 4x4's
 - 1 no. 7 Tonne
 - 4 no. Volvo pumps
- 4 more Volvo pumps due next month



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Investment - Property

- £500k spend every year on infrastructure improvements
- New £12m Blue Light Hub to be developed in Milton Keynes – opening due summer 2019
- Major aerials contracts currently agreed or under discussion – worth up to £180k p.a.
- Collaborative opportunities in hand at Princes Risborough, Winslow and Waddesdon



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Issues for the future

- Retention issues regarding on-call staff
- Further burdens following the incident at Grenfell Tower
- Increased housing leading to increased community safety activity
- Financial challenges in light of potential national pay award



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Financial performance

- Lowest council tax for any combined fire authority at £60.88 per year.
- Average council tax for parish councils is £61.03.
- Capping council tax by percentage terms disadvantages the most efficient.
- Currently lobbying government to relax the council tax referendum limits.
- Looking to raise council tax by £10 per year.



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“We look to the future as that is where we will spend the rest of our lives”

County Council



Treasury Management Update

Thursday 23 November 2017

Report from Cabinet Member for Resources

Purpose of this Report

1. The Council is required to report to members on the current year's treasury management activity. It was agreed that a mid-year report on treasury management would be reported to Regulatory and Audit Committee followed by a report to County Council as required by the CIPFA Code of Practice on treasury management in the public sector.

Background

2. In line with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice for Treasury Management and the Council's Financial Regulations (A3.2), this Council is required to provide Regulatory and Audit Committee with a mid-year report on the treasury management activity for the first six months of the financial year.
3. The Code of Practice defines Treasury Management as:

The management of the organisation's investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.

Treasury Management Strategy

4. The Council approved the 2017/18 treasury management strategy at its meeting on 16 February 2017. The general policy objective for this Council is the prudent investment of its treasury balances. The Council's investment priorities are the security of capital and liquidity of its investments. The Council will aim to achieve the optimum return on its investments commensurate with the proper levels of security



and liquidity. The effective management and control of risk are prime objectives of the Council's treasury management activities. In exceptional circumstances, where investments do not meet this criteria, decisions on investments will be delegated to the Director of Finance and Assets in consultation with both the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Resources, or where considered appropriate will be referred to Cabinet for such a decision.

5. All treasury management activity undertaken during the period complied with the approved strategy, the CIPFA Code of Practice and the relevant legislative provisions. There were no investments placed which resulted in a breach of the investment strategy.

Debt Management Strategy

6. The Council's borrowing objectives are:
 - To minimise the revenue costs of debt whilst maintaining a balanced loan portfolio.
 - To manage the Council's debt maturity profile, leaving no one future year with a disproportionate level of repayments.
 - To maintain a view on current and possible future interest rate movements and borrow accordingly.
 - To monitor and review the balance between fixed and variable rate loans against the background of interest rate levels and the Prudential Indicators.

Economic Review

7. UK Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) index rose with the data print for September showing CPI at 3.0%, its highest since June 2013 as the fall in the value of sterling following the June 2016 referendum result continued to feed through into higher import prices. The latest ONS statistics for the three months to August 2017 showed that the unemployment rate remained at 4.3%, down from 5% a year earlier and joint lowest since May 1975. Economic activity expanded at a much slower pace as evidenced by Q1 and Q2 GDP growth of 0.2% and 0.3% respectively. With the dominant services sector accounting for 79% of GDP, the strength of consumer spending remains vital to growth, but with household savings falling and real wage growth negative, there are concerns that these will be a constraint on economic activity in the second half of calendar 2017.

Outlook for Interest Rates

8. The Bank of England made no change to monetary policy at its meetings in the first half of the financial year. At September's meeting the Committee voted 7-2 in favour of keeping Bank Rate unchanged, the MPC changed their rhetoric, implying a rise in Bank Rate in "the coming months". At its meeting 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%.

Interim Performance Report

9. The Council's current strategy is to maintain borrowing and investments below their underlying levels, sometimes known as internal borrowing, in order to reduce risk and keep interest costs low. On 30th September 2017, the Council had net borrowing of £166m arising from its revenue and capital income and expenditure. Investments totalled £13.3m. The forecast outturn for interest earned on investments is on target compared to the budget of £362k. This includes £5m invested in the CCLA property fund.
10. Loans outstanding totalled £179.0m at 30 September 2017; £67.9m was from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB), £78m from the money markets, £32m temporary borrowing and £1.1m accrued interest. The forecast outturn for interest payments on external debt is an underspend of £200k compared to the budget of £8.5m. During the six months to 30 September £866,000 was repaid to the PWLB, a further debt principal repayment of £866,000 was made to PWLB on 1 October 2017 and a further payment of £10m is due to be paid on 14 February 2018. There has been no new long term borrowing during the six months to 30 September 2017, £25.1m new borrowing from the PWLB was undertaken on 30 October following completion of investment in a Commercial property.
11. The Council pre-paid a £4m LOBO loan running at 4.11% and will consider other prepayment options as they arise. The Council had been offered attractive prepayment terms from the bank and decided to proceed following consideration of the risk/benefits of maintaining the current position against a range of alternative restructuring scenarios. The eventual prepayment totalled £6.1m. At the point of prepayment, net interest savings are expected to be at least £0.3m over the remainder of this and the next four financial years. Savings will be reduced should interest rates rise faster than expected or higher cost debt is taken to replace principal and premium.
12. Additionally, the Council has both reduced its exposure to the uncertain refinancing risk represented by the inherent optionality of the LOBO structure and reduced the overall term of the debt portfolio. Consequently, the debt portfolio and borrowing need can now be managed more flexibly. The actual long term external borrowing at 31 March 2018 is forecast to be £160m. Arlingclose advised that with short-term interest rates currently much lower than long-term rates, it is likely to be more cost effective to borrow short-term loans initially. On 30 September, the Council had 7 short term loans in place totalling £32m ranging in value from £2m to £5m, with maturities from 6 months to 1 year. The Council continues to be aware of the potential to restructure debt, but there are unlikely to be opportunities in the prevailing interest rate environment.

Prudential Indicators

13. Each year, the Council agrees Prudential Indicators under the Local Government Act 2003 which are affordable, prudent and sustainable, the indicators 2017/18 to 2020/21 were agreed by County Council at its meeting on 16 February 2017.

CIPFA Consultation on Prudential and Treasury Management Codes

14. In February 2017 CIPFA canvassed views on the relevance, adoption and practical application of the Treasury Management and Prudential Codes and after reviewing responses launched a further consultation on changes to the codes in August with a deadline for responses of 30th September 2017.
15. The proposed changes to the Prudential Code include the production of a new high-level Capital Strategy report to full council which will cover the basics of the capital programme and treasury management. The prudential indicators for capital expenditure and the authorised borrowing limit would be included in this report but other indicators may be delegated to another committee. There are plans to drop certain prudential indicators, however local indicators are recommended for ring fenced funds (including the Housing Revenue Account) and for group accounts. Other proposed changes include applying the principles of the Code to subsidiaries.
16. Proposed changes to the Treasury Management Code include the potential for non-treasury investments such as commercial investments in properties in the definition of "investments" as well as loans made or shares bought for service purposes. Another proposed change is the inclusion of financial guarantees as instruments requiring risk management and addressed within the Treasury Management Strategy. Approval of the technical detail of the Treasury Management Strategy may be delegated to a committee rather than needing approval of full Council. There are also plans to drop or alter some of the current treasury management indicators.
17. CIPFA intends to publish the two revised Codes towards the end of 2017 for implementation in 2018/19, although CIPFA plans to put transitional arrangements in place for reports that are required to be approved before the start of the 2018/19 financial year. The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and CIPFA wish to have a more rigorous framework in place for the treatment of commercial investments as soon as is practical.

Recommendation

Council is asked to:

1. **Agree the Treasury Management Update Report and the Prudential Indicators for 2017/18 to 2020/21.**

CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES



Appendix 1

PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS FOR MTFP 2017/18 to 2020/21**1 Background**

1.1. The prudential framework for local authority capital investment was introduced through the Local Government Act 2003. The key objectives of the Prudential Code are to ensure that the capital investment plans of local authorities are affordable, prudent and sustainable. A further objective is to ensure that treasury management decisions are taken in accordance with good professional practice.

1.2. Local Authorities are required to have regard to the Prudential Code when carrying out their duties under Part 1 of the Local Government Act 2003. To demonstrate compliance the Code sets prudential indicators designed to support and record local decision making.

1.3. The purpose of this report is to update and revise the indicators approved by Council last year contained within the MTFP for 2017/18 to 2020/21. The report describes the purpose of each of the indicators and the proposed values and parameters for Buckinghamshire County Council. Monitoring of the Prudential Indicators takes place throughout the year and a mid-year and annual report are reported to Regulatory & Audit Committee and Council.

2 Capital Expenditure Indicators**2.1. Capital Expenditure**

This indicator is required to inform the Council of capital spending plans for the next four years. It is the duty of a local authority to determine and keep under review the amount that it can afford to allocate to capital expenditure.

The estimates of gross capital expenditure to be incurred for the current and future years is summarised below:

Table 2.1.1 Capital Expenditure 2017/18-2020/21

Indicator	Unit	Revised Estimate 2017/18 as at 30 Sept 2017	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Estimates of capital expenditure	£000	77,713	90,837	124,909	69,553	46,860

The Approved estimate of capital expenditure for 2017/18 has been updated to reflect the revised budget (inclusive of carry forwards) as reported to Cabinet in June 2017. The forecast outturn shows an anticipated £13.1m (14.4%) underspend on the revised capital expenditure budget for the year. The main reasons for this are the cancelled project at

Orchard House (£4.8m), planning delays in delivering school places (£3.7m), a review of the need for a third lift at NCO (£1.7m), delays in a number of environmental projects (£1.0m), delays caused by a lack of specialist contractor availability in addressing some Health and Safety issues (non-urgent) (£0.5m) and a variety of smaller items.

The estimate of capital expenditure for 2018/19 to 2020/21 does not reflect any proposed changes as part of the 2017/18 MTFP process.

Table 2.1.1 Capital Expenditure 2017/18-2020/21 approved by Council on 16 February 2017

Indicator	Unit	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Estimates of capital expenditure	£000	82,680	124,909	69,553	46,860

2.2. Capital Financing Requirement

The Capital Financing Requirement measures the Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes. This is essentially the Council's outstanding debt, necessary to finance the Council's capital expenditure. The actual debt is dependent on the type and maturity of the borrowing undertaken as well as seeking the optimal cashflow situation (see 6.3 and 6.4). Estimates of the end of year Capital Financing Requirement for the Council for the current and future years, net of repayments are:

Table 2.2.1 Capital Financing Requirement 2017/18 – 2020/21

Indicator	Unit	Revised Estimate 2017/18 as at 30 Sept 2017	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Estimates of capital financing requirement (CFR)	£000	357,806	357,806	354,598	352,969	350,339

Authorities can finance schemes in a variety of ways these include;

- The application of useable capital receipts
- A direct charge to revenue
- Application of a capital grant
- Contributions received from another party
- Borrowing

It is only the latter method that increases the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) of the Council.

As a result of slippage in the capital programme the amount that has been required to be borrowed has reduced a little from that anticipated at the time of setting the indicators in February 2017. This may, however, increase again if further investment properties are purchased and funded from borrowing.

Table 2.2.2 Capital Financing Requirement 2017/18 – 2020/21 approved by Council on 16 February 2017

Indicator	Unit	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Estimates of capital financing requirement (CFR)	£000	359,424	355,980	354,326	351,672

3 Affordability Indicators

3.1 Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream

Purpose of the Indicator

This indicator measures the proportion of the revenue budget that is being allocated to finance capital expenditure. For the General Fund this is the ratio of financing costs of borrowing against net expenditure financed by government grant and local taxpayers.

Estimates of the ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream for the current and future years are:

Table 3.1.1 Ratio of Financing Cost to Net Revenue Stream 2017/18 – 2020/21

Indicator	Unit	Revised Estimate 2017/18 as at 30 Sept 2017	Approved Estimate 2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Estimates of ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream	%	4.9%	4.9%	4.8%	4.5%	4.3%

There are no significant variations to this indicator since it was agreed by Council in February.

Table 3.1.2 Ratio of Financing Cost to Net Revenue Stream 2017/18 – 2020/21 approved by Council on 16 February 2017

Indicator	Unit	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Estimates of ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream	%	4.9%	4.8%	4.5%	4.3%

3.2 Estimates of Incremental Impact of New Capital Investment Decisions on Council Tax

This is a key affordability indicator that demonstrates the incremental effect of planned capital expenditure and hence any increased or decreased borrowing, on Council Tax.

Table 3.2.1 Incremental impact of new Capital investment on Council Tax 2017/18 – 2020/21

Indicator	Unit	Revised Estimate 2017/18 as at 30 Sept 2017	Approved Estimate 2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Estimates of the incremental impact of capital investment decisions on Council Tax	£	-£9.27	-£9.25	-£0.79	-£2.14	-£0.44
	%	-0.76%	-0.76%	-0.06%	-0.16%	0.03%

The forecast impact on Council Tax has only changed very marginally as a consequence of delays in the delivery of the capital programme.

The estimate of capital expenditure for 2018/19 to 2020/21 does not reflect any proposed changes as part of the MTFP process currently underway.

Table 3.2.2 Incremental impact of new Capital investment on Council Tax 2017/18 – 2020/21 approved by Council on 16 February 2017

Indicator	Unit	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Estimates of the incremental impact of capital investment decisions on Council Tax	£	-£9.25	-£0.81	-£2.14	-£0.44
	%	-0.76%	-0.06%	-0.16%	-0.03%

4 Financial Prudence Indicator

4.1. Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement ('CFR')

This indicator records the extent that gross external borrowing is less than the capital financing requirement (2.2 above).

This is a key indicator of the Council's prudence in managing its capital expenditure and is designed to ensure that, over the medium term, external borrowing is only for capital purposes. The Council should ensure that gross debt does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of capital financing requirement in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional capital financing requirement for the current and next three financial years. The values are measured at the end of the financial year.

Where gross debt is greater than the capital financing requirement the reasons for this should be clearly stated in the annual treasury management strategy. The figures for 2017/18 onwards are based on estimates:

Table 4.1.1 Gross Debt and the CFR 2017/18 – 2020/21

Indicator	Unit	Revised Estimate 2017/18 as at 30 Sept 2017	Approved Estimate 2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Gross Borrowing	£000	340,000	340,000	330,000	320,000	310,000
Capital Financing Requirement	£000	357,806	357,806	354,598	352,969	350,339

A further increase in gross borrowing was agreed for 2017/18 to allow greater headroom for the Council to invest in commercial properties. The authorised limit for 2018/19 onwards has been reduced to reflect the fact that it is anticipated that the Council will not need to replace debt repaid.

The actual external borrowing as at 31 March 2017 was £224.3m which includes £1.1m accrued interest. During 2017/18 £11.7m of PWLB debt will be repaid. Approximately £25m new borrowing from the PWLB will be taken out prior to completion of investment in a Commercial property. The Council pre-paid a £4m LOBO loan and will consider other prepayment options as they arise. Temporary borrowing amounts have ranged from £30m to £70m depending on cash flow requirements. The mix of temporary and fixed rate borrowing will continue to be reviewed in line with advice from our Treasury advisors.

Table 4.1.2 Gross Debt and the CFR 2017/18 – 2020/21 approved by Council on 16 February 2017

Indicator	Unit	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Gross Borrowing	£000	340,000	330,000	320,000	310,000
Capital Financing Requirement	£000	359,424	355,980	354,326	351,672

5 Treasury and External Debt Indicators

5.1 Authorised Limit for External Debt

The authorised limit for external debt is required to separately identify external borrowing (gross of investments) and other long term liabilities such as covenant repayments and finance lease obligations. The limit provides a maximum figure that the Council could borrow at any given point during each financial year.

Table 5.1.1 Authorised limit for external debt 2017/18 – 2020/21

Indicator	Unit	Revised Estimate 2017/18 as at 30 Sept 2017	Approved Estimate 2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Authorised limit (for borrowing) *	£000	350,000	350,000	340,000	330,000	330,000
Authorised limit (for other long term liabilities) *	£000	9,000	9,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Authorised limit (for total external debt) *	£000	359,000	359,000	350,000	340,000	340,000

* These limits can only be changed with the approval of the full Council

The authorised limits are consistent with approved capital investment plans and the Council's Treasury Management Policy and Practice documents, but allow sufficient headroom for unanticipated cash movements. The limit will be reviewed on an on-going basis during the year. If the authorised limit is liable to be breached at any time, the Director of Finance and Assets will either take measures to ensure the limit is not breached, or seek approval from the Council to raise the authorised limit.

The authorised limit of £350m agreed for 2017/18 allows headroom for the Council to invest in commercial properties. The authorised limit for 2018/19 onwards has been reduced to reflect the fact that it is anticipated that the Council will not need to replace debt repaid.

Table 5.1.2 Authorised limit for external debt 2017/18 – 2020/21 approved by Council on 16 February 2017

Indicator	Unit	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Authorised limit (for borrowing) *	£000	350,000	340,000	330,000	330,000
Authorised limit (for other long term liabilities) *	£000	9,000	10,000	10,000	10,000

Authorised limit (for total external debt) *	£000	359,000	350,000	340,000	340,000
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5.2 Operational Boundary for External Debt

This is a key management tool for in-year monitoring and is lower than the Authorised Limit as it is based on an estimate of the most likely level of external borrowing at any point in the year. In comparison, the authorised limit is the maximum allowable level of borrowing.

Table 5.2.1 Operational Boundary for External Debt 2017/18 – 2020/21

Indicator	Unit	Revised Estimate 2017/18 as at 30 Sept 2017	Approved Estimate 2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Operational boundary (for borrowing)	£000	320,000	320,000	310,000	300,000	300,000
Operational boundary (for other long term liabilities)	£000	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
Operational boundary (for total external debt)	£000	327,500	327,500	317,500	307,500	307,500

This indicator is consistent with the Council's plans for capital expenditure and financing and with its Treasury Management Policy and Practice document. It will be reviewed on an on-going basis, the operational boundary allows the Council to borrow up to invest in new assets which will generate an income stream in excess of any borrowing costs.

Table 5.2.2 Operational Boundary for External Debt 2017/18 – 2020/21 approved by Council on 16 February 2017

Indicator	Unit	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Operational boundary (for borrowing)	£000	320,000	310,000	300,000	300,000
Operational boundary (for other long term liabilities)	£000	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
Operational boundary (for total external debt)	£000	327,500	317,500	307,500	307,500

5.3 Actual External Debt

This is a factual indicator showing actual external debt for the previous financial year.

The actual external borrowing as at 31 March 2017 was £224.3m which includes £68.7m from the PWLB, £82m LOBO loans, £72.5m temporary borrowin from other local authorities and £1.1m accrued interest. During 2017/18 £11.7m of PWLB debt will be repaid. Approximately £25m new borrowing from the PWLB will be taken out prior to completion of investment in a Commercial property. The Council pre-paid a £4m LOBO loan and will consider other prepayment options as they arise. Temporary borrowing amounts have ranged from £30m to £70m depending on cash flow requirements. The mix of temporary and fixed rate borrowing will continue to be reviewed in line with advice from our Treasury advisors.

6 **Treasury Management Indicators**

The prudential code links with the existing CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services.

The Treasury Management indicators consist of five elements that are intended to demonstrate good professional practice is being followed with regard to Treasury Management. The proposed values and parameters provide sufficient flexibility in undertaking operational Treasury Management.

6.1 Security Average Credit Rating

The Council is asked to adopt a voluntary measure of its exposure to credit risk by monitoring the weighted average rating of its investment portfolio.

Table 6.1.1 Security Average Credit Rating 2017/18

Security Average Credit Rating	Actual / Target
Portfolio Average Credit Rating	AA- / A+ or above

For the purpose of this indicator, local authorities which are unrated are assumed to hold an AAA rating.

Table 6.1.2 Security Average Credit Rating 2017/18 approved by Council on 16 February 2017

Security Average Credit Rating	Target
Portfolio Average Credit Rating	A+ or above

6.2 Has the Council adopted the CIPFA Treasury Management Code?

The Council has adopted the Code. In line with the Code the Treasury Strategy is reported to Regulatory and Audit Committee and Council.

Table 6.2.1 The CIPFA Treasury Management Code 2017/18 – 2020/21

Indicator	Unit	Revised Estimate 2017/18 as at 30 Sept 2017	Approved Estimate 2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Adoption of the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Table 6.2.2 The CIPFA Treasury Management Code 2017/18 – 2020/21 approved by Council on 16 February 2017

Indicator	Unit	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Adoption of the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services	N/A	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

6.3 Upper Limit of Fixed Rate Borrowing for the 4 Years to 2020/21

This indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to interest rate risk and the rate is set for the whole financial year. The upper limits on fixed interest rate exposures expressed as an amount will be:

Table 6.3.1 Upper Limit of Fixed Rate Borrowing 2017/18 – 2020/21

Indicator	Unit	Revised Estimate 2017/18 as at 30 Sept 2017	Approved Estimate 2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Fixed interest rate exposure - upper limit *	£000	350,000	350,000	340,000	330,000	330,000

* Any breach of these limits will be reported to the full Council

Table 6.3.2 Upper Limit of Fixed Rate Borrowing 2017/18 – 2020/21 approved by Council on 16 February 2017

Indicator	Unit	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Fixed interest rate exposure - upper limit *	£000	350,000	340,000	330,000	330,000

6.4 Upper Limit of Variable Rate Borrowing for the 4 Years to 2020/21

This indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to interest rate risk. Here instruments that mature during the year are classed as variable, this includes the Council's Lender Option Borrower Option (LOBO) loans. For LOBO loans, on specified call dates, the lender has the option to increase the interest rate paid on the loan. If the lender exercises this option, then the borrower can agree to pay the revised interest rate or repay the loan immediately. The upper limits on variable interest rate exposures expressed as an amount will be:

Table 6.4.1 Upper Limit of Variable Rate Borrowing 2017/18 – 2020/21

Indicator	Unit	Revised Estimate 2017/18 as at 30 Sept 2017	Approved Estimate 2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Variable interest rate exposure - upper limit *	£000	225,000	225,000	160,000	170,000	160,000

* Any breach of these limits will be reported to the full Council

Arlingclose, the Council's treasury advisor, advised that with short-term interest rates much lower than long-term rates, it was likely to be more cost effective in the short-term to borrow short-term loans instead of long-term loans. Instruments that mature during the year are classed as variable.

Table 6.4.2 Upper Limit of Variable Rate Borrowing 2017/18 – 2020/21 approved by Council on 16 February 2017

Indicator	Unit	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Variable interest rate exposure - upper limit *	£000	225,000	160,000	170,000	160,000

6.5 Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowing

This Indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to refinancing risk. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of the fixed borrowing will be:

Table 6.5.1 Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowing 2017/18

Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowing	Revised Estimate 2017/18 as at 30 Sept 2017		Approved Estimate 2017/18	
	Upper Limit	Lower Limit	Upper Limit	Lower Limit
Under 12 months	80%	0%	80%	0%
12 months and within 24 months	50%	0%	50%	0%

24 months and within 5 years	55%	0%	55%	0%
5 years and within 10 years	80%	0%	80%	0%
10 years and above	100%	20%	100%	20%

These parameters control the extent to which the Council will have large concentrations of fixed rate debt needing to be replaced at times of uncertainty over interest rates. The maturity date of borrowing is the earliest date on which the lender can demand repayment.

Table 6.5.2 Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowing for 2017/18 approved by Council on 16 February 2017

Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowing	2017/18	
	Upper Limit	Lower Limit
Under 12 months	80%	0%
12 months and within 24 months	50%	0%
24 months and within 5 years	55%	0%
5 years and within 10 years	80%	0%
10 years and above	100%	20%

6.6 Total Principal Sums Invested for Periods Longer than 364 Days

The purpose of this indicator is to control the council's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments.

Table 6.6.1 Total Principal Sums Invested for Periods Longer than 364 Days 2017/18 to 2020/21

Indicator	Unit	Revised Estimate 2017/18 as at 30 Sept 2017	Approved Estimate 2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Total principal sums invested for periods longer than 364 days	£m	£10m	£10m	£20m	£20m	£20m

With regard to longer term investments the recommendation is to limit sums for periods longer than 364 days to no more than £10m in 2017/18 and £20m in 2018/19 to 2020/21. Cash balances are anticipated to be low due to financing the EfW project.

Table 6.6.2 Total Principal Sums Invested for Periods Longer than 364 Days 2017/18 to 2020/21 approved by Council on 16 February 2017

Indicator	Unit	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Total principal sums invested for periods longer than 364 days	£m	£10m	£20m	£20m	£20m

7 Conclusion

In approving, and subsequently monitoring, the above prudential indicators the Council is fulfilling its duty to ensure that spending plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable.

County Council



Select Committee Chairmen's Update

Thursday 23 November 2017

Report of the Chairmen of the Council's Select Committees

The following provides a brief overview of the work currently being undertaken by Select Committees. More detail on the work of the Committees can be found on the Council's website at www.buckscc.gov.uk/about-your-council/scrutiny. Select Committees are open to the public and are webcast live via the Council's website.

The latest Select Committee work programme and Inquiry work programme are also considered at each Cabinet meeting, and papers are available at: <https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=124>.

Children's Social Care and Learning

The Committee has continued to focus on the performance of Children's Services reviewing the quarterly performance report at their last meeting. The Committee highlighted the need to focus on the high number of repeat referrals that the service receives and the importance of closely monitoring caseload numbers and staffing. The Committee also had input into the consultation of the Early Help Services Review.

The Committee revisited the actions being taken to improve performance of the Educational Psychology Service, including the recruitment of Educational Psychologists which is an issue nationally. The Committee asked for regular reporting on levels of performance until improvements can be shown.

Members of the Committee have also shadowed various Children's Services social work teams to understand more about the valuable work they do, as well as visiting a children's residential care home and a We Do Care focus group.



Transport, Environment and Communities

The Committee agreed its Modern Slavery Inquiry Scope at their meeting on the 31st October. Evidence will be heard through both formal Committee meetings and Task and Finish Group evidence gathering sessions. The Committee will examine the Council's compliance with its responsibilities under the Modern Slavery Act 2015, and will explore approaches to understand the prevalence of modern slavery in Bucks.

The Committee will be considering a wide variety of agenda items at future meetings including the Prevent duty, Energy income generation opportunities and the Sustainable School Travel Inquiry recommendation 6 month review.

Health and Adult Social Care

At its November meeting, the Committee will hear from officers in Adult Social Care about their plans for transforming the service, as well as looking at the Care Home market in Buckinghamshire. Representatives from across the health and social care system will also attend to give a six month update on the progress of the recommendations made in the Hospital Discharge Inquiry.

The Committee will also discuss and agree the scoping document for its next Inquiry which will review how well Buckinghamshire is doing at reducing its levels of obesity amongst children in line with the Government target. Treating obesity and its consequences is currently estimated to cost the NHS £5.1bn every year and the wider costs of obesity to society are estimated to be around three times this amount. Evidence gathering will take place early in the New Year.

Committee Members continue to attend various health related events, including the forthcoming health and social care integration summit, open days, board meetings and Annual General Meetings. A number of Members visited Wycombe Hospital recently to view services and speak to health colleagues.

Finance, Performance and Resources

The Committee has considered a wide variety of issues at our recent meetings including performance management, IT and digital, income generation and LASR property review. At our December meeting, the Committee will receive an update from the Cabinet Member for Resources following the Call-in of the Bucks Sports and Social Club decision.

Members are now preparing for the Committee's Budget Scrutiny Inquiry 2018 and will receive a full briefing in December, ahead of the sessions with individual Cabinet Members in January 2018. The Budget Scrutiny meetings will, as usual, be held in public and webcast and we will invite questions from members of the public on social media.

SCRUTINY INQUIRY WORK PROGRAMME – OVERVIEW OF SELECT COMMITTEE CURRENT INQUIRIES 2017/18

Last Updated: 14 November 2017

Inquiry Title	Inquiry Chairman	Lead Officer	Nov	Dec	Jan 18	Feb 18	March 18	April 18
Finance, Performance, Resources (FPR)								
Budget Scrutiny	David Watson	Kelly Sutherland						
Children’s Social Care & Learning (CSC&L)								
Permanent Exclusions From School^	Dev Dhillon	Kevin Wright						
New Inquiry tbc	tbc	tbc						
Health, Adult Social Care (HASC)								
Response to Developing Care in the Community	Brian Roberts	Liz Wheaton						
Childhood Obesity^	Brian Roberts	Liz Wheaton						
Transport, Environment & Communities (TEC)								
Modern Slavery^	David Carroll	Kama Wager						
New Inquiry tbc	tbc	tbc						

^ To be agreed



Scoping



Evidence gathering



Committee Approval Report



Cabinet / NHS

For further information on scrutiny work please contact Kelly Sutherland, Committee & Governance Manager x 3602
www.buckscc.gov.uk/democracy

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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 8th and 9th 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 25th 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 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

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 9th and 10th 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

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

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. 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

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 13th 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 (3rd 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 6th 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 19th 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 26th 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 16th 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 8th 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 27th 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 7th 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 6th and 8th 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 3rd overall and 1st 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**



County Council

Cabinet Member Decisions Taken

Information on decisions taken by Cabinet Members since the last County Council agenda. For an up-to-date list of decisions taken and forthcoming decisions, please refer to the Council's website – www.buckscc.gov.uk/democracy

Cabinet Member for Children's Services

1 Nov 2017

CS05.17 - Care Leavers Staying Put Policy (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member:

- **APPROVED** the amendments to the Staying Put Policy.
- **AGREED** that the amended payment level to Staying Put Carers is £303.10 per week and that former foster carers return their skills payment on a sliding scale

1 Nov 2017

CS04.17a - Looked after Children and Placement Strategy (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member **AGREED** this Strategy. The effectiveness of the Strategy will be evaluated and reviewed annually

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

10 Oct 2017

ED10.17 - Millbrook School (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member:

AGREED that, as the Local Authority and Governing body have followed the Department for Education statutory guidance, permission is granted for the school to increase in size by one form of entry (i.e. 30 children) from 1 September 2018.



AGREED that the school will then build up over a three year period to its revised capacity of 630.

Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation

20 Sep 2017

T20.17 - Highway Asset Management Policy (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member:

APPROVED and AGREED to adopt this revised Highway Asset Management Policy which sets the guiding principles for the management of the Authority's highway assets. This revision ensures that the policy remains current and aligns the policy with the recently adopted County Council Strategic Plan 2017-2020.

4 Oct 2017

T22.17 - Review of resident permit terms and conditions (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member:

AGREED the recommendations for the changes to permit types and charges and AGREED they become operational from 1st January 2018

31 Oct 2017

T21.17a - Marlow town centre waiting, loading and parking review (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member AGREED:

- a) To advertise the draft traffic regulation order and undertake statutory consultation relating to the proposed;
 - I. Introduction of new waiting restrictions in the greater Marlow area as set out in Appendix 2 ;
 - II. Changes to the limited waiting, resident permit holder, disabled, loading and Quoting Square bays in Marlow town centre;
 - III. Proposed tariff and operational hours for the bays in the town centre
- b) That the results of the statutory consultation and officers' recommendations will be the subject of a further Report to Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transportation to enable them to make a decision on changes to parking arrangements in Marlow town centre

Please note that there is an error in the report – the table at paragraph 1.17 should show ‘Paid 1 hr’ parking for The Causeway zero as follows:

Location	No. new spaces	Paid 1hr	Paid 2hr	resident
High Street	19	19		
The Causeway	3	3 0	3	
West Street	4	4		
Institute Road	2	2		
Station Road	2	2		
St. Peter Street	6	2		4
Total	36	29	3	4

7 Nov 2017

T23.17 - Revocation of the improvement line HW-RW-05, High Wycombe (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member:

APPROVED the revocation of the improvement line HW-RW-05. As shown in Maps 1 and 2

For further information please contact: Sara Turnbull on 01296 382876



County Council

Member Services Update

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The Deputy Leader, Mr Shaw, has recently agreed a decision to approve a Member Development Strategy for the County Council. A copy of the strategy can be viewed [here](#) . The Member Development Working Group has overseen the development of this strategy, incorporating feedback from Members on the election Induction. The purpose of the strategy is to ensure that the right training and support are provided to Members.

The implementation of the strategy will be overseen by the Member Development Working Group.

This cross-party group is chaired by Mr S Lambert and includes the following Members:

Mr Shaw	Mr Martin
Mr Bowles	Ms Ward
Mr Carroll	Mrs Glover
Mr Clare	

The group is currently working to prepare for an external reassessment of the Council's Charter Mark status for Member Development with the inspection due to take place on 12 December 2017.

MEMBER BRIEFINGS – INFORMATION EVENTS ON HOT TOPICS

Member briefings normally take place once a month at County Hall in Aylesbury. The Member Development Strategy agreed a shift in approach to increasing the number of online briefings. Further details of these will be available in the new year. Key upcoming meetings are:

Date	Topic	Time	Venue
Mon 04 Dec	Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP	14.00 - 16.00	Exhibition Suite Rm 2
Thurs 25 Jan	Child Sexual Exploitation	14.00 – 16.00	Large Dining Rm, Judges Lodgings

OUT AND ABOUT Visits

This month saw eight of our Members attend the Archiving department at NCO for an Out and About visit. The team were able to tailor the visit to those who attended, providing information relevant to each of their divisions. Feedback from those Members who attended the session have been positive, some have been quoted below:

- “A wonderful treasure hoard”
- “Amazed at the documentation County Council had access to”
- “We were shown around by our impressively knowledgeable Archivist, which truly added to the experience”

Thanks to those Members who were able to take part and for providing insightful feedback. For other Members who were unable to attend but would like to visit Archives please contact Laura Cotton directly on cotton@buckscc.gov.uk

Pilot visits to other areas of the organisation, open to all Members, will be advertised in due course. For more details or suggestions for areas you would like to know more about please contact democracy@buckscc.gov.uk

MEMBER ZONE

Please don't forget to check Member Zone for all updates

<https://intranet.buckscc.gov.uk/member-zone/training-and-resources/member-briefings/>

CONTACT US

You can contact Member Services via email: democracy@buckscc.gov.uk or telephone: 01296 382343.

Sara Turnbull, Head of Member Services