

County Council



Cabinet Member Reports

11A REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Unitary

On 1 November, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government announced the creation of a brand new, single council for Buckinghamshire. You can read the full statement here:

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2018-11-01/HCWS1058/>

This was a truly historic day for local government in Buckinghamshire and an exciting opportunity for us in the county to come together with our colleagues in the districts to build a brand new organisation which will not only improve services for our residents, but secure a more sustainable future for our county.

This will be a new council for Buckinghamshire, using the best from all the five current councils. It will be simpler for residents to access the services they need, make better use of public money and be more local to our communities who can get involved at a truly local level.

We all need to work together now to ensure a smooth transition and make sure we do not lose the expertise and innovative, customer-focused approaches from across all our existing councils.

The new council will be established on 1 April 2020. Our immediate focus now is to work with our district council colleagues and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to develop the detailed transitional arrangements to take forward this change. Of paramount importance will be that services for our residents continue as normal throughout, and that existing improvement, transformation programmes and savings plans continue.

I'll update you as soon as possible on the next steps, and how we plan to take this forward together. I look forward to working with you all to help shape and design a new world of local government for Buckinghamshire.

England's Economic Heartland Strategic Alliance

Six infrastructure companies have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work collaboratively and provide technical advice to England's Economic Heartland (EEH) on its work programme. The companies, which currently provide services and works for EEH member authorities, will ensure commissions offer best value for money and benefit from the latest thinking and technological developments.

Their first piece of work is a major new study into the freight and logistics needs of businesses in the region. The study, which will inform EEH's Transport Strategy, will examine freight's impact on road and rail corridors both now and in the future. Pinch-points which may benefit from investment will be identified along with a range of other considerations. Businesses are being invited to input into the study and engagement with Local Enterprise Partnerships is already underway.

A key element of the Transport Strategy is developing a comprehensive evidence base to support decision-making. In this regard, a prototype version of a policy modelling tool for the region was showcased for the first time earlier this month. The tool will allow future growth and changes in policy to be simulated. The prototype will now be further developed before being able to be used by EEH and its partners, including local authorities.

EEH attended the most recent meeting of DEFRA's Council for Sustainable Business, to brief Secretary of State Michael Gove and senior business leaders about its leadership on strategic infrastructure. With the National Infrastructure Commission's call for planned growth to be seized as an opportunity to achieve 'net betterment', the Government's 25-year Environment Plan is a key framework within which EEH's work on strategic infrastructure is taken forward.

With momentum behind the Oxford-Milton Keynes-Cambridge corridor continuing to grow and gaining the attention of local communities and national media, I would encourage Members to sign-up to EEH's regular newsletter via its website www.englandseconomicheartland.com or on Twitter [@EconomicHeart](https://twitter.com/EconomicHeart)

East West Rail

The public inquiry for East West Rail's Transport and Works Act Order will be held in early 2019. The County Council is submitting a Statement of Case to enable appearance at the inquiry, should this be necessary. The East West Rail Consortium has agreed that it will seek to appear in support of the strategic need for the proposal. Subject to approval from the Secretary of State, main construction work is due to commence in 2019.

A number of enabling works will be delivered ahead of the main works commencing, subject to local planning approval. Some of this work has already occurred. The East West Rail Consortium continues to work with partners to ensure that the impact of construction on local communities is minimised wherever possible.

The East West Railway Company is currently considering options for the preferred corridor for the Central Section between Bedford and Cambridge. They will carry out a non-statutory public consultation on corridor options early in 2019 with a view to selecting the route in late summer 2019. At the Budget the Chancellor announced £20m to work up the business case for the Central Section.

East West Rail's Social Value Manager, who is funded by the Consortium and oversees community and educational activities near the route, has visited a number of Local Area Forums recently to explain his work and encourage people to suggest suitable projects. His work in Buckinghamshire has included a competition to come up with regeneration ideas for Aylesbury, which was won by the Grange School; a STEM day at Oakley School; and a butterfly conservation project in Saunderton. Members can contact Danny Miller with their suggestions for work: Danny.Miller@networkrail.co.uk

Broadband

Broadband in Buckinghamshire has largely been shaped by the Connected Counties programme, which began in 2013 as part of a national match-funded programme to extend superfast broadband to areas of market failure. The programme will continue until December 2019, and aims to deliver over 57,000 improved connections over this period of time.

Due in part to this programme, over 95% of premises in Buckinghamshire can now receive superfast broadband speeds; and the amount of Buckinghamshire residents

taking up this service is one of the highest in the country according to an independent source, www.ispreview.co.uk.

Whilst we continue with our planned Connected Counties rollout, we are also considering how we ensure superfast connectivity for the final 5% of our residents. To this end, the County Council have applied for funding from DEFRA to facilitate the connection of rural businesses through the Rural Broadband Infrastructure grant. This will enable us to target those areas where we have little connectivity and where rural businesses are clustered. Additionally, we are also working with the providers of major new transport infrastructure schemes to determine how we can best utilise these transport links to provide additional capacity in areas where we currently have none.

Heathrow Airport

Whilst supportive in principle of airport expansion, the County Council has set out a number of red lines in responses to consultations. We have sought a guarantee from Heathrow and Government that investment in transport in and through southern Buckinghamshire will be delivered, enabling passengers and freight to access the airport more easily, and that this doesn't worsen air quality in and around the Ivers.

The Council's view is that capacity should only be released to use the third runway and expand from 78 to 130 million passengers when rail and coach travel enables increasing numbers of people to access the airport without getting stuck in polluting traffic jams on the M25. This includes investment by Heathrow and other major projects including the Iver Relief Road.

As a host authority for mitigation to support expansion, the County Council wants to ensure that improved flood capacity and connections for wildlife enable southern Buckinghamshire to be the 'Green Gateway' legacy for Heathrow.

Heathrow's next public consultation will be in January 2019. This will be asking for the public's views on new corridors for future flightpaths. In addition, Heathrow will be seeking views on increasing the number of flights by approximately 5% before the third runway opens in 2026.

HS2 Update

Community Survey

HS2 Ltd undertook a telephone survey carried out by Ipsos MORI from the week commencing 15 October. It consisted of 2,500 interviews restricted to residents within 2km of the line. The community survey will be an important part of their work to measure their delivery against the commitments in the HS2 Community Engagement Strategy. The questions in the survey were designed to focus on how well respondents perceive HS2 Ltd is fulfilling the ten community commitments and its wider strategic aim of being a good neighbour.

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

There have been several further funding announcements:

Applicant: Buckinghamshire Business First (BBF)

BLEF funding: £74,898

This 'kickstarter' year-long project aims to run alongside the strategy to increase visitors to the area and provide advice, guidance and support to tourism and retail businesses

and their supply chains up to 5km from the line of route. The line of route extends for around 60km through Buckinghamshire.

The Lee Parish Council

CEF funding: £44,100

CEF funding will help to replace a wooden children's fort in a children's playground in Lee Common. The current fort is a popular piece of play equipment built 28 years ago and has undergone repair and modification so that it can continue to be used. However, the timbers are continuing to deteriorate and thanks to CEF funding will now be replaced.

As of October 2018, £856,523 of CEF and BLEF has been allocated to projects within Buckinghamshire.

Compensation for residents

Councillors are getting correspondence from parish councils, etc. representing concerned local residents and land owners regarding delays in payment of compensation; this has been exacerbated by recent press coverage that HS2 Ltd has insufficient funds.

I raised this at the HS2 Ministerial Environmental Roundtable Meeting in July 2018. In response, HS2 Ltd has said that the HS2 land compensation process is identical to that utilised for non-HS2 schemes, with 90% of the land value (as identified by HS2 Ltd's land agents) being paid upfront and the remaining 10% (or more if negotiated by landowner's land agents or agreed by a Land Tribunal) paid after agreement/negotiation and/or Land Tribunal hearing.

In all land compensation instances (both HS2 related and non-HS2) the latter payment can be many months (or more) later. HS2 Ltd has said they have not communicated this effectively to those impacted and have said they will do more to resolve this. HS2 Ltd says they intend to meet with the National Farmers Union.

The National Audit Office reported that only half of land and property owners have received the compensation payments they should have had from HS2 within the prescribed three-month window.

Health and Wellbeing Board update

At the September meeting, the Board discussed the priority area of supporting communities to enable people to achieve their potential and ensure Buckinghamshire is a great place to live. In line with this, the Director of Public Health provided an overview of her Annual Report and requested ideas from the Board around what individuals can do for the environment and to improve the health and wellbeing of the population. Each organisation was asked to feedback their suggestions at the next meeting. The Board supported plans for reducing the level of air pollution.

The Board were impressed by the work that had been undertaken so far on the Health and Care System planning. Further challenges were being addressed to reduce delayed transfers of care. The Board confirmed that the Integrated Commissioning Executive Team would continue to oversee the preparation and submission of the quarterly Better Care Fund returns.

The Board discussed the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Transformation Plan which Bucks were preparing to fully refresh in October. Following additional

funding, access targets were being met and good feedback had been received. Development is required to improve awareness of mental health and waiting times for assessments. The Board asked for more information around prioritisation and measuring the impact of the service.

Brexit

The County Council continues to work closely with partners, including Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership and Bucks Business First, to proactively prepare for Brexit, taking practical actions to mitigate risks and harness opportunities as these become clearer. We continue to engage with national and regional organisations, other local authorities, and the business community and we have delivered a number of presentations to inform businesses of the current government guidance, including at the Bucks Business Group this month.

The Council is working with the Home Office to develop the promotion of the EU Settlement Scheme with social care providers in Buckinghamshire, as part of the government's pilot which will open the registration for settled and pre-settled status to health and social care workers at the end of November. We are also working to develop the provision of support services in our libraries and registrars to ensure we can support our most vulnerable residents in the sign-up to the government's generous EU Settlement Scheme, and we have plans in place to undertake this for our EU looked after children, as soon as this becomes available.

Over the last few months we have been approached by a number of councils keen to replicate our preparations. We continue to demonstrate leadership in this policy area, and expect to remain at the forefront of local government preparations over the coming months.

Growth Deal

In October we worked with Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) to scope and obtain a 'Growth Deal' for north Buckinghamshire to support levels of housebuilding put forward to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) by AVDC. The joint working was very positive and constructive and it was disappointing that we failed to conclude an acceptable deal. MHCLG also failed to agree a deal with Milton Keynes.

Both BCC and AVDC were determined that any deal should not just be for housing but should include substantial financial contributions to essential infrastructure and economic development.

It is possible that MHCLG will approach us again before the Spring Spending Review.

**MARTIN TETT
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

11B DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORTATION

Western Rail Access to Heathrow

Network Rail's planned new 5.5km link between the Great Western Mainline and Heathrow is in principle supported by the County Council. The link would provide an option for people from the West of England, Wales and areas in the Heartlands to access the airport without having to travel into central London and out again.

The County Council though has been forced to submit a holding objection to the prospective Development Consent Order (DCO) as no adequate reason has been given for the permanent closure of Hollow Hill Lane in the Ivers. Without Network Rail's technical reports and costings, we continue to push for a like-for-like replacement of Hollow Hill Lane. Should Network Rail provide the technical reports that must have been drawn up to preclude a replacement then the County Council, as highway authority, working with district and parish colleagues can then take a view whether funding should instead be directed towards other mitigation. This could include part funding of the Iver Relief Road.

Capital Programme

2018/19 Carriageway and Footway Surfacing Programme Overview

Following the successful completion of the 2017/18 programme of works, a further £18.65m is being invested in carriageway surfacing treatments, £2.78m on plane and patch and finally £1.5m on footways.

Work on the surface dressing and plane and patch programmes of work have been completed along with the high profile resurfacing scheme on the Stoke Hammond Bypass. With over 70% of the enlarged conventional surfacing programme completed to date and the micro-surfacing programme due to be finalised in November, TfB are on programme to complete all carriageway surfacing schemes before the end of 2018.

Now that a significant proportion of the carriageway surfacing programme has been completed, resources have been assigned to the footway structural repair programme and design activities associated with the 2019/20 programme of works. With site surveys for the footway programme completed and design work ongoing, construction work will commence in November.

With actual spend across all programmes up to the end of September 2018 exceeding £17m, the following summarises the year to date position against each of the individual programmes of work:

Conventional Resurfacing – TfB continue to make good progress with this year's programme, with 19 schemes already completed out of an initial total of 22. With multiple structural patching schemes as well as a surfacing scheme associated with Marlow Bridge added to this programme of works, this total has now increased to 29. With 2 of these schemes already completed in October, the remaining 8 schemes will be completed in November and December.

Stoke Hammond Bypass - £4.5m has successfully been invested in resurfacing the bypass during the summer/autumn. Resurfacing work was completed at the beginning of October as planned. This scheme has also been an excellent opportunity for TfB to plan work collaboratively across multiple teams, with various additional activities being

carried out whilst the bypass was closed, including litter picking, sign cleaning, foliage clearance, structural inspections, drainage and safety barrier maintenance.

Surface Dressing – Work on all 32 schemes to be delivered as part of this year's programme of works has now been completed. A Gold performance award was awarded to Eurovia Specialist Treatments for their ability to treat over 340,000m² of surface dressing in just 12 days, despite the prolonged spell of exceptionally hot weather experienced during the spring and summer.

Micro-surfacing – This year's programme originally contained work on 46 schemes covering multiple streets across the county. As a result of a number of factors, including resource availability and financial constraints, the number of schemes to be delivered has been reduced to 32. Preparatory patching works have been completed along with the headline treatment which was completed mid-October. Work to reinstate road markings and adjust ironwork has commenced and will continue through November.

Plane and Patch/DfT Pothole Fund – by end June, approx. 62,000m² of plane and patch has been laid across the county, in all areas, based upon a pro-rata Member split. Works have progressed well through two main supply chain partners, with over 200 individual patches in around 50 different areas programmed. Feedback has been, in the main, positive. The programme has been effective in alleviating the development of many thousands of potential pothole defects. Some highly visible and longstanding areas of concern have been addressed quickly and effectively through this approach. Programme of works completed.

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. All 18 priority sites have now been inspected and design work has commenced. Construction work was due to commence at the beginning of November.

Preparation for 2019/20 Programme – Feedback from the annual Member engagement meetings back in January and February has 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. Together with the commencement of design activities, this helps to implement the next phase of 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 September 2018 exceeded £2.7m, 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 by the end of 2018. As part of a countywide Salix-funded 'Investment to Save' initiative to reduce future energy consumption and maintenance costs, over 3,200 street lights will be replaced with LED lanterns. Work on this high

profile activity has already commenced, with over 90% of LED lanterns already installed.

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

Drainage – Investment in drainage schemes has now been increased to £1m, which will allow us to complete multiple schemes across the county, including work on the Stoke Hammond Bypass. To date 24 schemes have been completed, with design work on a further 12 schemes currently in progress, to enable delivery to commence in early 2019/20.

Network Safety – Over £300,000 will be invested across 10 countywide network safety schemes, with 60% 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 12 phases of work identified, half of these will be implemented before the end of this year.

Parking –

- Marlow parking restriction schemes: Consultation has been completed and the lining work is planned for delivery in November.
- Chalfont parking scheme: Subject to the outcome of the statutory consultation, scheme expected to be implemented in Q4.
- A new online system for resident and business permits was launched this month.
- We are also working with NSL to increase the number of Civil Enforcement Officers around the county to allow more effective enforcement.
- A joint working group to look at parking issues in Aylesbury is being established with AVDC.

Bridges – Throughout 2018/19, in excess of £1m will be invested on improvements to various high profile and historic structures across the county. With maintenance work completed on the Marlow Obelisk and a scheduled monument in Thornborough, resources will be focused on the completion of work to a footbridge in Buckingham and the installation of new HGV deterrent measures for the Marlow Suspension Bridge, before the end of 2018. The latter has been an excellent opportunity for TfB to once again plan work collaboratively across multiple teams, with various additional activities including carriageway resurfacing, the installation of new, LAF-funded traffic islands and the reinstatement of road markings.

Traffic Signals – £434,000 has been allocated for the upgrade of traffic signal sites across the county and a further £130,000 for the renewal of rising bollards in Aylesbury and High Wycombe. Seven traffic signal upgrades are now proposed across the county, with 60% of these schemes to be completed by the end of 2018. Two rising bollard upgrades in Aylesbury will be completed in November, with the final scheme in High Wycombe to take place in Q4.

Schemes identified for delivery during 2018/19 are now available to view on the Member's Portal.

Asset Management

The Capital Maintenance Programme and Four Year Capital programme is being consulted on with Members. This year's Member meetings have included the usual selection of local schemes, as well as a consultation on footway hierarchy.

The Highway Services Policy has been approved by Cabinet. This document details background legislation and the need for a risk-based approach to managing our highways infrastructure.

TfB Network Strategy Road Safety Update

Casualty Data

Road deaths from January to mid-October 2018 have reduced by 9 (- 60%) in comparison with the same period in 2017 (18 in 2017 and 7 in 2018). We receive the fatal collision reports from Thames Valley Police 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.

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. The sites listed below are currently identified to be prioritised within this year's (2018/19) safety scheme budget for implementation within the next few months.

<u>Site / route</u>	<u>Type of collisions</u>	<u>Measures</u>
A413 Buckingham Park roundabout to Whitchurch	Mainly loss of control and turning movements	50 mph speed limit, signing and lining.
A413 Buckingham Road Aylesbury j/w C180 Bicester Road	Pedestrian collisions at crossings	LED beacon upgrades. Road marking renewal
A413 London Road East Amersham j/w Cokes Lane	Turning movements	Upgrade of central bollards – solar. Improved signing, lining and surfacing
B470 Langley Park Road, Iver. Hollow Hill La to Wood La	All collisions involve pedestrians crossing the road	Design of central pedestrian refuge
A40 Wycombe End Beaconsfield j/w Burkes Road	Turning movements	High friction surfacing and signing
C103 Windsor Hill Wooburn Green j/w Broad Lane	Loss of control	New signing / central studs and lining.

DfT Safer Roads Fund

Works are currently underway to deliver improvements along a 9km stretch of the A40 between West Wycombe and Stokenchurch, funded by the Department for Transport Road Safety Fund.

A412 / Black Park Road.

TfB are proposing to implement a safety scheme on an experimental basis. TfB appreciate that through the consultation process there has been considerable demand to install traffic lights or a roundabout; however, there is currently no available funding to implement such a major scheme.

- Experimental ban of right turn traffic from Black Park Road onto A412
- Signing and traffic order to ban U-turns

Education Training and Publicity

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- Attendance at England's Economic Heartland event to promote Innovation and showcase a 360 degree Virtual Reality film which is being used to influence young driver behaviour.
- Delivered an expert presentation on TfB Mature Driver scheme to showcase good practice in Buckinghamshire at 2018 National Older Road User Conference
- Road safety display in partnership with Thames Valley Police (TVP) and Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service, at Buckinghamshire New University's fresher's fair. General road safety display with focus on mobile phones, drink drive and eyesight.
- Attendance at the Older Drivers Forum event at Wyevale Garden Centre, Wendover. Organised by TVP and supported by local relevant organisations. Network safety promoted mature driver assessments, 60 signed up for safer driving assessments on the day.
- Network Safety Team supported the Junior Road Safety Officer Fun Day with a workshop and quiz.
- Attendance at the BCC TEE staff event promoting the Virtual Reality and how we engage with road users through innovation.
- Final preparation for Safe Drive Stay Alive young driver road safety event in November. Bookings are very good over all six performances, with 3,800 Buckinghamshire students attending.

MARK SHAW

DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORTATION

11C CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Funding for Winter Pressures

It was announced on 2 October that £240m of additional funding was going to be given to councils to be spent on adult social care. The allocation for Buckinghamshire was later confirmed to be £1.67m and was to be used with a view to alleviating NHS pressures.

Adult social care is devising a plan with partners on how to best utilise this money. There is currently no national guidance or reporting template, but the direction is that the funding should be additional to current budgeted expenditure and final arrangements will have to be signed off by the health system.

There is still no final settlement on funding overall for adult social care although some further short-term allocations were announced in the budget on 29 October. The Chancellor allocated £650m extra funding for social care in 2019/20, of which only £240m is ring-fenced for adult social care. The remaining £410m can be spent on either adult social care or children's services. Adult social care nationally is facing significant funding challenges, with an additional £1.5bn needed annually to cope with additional demand.

Better Lives – Transforming Quality

In adult social care we recognise that delivering high quality services to our communities can only be achieved through a skilled and resilient workforce. To this end, work is taking place to make sure that our strategies, systems and policies support staff to achieve *Great Care, Great Quality, Great Value*.

Our new Quality Assurance Framework (a practice governance approach) was launched on 5 November. The focus of quality assurance is on the experience, progress and outcomes of adults who come into contact with our services. Our Quality Assurance Framework is designed to improve our services through focused development of our front line staff; effective and informative auditing systems; and reviewing and revising the systems, policies and practices which impede best practice.

As part of this new initiative, we are delivering Better Lives Quality Assessment workshops. Thirty four sessions were held between 11 October - 2 November this year and 264 staff have attended these workshops to date. The workshops introduce staff to the new Quality Assurance Framework and to the new quality assessments, care and support plans, and reviews that have been designed in our electronic recording system (AIS). The new assessment formats align with our Strengths Based Practice approach, which is consistent with the ethos of the 2014 Care Act.

AIS has been significantly revised to support best practice and more efficient use of social care practitioners' time. The new documentation is a proportionate and easy read assessment, giving practitioners more time with people in the community, which is valued by both.

Feedback from the sessions has been very positive – and informative - as we continue to listen to practitioners. We have also listened to our residents and have begun to redesign our information and advice leaflets including the launch of a new "My Assessment" booklet. This helps people to get ready for their assessment and provides a series of standardised letters and user friendly documentation.

We are also in the process of redesigning our approach to quality assuring the standards of practice and recording, and will be shortly launching our new auditing procedure.

We have also consulted with our staff on their top three issues and solutions as well as our annual health check. We will be producing a report and action plan from our findings by December 2018.

Extra Care

Extra Care housing is designed with the needs of older people in mind and offers varying levels of care and support from staff on-site. People who live in Extra Care housing have their own self-contained homes and access to a wide range of communal facilities, often including a restaurant or dining room, hobby rooms, games rooms and computer rooms. In most cases these are supplemented by other on-site services available to residents, such as a hair salon, health and fitness facilities and a shop where they can purchase day-to-day goods. Properties can usually be rented, owned or part-owned/part-rented. People with little or no support needs live side by side with people who require more support to remain independent in their own home.

In May 2018, Hughenden Garden Village opened. This is an Extra Care housing complex situated in High Wycombe developed in partnership between Wycombe District Council, Buckinghamshire County Council and The Extra Care Charitable Trust. It is a retirement village comprising of 260 one and two bedroom apartments, of which the County Council has nomination rights for 75 of the properties.

Innovation Hub

The Council is part of a health and social care Innovation Venture with our health partners, funded by the European Regional Development Fund. The Venture aims to help solve health and social care challenges by accelerating business innovations to market.

The Venture recently invited proposals from small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs), which if successful would provide them with six months of intense expert guidance, mentoring, networking and business development and support. Of the twenty bids made, the six successful innovations were:

- An analytics tool for hospital emergency departments and individuals to improve patient safety, patient quality and staff productivity
- A management tool to engage, proactively monitor and feedback on service providers providing care to elderly loved ones.
- Biodegradable surgical retractors
- A platform that connects carers and families online, enabling them to arrange terms of care
- A multi-point assessment of a home to identify how well a property meets the household's needs, both currently and in later life
- A new lighter, more breathable air-mask for commuters and people with respiratory issues.

In addition, a further seven enterprises are being supported with a 12-hour programme to help them to further develop.

NHS Guides

The NHS has produced a number of useful quick guides on social care and support. These are designed for people who need help with their day-to-day living because of illness or disability, as well as their carers, friends and family.

The guides explain the options available to people and sources of support. They cover issues like help from social care and charities; support to stay at home; money, work and benefits; and care after a hospital stay.

The guides can be found on the NHS website: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/social-care-and-support-guide>

Access All Areas

Staying healthy is important to everyone but getting the information you need is not always easy – especially if you have a learning disability or autism. According to NHS research, around 1,200 people with a learning disability die each year from preventable illness. The life expectancy of women with a learning disability is 18 years shorter than women in the general population and for men it is 14 years shorter (NHS Digital 2017).

The Council recently held an ‘Access All Areas’ event. This was the first event of its kind in Buckinghamshire and was a great success, attracting nearly 250 visitors.

Over 36 health and social care exhibition stands provided advice and support. These included Nclude, BuDs, Healthy Minds, Bucks Safe Places, Autism Bucks, Audiology and Hearing Therapy Services (BHT) and Speech and Language Therapy (HPFT).

There were also plenty of hands-on activities aimed at eating well and staying active such as a smoothie bike, an asthma bus, healthy cooking demonstrations, yoga and even a shooting range.

Workforce Update

From the beginning of July to date we have recruited five Social Workers and we are now working to recruit another five Senior Social Workers.

Senior Social Workers and Occupational Therapists remain the most challenging staff groups to recruit within Adult Social Care and therefore we have started a large targeted recruitment campaign which focuses on attracting candidates for these posts.

Along with recruitment, retention remains a challenge. We have put in place a face to face exit interview process to sit alongside the online survey which is already in place. The data from both processes will be used to help us to understand attrition rates within the service and take any actions necessary.

**LIN HAZELL
CABINET MEMBER HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

11D CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

District Local Plans

Following the submission from Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan and Wycombe Local Plan, these were taken through Examination in Public (EiP) in July and September 2018. The districts are now working with their Inspectors on the modifications to the plans. Both districts had agreed to some modification during the hearing sessions and both have since received further correspondence from the Inspectors.

The Inspector to the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan interim report sets out considerations that the plan should be modified to have a housing requirement of 31,539, which is an increase from 27,400.

The Inspector to the Wycombe Local Plan has issued follow up questions to the district; the proposed housing requirement has not questioned, however, the question of how the plan reflects key infrastructure projects such as the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway and Heathrow Expansion has been posed.

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 by summer 2018; however, the timetable has shifted considerably. This is 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 and a Duty to Co-operate engagement with Highways England. CSB has confirmed that the modelling will be published in due course and once the timetabling implications for the Local Plans are known, CSB will review its LDS. CSB are currently consulting on a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule (PDCS) which closes 14 December 2018.

The consultation on modifications to the Wycombe Local Plan is anticipated next year. The Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan's modifications are likely to be consulted on in Spring 2019.

Buckinghamshire County Council 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 to the areas requiring improvements, such as our transport networks, highways, education, health, digital connectivity and green infrastructure.

Buckinghamshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan

The Submission Local Plan was examined for its compliance with statutory requirements by the independent Inspector, who was appointed by the Planning Inspectorate in September. Representations by the industries and key stakeholders were made at the hearing sessions, and in agreement with the Inspector, modifications to the plan were agreed. Since the hearing sessions, the Inspector has issued a letter setting out some additional issues to be considered by the Council. Additional modifications are being proposed by the Council to address these. The suggested amendments on the Local Plan were sent to the Inspector at the beginning of November for agreement. Once this has been attained, changes to the Local Plan will need to be publicly consulted for a minimum of six weeks. The expectation is the consultation will be undertaken from late November for a period of eight weeks, due to the Christmas period.

In line with the emerging local plans and with the expectations around growth, the County Council's Minerals and Waste local plan sets out a requirement for 20 million tonnes of aggregate, which is to be supplied from new and existing sand and gravel quarries in the county. This will assist with the planning for the management of the 266,000 tonnes of waste per year.

Aylesbury Garden Town

This summer, the Aylesbury Garden Town (AGT) Programme Team commissioned master planning consultants, Alan Baxter Ltd to help deliver the following pieces of work:

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

Briefings with the Programme Delivery Team, District Council and County Council technical officers took place in August with the sessions aimed at helping Alan Baxter understand:

- the emerging works relevant to AGT;
- 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 have continued to work with the project team on ongoing engagement with site promoters and key stakeholders. This is 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 June 2019.

A Visioning Workshop was held on 7 November with a number of Members and officers from BCC and AVDC, the LEPs and other partners to discuss and agree strategic visions, high level working principles, innovative ambitions, and next steps for the AGT masterplan. The outcome of this session will be made available.

Bucks Strategic Infrastructure Plan (BSIP) and Interactive Mapping

Recent focus has been on profiling the infrastructure schemes deemed the most critical for delivery to enable/unlock additional housing growth across Buckinghamshire. Profiling these schemes will give us the best understanding of our combined core infrastructure needs up to 2033/2036 and will help to better inform future investment decisions.

A live databank of all strategic infrastructure schemes for delivery across Buckinghamshire to 2033/2036 has been evidenced as links are starting to form between the BSIP and workstreams led by the BCC Resources Business Unit.

The Interactive Mapping work area is partially linked to the BSIP. This uses the BSIP as part of its data collection to create an extensive visual forecast on growth and its associated infrastructure projected for Bucks over the next 15 years.

Technical data sharing difficulties have been resolved with the districts and we have launched an interactive map of housing growth and national and local infrastructure schemes. The map contains information regarding funding and timescales and links to external websites where applicable. The next steps are to use the interactive map to

consult more widely with key stakeholders, including HS2, national infrastructure project promoters, health and social care services. The mapping will soon be accessible on the BCC website and for use by stakeholders and members of the public. An internal version will contain commercially sensitive information.

The growth sites include the District Local Plan sites and identify those sites with planning permission or where a planning application has been made. This will enable a visual representation of housing delivery; both completed and projected known delivery for the next 15 years.

As well as the growth and infrastructure map, additional maps have been launched, one of which contains 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. Other maps currently available include HS2, containing information such as location of the approved construction routes and compounds, and Green Infrastructure, which ties in to the opportunity mapping recently undertaken by the Natural Environment Partnership. Further map layers will be available in due course, with the current web maps being added to, as well as new web maps being created.

The growth and infrastructure map includes the various infrastructure projects currently in development or forecasted across the county. This ranges 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).

The mapping contains information on funding and timescales and sits alongside BSIP to paint a picture of the projected infrastructure being delivered across Buckinghamshire up to the end of the Local Plan period. Outside transport, there will soon be information on other areas of infrastructure for example, such as Education, Green Infrastructure and broadband.

The mapping is currently available on a Bucks CC hosted domain, which is 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 (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 other Green Infrastructure and Broadband data to be included. The specific timescales for this rollout are still to be confirmed. Once decided, all members will be sent the internet address by email.

Static mapping was recently added to the Bucks CC website, this is to accompany our team's pages on Strategic Planning, Infrastructure, Minerals and Waste, for use for both employees and our residents. The links to the public interactive mapping pages detailed above will replace the current static mapping in due course.

For more information regarding the BSIP and Interactive Map please use the contact link: strat_planning@buckscc.gov.uk.

Fly Tipping Enforcement

During August to October there were 13 successful prosecutions for fly tipping and related offences with fines totalling some £12,500 and costs being awarded of £10,032.

This brings the total to over 670 successful convictions since proactive enforcement work started in 2003. On average since April 2010, there has been at least one conviction per week for illegal dumping offences in Buckinghamshire.

The work of the BCC fly tipping enforcement team was recently shown on BBC Watchdog in relation to addressing the unwelcome new development of mass dumping. Whilst the Environment Agency are the lead in addressing this type of organised waste crime, the BCC enforcement team has been proactively working with Thames Valley Police and the Environment Agency in tackling this issue.

Luton Airport

Luton Airport plans to expand from 18m to 38m passengers by 2050. This would require a Development Consent Order (DCO) similar to that being sought by Heathrow. The County Council in response to Luton's consultation earlier this year sought the airport's agreement to a night time flight ban – as proposed by Government and agreed by Heathrow.

We also requested that Luton in designing its future flight paths provided equal respite from noise for the communities in northern Buckinghamshire who are affected by aircraft noise. The County Council is also looking for the airport to support bus links for passengers from the north of the county to the airport. Luton is currently developing its proposal for expansion and plans to have its statutory consultation on expansion in summer 2019.

In the meantime local members will be pushing to ensure that any designs which look to change flight paths don't adversely affect areas such as Pitstone or the Chilterns AONB.

Marlow Flood Fayre

Marlow Flood Fayre took place on 18 September and was staged by Buckinghamshire County Council along with partners including: Environment Agency, Thames Water, Wycombe District Council and Marlow Town Council.

The aims of the Flood Fayre were to demonstrate how flood management authorities and emergency services work together, raise awareness of the different types of flood risk in Marlow and educate the community on how they can protect themselves, their homes and their businesses from flooding.

The event was very well attended, with 180 visitors who took their time to explore the various different stalls. The stalls were set out in the following themes: understanding flooding, planning and development, flood risk mapping, being prepared for flooding, schemes in Marlow and emergency response. The charity, National Flood Forum, was also there to provide their expert advice on insurance and property resilience measures.

The Strategic Flood Management team received excellent feedback on the event including a 4/5 score for how useful the event was and 60.5% of attendees felt they had a better understanding of their flood risk. A very successful event!

Flooding – Who to contact in the event of a flood

Did you know that there is a flow chart to locate key contacts in the event of flooding?

The Strategic Flood Management team prepare and update the flow chart which gives with responsibilities and contact numbers for the different authorities who are involved in flooding.

For the general public, this contact flow chart is on our website:

<https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/environment/flooding/how-to-deal-with-a-flood/who-to-contact/> .

We also have a slightly different flow chart for members with “Urgent” numbers for the “Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) duty resilience officers”. These are numbers for BCC officers and Members to use, to keep lines free for the different organisations to contact each other.

Parks Operations

Canals & Rivers Trust Awards

The Country Parks Team in partnership with BBOWT, The Brown Trout Trust and the Environment Agency were awarded runners up in ‘The Living Waterways Awards’ for improvements to habitat for nationally scarce water voles and brown trout on both the River Colne and the River Misbourne in Denham Country Park. The runner up prize is a significant achievement, particularly given the small scale of the project investment – just £50k of external funding, compared to over £2m for the winning entry.

Forestry Works

Forestry works are now in full swing across both Black Park and Langley Park. In Black Park, we are working to improve the quality and lifespan of the trees and habitat by thinning around 30 hectares of woodland this autumn. In Pavilion Wood at Langley Park, over 1 hectare of non-native invasive Laurel has been removed to enable the restoration of the ancient semi-natural woodland at the site.

Site Of Special Scientific Interest

Black Park’s Lowland heath has been named in a ‘tweet’ from Natural England as “the best example of rare lowland heathland in Buckinghamshire and home to the critically endangered starfruit” (plant). This has followed over 30 years of input from the rangers, volunteers and contractors to restore heathland to Black Park following a major fire in 1977.

Events

Events have continued to perform strongly, the October half term trail Halloween Trail sold 1,840 guides, generating £5,520 in income. This is in the region of 5,000 people in total participating and it is also important to note that active events such as these contribute to health and wellbeing of both adults and children taking part.

Visitor Questionnaire

The summer questionnaire saw 441 surveys completed across the three parks and a rating of ‘good or very good’ of over 90% across all three parks; Black Park had the highest rating of 97% of respondents rating the park as good or very good.

Despite some challenges around the car park charges, 82% of respondents across all sites consider that “the Country Parks offer good value for money”. At Black Park 93% of respondents strongly agreed/agreed with this statement, with 78% in Langley and 75% at Denham.

Filming

Filming has continued to be very busy, with 53 separate productions and over 100 filming days in the country parks since April, including several large feature films. This generates significant income for the parks to provide existing services as well as invest in the future maintenance and upkeep as a fully self-financed business unit.

The secondary spend in the local economy from film productions is also significant. Creative England figures show the average feature film spend on local employment and services is in the region of £42,000 a day; that means that the overall contribution of the filming activity in the country parks to the local economy is potentially in the £millions!

Planning and Enforcement Update

There are some 30 sites within the county under investigation or active enforcement at present. Over the last couple of months:

- One enforcement notice has been issued
- One prosecution has been started for failure to comply with an enforcement notice
- One temporary stop notice has been issued

Rights of Way Operations

Chiltern Society and the Ramblers Association Path Volunteers

Our Rights of Way volunteer work parties, have been very busy, and since April they have 'gifted' over 1300 volunteer hours, working on improvements on the rights of way network. They have cleared 12km of undergrowth and 30 tree obstructions. They have also repaired and installed 45 gates and stiles, including putting in 70 waymark posts, and in total completing more than 200 jobs.

The Countryside Access Management System (CAMs Web)

Our new reporting system called CAMs Web will replace the current online Report It system that our customers use for reporting Rights of Way issues. The new system will provide our customers with options for reviewing a map showing the rights of way network – including the position of structures and where issues have already been reported on a particular patch. People will be able to add a comment to an existing issue or log a new problem and track that problem.

The project has been slightly delayed with an anticipated 'go live' date for autumn slipping into winter. The Rights of Way Operations Team is working with the supplier and internally with the Definitive Map and Contact Centre on the test system, to iron out any 'bugs' and to ensure a seamless transfer of information for the customer version when it goes live on our web pages.

Rights of Way Capital Projects

Rights of Way Operations had allocated the capital for 2018-2019 against six specific projects. However, due to further urgent works being reported to the County Council, it has also been necessary to add additional projects by bidding. This will help to draw down from capital monies allocated for the spend in 2019-2020.

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

11E CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & SKILLS

Home to School Transport – Public Consultation

A ten-week consultation on planned revisions to Buckinghamshire County Council's home to school transport arrangements was agreed by Cabinet members on 22 October. There will be no change to arrangements for more than 5,000 pupils who are eligible for free travel. There are a number of proposed revisions, which would apply to children and young people who we currently support with transport, but who are not eligible for free statutory home-to-school transport.

The proposed changes include:

- Improving the mix of council-provided and commercial transport to provide more flexible options and save money, and give students the ability to attend after school activities.
- Applying statutory requirements to all Buckinghamshire school children, which would include phasing out local free transport arrangements in Ivinghoe and Iver. Parents choosing a place that is not their nearest eligible school would be required to pay for their transport in future. This will bring them in line with all other areas of the county.
- Requiring parents of post-16 Special Educational Needs students to contribute towards their travel costs. This would bring the application of the transport policy for pupils with SEND more in line with their peers attending mainstream education.

The consultation has now launched, and we are seeking people's feedback on options for modernising the service to make it more sustainable. The closing date for responses is 4 January 2019.

We will be holding three meetings for SEN children and parents, and another 11 local meetings mainly at primary schools, since it will be children going in to year 7 at secondary level who will be the first to be affected.

Early Years Outcomes

Data released by the DfE on the 18 October shows that 5 year olds leaving their Reception year at primary school achieved better than pupils across the rest of the country in every comparator. 74% of our pupils achieved a good level of development, 2% above national figures and 19% higher than in 2013 when this assessment was introduced. We are ranked 7th against our statistical neighbours, a drop of one place from last year and there is a slight decrease compared to all local authorities nationally from 30th to 36th this year.

The inequality gap for Buckinghamshire children has increased fractionally from 28.3 to 28.5, however our rank against all local authorities has improved from 40th last year to 34th this year.

GCSE Outcomes

2018 GCSE results show that Buckinghamshire has again performed highly in all measures for children at 16. The average achievement of children in eight qualifications (attainment 8) in Buckinghamshire was 54, significantly higher than in the rest of the country (46.5). The average point score our pupils have achieved has increased by 2 points from last year compared to 0.1 across the rest of England. Our pupils also make significantly higher progress from age 11 through to GCSE with a 0.22 point average above national. This is especially impressive considering that on average Buckinghamshire children leave their primary education achieving above national standards.

The Local Authority has either maintained our first place ranking against statistical neighbours or improved where we are not already first place. We have also maintained or improved our rankings nationally in all reportable aspects.

Newly refurbished Millbrook Adult Learning Centre

The newly refurbished Millbrook Adult Learning Centre in High Wycombe officially reopened its doors on 12 October, with a ribbon cutting ceremony and cake cutting. Over the last year, a programme of refurbishment has taken place to provide three new classrooms, two with ICT equipment, a new examination room and a new office. The whole centre has been repainted throughout, with new carpets and vinyl flooring installed, to provide a more welcoming and comfortable learning environment.

Learners, tutors, Learning Support Assistants, volunteers, partners and staff from Buckinghamshire Adult Learning attended the event. They had the opportunity to view displays from a range of adult learning teams, network with colleagues and experiment with iPads and interactive smartboards. The centre runs a variety of courses including English, Maths, English for Speakers of Other Languages courses and courses for Adults with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities.

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

11F CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Active Bucks

I am delighted to report that Active Bucks has won the Royal Society of Public Health Healthier Lifestyle Award. In making the award, the judging panel made the following remarks:

'We praise the project's vision and strong partnership around enabling Active Bucks to identify, deliver and achieve impressive outcomes. A fantastic consultation informed a range of participant activities. The comprehensive evaluation report using validated measures, demonstrated clear impact and the panel commended the green space structured and stealth activities provision. This was further enhanced by effective communication in various media formats and honest reflection on further engagement methods with ethnic groups. Overall an extremely robust, effective and innovatively delivered project supported by an in depth analysis and evaluation report.'

Between 2015 and 2017 the project:

- engaged over 3,000 residents to understand what activities they wanted to see in their local communities
- delivered 193 weekly 6-month activity programmes, attended by nearly 4,000 residents, a large proportion of which were inactive
- resulted in 64% of the activities being self-sustained at the end of the funding period, with no further funding required

Active Bucks is now delivering new activities across Buckinghamshire targeting older people, men and black, Asian and minority communities, which were the groups under represented to date through Active Bucks or which are known to have high levels of inactivity.

Prevention at Scale

Public Health has been working with the Local Government Association on a project called Prevention at Scale. This project works with a wide range of partners to reach, engage and motivate as many Buckinghamshire residents as possible to adopt healthier lifestyles and through this improve their health and wellbeing.

There have been a number of areas of focus for Prevention at Scale so far, including:

- Working with communities and stakeholders to identify opportunities, share learning and explore their role in supporting residents to achieve healthier lifestyles. A stakeholder workshop was held on the 31 October.
- Understanding the needs and behaviours of our priority groups who will benefit the most from making lifestyle changes. This will help local organisations to be able to better engage and support them. The learning will also be relevant for many stakeholders' wider work and the opportunities for this are being explored.
- Working with The Design Council to use a range of tools to review current advice and support and to make it more accessible and appropriate for people who are most at risk of developing poor health.
- Making the most of digital innovation, by involving potential users in testing the new Live Well Stay Well healthy lifestyles website and using what we find out to ensure the website provides an effective and positive user experience.

Community Safety

Two projects provide good examples of the progress on the Community Safety priorities for the County Council's services, the Safer Communities team and the wider Safer and Stronger Bucks Partnership.

Safeguarding against Vulnerability and Exploitation

Partners across the county have been working with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to deliver an independent trauma advisory service called the Willow Project. This offers bespoke support to victims of modern slavery and exploitation in Buckinghamshire. The service launched in September 2018 and Buckinghamshire now has in place a coordinator and two support workers.

Tackling Violence and Abuse (including Domestic)

The Buckinghamshire Domestic Abuse Champion's Network is coordinated by the Council's Community Safety team. The Network serves to provide the county with an increasing number of professionals trained in recognising domestic violence and abuse (DVA) and who are able to safely signpost to support agencies. There are now over 300 trained champions, a good level of attendance at quarterly network meetings and positive feedback about what the network provides.

Street Associations

There are now six existing Street Associations in Buckinghamshire (Hughenden, Quarrendon in Aylesbury, Pond Park in Chesham, Burnham and Princes Risborough). The latest, in Walton Court Aylesbury, launched at the end of October 2018.

Currently 235 street members are supporting their streets and 189 have accessed free workshops. Referrals to Prevention Matters (a service to support individuals to remain independent at home and reduce isolation) and Trading Standards have increased generally, with Pond Park Chesham seeing a 50% increase to Prevention Matters compared to the 12 month period before the Street Association.

Trading Standards reported 121 complaints in the pilot areas. Although reports of doorstep crime are not high in any of the Street Association neighbourhoods, the first six months of 2018/19 saw increased levels of general enquiries and complaints of a consumer nature. This is attributed to greater awareness of how to raise a concern from the information included in the Street Association member pack and/or from attending relevant workshops.

Street members are building strong communities and tackling problems in their areas by organising litter picks; baking for vulnerable neighbours they have identified; holding street parties and Easter egg hunts; shopping or offering lifts in bad weather; and creating friendships.

In Quarrendon, an active volunteer/member in the area holds monthly meetings in the local church for residents to feedback on issues in their streets. These are then passed to a local Councillor or the Street Association project lead to share with the correct partner agencies. Some members are also volunteering for local groups in the area as a result of the Street Association links. A detailed toolkit has been created for groups to set up their own Street Association and generic packs are sent to individual enquiries outside of the pilot areas.

I am very proud that our Street Association work was both recognised and shortlisted by the judges in this year's Local Government Information Unit (LGIU) Councillor Awards for the Place-shaping and Environment award category. I would like to thank all

those involved in delivering this vital initiative as I know how valuable it has been, and continues to be, to many local residents across Buckinghamshire.

Community Challenge prize in High Wycombe library

Libraries have been offering residents basic computer skills training for many years. When a new opportunity, the Community Challenge, was launched by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Good Things Foundation, staff in High Wycombe library were interested. The challenge was to devise a way to "spend £2,000 to help people spend less money" and their idea to save travelling residents money won High Wycombe Library one of ten national Community Challenge prizes of £2,000.

The idea was based on the team's research which showed that many people in High Wycombe did not have the digital skills necessary to find transport information online. This meant that they were not able to discover routes and/or choose the cheapest fares. The team made a five-minute video explaining their idea, which showed how they would meet the need through a workshop in the calm and trusted environment of the library to help people take their first steps into an ever-growing technological world.

Members of the team were invited to the Houses of Parliament to pick up their award. The prize was used to deliver a drop-in session at the library on 18 October during national Get Online Week. Representatives from Transport for Bucks, Arriva and Carousel were also at the session to show people how they could find travel information online and get the best ticket deals.

#MicrobitsInLibraries

The Micro:bit is designed to encourage children to get actively involved in writing software for computers and designing objects, rather than only being consumers of media. The BBC Micro:bit is a pocket-sized codeable computer with motion detection, a built-in compass and Bluetooth technology. It is designed to inspire digital creativity and develop a new generation of coders to help address a critical skills shortage in the technology sector.

Libraries in Buckinghamshire now have 290 BBC Micro:bits to loan out, courtesy of the Micro:bit Foundation. The Micro:bits can be borrowed free for three weeks and can be connected to a PC or laptop via the USB lead supplied in the pack. Coding is done online, supported by the website www.microbit.org which has simple, fun ideas for beginners through to projects for making robots. To date there have been nearly 950 loans of Micro:bits and the libraries teams are currently exploring ways to further develop Coding Clubs using Micro:bits as the starter kit.

NOEL BROWN
CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH

11G CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Improvement plan – partnership agreement with Hampshire

Following the Commissioner's review of Children's Services, the DfE issued a revised statutory direction that Buckinghamshire County Council will retain its Children's Services. As a result, the Secretary of State appointed Hampshire County Council as the Council's improvement advisers. The overall purpose of the improvement partnership with Hampshire will be to provide independent advice and support to the Council.

As many will already be aware, in response to the Ofsted re-inspection in November 2017, a high level action plan was developed by the team and immediate remedial action was taken to establish a firm base for improvement within the service. The Senior Management Team has subsequently produced a phase 2 improvement plan which will be presented to Cabinet later this year.

New looked after children's placement sufficiency strategy

The service has recently updated its placement sufficiency strategy, setting out how we will provide the right placement, in the right place, at the right time, for our looked after children. We want to make sure that we have enough placement and accommodation options that are appropriate, both now and in the future that support our looked after children and care leavers to achieve the best possible outcomes, whilst ensuring the best use of available resources.

There is not a 'one size fits all' approach to this and different cohorts of children have different needs. The strategy identifies the proposed actions we are taking to make sure we are better placed to meet the needs of our children and deliver financially sustainable services. Our aim is to reduce our reliance on external placement providers by placing more children with Buckinghamshire County Council foster carers. We have set a target to increase in-house placements by 20% year-on-year up to 2021.

In addition, we are also seeking to develop significantly more residential placements in-house. As part of our change for children programme we are planning to provide four new residential children's homes. The first of these opened in July 2018 and we hope that the second will open in March 2019, following the recent planning permission approval. There will be a need for us to continue to utilise external providers, especially for those with a high level of need where this will better meet the needs of the child.

Early Help consultation

The 10-week consultation launched on the 4 October 2018 and will end on 13 December 2018. The Council is consulting on changes to how early help services are delivered to meet the needs of children and families. Full details in relation to the consultation and to complete the survey are available at www.buckscc.gov.uk/earlyhelp

Residents are being encouraged to complete the consultation survey through a variety of means, including promotions at children's centres, libraries, GP surgeries and social media. All service users who have provided email contact details have also been directly invited to take part in the survey. Three public meetings are being held in November for residents to find out more information to complete the survey, as well as presentations provided to Local Area Forums where meetings are scheduled during the consultation period.

Recommissioning of support for Carers

Currently, Adults' Social Care and Children's Services contract 'Carers Bucks' to deliver support, information, advice and guidance to carers within Buckinghamshire. Although this is jointly commissioned between the two services, the approach is not fully integrated. We are proposing to recommission a service with a revised specification to include support for children, young adults and adults with a health and social care focus. From a children's services perspective, a contract delivering support for young carers is part of the Council's Early Help approach to supporting families before any negative impact of the child or young person's caring role necessitates statutory intervention from social care.

National Adoption Week

This year for National Adoption week, the team focused on raising the profile of adoption through the use of social media and our website. We made use of Facebook and twitter to highlight a range of issues from children waiting for an adoptive family to various myth busting posts such as who can adopt.

The newly introduced purple ribbon campaign which formed part of our promotion has been a success. Photographs were taken of purple ribbons at prominent well known sites across the county, i.e. Buckingham Gaol, the Gruffalo trail at Wendover woods, Red Lion statue in Wycombe, David Bowie statue in Aylesbury and a number of village/town welcome signs. Our campaign received coverage from Mix 96. The team is currently analysing traffic/hits on website and social media but we have seen a higher proportion of people book onto our next information session. Our intention is to plan further awareness raising through use of a microsite, continued social media campaigns and other resources.

As always, we need more prospective adoptive families coming forward to meet the needs of children for whom adoption is the best outcome.

Christmas present appeal

I am very pleased that Cllr Paul Irwin is once again, on behalf of the County Council, running the annual Christmas present appeal to help Buckinghamshire's vulnerable children and young people.

The appeal invites Council employees and county councillors to donate Christmas presents throughout December for disadvantaged and vulnerable children across the county. The presents will be wrapped and handed over to children and young people by members of the Council's Children's Services teams in time for Christmas.

Various local residents and organisations are supporting the appeal again this year including the congregation of Aylesbury's Salvation Army Church and Mix 96 radio station.

Our Council staff and councillors always support our appeal by donating hundreds of presents, and it is heartening to know that everyone at the County Council cares and wants to help other people less fortunate.

I am sure my fellow councillors will all want to support the appeal when it is launched by donating a gift and I thank them in advance for their support - it will really make a difference to the children with whom we work.

Cabinet Member Visits

In this reporting period, my Deputy Cabinet Member, Cllr Gareth Williams and I have visited a number of children's centres, including but not limited to Amersham, Aylesbury Southcourt, Elmhurst, Steeple Claydon, Disraeli and Newton, Castlefield, Hampden Way and Wycombe East. We have met parents and members of staff to help promote the Early Help consultation.

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

11H CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES

Recruitment and Retention Update

The second 'Get Into Teaching' event was held in November, with involvement from all major school-centred teacher training providers in the county. This plus postgraduate teacher training apprenticeships will help to increase the number of new recruits in the county. The Resourcing team have also supplemented this resourcing activity with a second successful recruitment campaign in Australia to bring teachers into Buckinghamshire.

The Transport, Economy and Environment (TEE) graduate scheme has now received over 140 applications from across the UK and Europe. A total of 17 candidates were interviewed with two successfully recruited onto the graduate scheme, and a further six appointable candidates placed into the TEE talent pool. In 2019, the Council will take part in the Local Government Association's National Graduate Development Programme; the window for applications is now open, with an anticipated start date in Autumn 2019.

The Resourcing Team continues to receive recognition from other local authorities, and was recently approached by Wirral Borough Council to help support their resourcing and marketing strategy.

Wellbeing – Time to Change

On World Mental Health Day Rachael Shimmin and Lead Mental Health Member Champion, Cabinet Member Noel Brown signed the Time to Change Employer Pledge on behalf of BCC. Signing the employer pledge demonstrates the leaders at Bucks are sincerely committed to changing the conversation around mental health and ending the stigma that still surrounds it.

At this inspiring event, attended by both employees and local partners (including Bucks Mind), two employee [Time to Change](#) Champions shared very honest and moving accounts of their experiences of mental health problems. This really is what Time to Change is all about – people with lived experiences talking about them openly and honestly, and in so doing, normalising the conversation and encouraging others to speak up and ask for help when they need it. [Kyle's story](#) struck a chord with attendees; his video has since been watched over 1,100 times.

Since the pledge was signed, over 10 employees and two Councillors have signed up to become Time to Change Champions.

As part of our submission to become a Time to Change employer, BCC submitted an action plan detailing what we will be doing to help end the stigma, including:

- Talking about Time to Change and mental wellbeing in relevant forums, for example, at the staff induction event and at staff roadshows
- Recruiting Time to Change Champions (find out more below)
- Promoting learning resources on mental health awareness and stress management

BCC's action plan was credited by national Time to Change as being exemplary and was fast-tracked through the approval process.

Bucks has formed an organic [Time to Change hub](#) (funded by Public Health), which has brought together a number of local organisations to progress the movement more holistically across our region and will support other local businesses and voluntary organisations to become Time to Change employers. BCC's action plan has been shared with the Bucks Time to Change Partnership Group.

Co-location Projects

We are currently working with Local Members on a number of co-location projects with partners.

Buckingham Hub

The Buckingham Hub project is an outcome of the Partnership place-based workshops and has been developed by bringing together the current plans for the local GP Practice in the town and the aspirations of the partners in terms of maximising joint working. Funding was received to progress a town centre multi-partner Hub at Verney Close which could include the Library/Adult learning centre, Town Council, Parish Church Centre and the GP surgery facility which is being vacated. It is intended that the library is extended with further space for service access.

Marlow Library

Marlow Library already delivers Tourist and Council information services on behalf of Wycombe District Council. There are now plans for Marlow Town Council to move to the library site. Work is now taking place to survey the building and develop a design. Once all costs have been identified a business case will be developed for consideration.

Iver

The Parish Council purchased the police station next to the Parish Council offices earlier this year. Agreement is already in place to create a community library and Citizens Advice service point with space available to further extend the offering to support networks such as Connection Support and other partners. Buckinghamshire County Council will be providing a digital self-serve terminal for residents to access information and services.

Successful Application - LGA's Design in Social Care Programme

We have been successful in our application to take part in the Local Government Association's Design in Social Care programme. The programme builds service design capabilities and offers practical support to councils, helping them to develop person-focused services across adult social care. A growing number of public and private sector organisations are taking a user-led approach to rethink how services are shaped and delivered. This is particularly important in areas like social care, where navigating or receiving support with care and health needs can be extremely complex.

Over the course of the programme a team of colleagues from the council will be learning from the service design agency Snook and working with the Local Government Association to apply service design techniques to the problem of how people access the right information early in their social care journey, so that they can stay independent for longer. The team will be conducting research with service users, developing a clear definition of people's needs and testing different ways of helping people access the right information and support. The project will be running between now and May 2019.

Customer Service Week (1st – 5th October)

Throughout the week our Customer team organised stalls promoting services ranging from Customer insight to new web prototypes. This provided an opportunity to engage with Members and Officers about the website redesign project and challenging them with how well they know Bucks residents. We wanted to find out how residents rate their customer service experience with BCC, what could we improve and if they knew the channels they could use to contact us. We held resident engagement sessions in both the Eden Centre (High Wycombe) and Market Square (Aylesbury). Members joined officers from the Customer Services team and all enjoyed the opportunity to speak to the people that really matter - our customers.

We had a thought provoking presentation delivered by Metrobank, one of the current leaders in Customer Service. They were selected as they have designed a customer model in the age of the internet, providing a retail experience in a banking industry and have won 'most trusted bank'. The presentation provided us with an opportunity to reflect about different ways we might deliver our services.

The week was a great success. Customer Service has been celebrated and recognised across all of BCC. We have reached out to the Public, tested our staff on their knowledge, launched a new training course, heard from the experts, discovered new ways of working and have many ideas to improve the services we offer to our Residents.

Property Services – Schools Programme Overview:

Over the past 5 years a significant schools expansion programme has been undertaken by Buckinghamshire County Council comprising 56 school projects to meet demand, primarily in the primary school sector. In addition to the existing increase in population, Buckinghamshire is forecast to see significant growth over the next 20 years. In order to deliver its future statutory obligations in providing school places Buckinghamshire County Council will be continuing to deliver a high quality provision by ensuring its new school buildings are designed and delivered to meet the 21st Century curriculum. The Council aims to achieve this by ensuring a best practice approach for the delivery of its new schools and by continued enhancements to the management, design and the procurement of the Schools Capital Programme.

Projects underway include:

Greenridge Primary – £13 million primary school and nursery which will deliver a 420 place primary school and 52 place nursery for the area with statutory approval to allow further expansion to the school which would increase capacity by 110 places when required.

Aylesbury Satellite School (St Michael's) - £22.5 million secondary school on the former Quarrendon School site in Aylesbury. The new school will accommodate 900 places for year 7-11 pupils and 180 sixth form pupils.

Daws Hill Primary School - £6.5 million primary school and nursery on the former RAF Daws Hill site at High Wycombe. The project will deliver a 210 place primary school and 26 place nursery for the area with statutory approval to allow further expansion to the school which would increase capacity by 210 places when required.

Aylesbury Town Centre Programme

Restoration works for Aylesbury's ancient Old Gaol Wall

One of the oldest and most historic structures in Aylesbury is being restored to its former glory as part of works being carried out by Buckinghamshire County Council to improve public space in the town centre. The County Council's property team has been working with Aylesbury Vale District Council, heritage and archaeology officers, planners and neighbouring businesses, together with structural and construction specialists to help plan the restoration scheme. This work forms part of the collaboration with Aylesbury Vale District Council to redevelop the whole Waterside North area.

The works along the 100m stretch of wall include structural repairs, replacing areas of poor brickwork and mortar with like for like materials and installing a new lighting scheme. At night, the wall will be bathed in soft light to show off its magnificent original features.

The work on the wall is scheduled for completion by December.

**JOHN CHILVER
CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES**