

County Council



Cabinet Member Reports

9A REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Financial outturn

As reported at Cabinet, the County Council is experiencing significant financial pressures particularly in Children's Services. As at the end of June, the forecast end of year outturn indicated a pressure of £1.2m. Since then the indications are that the pressures have continued and intensified with the number of looked after children increasing from approximately 455 last September to about 515 now. I am meeting regularly with the senior officer team to review the situation and seek mitigation measures.

It is important to note that these pressures, particularly in Children's Services, are common across most county councils and unitaries with recent reports of forecast pressures from Suffolk, Somerset, East Sussex, Surrey, Lancashire, Windsor and Maidenhead (unitary), Birmingham and many others. I continue to lobby Government Ministers on these issues as does the County Council's Network.

England's Economic Heartland Strategic Alliance

England's Economic Heartland (EEH) has produced a 'call to action' for the Government ahead of the 2018 Autumn Budget, containing five key asks. These include the UK's first geographic, as opposed to topic-specific, National Policy Statement for the region; and a 'major scheme development fund' that would help support local transport authorities as they develop infrastructure proposals for inclusion in the investment pipeline. The delivery of several key pieces of strategic infrastructure, including installation of digital connectivity along the East West Rail route to benefit local residents and businesses, is another key ask. The 'call to action' was unveiled at EEH's second annual conference at Silverstone on 12 September and is available at www.englandseconomicheartland.com

The conference came at a time when the leadership provided by EEH on strategic infrastructure is gaining further momentum. A report on wider strategic infrastructure was published in August, and this is leading to more work over the autumn as EEH looks to address barriers to delivery for utilities.

EEH is currently working with DfT with a view to commission the 'connectivity study' announced in last autumn's Budget. The study, the timing of which is linked to the announcement by the Government as to the preferred corridor for the Oxford to Cambridge expressway, will look at how those communities not on the route of the expressway can still benefit from it.

In the summer, the Strategic Transport Forum supported the County Council's proposal seeking additional funding for the Aylesbury Eastern Link Road to be delivered as a dual carriageway, and a decision is expected before the end of the year.

An EEH Bus Operators' Association has been formed, which will have a strong voice on the planning and delivery of strategic infrastructure in the region, while also playing a crucial role in our work to improve transport users' choice and journey experience.

With government funding secured for the year ahead, the capacity of EEH to commission work on strategic issues on behalf of the partners has been increased, enabling the region to strengthen its voice in Westminster. With a spending review expected next year, the need for a strong strategic voice becomes all the more important.

East West Rail

Network Rail has applied to the Government for a Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO) to build East West Rail's 'Western Section' between Bicester and Bedford - enabling services between Oxford and Bedford, and Aylesbury and Milton Keynes. It follows a series of consultation events along the line which took place earlier in the year.

The submission is welcomed as a key milestone in getting trains on tracks by the early 2020s, including a new station at Winslow. A spur to Aylesbury is also part of the proposals. East West Rail will transform connectivity in the region, making possible journeys by train which can only currently be undertaken by car. It will support new jobs and homes, and provide an attractive alternative to car travel.

The period of representation ended on 7 September. Although the County Council is a strong supporter of East West Rail, we have raised a number of concerns which will need to be resolved prior to the TWAO application being approved. These concerns cover transport and traffic issues (particularly construction traffic), ecology and public rights of way.

This is likely to be followed by a public inquiry, after which an inspector will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for his consideration.

Broadband

Broadband in Buckinghamshire has largely been shaped by a partnership between Buckinghamshire County Council, Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership and Hertfordshire County Council, called 'Connected Counties'. The second phase of this programme has also been supported by colleagues in the District Councils. We have recycled money from over achievement of the initial Phase 1 business case into further support for Phase 2.

As part of the Connected Counties programme, over 45,000 premises in Buckinghamshire received improved connectivity between June 2013 and June 2016 during the first phase; with a further 12,000 premises expected to be improved between June 2016 and December 2019 through the second phase. The programme aimed to reach 95% superfast broadband coverage by December 2019, and we are pleased that this was achieved in August 2018.

Whilst we continue with our planned Connected Counties rollout, we are also now considering how we ensure superfast connectivity for the final 5% of our residents who remain unable to have the necessary infrastructure for reliable broadband, and the County Council has now applied for funding from DEFRA to facilitate the connection of rural businesses through the [Rural Broadband Infrastructure](#) grant.

We continue to work with the providers of major new transport infrastructure schemes to determine how we can best use these transport links to provide additional capacity. Specifically I have written to Chris Grayling, Secretary of State for Transport,

concerning the failure by HS2 to live up to the obligation given to Parliament to provide high capacity fibre along the entire route of HS2

Heathrow Airport

A series of judicial reviews have been made against the Secretary of State's designation in June of the Airports National Policy Statement (NPS). The NPS confirmed Heathrow and the third runway option as the Government's preferred location for new hub capacity in the south east. There are six challenges including a joint judicial review by five councils, the Mayor of London and Greenpeace. The grounds of challenge include air quality, poor environmental assessment, habitats regulations, climate change and surface access. The challenges do not delay Heathrow in progressing its masterplan and assessment work ahead of a planned second round of consultation early in 2019. If the NPS survives the judicial reviews, then Heathrow could submit the application for the runway in 2020.

In the Council's response to consultations over the past 18 months, we have been clear that Heathrow and indeed the Government need to invest in surface access to address air quality and related ecology issues. Land in southern Buckinghamshire could play a major role in providing the new watercourses and habitats which Heathrow need to mitigate the impact of expansion. Improved transport links and access to new courses at Buckinghamshire academic institutions funded through expansion would help Buckinghamshire residents travel to new jobs and train to provide Heathrow and surrounding employers with the increasingly high skilled workforce they will need.

Western Rail Access to Heathrow

Network Rail completed its statutory consultation earlier this summer on its prospective application to link Heathrow (Terminal 5) directly with services on the Great Western Mainline. The new link, which would join the line between Iver and Langley stations, is needed whether or not Heathrow expansion goes ahead. The principal issue for Buckinghamshire though is that Network Rail plan to permanently close Hollow Hill Lane which links the Ivers and north Slough. To date, Network Rail has not demonstrated that the road must close, or that the saving in not providing a new link could not instead be used to mitigate the transport impacts and fund local road and access works, including the option to part fund the Iver Relief Road.

Luton Airport

The County Council has responded to Luton's initial consultation on its plans to expand from 18 to 38 million passengers per annum by 2050. One issue is how expansion and specifically new flightpaths could impact on tranquil north Buckinghamshire and the protected environment of the Chilterns AONB. As a member of the EEH Strategic Transport Forum, I have endorsed the approach that the airport's growth should be supported by investment in the wider rail and road network. Luton Airport recognises the importance of international connectivity to the economies of the three counties of Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire. To deliver this sustainably, the airport will need to increase the capacity for passengers and staff to access the airport conveniently through improved rail, bus and coach links, including direct connections to Aylesbury. This investment over the coming decades will then enable step changes in passenger numbers as new terminal capacity becomes accessible by new train and coach services into and through Buckinghamshire.

Aylesbury Town

Discussions have commenced with AVDC to see if there is potential to work together to improve and enhance the retail and community offering of the town centre of Aylesbury. Both parties are approaching this in a spirit of positive working together. In addition, Bill Chapple and Clive Harris continue to represent us on the Garden Town Committee.

HS2 Update

Notice to Proceed

HS2 civil contractors have been given an extra eight months to adapt their designs to meet target costs. The dates now for the two joint venture contractors in Buckinghamshire are Align JV: February 2019 and EK JV: June 2019.

Community and Environment Fund (CEF) and the Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF)

There have been several further funding announcements:

Applicant: Wendover Parish Council

CEF funding: £74,990

Wendover Parish Council own a free-to-use car park at Witchell Meadow Recreation Ground that is located close to the town centre and is well-used by walkers and families using the recreation ground. Due to its central location, it is often full and this discourages people from visiting the town. The Parish Council will use CEF funding to extend the car park so that they can provide additional spaces. The car park will remain free-to-use and they will provide an information board to signpost the car park and local walks, recreation activities and services, such as the library and community information office.

Applicant: The Saye and Sele Foundation

CEF funding: £29,850

The Saye and Sele Foundation is a registered charity that supports young people under the age of 25 to further their studies and education. They own Saye and Sele Hall, located in the village of Quainton, which is hired out to local clubs and leisure organisations at an affordable cost. The project aims to enhance the facilities available at the hall in order to provide increased storage space and a modernised kitchen which will benefit the clubs who hire the hall and the community of Quainton who attend them.

Applicant: Quainton Parish Council

CEF funding: £9,700

The Parish Council are working with Quainton Windmill Society to maintain and restore the windmill to full working order. The windmill is a Grade II building that dates back to 1832 and the building fabric has deteriorated over a number of years. CEF Funds will replace the external wooden viewing gallery that was first installed in 1977 and which is now in a serious state of disrepair, to contribute towards the restoration of Quainton Windmill to bring it back to be a working mill and visitor attraction.

An event was held on 3 August for councillors by Groundwork, who administer the CEF and BLEF, to encourage ideas and help with applications to the funds.

Health and Wellbeing Board update

The July meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board was cancelled, and September's update will be presented at November's Council.

Brexit

As part of our continued preparations for Brexit, the County Council has been working with Buckinghamshire Business First and Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership, to disseminate information to businesses and providers (including social care providers) on the rights of EU nationals and on the government's preparations for a 'no deal' scenario. More information can be found at: <https://bbf.uk.com/news/brexit-how-to-prepare-if-the-uk-leaves-with-no-deal>

**MARTIN TETT
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

9B DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORTATION

1. TfB

The main operational achievements and challenges of the TfB business since the last report in early July 2018 are listed below in sections 2 to 4. The main managerial achievements in the same period are summarised in Section 1 as follows:

- July and early August have seen unusually dry and hot weather. This has affected work programmes. Working times have been staggered to avoid mid-day working in unreasonable temperatures. Break times have been altered to give regular comfort breaks. Urban grass cutting has been suspended due to almost negligible growth in the period. Gritters have been active spreading granite dust on sections of carriageway where binder has become fluid and resulted in 'fattening up' of local areas of carriageway.
- Health and Safety – Figures remain very positive and culture good. Incidents are robustly investigated and addressed. However, there has been a spike in minor incidents in July and early August, potentially linked to the hot temperatures and fatigue of operatives.
- Members Working Group continues to pay dividends and will restart in September with new Members to the group.
- Parish Portal went live at the July Stakeholder Conference and feedback has been very positive.
- The HMEP Review and Future Highways Research Club (FHRC) value for money toolkit has been completed. The results demonstrate good practice and continuing improvement. Actions arising will be dovetailed into the service continuous improvement plan.

2. Capital Programme

2018/19 Carriageway & Footway Surfacing Programme Overview

Now that a significant proportion of the carriageway surfacing programme has been completed, resources are assigned to the footway structural repair programme. Site surveys and design work commences in September with construction work beginning in October.

With actual spend across the above programmes up to the end of July 2018 exceeding £6.5m and with a further £6m spend in August, the following summarises the year to date position against each of the individual programmes of work:

- **Conventional Resurfacing** – TfB have made excellent progress with this year's programme of large scale resurfacing work, with 12 schemes already completed out of a total of 22. A further 7 schemes will be completed by the end of September, with the entire programme planned for completion by the end of November.
- **Stoke Hammond Bypass** - £4.5m is being invested in resurfacing the bypass together with associated drainage improvements to ensure longevity. Resurfacing work commenced in August on a 12 week programme and is expected to be

completed at the beginning of October. Carriageway closures will be advertised and in operation throughout this period.

- **Surface Dressing** – The surface dressing treatment has now been completed on all 32 schemes to be delivered as part of this year’s programme of works. The reinstatement of road markings and road studs is under way will be completed by mid September.
- **Micro-surfacing** – This year’s programme contains work on 41 schemes covering multiple streets across the county. Preparatory patching works have been completed, with the microsurfacing treatment programmed for completion by the end of September. Work to reinstate road markings and adjust ironwork will continue into November.
- **Plane and Patch/DfT Pothole Fund** – See operations section
- **Joint Sealing** – In addition to the £200,000 invested during 2017/18, a further £200,000 has already been spent on this treatment during 2018/19. Programme of works completed.
- **Footway Structural Repairs** – £1.5m will be invested in footway surfacing during 2018/19. 18 countywide priority schemes have been chosen for delivery, with a further 16 schemes identified for structural repairs, subject to funding. Construction work is expected to commence in October.
- **Preparation for 2019/20 Programme** – Feedback from the annual Member engagement meetings back in January and February has been used to have been used in preparing an indicative four year programme of both “local” and “strategic” schemes. This indicative programme will be reviewed at the next round of Member engagement meetings being planned for this October to continue the county’s rolling four year carriageway surfacing programme.

2018/19 Capital Delivery Programme – Other Budget Headings

Elsewhere actual spend up to the end of July 2018 exceeded £1.3m, following further countywide capital investment associated with street lighting, safety fencing, drainage, network safety, parking, bridges and traffic signals. The following summarises the year to date position against each of the individual programmes of work:

Street Lighting – In excess of £2.5m will be invested in this asset during the course of 2018/19, with over 420 structurally defective columns and over 40 illuminated signs and feeder pillars to be replaced. As part of a countywide Salix funded ‘Investment to Save’ initiative to reduce future energy consumption and reduce maintenance costs, over 3,200 street lights will be replaced with LED lanterns. Work on all phases of work to commence in August/September.

Safety Fencing – £250,000 to be invested on a total of 3 countywide schemes, with one of these schemes already completed.

Drainage – Investment in drainage schemes has now been increased to £1m, which will allow us to complete over 30 schemes across the county. Excellent progress has been made since April, with 14 schemes already completed.

Network Safety – Over £300,000 will be invested across 10 countywide network safety schemes, with 70% of these schemes planned for completion during 2018. A further

£879,000 from the DfT Safer Roads allocation, will enable a number of safety schemes to be carried out along the A40 between West Wycombe and Stokenchurch, with the majority implemented before the end of this year.

Parking – Successful completion of pay and display schemes in Aylesbury, Amersham and High Wycombe. Following the cancellation of the Marlow pay and display scheme, the Parking Team is currently assessing the possible use of 'smart' technology as well as other possible pay and display schemes across the county. Marlow waiting restrictions review currently out to consultation. Subject to feedback from the consultation, we expect lining work to take place in October.

Bridges – Throughout 2018/19 in excess of £1m will be invested on improvements to various structures across the county including Marlow Suspension Bridge, Marlow Obelisk, subways, a footbridge in Buckingham and a scheduled monument in Thornborough.

Traffic Signals - £434,000 has been allocated for the upgrade of four traffic signal sites across the county and a further £130,000 for the renewal of rising bollards in Aylesbury and High Wycombe. All schemes currently planned for completion during 2018. Schemes identified for delivery during 2018/19 are now available to view on the Members Portal.

3. Network Management

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. As a result of this analysis we have identified 8 sites to be prioritised within this year's (2018/19) safety scheme budget. These sites are currently subject to detailed design and costing before a final programme is known. A scheme from last year's programme has recently been completed in Stoke Poges.

Fir Tree Avenue, junction with B416 Stoke Road, Stoke Poges - Collision data revealed 5 collisions, 4 of which could be attributed to drivers failing to recognise the junction priority when approaching from Fir Tree Avenue. In order to highlight the priority at the junction, a yellow backed Give Way sign was installed at the junction and a new advanced Give Way warning sign. The direction sign on the opposite side of the junction was renewed, revised and relocated more within the driver's forward eye line when approaching. Vegetation was cleared to improve visibility from the junction to the north and all lining was renewed.

Casualty Data - Provisional collision /casualty data shows that 2017 (Jan to Dec) has seen a 17% reduction in the number of people injured on Buckinghamshire roads. Data for the first half of 2018 (Jan to Jun) appears to indicate this trend continuing, with a 22% reduction in all casualties compared to the same period in 2017, 18 fewer KSI (Killed and Seriously Injured) casualties and 104 fewer slight casualties than Jan to Jun 2017. These figures should be treated with caution, as they are provisional and we are aware of some additional police reports for this period which we have yet to receive and input into our data system. However, we anticipate there is still a reduction in the overall figures in comparison with last year.

Road deaths from Jan to Aug 2018 have also reduced by 7 (50%) in comparison with the same period in 2017 (14 in 2017 and 7 in 2018). We receive the fatal collision reports from Thames Valley Police (TVP) within 48 hours and carry out a site visit with a TVP officer. A notification message is sent upon receipt of the details from TVP to the Cabinet Member and Deputy, together with the member for the ward in which the collision has occurred.

Education Training and Publicity:

County Show. Promoting and providing mocktails (alcohol free cocktails) at the show. Samples of mocktail drinks and recipe cards were available and the team gave out information on alcohol units and how drivers can take responsibility to ensure they are not over the limit, especially the morning after (1 in 5 drivers caught drink driving are detected the morning after).

Be a Better Biker motorcycle assessment days running throughout the summer with the final one in September. Delivered by Thames Vale Advanced Motorcyclist at Marlow fire station. Classroom and practical element aiming to improve rider skills and reduce the number of biker KSIs.

Driver Eyesight campaign. Working with TVP and Bucks Fire & Rescue to raise awareness of the importance of regular eye tests for drivers. Roadside check with TVP 7 September in Marlow, conducting roadside eyesight tests and handing out information leaflets. Also to be promoted via social media as Travel Safe campaign.

Mobile Phone campaign. Social media awareness and roadside check with TVP on 21 September. Publicity event at Bucks Uni in partnership with TVP and Bucks Fire & Rescue. Aim: to raise awareness of the risks and penalties of using a mobile phone whilst driving.

Mobility Scooters. Following a complaint about mobility scooters on the road in Chesham, we have produced a leaflet with the basic rules for using a mobility scooter both on road and on the pavement. These will be distributed via mobility centres, TVP and relevant associations.

Asset Team

The Highway Service policy will now be considered at October's Cabinet, and will be followed by new policies for Network Safety, Network Management and Winter Service. A new footway hierarchy is being developed for April 2019, in liaison with other Midlands Highways Alliance Authorities.

Parking

The Buckinghamshire Parking Delivery Plan has been formally adopted following a Cabinet Decision in July. This document is an action plan to deliver the Buckinghamshire Vision for Parking, which looks to see the cost of delivering on-street parking reaching neutrality. As part of this, alternative, more effective methods of enforcing limited waiting areas are being explored, following the decision not to pursue pay and display in Marlow. We are also looking at options for increasing the number of Civil Enforcement Officers across the county.

Streetworks

An independent review has shown the permit scheme has been implemented well. We are now considering options for expanding the scheme, including the potential for a

future lane rental scheme for key parts of the network. The team have also led on a meeting with neighbouring authorities and Highways England to improve coordination and information sharing.

Traffic Signals/ITS

The delivery of the critical junction project, to improve both performance and resilience of the busiest and most sensitive traffic junctions in the county, continues. Delivery continues in the capital programme to refurbish ageing traffic signal equipment to try and maintain a steady state in the condition of the signals asset.

4. Network Operations

Defects – After a very busy early part of the year dealing with the effects of winter 2018/19, defect numbers are now back to normal levels. The temporary arrangement implemented earlier has therefore ended and full repairs are once again being undertaken wherever possible.

Plane and Patch/DfT Pothole Fund – over 100,000sq m of plane and patch has now been laid across the county since April, and the programme is nearing completion. Efforts have been made to spread the programme evenly across the county, whilst addressing those areas of most concern from a safety and structural perspective.

Grass – Urban grass cutting has ceased due to lack of growth, with resources deployed instead onto weed removal programmes. Rural grass cutting, being less frequent, has not been significantly affected, with programme continuing as planned.

Gullies – remain ahead of programme, assisted by lack of need for reactive attendance in dry spell. No significant flooding has been reported despite one or two very heavy localized showers.

Spray Injection Patching (Jetpatching) – Jet-patching programmes were completed by the end of August. Productivity throughout the season has been excellent, with around 25% additional work carried out within the planned budget expenditure.

Trees – work has continued in earlier months on priority removal/maintenance programme. Work was then suspended during nesting season but recommenced in August. Limbs etc which have become a nuisance to buses are being addressed as identified.

Finally, **Winter Planning** is under way, with around 10,000 tonnes of salt delivered by end of August, ensuring that stores are full to capacity in advance of winter season commencing on 15 October. Vehicles and ice detection sensors have all been subject to summer maintenance and are operational in readiness.

MARK SHAW
DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORTATION

9C CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH

New approach to drug and alcohol prevention in secondary schools

On 17 July, the Council launched a new drug and alcohol prevention programme for secondary schools. The programme, called Risk-Avert, will be available to schools from this month.

Risk Avert focuses on risk-taking behaviours and helps young people aged 12 and 13 develop practical skills to manage day to day risks that they face in life. The programme aims to help young people stay safe and have better general wellbeing.

Schools in Buckinghamshire will receive the programme for free and it is adaptable for schools with special education needs.

Some young people may already be taking risks and these young people are invited to have some extra support. The extra support will take the form of six specially designed workshops led by their teachers, who will have been trained by The Training Effect Ltd to deliver the sessions.

The new programme will be available until August 2021. Towards the end of this time there will be an assessment to see how effective the programme has been.

Active Bucks Ageing Well Together Campaign - October 2018

The Council is working with partners across the county to deliver an Active Bucks Ageing Well Together campaign to increase older residents' awareness of physical activity opportunities and encourage them to try a new activity and get more active. The campaign will take place in the first week of October, starting on Older People's Day on 1 October.

Targeting residents aged 65+, the campaign has been developed using information gathered as part of the Council's Active Bucks older people project, which involved talking to people about their relationship with physical activity.

Willow Project

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has funded a Thames Valley-wide exploitation victim service. The OPCC has been re-designing all its commissioned victim support services and as result recently launched "*Willow Project*" as part of *Victims First* which is a single point of contact hub. The Willow Project will be provided by Thames Valley Partnership. Buckinghamshire will have one Crisis and Support Co-ordinator and two support workers, once recruitment is completed. The Council will be providing hot desking facilities one day a week.

The Willow Project will involve prevention work, crisis intervention and ongoing support to both victims and their families. The charity offers support on both a practical and emotional level on any issues that are important to individuals and ranges from help with housing, benefits, education and employment, assistance through court processes, advocating at meetings, to hospital visits and arranging food and clothes parcels for example.

The Willow Project will also provide support to the Police and other partner organisations, such as training and awareness raising of modern slavery, strategic support in developing local procedures and assistance with operational activity.

The contract began in July 2018 and it will be in place for a trial period until March 2020.

NOEL BROWN
CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH

9D CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Early Help Review Update

Further to my last update on early help, the research undertaken by the independent company BMG has now been completed. This has provided a better insight into what families value about early help services and will help shape future proposals. We have also conducted a thorough needs analysis to understand the challenges and issues families face and the support they require to meet their needs. Partners, including Health, have been actively involved in the pre-consultation process so that we can maximise opportunities to work together. It is very important to note that the statutory health services will continue to be delivered when the new model is implemented and are not part of the services under review. A 10 week consultation will commence in October.

Children's Homes Update

As reported in the last council report, we are currently running a project to open four new homes for looked after children, the first of which successfully opened in July.

Our second Aylesbury home is currently awaiting the outcome of a planning decision. We aim to open this home in the first quarter of 2019 as a specialist resource to help us assess the needs of vulnerable young people so that we can help them find the right long term placement. Homes 3 and 4 will be within the south of the county to address need in this area. We are currently in the process of reviewing suitable properties and engaging local residents so that we can move to a position where we can purchase the properties.

Our existing children's home continues to make positive progress with young people. This has been evidenced through progressive education attainment and 2018 GCSE results.

Children's Services Improvement Programme

During the Ofsted inspection in November 2017, an improvement plan was prepared and presented to the Ofsted inspectors. This was subsequently strengthened following the publication of the inspection report to include the ten Ofsted inspection recommendations.

This plan highlighted a number of essential compliance issues and laid the necessary foundations for improvement. The most recent review of progress against the identified actions showed that the majority have been progressed satisfactorily. However, it is acknowledged that there is a great deal more to do to improve outcomes for children and young people.

Following the publication of the Commissioner's report, Children's Services is developing an updated and refreshed 'phase 2' improvement plan to cover the next 6-9 months. In addition:

- The Department for Education (DfE) appointed Children's Commissioner has concluded its review and has recommended that the council retains operational control of its children's services.
- The Department for Education has set out its Statutory Direction, requiring the council to continue to take steps to improve its children's social care services,

including co-operating with the DfE appointed Improvement Advisers, Hampshire County Council.

- The new senior management team has formed very recently and needs the opportunity to help shape the future direction of their particular service area and influence the improvement across the department as a whole.

Celebration Event for Looked After Children

More than 70 of Buckinghamshire's children in care and care leavers have had their achievements recognised at a special awards event.

The County Council hosted the annual event, now in its eighth year, which celebrates the personal, academic and sporting achievements of our looked after children and young people leaving care.

The children and young people were nominated by professionals working with them in a number of categories, including overcoming difficult circumstances, coping admirably with change and for achievements within education, training or sport.

At the event, the audience heard from two care leavers and one of Buckinghamshire's foster carers. They then heard a special and inspiring talk from Ashley John-Baptiste, a BBC journalist, presenter and previous *X Factor* finalist. Ashley is also a care leaver, and had a very powerful story and message for the children and young people in care.

There were several different activities for the guests to take part in and be entertained by, including a DJ set from local young supporter Ethan, wandering entertainment by the Flying Seagull Project's circus entertainers, inflatables and sports activities as well as Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue and Thames Valley Police vehicles.

Each child and young person was presented with an individual certificate of achievement and a gift voucher. We are very grateful to Gary Grant of The Entertainer toyshop who donated a gift voucher for every child and young person as well as funding to provide sports and play activities; this was a very kind and generous gesture from a local company to support our local children and young people in care.

As part of its Corporate Parenting responsibility, the County Council holds the celebration event every year to recognise and celebrate achievement among the children in its care and its care leavers.

Promoting Fostering and Adoption

The Fostering Recruitment Team and the Adoption Team attended the Bucks County Show on 30 August to raise the profile of fostering and to encourage people to Foster with Bucks. The team handed out over 200 flyers and cards to members of the public. Highlights included:

- Two looked after children and their carer attended to promote fostering
- 'Fostering Friendly' was promoted to employers, including five local car dealerships, Police, Fire and St Johns Ambulance
- Live radio interview on Mix 96 with our carer and recruitment manager
- Social media support from Members and BCC Comms
- Social media promotion via 'cakes for likes' from the public
- New branding and materials launched to the public

Our next information events are as follows:

- **Adoption:** Monday 1 October 18:30 @ Green Park – Aston Clinton
- **Fostering:** Wednesday 3 October 19:00 @ The Hub in High Wycombe

Front Line Service Visits

The month of August has allowed me to make more front line service visits, once more to meet with the Early Help team, and also the Fostering and Adoption Teams (Care Services). These visits allow colleagues to meet and engage directly with me to share any ideas, thoughts or concerns that they may have.

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

9E CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & SKILLS

Education and Skills Strategy

The Education and Skills Strategy has been approved and is now in the process of being published on the BCC website. The delivery of the strategy will be monitored through an action plan that will include the various improvement projects that are underway within educational services. A key element of this improvement journey is the development and implementation of the Side by Side Partnership, which aims to secure better outcomes for children and young people in Buckinghamshire through a sustainable, school-led model of improvement.

The Side by Side delivery model was initiated with secondary schools that do not yet have a good or outstanding OFSTED rating. In order to support these schools, deployment of the best teachers and senior leaders from Buckinghamshire secondary schools has been taking place in the 8 secondary schools involved since April 2018. This will continue over the next five terms to July 2019.

Similarly a Side by Side primary school project is underway, with the deployment of teachers beginning in September 2018. Further Side by Side initiatives will involve working with Early Years providers to share and develop expertise, developing new ways of working with regards to SEND and Inclusion and supporting governance in schools.

BLT transfer

The final stage of the transition of services from the Buckinghamshire Learning Trust (BLT) to BCC was completed on 1 August. The statutory duties within School Improvement and School Governance have now been transferred to the local authority as from this date, with the BLT focusing on offering traded work to schools.

The transition process began with the transfer of the Specialist Teaching Service, Early Years' Service and Workforce Development team and the School Financial Management team on 1 April 2018, with a central projects team transferring in on 1 June. In total, 84 colleagues transferred from the BLT to BCC, with all colleagues attending at least one of the numerous induction sessions that were held between March and July.

The knowledge and experience that the transferring teams bring is very much valued and will enhance the delivery of services to support children and young people in schools in Buckinghamshire. The next steps will be to review service delivery across these services and plan provision accordingly. Services will need to be reconfigured so that they can effectively meet the changing needs of children and young people and deliver the activities needed to realise the ambitions set out in the Education and Skills Strategy. This transformational work is planned to take place over the next academic year, with the majority of the changes to be made by April 2019. Part of this work will include developing the Side by Side partnership in order to meet statutory duties and providing a core offer to drive forward improvement in school performance and governance.

Skills

Based at the Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP (BTVLEP), the Bucks Skills Hub provides a range of services to promote and encourage schools to support young people with the development of work readiness skills. The Skills Hub runs the Enterprise Adviser Network (EAN) Programme, which provides volunteer industry expert Enterprise Advisers to secondary schools in Buckinghamshire to support them with the development of a skills programme in accordance with the government's [Skills Strategy](#).

The EAN is 50% funded by the Council and 50% funded by the Department for Education's Careers and Enterprise Company. To date, 35 of the 37 secondary schools in Buckinghamshire have signed up to the programme. In March 2018 additional funding was secured to roll out the programme to Special Schools and PRUs, and in July the Skills Hub won a bid to fund an additional full time Enterprise Coordinator to provide additional support to 20 upper schools, including a project fund of £1,000 per school. In October 2018 the LEPs Skills Hub will be running their third annual Skills Show, supporting over 3,000 children and young people across Buckinghamshire to engage with over 100 employers.

Buckinghamshire Adult Learning

Buckinghamshire Adult Learning has had another successful academic year. The main headlines are:

- 10,703 learners were enrolled.
- 1,364 enrolments were for Basic Skills courses.
- Success rates for Basic Skills courses are very good; recent GCSE results demonstrate passes of 85% for Maths and 77% for English.
- A new course offer has been developed with Buckinghamshire Youth Services to support young people aged 16-18 who are not in employment or education (NEET).
- Apprenticeship enrolments have increased by 17%. An increasing number of BCC maintained schools are offering apprenticeships to enhance the knowledge and skills of their workforce.
- 80% of apprentices remain in full time education, and 15% move into higher education.

Home to School Transport

Various teams across the Council are working together to review the current transport offer in order to identify improvements that will result in a more efficient and appropriate provision. This review involves teams from Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Public Transport, and is focusing on ensuring that provision is fit for purpose and can provide an effective transport assistance programme that meets the requirements of a varied client base. Work will continue throughout the autumn to develop any proposals for wider consideration.

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

9F CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

District Local Plans

The submission Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan and Wycombe Local Plan were taken through Examination in Public (EiP) in July 2018. The Wycombe Local Plan inquiry was adjourned until the week commencing 3 September in order to examine site specific policies in detail. BCC has been working with district colleagues to ensure that the Inspectors considering the Plans have up to date written evidence to address the key infrastructure and delivery questions they have raised, for example our transport strategy team and highways development management team have been actively engaged, giving evidence to support the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan.

For Chiltern and South Bucks (CSB), there has been a significant slip in the local plan timetable. The published Local Development Scheme (LDS) had initially anticipated that the Draft Local Plan would be available for consultation in summer 2018; however, the timetable has shifted considerably due to further work being undertaken by the Councils on transport and highway matters. We are aware that the Councils are required to undertake additional specific strategic highway junction modelling following local transport modelling and Duty to Co-operate engagement with Highways England which has played a major factor in this. CSB has confirmed that this modelling will be published in due course and once the timetabling implications for the Local Plans are known, CSB will review its LDS.

Overall collectively across Buckinghamshire, the local authorities are planning for 46,200 homes by 2033/36 and over 250,000sqm of employment floor space which is based on the Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) for the county. BCC will continue to work with the districts and other stakeholders to ensure that the proposed growth will have a positive impact on the County's infrastructure by requiring improvements and enhancements to our transport networks, highway infrastructure, education and health infrastructure, digital connectivity and green infrastructure.

Buckinghamshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan

The Buckinghamshire Minerals and Waste local plan (BMWLP) was submitted to the Secretary of State on 1 June 2018 following a final consultation on the Proposed Submission Local Plan which took place for a period of eight weeks to 3 May 2018.

In total, 44 organisations and individuals made at least 184 separate representations on the Plan. The Submission Local Plan will be examined for its compliance with statutory requirements and on its soundness by an independent Inspector appointed by the Planning Inspectorate. In undertaking this task, the Inspector will have a particular regard to the representations made on the Proposed Submission document. The Examination in Public has been confirmed to take place over three days on the week commencing 24 September. Those who made representations of objection at the Proposed Submission stage have a right to be heard at the examination public hearing sessions. A hearing programme has been agreed between the Inspector and the County Council along with a number of Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQs). We have prepared responses to the MIQs for the Inspector to review as part of the EiP process and these will be publicly available on the BCC website.

In line with the emerging local plans' expectations around growth, the County Council's Minerals and Waste local plan sets out a requirement for 20 million tonnes of aggregate

to be supplied from new and existing sand and gravel quarries in the County and to plan for the management of 266,000 tonnes of waste per year.

Aylesbury Garden Town

Aylesbury is expected to deliver over 16,000 homes during the Local Plan period, up to 2033 and the town achieved Garden Town status in 2017. Being designated as a Garden Town, Aylesbury and the partnership organisations have greater access to funding opportunities to support the town and delivery of housing based on a requirement for a co-ordinated, master plan approach which will help to shape future growth. The main aims of the garden town project so far have been to agree a governance structure between the partner organisations, commence a communications and engagement strategy focussing on partners, stakeholders, developers and communities, and bringing together an understanding of the key areas of work and projects taking place as part of the growth of Aylesbury to help understand where Aylesbury Garden Town (AGT) can positively influence development. More recently the AGT Project Team commissioned master planning consultants, Alan Baxter Ltd to help deliver the following pieces of work for AGT:

- A longer term vision and strategic narrative for AGT to 2050
- Master Plan framework and delivery plan for AGT 2033
- Strategic Infrastructure Delivery Plan SPD

Speed briefings with the Project Delivery Team and district and county technical officers took place on 29 and 31 August. The aim of these sessions were to help Alan Baxter understand emerging pieces of work relevant to AGT; to understand officer views of the value of the garden town master planning project from their particular topic areas; and any issues which should be considered for the longer term strategic narrative to 2050. Following the briefing sessions, the master planners will continue to work with the project team on ongoing engagement with site promoters and key stakeholders, to develop area based frameworks, an AGT strategic infrastructure list, the strategic narrative prospectus and the development of the delivery plan. The current timetable for delivering the three areas of work for AGT is aimed to be completed by March 2019.

Bucks Strategic Infrastructure Plan (BSIP)

The BSIP has been gathering momentum on critical infrastructure schemes needed to enable additional housing growth in Buckinghamshire as part of the evidence for the Local Plans and decision-making to inform future infrastructure investment. Technical data sharing difficulties have been overcome with the districts and we expect to launch an interactive map of housing growth and infrastructure schemes shortly. Next steps are to identify and address gaps in the BSIP in terms of detail around critical infrastructure needs and to use the interactive map to consult more widely with key stakeholders, including HS2, national infrastructure project promoters, health and social care services. The interactive map presents the spatial overview of housing growth in Buckinghamshire and known infrastructure schemes.

The growth sites include the District Local Plan sites and also identifies those sites with planning permission or where a planning application has been made to enable a visual representation of housing delivery, both completed and projected known delivery over the next five years. More information on the interactive map and BSIP is available, any enquiries should be directed to strat_planning@buckscc.gov.uk. This includes:

The mapping will also contain information on the Buckinghamshire Minerals and Waste local plan (BMWLP), such as the location of the Minerals safeguarding areas across Buckinghamshire, the latest allocated Minerals sites and preferred options for the location of Waste facilities, as shown in the latest version of the Plan.

In addition, the mapping will include the various infrastructure projects currently in development or forecasted across the county – ranging from the major national transport projects such as HS2 and East West Rail, the Aylesbury Link Roads, and down to the smaller development management schemes, being mapped by Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB). Outside transport, there will be information on other areas of infrastructure such as Education, Green Infrastructure, broadband, etc. The mapping will contain information on funding and timescales and will sit alongside BSIP to paint a picture of the projected infrastructure being delivered across Buckinghamshire up to the end of the Local Plan period.

The mapping is currently available on a BucksCC hosted domain, accessible on the internet, and contains much of the non-confidential growth and infrastructure information detailed above. The remainder of the non-commercially sensitive information will be rolled out in the next few months in a phased approach on to the site. Once the Map Portal project (being led by IT) is delivered in the next few months, the mapping information can be published directly on to our intranet, which will allow confidential information, such as Green Infrastructure and Broadband data to be included.

Mapping was recently added to the Bucks CC website, to accompany our team's pages on Strategic Planning and Infrastructure and Minerals and Waste, for the use of both employees and our residents. Links to the public interactive mapping pages detailed above will also be added in due course.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan

Work has just commenced on the Council's next Rights of Way Improvement Plan – a statutory document which sets out the management of the network, taking into account future pressures i.e. development, infrastructure and resources. Initial stakeholder engagement is scheduled for later this year to make sure the plan is aligned with public expectation and aims of the County Council. This is an opportunity to safeguard the rights of way network from external pressures and to provide a standard against which the network is managed.

Marlow Flood Alleviation Scheme

The Marlow Flood Alleviation Scheme, being undertaken by the Environment Agency in partnership with Buckinghamshire County Council amongst others, is nearing completion. The scheme cost is £8.5 million (with a £1.25M contribution from Buckinghamshire County Council) and consists of measures in the Gossmore Lane, Pound Lane and Lower Pound Lane areas of Marlow to reduce the natural floodplain. These works include a combination of:

- Brick clad reinforced concrete walls
- Earth bunds
- Steel sheet pile walls
- Ground raising
- local road raising

The scheme also includes a compensatory flood storage area at Lower Pound Lane to replace the natural floodplain now behind the defences and groundwater wells and pumps at both Pound Lane and Gossmore Lane which will be operated and maintained by BCC/TfB. The final planting and landscaping will be completed in spring 2019 when there will be an official opening.

Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) Retrofitting Project – Chalfont St Giles Infant School

The Strategic Flood Management Team has worked in partnership with the Building Services Team to retrofit a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) to Chalfont St Giles Infant School to help mitigate the risk of surface water flooding to the school hall.

Due to the large impermeable playground and a steep ramp leading to the hall, during heavy periods of rainfall the water runs over the playground, down the ramp and towards the school hall. As a consequence of this high flow volume and velocity, the school hall has experienced flooding, mould and damp.

The retrofitting project is intended to help mimic a more natural and permeable site, by slowing the flows and allowing for more attenuation further upstream from the school hall.

This involved the installation of raingardens within the playground and ramp. Rain gardens are small vegetated systems that allow for water to be attenuated before loss through infiltration and evapotranspiration by the plants.

Permeable tarmac has been used in small sections of the playground allowing for further attenuation and infiltration whilst still allowing for typical playground activities to continue.

The SuDS have been installed alongside the existing drainage system, reducing overburdening of the existing system and the subsequent hall damage.

Over the school holidays, the works have been undertaken on site ready for planting in the autumn term. The Strategic Flood Management Team is hopeful to use this project to educate the school community on the importance of managing surface water and the benefits that SuDS can provide. The team is hoping to work with the school to promote this during the new school year.

Preventing Fly-tipping - S.C.R.A.P Campaign: Scrap Fly-tipping

Since 2003, the Waste Partnership for Buckinghamshire has secured over 670 convictions against individuals and companies for illegal dumping and related offences. On average since April 2010, there has been at least one conviction per week for illegal dumping offences in Buckinghamshire. This resulted in a halving of reported incidents and a significant saving to the Buckinghamshire tax payer over the period, principally through reducing removal and disposal costs. However fly-tipping in Buckinghamshire has unfortunately seen an increase in recent years, despite our excellent record to prosecute perpetrators.

In an attempt to address the rise in incidents, Buckinghamshire County Council in partnership with our District colleagues have launched the #SCRAPFLYTIPPING Campaign on behalf of the Buckinghamshire Waste Partnership. The aim of the campaign is to promote best practice on 'Duty of Care' responsibilities and educate

residents on the pitfalls of disposing of waste recklessly in order to prevent fly-tipping. This campaign will be delivered via social media platforms alongside county-wide 'Have Your Say' events, which will give our residents the chance to speak to the fly-tipping enforcement team and take away literature supporting the subject thus providing best practice to ensure Duty of Care Compliance.

The campaign was successfully launched at the County Show and will follow up with events across the County. Further details are available at <http://www.recycle4bucks.co.uk/fly-tipping/>

SCRAP stands for:

- SUSPECT all waste carriers; do not let them take your waste until they have proven themselves to be legitimate. A professional waste carrier should happily answer reasonable questions.
- CHECK their waste carrier's registration details, then verify them by searching the Environment Agency website or by calling 03708 506 506. Note down the registration number of the vehicle used to take your waste away.
- REFUSE unexpected offers to have any rubbish taken away. If you do not trust that someone who you have spoken to will be disposing of waste legally, report their vehicle registration and name to the Environment Agency.
- ASK what will happen to your rubbish and seek evidence that it is going to be disposed of appropriately.
- PAPERWORK should be obtained. Make sure you get a proper invoice, waste transfer note or a receipt for your waste removal. This should give a description of the waste and provide the waste carrier's contact details.

Planning and Enforcement Update

- A temporary stop notice has been served in relation to unauthorised mineral extraction and processing at a permitted travellers' site on Mansion Lane, Iver. This quick action was required to ensure public safety and the integrity of the Grand Union Canal was preserved and to ensure no further disturbance of the historic landfill took place.
- The team has lead on the drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding in relation to unauthorised encampments and this has provided a framework for much better joined-up/collaborative working with partners in dealing with unauthorised encampments in the County over the summer. Further details as available <https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/environment/gypsy-and-traveller-information/>

Country Parks

It has been an unusual summer for the Country Parks this year – in some ways it has been too hot and visitors have been taking an almost Mediterranean approach to their countryside visits; the parks have been busy until lunchtime and then numbers have dropped off until the later afternoon. This has been reflected with visitor numbers between April and the end of August this year being almost 3.5% down on the same period last year.

Income levels have still continued to grow; predominantly from car parking and filming activities. Car parking income is currently just over 16% up on last year despite the slightly lower visitor numbers and filming has seen two major feature films being filmed

in the parks; a remake of Dr Doolittle in Langley Park earlier in the year and another feature film which unfortunately has to remain confidential at this stage in Black Park.

Events have once again proved an enormous success with outdoor cinema events showing 'The Greatest Showman' and 'Pretty Woman' selling out within a week of being advertised on social media and the recent Dinosaur trail attracting over 1100 children over a four day period at the end of the school holidays.

The dry weather has brought a number of challenges for the Country Parks team – a large number of trees in the Country Parks have died and significantly more have entered early dormancy as a result of drought stress – there is also an increased risk of a condition called 'sudden limb drop' affecting specific species like Beech, Oak and Sweet Chestnut. There have also been a number of small accidental fires that have been dealt with by the Parks team and the fire brigade resulting from the prolonged dry spell.

**BILL CHAPPLE OBE
CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT**

9G CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Market Position Statements: Early Help and Housing & Accommodation Needs

The Council has duties under the Care Act 2014 in relation to market development. Part of these duties includes the publication of a Market Position Statement which communicates the approaches that providers can take to develop services in relation to locally-identified need. Reflecting the particular challenges in Buckinghamshire, with partners the Council is developing a suite of three joint Market Position Statements.

The first Market Position Statement was published in July 2018 and focuses on prevention, early help and maintaining independence in a community setting. It looks at intervening at the earliest point and targeting intervention when risk factors appear. This Market Position Statement covers four key areas: preventing children from being looked after; special educational needs and disability; emotional wellbeing and mental health; and frail and older people. An event for partners will be held in December.

The second Market Position Statement, published in September 2018 relates to housing and accommodation solutions for people with care and support needs. The document has been written with and for housing providers, investors, developers and authors of housing policy. It explains how the Council, Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and partners could work together to shape the way housing and accommodation options are delivered to best support our residents and achieve better health and wellbeing population outcomes for people of all ages and backgrounds. A joint event will be held in November to engage and explore options with interested parties.

A further Market Position Statement on assistive technology is being developed and will be published later in the autumn.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) – review of joint working in local health and care systems

The CQC has recently published a national review of joint working in local health and care systems. '*Beyond Barriers*' identifies the factors which impact on how effectively services work together and highlights the barriers currently experienced nationally and locally. The report makes a number of recommendations to government, national and local leaders which include: the need for an agreed joint plan setting out actions for supporting older people and which can guide joint commissioning; a single performance framework to measure outcomes; and the development of joint workforce plans. The CQC is also asking for powers to regulate systems and hold partners to account for the work they do together to support and care for older people.

Visit of the Chief Social Worker for England

The Chief Social Worker for Adults at the Department of Health and Social Care, Lyn Romeo, was invited to visit Buckinghamshire's adult social care services on 9 August 2018. On the day Lyn visited, a number of social work teams and met a group of staff to talk about the new strengths-based approach that is being rolled out across the service.

Lyn spoke with staff about the importance of the role of Principal Social Worker and was impressed with how that role has been developed in Buckinghamshire. Lyn was also complimentary about the trials currently being undertaken in the use of technology

to support people to live independently and asked for a case study to be sent to her for dissemination across the country as an example of good practice.

Workforce Update

To date in 2018/19, we have been successful in recruiting eight permanent social workers and eight permanent social worker assistants. We are currently looking to recruit another four senior social workers. However, as senior social workers and occupational therapists (OTs) remain the most challenging staff groups to recruit within the adult social care sector, we have started a large, targeted recruitment campaign which focuses on attracting candidates for these posts.

The recruitment drive includes a specific social media campaign with videos, photos and an overview of the County Council and the teams, and encouraging staff to share new roles through their social and professional network platforms.

The County Council has implemented 'recommend a friend' payments for OTs and social workers. Work is also taking place to understand how the Council's offer compares with remuneration packages offered by surrounding authorities and any further action that can be taken to ensure the Council remains competitive in the market.

Better Lives - Transformation Programme

There continues to be a national focus on current funding pressures and sustainability and affordability of social care into the future. While we wait for the Government's Green Paper in the autumn, the Council is addressing local issues through both a Council programme of adult social care transformation, and through collaboration with partners in the Integrated Care System.

The Council's transformation programme to deliver the Better Lives Strategy is in part concerned with delivering the challenging savings targets but, most importantly, is driving transformational change to realign public expectations of service provision; to make our services more effective; and to develop a joined up preventive approach that will also improve the quality of life for vulnerable adults.

'Living Independently' is one of the three key strands of the Better Lives Strategy. It focuses on:

- making it easier for people to take care of themselves, improve their own lives and remain independent for as long as possible
- working with others, particularly the voluntary and community sector, to strengthen local opportunities and support so that people can create their own local networks
- making sure that there is a wide range of easily accessible information and advice about what is available from us and others, to help people plan and to get on with life

To achieve this, the Council is working across health and social care, and with wider community networks and partners to develop a single Prevention Model for Buckinghamshire. The purpose of the Model is to create a common vision and approach to building personal and community resilience in Buckinghamshire, which will also inform the direction of investment, resources and social prescribing.

It is anticipated that the new Model will be in place by the start of 2019. A multi-agency workshop will be held on 27 September to start developing the framework and agree the next steps.

We are also working on the development of a single, fully-integrated short-term intervention service with Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust. The ambition is to create a single, comprehensive service so that more residents are better supported to regain as much independence as possible.

Phase 1, which will be fully implemented in September, has involved making significant improvements to our own reablement service and aligning it with the similar service run by Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust. Healthwatch Bucks is supporting the project by undertaking research with service users in the autumn to test realisation of the expected improvements. Phase 2 of the project will build on the earlier work and results in the creation of a single, comprehensive short-term intervention service for Buckinghamshire's residents.

LIN HAZELL
CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

9H CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES

New Appointment within Resources

A series of key appointments have recently been made to the Senior Leadership Team in Resources, which has enabled us to replace interim arrangements with permanent postholders.

- Sarah Murphy Brookman has been appointed as permanent Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development
- Balvinder Heran has joined us as Joint Strategic Director – Information Assets and Digital Development for Buckinghamshire County Council, Healthcare NHS Trust and Clinical Commissioning Group.
- Tony Ellis has been appointed as Chief Information Officer for Buckinghamshire County Council and starts on 27th September.
- John Reed has been appointed as Director of Property and Assets. John starts on 4th November.

Together, these appointments provide us with a strong team with significant professional experience which will be valuable to the Council in tackling the challenges on the horizon.

Resources Governance Arrangements

New governance and assurance arrangements have recently been introduced in Resources to better coordinate investment in programmes and projects which will improve the management of risk, encourage collaboration, and provide accurate timely information that enhances decision- making.

A new Property Board has been formed with a focus on driving forward new opportunities to maximise the use of the Council's property assets, ensuring an integrated approach to the management of property assets, and review the performance of the property portfolio. A new Technology and Digital Board has also been established with the objective of ensuring that all business changes, strategies and policies that have an impact on technology, digital, process and information are coordinated to ensure best value for money.

Both boards are chaired by the Cabinet Member for Resources, with core membership made up from a cross section of Cabinet and Deputy Cabinet Members and senior officers.

Supplier Relationship Management

The Procurement Team continues to make significant progress with the Supplier Relationship Management Improvement Plan, which aims to strengthen the management of the County Council's contractual relationships.

The County Council spends £290m per annum with external service providers. Our contract management application (CMA) is the corporate system which is designed to provide a detailed overview of all of the Council's contracts.

Over recent months, the Procurement Team has made significant progress in developing the CMA and strengthening the use of it across the organisation so that it

provides a comprehensive picture of all of the Council's contractual commitments. This has included improving data quality, developing performance reporting and introducing best practice self-assessments, financial validation, and business continuity plan controls for all new suppliers. A new training programme is currently being developed for contract managers which will also help to strengthen our contract management and relationships with suppliers. Progress against the Supplier Relationship Management Improvement Plan is reported to the Regulatory and Audit Committee on a regular basis.

Preventing Blue Badge Fraud

As previously reported in the Blue Book, we have recently launched a pilot initiative to tackle Blue Badge Fraud. The first two months of the on street pilot have resulted in 22 cases which are being progressed to Court in the Autumn. We are also carrying out a media campaign to raise awareness of the Council's zero tolerance policy in relation to Blue Badge Fraud.

Blue Badge Eligibility Criteria

At the end of July the Department for Transport published recommendations to change the eligibility criteria for blue badges to include those with hidden disabilities. For the first time it is proposed that the scheme includes certain people with mental health conditions such as autism or dementia. We are now waiting for these recommendations to be passed through secondary legislation and for the full details to be published, together with a live date/phased implementation plan (which we anticipate will be in the first half of 2019).

The DfT have estimated that this will result in a 3% increase in blue badges issued. However, our estimates suggest this may be more likely a 10% increase. Whilst there will be a cost impact for the Council in terms of increased badge administration costs and decreased parking revenue, the initiative is completely aligned to the Better Lives strategy for adult social care and especially the requirement to keep more people living independently. It will also provide welcome assistance to carers who have children with autism. An initial impact statement has been produced and a further update will be provided once more details are published.

Brilliant at the Basics

The Brilliant at the Basics programme is continuing at pace with significant results and all targets are on track to be delivered. The programme is designed to strengthen the existing digital estate, with an ambition to ensure customers can do more for themselves and reduce contact into our more expensive channels. Visitors to the BCC website site are up 16% compared to this time last year with nearly a million visits since March 2018.

There are currently no broken links on the BCC website, reduced from over 800 in January 2018. There are no spelling mistakes that are picked up by our analytical software. In addition we have been working to make improvements to our existing site templates, in particular to the homepage and navigation as well as a new campaign page to better promote individual tasks. The general template improvements and campaign changes are due to be completed this month whilst the homepage and navigation changes are currently being tested with customers.

We have held engagement sessions with staff and Members internally and with customers at the County Show. Both sessions were well attended and well received. We are holding another event internally on October 1st 10:30am – 2:30pm in the North lift lobby to ensure all officers and members have been given the opportunity to feed into the website design. Please do come along and let us have your feedback.

Property Services - Key projects

Old Wycombe Library

Plans are moving forward with refurbishing the vacant former library building into accommodation for Children's Services staff from Easton Street offices. Construction work is envisaged as starting in early October 2018 with completion, including fit out, by end of April 2019 allowing the staff to be relocated in May 2019.

Aylesbury Lending Library

The Lending Library has been temporarily relocated into the Aylesbury Study Centre allowing the refurbishment work on upgrading the library. The work is due for completion at the end of November 2018 allowing the relocation of both the Lending Library & Study Centre into the refurbished building in early December 2018.

Former Police Headquarters

As part of the wider Waterside North regeneration programme the former Thames Valley Police buildings along Exchange Street were acquired by the Council in 2014. The former Police HQ building was earmarked as an investment opportunity to yield an income stream to the council and deliver wider benefits including bringing a redundant building back into beneficial occupation and providing quality entertainment and dining facilities in the town centre. The rest of the TVP buildings have been demolished along with part of Old County Offices to make way for the new Waterside North car park which has been providing a valued service to the public and town centre businesses as well as providing BCC with a valuable revenue stream.

The County Council has recently signed an agreement for lease with a new tenant to operate the former Police building as an A3 category food and beverage facility offering South East Asian and Japanese fusion cuisine and bar. Next steps are Tenant fit out works and Landlords works to provide improved inclusive access and an outside seating area and both works are due for completion November 2018. The tenant is on track to open the restaurant's doors for business at the beginning of 2019.

Human Resources and Organisational Development

Harnessing Social Media as a great Resourcing tool for hard to fill posts

The HR Resourcing Team created a month-long campaign for Seeley's House, including multimedia content across social media channels. The campaign had a reach of over 25,000 people, and over 600 likes, comments and shares on Facebook. The campaign had a dual purpose both to act as a direct resourcing tool but also as a fantastic way to showcase the great work that Seeley's House does so that we can encourage candidates who might not otherwise have considered Seeley's House as a career opportunity. Using this approach the team has matched the skills of candidates from other campaigns at BCC with vacancies at Seeley's House and this has resulted in an additional three recruits, and filled the final Team Leader vacancy.

Again working with adult social care colleagues the Resourcing team has also created a marketing campaign to attract candidates for historically hard-to-fill posts. Following one such campaign, the team received five high-calibre applications for positions as Safeguarding Practitioners for the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), and successfully made two appointments.

And finally the team has received recognition from other local authorities including Swindon Borough Council who visited to learn more about our social media resourcing strategies and the how we achieve high levels of engagement across social media platforms.

Children's Social Care Team Manager Development Centres

Working with CSC colleagues HR&OD have put together a multi-disciplinary team of HR professionals to support the Children's Services Ofsted journey. Six members of the HR Business Partner and OD & team have supported the design and delivery of seven full-day Team Manager Development Centre events. This process has involved all Team Managers and Assistant Team Managers in Children's Social Care. The feedback has been really positive and, although a challenging experience for some candidates, it has highlighted where further L&D is required and where we need to nurture individual talent. We are currently in the process of reviewing all of the outputs and defining our post development centre L&D offer.

A number of individuals across our service are also working on initiatives as part of the Children's Workforce Development Board, which has been created as part of the leadership and management improvement journey.

Our focus is on three key areas for improvement:

- Recruitment & change (from employer branding to the whole candidate experience – to increase the pool and improve the quality of candidates wanting to come to Bucks)
- Retention & wellbeing, including reward (from developing the vision and strategy to what a social worker might see and feel that encourages them to stay with Bucks and improve their wellbeing)
- Learning and Development (from design to delivery of bespoke training, support and development interventions)

**JOHN CHILVER
CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES**