



# Agenda and Reports

25 April 2019



11 April 2019

**To: All Members of Buckinghamshire County Council**

## **SUMMONS**

You are requested to attend the meeting of Buckinghamshire County Council to be held in **The Oculus, AVDC, Gatehouse Way Aylesbury, on Thursday 25 April 2019 at 9.30 am**, to transact the business set out in the agenda overleaf.

**SARAH ASHMEAD**  
Monitoring Officer

If you would like to attend a meeting, but need extra help to do so, for example because of a disability, please contact us as early as possible so we can try to put the right support in place. For further information please contact Claire Hawkes on 01296 382343.

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## AGENDA

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- 1 **MINUTES**  
To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 21 February 2019.
- 2 **PETITIONS**
- 3 **COMMUNICATIONS**
  - a To receive any apologies for absence
  - b To receive any communications the Chairman wishes to present to the Council
- 4 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
To disclose any Personal or Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
- 5 **SELECT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19** 19 - 32
- 6 **PROPORTIONALITY REPORT** 33 - 36
- 7 **CABINET MEMBERS' REPORTS** 37 - 64  
To note the written report of Cabinet Members, and any written questions & responses received.  
  
To receive any additional verbal updates from Cabinet Members on their reports, as well as provide an opportunity for any oral questions from Members.  
  
A Leader of the Council  
B Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transportation  
C Cabinet Member for Planning & Environment  
D Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Public Health  
E Cabinet Member for Children's Services  
F Cabinet Member for Resources  
G Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing  
H Cabinet Member for Education & Skills
- 8 **NOTICES OF MOTION**
- 9 **CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS TAKEN - INFORMATION ONLY** 65 - 74
- 10 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**  
23 May 2019 – AGM and Annual Debate



## **BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES**

Minutes of the meeting of the Buckinghamshire County Council convened and held on Thursday 21 February 2019 in The Oculus AVDC Gatehouse Way, commencing at 9.30 am and concluding at 12.15 pm.

### **PRESENT**

Ms N Glover in the Chair;

Mr M Appleyard, Mr W Bendyshe-Brown, Mrs P Birchley, Ms J Blake, Mr N Brown, Mr T Butcher, Mr D Carroll, Mr W Chapple OBE, Mr J Chilver, Mr A Christensen, Mr C Clare, Mrs L Clarke OBE, Mr A Collingwood, Mrs A Cranmer, Mrs I Darby, Mr D Dhillon, Mr C Etholen, Mrs B Gibbs, Lin Hazell, Mr M Hussain, Mr N Hussain, Mr P Irwin, Mr R Khan, Mr S Lambert, Ms A Macpherson, Mrs W Mallen, Mr D Martin, Mr P Martin, Mr I Rashid, Mr R Reed, Mr B Roberts, Mr D Shakespeare OBE, Mr M Shaw, Mrs J Teesdale, Mr M Tett, Ms J Ward, Julia Wassell, Mr D Watson, Mr W Whyte and Ms A Wight

### **DIGNITARIES AND OTHERS PRESENT**

Sir H Aubrey-Fletcher, Mrs C Aston, Mrs M Aston, Mrs A Davies,  
Mrs G Miscampbell OBE DL and Mr R Pushman

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr R Bagge, Mr S Bowles, Mr C Harriss, Mr D Hayday, Mr A Hussain, Mrs L Sullivan, Mr G Williams, Ms K Wood, Mr B Allen, Mrs M Clayton, Mr M Colston, Mrs P Crawford, Mr D Polhill, Mr K Ross MBE DL and Ms R Farwell

### **1 MINUTES**

A minutes silence was held for County Councillor Chaudhary Ditta who had passed away in November. The Chairman paid tribute to Mr Ditta and also read a letter written to the Council from his wife and children.

**RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2018 were AGREED as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.**

## **2 PETITIONS**

The following petitions were handed to Ms R Shimmin, Chief Executive.

Mr J Chilver presented a petition on Thrift Farm regarding a campaign to stop the closure of Thrift Farm which was currently out for consultation. The petition had 6789 signatures to date.

Mr W Whyte presented a petition on A421 improvements. The petition was on behalf of residents in Thornborough and Nash and was for sign and road improvements on the A421. The petition had 200 signatures to date.

Mr D Dhillon presented a petition on behalf of the residents of Burnham regarding the need for a pelican crossing on Stomp Road. The petition had 1100 signatures to date and was supported by a letter from the school and local MP.

## **3 COMMUNICATIONS**

Apologies were received from Mr Bagge, Mr Bowles, Mr Harris, Mr Hayday, Mr A Hussain, Mrs Sullivan, Mrs Ward, Mr Williams, Ms R Farwell, Mr Colston, Mr Lawrence and Mrs Letheren.

Written Questions: The Chairman advised Members that responses to written questions had been published online.

Chairman's report: The Chairman welcomed two new councillors following recent by-elections, Mr I Rashid and Mr A Christensen. The Chairman reported on events since the last Council meeting and highlighted in particular:

- Recent bad weather had stopped the Chairman attending a number of events which included the Chinese New Year celebrations.
- The Chairman looked forward to attending the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on 15 May. Mrs Glover would be attending with County Councillors Mrs Cranmer, Mr Harriss and Mr Williams and 6 BCC staff who were nominated by their colleagues which included the County Council's oldest member of staff - a 90 year old School Crossing Patroller.
- In December the Chairman had attended 3 Queen's Award for Enterprise events for Monodraught and Focusrite in High Wycombe and Trio Healthcare at Great Missenden. The awards were presented to the Chief Executives of each of the companies by His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent.
- The Chairman had also attended the opening of new premises for medical detection dogs.

The Chairman then introduced Mr P Irwin, County Councillor who addressed the Council and gave his experiences of the recent Time to Talk Day and the activities that had taken place and his own experience of mental health issues.

The Chairman then paid tribute to two former county councillors, Maurice Oram and Dennis Green who had recently passed away. Members stood for a minute silence.



#### **4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

#### **5 CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICERS STRATEGIC REPORT**

Mr Ambrose, Director of Finance and Procurement and Chief Financial Officer presented his strategic report and outlined the following:

- Mr Ambrose was required to report to Council on robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the budget and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.
- There had been detailed scrutiny of the proposed budgets as various points in the process including the budget scrutiny process carried out by the Finance, Performance and Resources Select Committee, which had resulted in a number of recommendations and changes made.
- The risks were set out in the report which included future funding, demand pressures and care market sustainability.
- Mr Ambrose stated there were reasonable assurances and that level of reserves was sufficient.

#### **Recommendation:**

**Council were asked to NOTE the Chief Finance Officer's Report.**

#### **6 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN**

Mr D Watson, Chairman of Finance and Resources (FPR) Select Committee Chairman, addressed Members and reminded them of the recent robust scrutiny process the budget had undergone in January 2018. Mr Watson thanked his colleagues on the budget scrutiny committee for their hard work, colleagues in Democratic Services for their support and Cabinet Member, the Leader and senior officers who appeared before the committee.

Mr Watson highlighted the 10 recommendations in the report put forward by the FPR Select Committee and summarised them as:

1. Additional monies to be added to the 2019-20 contingency budget, to supplement the current unitary reserve of £7.7m.
2. An improved level of visibility in individual budget lines across all portfolios for future Budget Scrutiny Inquiries.
3. That balance sheet and cash flow budgets would be prepared to support the capital, treasury investments, borrowing and revenue costs over the four year period.
4. Concerns that issues driving the increase of Looked After Children would continue to grow over the coming years and therefore there was the possibility that the budgeted growth in demand would not be sufficient.
5. A realistic figure to be included in the final Children's Services budget for legal fees.
6. The Health and Wellbeing contingency would need to be reviewed to ensure that it offset the key risk areas identified by the Committee.
7. A minimum 5% per annum uplift to be applied to the Strategic Highways

- Maintenance capital budget line to take into account inflation, growth of the asset and impact of increased traffic on the highways.
8. Additional funding for gully cleansing and weed management had been added into the budget as a result of Budget Scrutiny recommendations over the past two years needed to be maintained.
  9. A Street Lighting Survey should be undertaken to establish the location, ownership and condition of all columns in the County and recommended an additional £2m from the Capital budget to be added to fund an acceleration of Column Replacement works. The use of smart technology should also be investigated.
  10. Preparations for the new authority should include both the Unitary Opportunities and Future Budget Scrutiny recommendations.

Mr Watson stated that a lot of thought had been put into the preparation of the budget and that there was little choice but to increase council tax, the need for which was reflected in salary inflation projected to be 2%, the inexorable rise in demand in Children's Services and Adult Social Care and cost inflation from outsourcing.

During the debate Members raised the following matters

- Mr A Collingwood raised concerns related to the £123m spend on outsourcing with lack of clarity on where that money was being spent and that the money could be better spent on services such as short break respite provision. Mr Watson stated that there had been requests for detailed breakdown of spend on outsourcing as budget of the budget scrutiny process. He also stated that respite savings required had been identified as part of the MTP process.
- Julia Wassell raised the issue of predictability of costs in Children's and Adults services and the need to have contingencies in both those areas and a mechanism to predict costs better.

Mr M Tett, Leader of the Council, presented his report, the presentation of which is appended to the minutes. Mr Tett thanked colleagues involved in the budget scrutiny process, which had been webcast and thanked them for their detailed response and recommendations which has been considered and agreed by Cabinet.

Mr Tett's presentation highlighted the following:

- This was the last budget to be set by the County Council before becoming a unitary authority. It was the 130<sup>th</sup> budget of the County Council and Mr Tett reflected on the changes that had taken place over the years.
- The challenges and pressures put on services and the difficult decisions that have needed to be made. Mr Tett paid tribute to staff and members past and present and was particularly proud of the fact that the Council had an excellent record of strong and prudent budgetary control year on year and had consistently produced a balanced budget despite the huge financial pressures
- From 2020/21 the budgets from all five Buckinghamshire councils would be amalgamated and future decisions on finances would be made by the new single unitary Buckinghamshire council.
- The public consultation that had taken place on two occasions and the feedback taken on board from the cross party budget scrutiny process.
- The national context and in particular mentioned the growing demand in adult social care and children's services and the loss of all main central government

funding.

- The opportunities the creation of a new council, bringing together the best of all five councils.
- The work the council had and continued to do to generate income, in particular the Adult Social Care Transformation Programme, with the projected savings for the first year alone were £5.2m.
- The council had been shortlisted as part of the governments Housing Infrastructure Fund which would see £1.4bn allocated to projects to support growth and development. The Council's bid for nearly £200m for Aylesbury Garden Town now needed to be developed into a business case.
- There were plans for a further £19m investment in roads which included early repairs as soon as the weather conditions improved. There had also been a budget set aside of £500k for weed removal in some town and village centres.
- Mr Tett thanked 'Team Bucks' including the local NHS, Community and mental Health services, the parish, town and district councils, Bucks MPs, the voluntary and community organisations across the county, the Police, the fire and emergency services and Bucks LEP. Mr Tett also extended his thanks on behalf of all members to all staff of the County Council who worked tirelessly for residents and frequently went 'above and beyond' to deliver the very best. Mr Tett thanked Mr R Ambrose and his team for the huge amount of work done to produce yet again a balanced budget.
- Bucks and Dorset were first county councils to receive no Revenue Support Grant (RSG) and in the coming year would have moved into 'negative RSG' however following consultation and lobbying the government had decided to remove the further reduction which benefitted the budget by £10.95m.
- The Council Tax referendum threshold had remained at the same level as last year.
- The council had benefitted from an additional one off fund of £4.55m for adult social care and for general social care pressures. Mr Tett reiterated that it was a one off payment and did not guarantee any sustainable funding beyond next year.
- The county and district councils had been accepted as a pilot of the government's new 75% business rate retention scheme. The scheme allowed a greater percentage of the growth in business rates to remain within county which was estimated to be worth over £7m with the county share being 50% of the increased receipts.
- In the coming year price inflation and increase demand would cost the council an extra £27.2m and an additional £53.9m across the four year period.
- Social care remained the largest area of demand and price growth which was not unique to Buckinghamshire.
- Portfolio efficiencies were assumed at £10.3m for the next year, rising to £19.7m by the end of the four year period. Mr Tett clarified that the council continued to work closely with colleagues in the Health Service to deliver integrated services and continued to deliver shared outcomes with colleagues across the whole of the public sector in Bucks.
- The council would also continue to seek out income generation opportunities which included working with public sector and voluntary bodies and the increased of the council's property investment portfolio which was generating more income than ever before. Mr Tett also highlighted the active management of the Energy from Waste (EfW) contract.
- Overall there was an assumption that in 2019/20 there would be additional

- income of £1.9m which was expected to increase to £3.2m by 2022/23.
- The council's General Fund reserves had increased back to their historic and prudent level of £30m.
- There was a plan to spend £86m in 2019/20 and £362m over the four year life of the Capital programme with a priority placed on the highways network which included a commitment to spend at least £15m each year on the strategic roads network and an additional £4m in 2019 calendar year on the plane and patch programme.
- There was also a commitment to spend £1.5m each year of the programme on repairs to footways and £1.5m a year included to replace street lighting columns. There would also be £1m each year on the drainage systems essential to keep roads protected from the damage caused by excess surface water.
- The Capital programme also included £35.2m in 2019/20 and £140.9m over four years to invest in Bucks schools and other education needs. 2020/21 would see the Basic Need funding reduce to zero even though there continued to be a growing number of children requiring school places.
- It was proposed the Council Tax would be increased by 2.99% which equated to 71p per week for a Band D property.

Mr Tett concluded by stating that it was the final budget of Buckinghamshire County Council with the exciting development of the new unitary structure that would deliver the best savings and simplifying services for residents. Mr Tett wanted to ensure that the new organisation started out on the best financial footing possible and would need to consider what measures the council can put in place to help the new council hit the ground running on 1 April 2020. The new authority will combine the best of the County and Districts and will be - *simpler, stronger, better value and more local*.

Mr S Lambert, Leader of the Opposition Group, thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to speak in the budget debate and to respond to the Leader and the budget proposals for the 2019/ 20 year. Mr Lambert highlighted the following:

- The opposition group agreed that the council's Strategic Plan and its three key themes remained fit for purpose in the changing local and national context.
- Mr Lambert stated that he was proud of how the authority approached their budget setting with the involvement of members and members of the public. Mr Lambert referenced his place on the council's budget scrutiny committee for the past six years and paid testament to the work of members across this council, across the political spectrum - cabinet members, select committee chairs and back benchers. Mr Lambert also stated that with meetings being fully webcast and all the detailed papers published, meant transparency.
- Mr Lambert stated that the move by some district councils to launch a Judicial Review on the unitary decision was a waste of public money and there appeared to be a lack of clarity within those councils around the decision making to go to Judicial Review.
- Mr Lambert requested that the Leader update on the position of the unitary project as it had been four months since the decision by the Secretary of State and wanted assurances that any costs incurred due to the judicial review would be recovered from the petitioner councils. Mr Lambert stated that their actions were destabilising for staff across county and district councils, impacted budgets and affected corporate policy making and engagement with communities and residents.

- Mr Lambert made reference to no longer being in the predicted position of negative RSG, the extra funding received for adults and children's social care of approximately £1.7m and the business rates retention pilot that would be bring an additional £3.5m to the council. In addition there would be approximately £2.3m from the uplift in Council Tax collection.
- Mr Lambert welcomed the additional money put into reserves for unitary given the extra cost of 147 members.
- Mr Lambert was deeply concerned over the Seely's House and Aylesbury Opportunities Centre bids attached to the Capital programme and the reasons for the decision.
- There were concerns raised over the reduction in service hours and closure of Bledlow household recycling centre and the commencement of charges to residents for a small financial saving this year and tying the successor authority into a real front line service reduction before the chance to review and before the review all the waste contracts for collection and disposal. There were also concerns that this would add extra pressure onto parish and town councils if there were an increase in illegal dumping of waste.
- Mr Lambert highlighted that this all came at a time when additional money was being put into reserves and that the Planning and Environment portfolio generated approximately £650k income and were still had to make efficiencies in order to contribute to other portfolios. Mr Lambert had considered to move an amendment regarding the HWRC's but understood that alternative options were being explored in regard to the site that was due to close.
- The issue of insufficient budgets in Adult Social Care and Children's Services in previous years was highlighted and the Early Help decision last year that had impacted on budgets. There had also been extra costs associated with the Ofsted Improvement plan; however Mr Lambert and his group supported the Ofsted recovery plan. Mr Lambert also welcomed the additional money into the Children' Services legal fees budget.
- Mr Lambert also thanked staff and colleagues for keeping our vulnerable safe and our services running. Mr Lambert urged staff to watch the Chief Executive's 'One news' blog posts, videos and roadshows to find out more information about unitary and urged district councils to share this with their staff too.
- Mr Lambert made reference to the reduction in the local member road scheme budget in order to put money into reserves. This had been the most tangible element to the council's budget for local members; reductions to Local Member's Highways schemes and street light issues in order to put approximately £4m into reserves was not credible
- Mr Lambert made reference to the Community Engagement and Public Health portfolio and in particular mentioned the Aylesbury project to support young people which had not progressed, low visitor numbers to libraries and the demise of the mobile library. Mr Lambert did praise the developments of the County Museum.
- It was highlighted that Brexit was a risk to the Bucks business community but the council's budget was presented reasonably healthy with about 8% back up in reserves.
- Mr Lambert stated that the budget did not meet the priorities of his grouping and could not suggest that it was a robust budget and that forecasting was right, given this years' experience of contingency use. The opposition group's priority would have been to remove the extra provision to reserves and put £2m into the highways budget to restore the local member highways schemes and make provisions for street lighting upgrades and a further £1m each into Children's

and Adult Social Care to provide the financial insurance that these essential front line services needed.

- Mr Lambert thanked the Chairman in how she had carried out her role and looked forward to working with her successor in the coming year.

During the debate Members raised the following matters

- Members were pleased with the additional funding for weed spraying but raised the issue of setting money aside for County Council reserves while reductions to budgets in others areas such as the local member highways scheme. Mr Tett responded by stating that he was pleased with the money to be spent on weed spraying and that this would be carried out in major town and village centres. He highlighted that the council had fought to preserve the HWRC sites as they were but with budget pressures of £1.2m this was no longer an option.
- Julia Wassell stated that local members were faced with residents who continued to deal with problems arising from long term austerity which included debt, homelessness, housing issues, excluded children and road schemes. Mr Tett responded by saying that he talked with residents on a regular basis was aware of what those residents priorities were. The budget had been shaped around resident's priorities and had been consulted on twice. There was also a reliance on those members in the room to feedback resident's priorities.
- It was confirmed that there had been no reduction in budget for roads, maintained at £15m year on year and an additional £4m had been added for the plan and patch programme.
- Concerns were raised regarding the Children's Services budgets' drawing from contingency year on year and it was confirmed that there had been a children's services budget increase since 2015 which had not been enough and there was now an additional £11m put into the budget and also additional money for increasing legal costs.
- Members urged colleagues to work together on the transition into the new unitary authority.
- The Short Breaks consultation was raised and Mr Tett stated that Cabinet Members would work closely with the local member to ensure concerns and views were taken into account.

In summary, Mr Tett thanked all members for the good debate and the leader of the opposition group for his speech. There was a requirement to put forward a balanced budget and that reserves could not be spent on everyday expenditure on an ongoing basis.

The concerns regarding an increase in fly tipping would continue to be monitored and extra money had been put into the budget for that.

Mr Tett was pleased to ring-fenced money for the Ofsted improvement plan and additional money being budgeted for legal fees in children's services. Mr Tett stated that it was always a difficult area to budget for that contingency had also been put aside.

Mr Tett stated that he respected the decision of colleagues to exercise their lawful right to undertake judicial review regarding the transition into a new unitary authority, however stated that if the decision had been to approve the other business case he would not have challenged it and worked with colleagues. Unitary was an enormous task with a number of workstreams still to define, but there was a need to move at

pace. Mr Tett commented that it was important that the council implement the spirit of the business case and to co design the details to get the best of heritage from all five councils.

**Out of the 37 Members present a recorded vote was taken as follows:**

Members for: Mr Appleyard, Mr Bendyshe-Brown, Mrs Birchley, Mrs Blake, Mr Brown, Mr Butcher, Mr Carroll, Mr Chapple, Mr Chilver, Mr Clare, Mrs Cranmer, Mrs Darby, Mr Dhillon, Mr Etholen, Mrs Gibbs, Mrs Glover, Lin Hazel, Mr Irwin, Mrs Macpherson, Mrs Mallen, Mr D Martin, Mr P Martin, Mr Reed, Mr Roberts, Mr Shakespeare, Mrs Teesdale, Mr Tett, Mr Watson, Mr Whyte, Mrs Wight.

Members against: Mr Christensen, Mr M Hussain, Mr N Hussain, Mr R Khan, Mr S Lambert, Mr I Rashid, Julia Wassell

The motion was carried with 30 in favour, 7 against and no abstentions.

**RESOLVED:**

**Council APPROVED:**

1. **The Revenue Budget for 2019/20 (and indicative budgets for the following three years) as set out in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 and a Net Budget Requirement of £356.310m in 2019/20;**
2. **A Council Tax Requirement of £293.124m and a Band D council tax, for County Council spending of £1,329.64 in 2019/20;**
3. **The Capital Programme as set out in Appendix 5;**
4. **Noted the Budget Scrutiny Report**
5. **Noted the Business Unit Plans.**
6. **Noted the response to the budget proposals from Bucks Business Group**

## **7 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

Mr J Chilver, Cabinet Member for Resources presented the report to Council to consider the Treasury Management Strategy 2019/20. Mr Chilver highlighted the following points:

- CIPFA required the Council to approve a treasury management strategy before the start of each financial year.
- The only change was the increase in money market to facilitate council's cash flow requirements.
- The strategy had been reviewed by the Council's Regulatory and Audit Committee.

Mr S Lambert raised concerns about the little detail in the strategy related to the impact of Brexit and wanted assurances that risks were being identified and managed. Mr Chilver responded by stating that there was a risk monitoring process in place which included those related to Brexit. Mr Chilver drew member's attention to the Brexit update on their desks and the date of the next Buckinghamshire Brexit Summit.

**Recommendation:**

**Council were asked to APPROVE the Treasury Management Strategy Statement.**

**RESOLVED: Council APPROVED the Treasury Management Strategy Statement.**

## **8 CAPITAL AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY**

Mr J Chilver, Cabinet Member for Resources presented the report to Council to consider the Capital and Investment Strategy. Mr Chilver highlighted the following points:

- The strategy was a statutory requirement in accordance with the CIPFA Prudential Code.
- Ensure that Capital investment proposals were affordable prudent and sustainable.
- Non-financial investments that related to the Council's property portfolio.
- The need to look at new ways to generate income, with financial return of property investments being one approach.
- The Finance, Performance and Resources Select Committee had commented on the strategy and would have as an item later in the year.

Members raised and discussed the following points:

- Mr Appleyard, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills supported the strategy and highlighted the result of the strategy over a number of years had led to positive results which included Aylesbury Vale academy being rated as a good school and the opening of the new school. Mr Chilver welcomed the comments and celebrated the success of the school and the capital building programme.
- Members raised issues relating to unitary including moving capital reserves from county to districts and the need to allow flexibility for parishes to manage assets within their local area going forward. Mr Chilver stated that both of these areas would be a matter for the new authority once it had been legally formed.

### **Recommendation:**

**Council were asked to APPROVE the Capital and Investment Strategy.**

**RESOLVED: Council APPROVED the Capital and Investment Strategy.**

## **9 PROPORTIONALITY REPORT**

This report set out the allocation of Committee seats in line with legal requirements on political proportionality.

### **Recommendation:**

**Council were asked to confirm the political balance in the distribution of seats across Committees to be as set out in the report, to accord with the rules on proportionality.**

**RESOLVED: Council AGREED the recommendation.**

## **10 NOTICES OF MOTION**

There were none.

## **11 CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS TAKEN - INFORMATION ONLY**

**RESOLVED: The Council NOTED the report.**



**12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

25 April 2019.

**CHAIRMAN**



# County Council



## Select Committee Annual Report 2018/19

Thursday 25 April 2019

Report from David Carroll, Dev Dhillon, Brian Roberts, David Watson

### Purpose of this Report

Each year the Chairmen of the Select Committees produce an Annual Report reflecting on the work and outcomes achieved by their Committees over the past year. The 2018/19 Annual Report is attached at Appendix 1.

### The Impact of Scrutiny

The role of the scrutiny function is to provide an independent cross-party challenge to decision-makers for public accountability and to improve outcomes for Buckinghamshire's residents.

The Select Committees monitor the progress of the implementation of recommendations made to Cabinet or partners, such as the NHS, after six months and again after twelve months. At each point, the Committees assess if their recommendations have been successfully implemented and have made a difference to outcomes for service users or residents.

As Select Committee Chairmen, we hope that this strong tradition of robust scrutiny will continue in the new Unitary Council.

### Recommendation

**Council is asked to:**

1. **Note the Annual Report of the Select Committees 2018/19.**

**DAVID CARROLL, DEV DHILLON, BRIAN ROBERTS, DAVID WATSON**





# Annual Scrutiny Report

## 2018-19



*Making a difference*

# Foreword

**This year has been a busy year across the four Select Committees. The Chairmen of the Select Committees are delighted to present our Annual Report for 2018/19.**

The Council has a long history of robust and mature scrutiny, developed over the years. This model continues to be highly regarded by Members, acting as a 'critical friend' and holding decision makers to account, whilst also contributing to policy development and looking at issues of concern for residents across Buckinghamshire. Our Select Committees are cross-party, non-political and the overall aim is to improve services and outcomes for residents.

In this report you will find a summary of some of the key pieces of work and achievements during 2018/19 from across all four Select Committees, including the difference we've made locally. We have completed formal inquiries on Child Obesity, Permanent Exclusions, Support for Carers and Budget Scrutiny for 2019.

In addition, we have trialled a number of new approaches to scrutiny, promoting early engagement with the Select Committees in the development of policy, for example, the freight strategy and capital and investment strategy were both discussed at meetings ahead of Cabinet agreement. Also Select Committees have been working collaboratively with service areas to provide a 'sounding board' ahead of consultations or major service changes, such as Early Help and Household Waste Recycling Centres.

Hearing the views of the public is vitally important to scrutiny. This year we have received public questions at all Select Committees and we actively encourage public participation at all opportunities. We hope more people will get involved, there is more information on how to do this at the end of this document.

**"We would like to thank all Councillors who have contributed to scrutiny this year, Cabinet for their continued support of scrutiny and all officers, co-optees, partners and public who contributed valuable experience and support throughout the year."**



David Watson, Chairman,  
Finance, Performance and  
Resources Select  
Committee



Dev Dhillon, Chairman,  
Children's Select  
Committee



David Carroll, Chairman,  
Transport, Environment  
and Communities Select  
Committee



Brian Roberts, Chairman,  
Health and Adult Social  
Care Select Committee

# What is scrutiny?

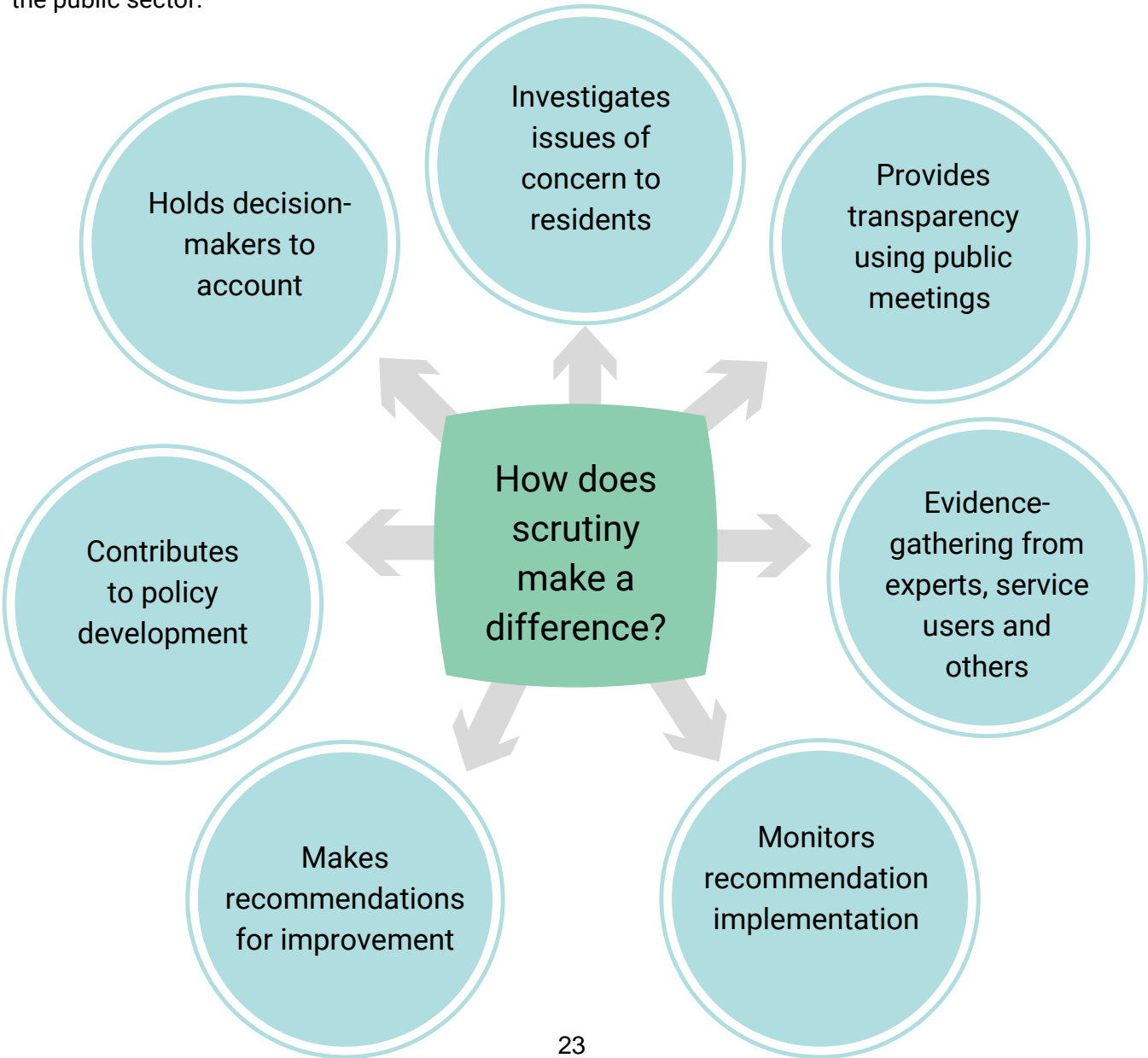
Scrutiny is an important part of local democracy and provides the legal power for Councillors to look into issues of concern for residents, holding decision-makers to account for the decisions they are making.

Although scrutiny can't make decisions, it makes recommendations for improvement to decision-makers. Within the Council, this is the Cabinet, but as scrutiny can look at services provided by other organisations, it often makes recommendations for partners.

There are also specific powers for scrutiny to hold the NHS to account within health scrutiny.

Scrutiny in Buckinghamshire County Council is undertaken by four Select Committees. These Committees are made up of elected Councillors who are not part of the Council's Cabinet, together with co-opted representatives from relevant local organisations.

Each Select Committee has a different area of responsibility and each examines local services across the public sector.



# Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee

**The Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee holds health and social care decision-makers to account and acts as a critical friend to the health and social care sector. Part of the Select Committee's work is around challenging proposals for health and social care service change to ensure the best possible outcomes for Buckinghamshire residents. This year the Committee has reviewed and challenged a number of areas including:**

- Winter resilience across the whole system
- Local medicine supplies (in light of Brexit)
- Director of Public Health's Annual Report
- Integration of health and social care (progress towards integration by 2020)
- Lace Hill health centre development in Buckingham (keeping a watching brief)
- Potential impact of Government Green Paper on social care funding (awaiting publication)
- Adult Social Care Transformation Plans
- The NHS long-term plan (including the impact locally)
- Development of Primary Care Networks
- Development of services at the community hubs at Marlow and Thame
- Recommendation monitoring of the Hospital Discharge Inquiry (12 months on)

**Committee Members continue to attend health and social care events, including the Hospital Trust and Clinical Commissioning Group joint AGM in July, both Trust and CCG Board meetings and attendance at a debrief meeting around the changes to repeat prescriptions which provided an opportunity to feedback on the issues raised by the Health and Adult Social Care.**

## Key achievements

- Prepared a statement for inclusion in the Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust's annual quality account 2018/19 (May 2018).
- Prepared a response to South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust's annual accounts 2018/19 (June 2018).
- Responded to Adult Social Care's Short Breaks strategy consultation (July 2018).
- Child Obesity Inquiry – the report and recommendations were presented to Cabinet in October 2018 (11 recommendations of which all were accepted, 3 partially). The progress on implementing the recommendations is due to be reviewed by the Committee in June 2019.
- A Task & Finish Group was set up in January to undertake pre-decision scrutiny around the proposal for residential short breaks (respite) for older people and adults with a learning, mental, sensory or physical disability. This is ongoing and will be reported to Cabinet in June/July time.



# Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee

## Support for carers - 1 day evidence gathering

This inquiry was set up to gain a greater understanding about the current level of support for carers (from children to adults) across the system – health, social care, local communities and schools. A full day of evidence gathering took place on Tuesday 30 October 2018 and a report with recommendations will be presented to Cabinet in May 2019.

Recommendations included:

- Creating a single point of access for all carers with signposting to all relevant services;
- Developing a single assessment form to be accessed by all key organisations to reduce duplication;
- Ensuring all carers have contingency plans in place and that these are reviewed regularly as part of the carer assessment reviews;
- Further development of the GP Carers Award with the aim of increasing the number of accredited GP practices in Buckinghamshire;
- Development of a training programme for the Integrated Care System to help identify and support carers who are employees within the system.

### NHS plans to reduce elderly patient visits to hospital



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### Green light for plans to tackle childhood obesity in Bucks



Published by Local Democracy Reporter Jasmine Rapson at 5:40am 30th October 2018.



Plans to tackle childhood obesity in Buckinghamshire were given the green light this week, after it was revealed hundreds of children under the age of five in the county are overweight.

“Just to say we hugely appreciate being included in this report. It was good of you to think of us. Thank you. I never expect anything and will continue to do our work as I believe it is needed and we are getting results”

- **Director of Empower to Cook in response to the Child Obesity Inquiry**

# Children's Select Committee

**This Select Committee scrutinises children's social care and the education of children and adults. It gathers evidence from a wide range of partners who offer commissioned services. The Committee continues to closely monitor the performance of children's social care and education services in Buckinghamshire. This year it has focussed on:**

- Educational attainment
- The school's side-by-side project
- New safeguarding arrangements (BSCB)
- Autistic Spectrum Disorder provision for children and young people
- Early help
- Home to school transport reforms
- Permanent exclusions
- The Ofsted Improvement Plan
- Social Care Transformation Plans
- Looked after children and care leavers
- Elective home education
- Child sexual exploitation

**The Committee has visited the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and also met with social workers across various locations within Buckinghamshire. A planned inquiry into placements has just been agreed by the Committee. It is intended that the information gained from the inquiry will assist the new Council and its Members to understand this costly and complex area. Two Members of the Finance, Performance and Resources Committee will be co-opted onto the inquiry, as placement costs are such a significant element of the Children's Services budget.**

## Key achievements

### Parent Governor Representatives (PGRs)

We are pleased to announce that we have two new Parent Governor Representatives, who represent secondary and primary schools within Buckinghamshire. Our PGRs offer external scrutiny and first-hand knowledge of the modern day problems faced by schools and children in education. We are one of the few councils who has managed to accrue this representation and we look forward to seeing the difference this makes to educational scrutiny in 2019/20.

Home to School Transport cuts criticised by parents



Published by Local Democracy Reporter, Local Democracy Reporter at 12:46pm 2nd December 2018.



A council consultation into plans to cut school transport has been criticised for not being accessible for parents who have children with special educational needs (SEND).

Mum, Sarah Hodges, told members of Bucks County Council's (BCC) children's select committee (November 27) that she struggled to attend the evening consultation sessions as it is difficult to arrange care for her daughter.

BCC launched a consultation on the overhaul of the service in October after growing pressures saw the

Plan to tackle social care recruitment crisis in Bucks



Published by Local Democracy Reporter, Local Democracy Reporter at 7:25am 29th January 2019.



The director of the county council's children's services has assured councillors there are robust plans in place to hire social care staff to tackle challenges recruiting in the department.

This week children's social care leaders were grilled on Glaston's latest monitoring report for the falling service - which found current social workers have been left with large caseloads due to a high turnover of

# Children's Select Committee

## A reduction in permanent exclusions

Following the permanent exclusion inquiry recommendation monitoring, where all except one recommendation was accepted by Cabinet, it has been noted that permanent exclusions within Buckinghamshire have decreased. Teachers and parents now have more information available to try to reduce the likelihood of a child's exclusion from school.

## Giving local families a voice and protecting vulnerable children

The Committee has remained dedicated to ensuring that Buckinghamshire's most vulnerable families have had their concerns voiced about a number of key decisions this year. This includes changes to Early Help and Home to School transport. The Committee will continue to hold decision makers to account and ensure that alternative provision and solutions are realistic, ensuring that all children have fair access to service provision and education.

### Reducing exclusions of vulnerable groups in schools a priority, says BCC



Published by the Mix96 News Team at 5:45am 19th October 2017.



Bucks County Council say reducing the number of permanent school exclusions is a key priority for their education strategy over the next four years.

They added that there will be an increased focus on positive outcomes for vulnerable groups.

It's after government stats revealed the number of permanently expelled black and mixed ethnicity students is about three and a half times higher than for white kids.

#### The stats

Percentage of permanent exclusions by ethnicity for Buckinghamshire (%)

- Asian - 0.14
- Black - 0.42
- Chinese - 0.00
- Mixed - 0.40
- White - 0.12
- Other - 0.00

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/ UPDATED: Challenge to Bucks Children's Centre closures rejected

### UPDATED: Challenge to Bucks Children's Centre closures rejected



Published by the Mix96 News Team at 5:39am 2nd February 2018. (Updated at 2:02pm 2nd February 2018)



#### UPDATE

A Buckinghamshire County Council committee has rejected a challenge over plans to close children's o

The call-in has been discussed for over two hours today, mostly around the process the Council took consulting people on their early help plans.

This means the plans will now go ahead, but with some recommendations to change things slightly.

#### EARLIER

Bucks County Council is today responding to a challenge of their decision to close 35 Children's C around the county.

Earlier this month proposals for an 'early help service' run from up to 9 hubbed centres was approved.

Three councillors called that decision in - which means the decision could be reversed.

# Finance, Resources and Performance Select Committee

**The Finance, Performance and Resources Select Committee considers all areas of the Council's strategic performance, financial management and corporate issues, with the work programme often driven by the findings of the annual Budget Scrutiny process. In 2018/19, the Committee reviewed and challenged a number of key strategies including:**

- Capital and Investment Strategy
- Technology Strategy – Smarter Buckinghamshire
- Customer Service Standards Review

**Members also received updates on progress in the areas of workforce, property & assets and undertook a mid-year review of costs and savings in Adult Social Care and Children's Services, which are the Council's highest areas of spend.**

## Budget Scrutiny

The Budget Scrutiny Inquiry undertaken in January remains the focus of the Select Committee's annual Work Programme. Meetings were held on 8th, 9th and 10th January 2019 and the Leader of the Council and each Cabinet Member were questioned on their draft budget proposals. Meetings were webcast and questions from the public received via email and social media channels were also asked by the Chairman.

Following the three day intensive session, the Committee met privately to consider and develop their key findings and recommendations. The Budget Scrutiny report, including ten recommendations was presented to Cabinet on 11th February – nine of the ten recommendations were accepted fully or in part and changes were made to the final Budget agreed by County Council as a result, including:

- Additional funding added to the County Council's Unitary Reserve.
- An additional £750,000 added to the Legal budget for Children's Services for 2019-20.
- Additional funding for gully cleaning and weed management would be maintained.



"It's probably the most thorough scrutiny of the budget, anywhere in the country, certainly of any County Council... It's really one of the key elements of our democracy within the Council, that we have that scrutiny process" -  
Cllr Martin Tett

# Transport, Environment and Communities Select Committee

**The Transport, Environment and Communities Select Committee Members have reviewed, monitored and challenged a wide range of interesting areas this year, including:**

- Prevent Duty (Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015) - The Council's approach to fulfilling its duties and responsibilities to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism
- TfB Annual Report and performance
- Museums Trust
- Draft Freight Strategy review
- Modern Slavery
- Sustainable school travel
- Local Enterprise Partnerships review
- Street lighting performance
- High Speed 2
- Gully cleansing and drainage maintenance
- Community safety priorities
- The growth agenda in Bucks
- Energy and future demand
- DEFRA 25 year Environmental plan and key policy decisions

## Key achievements

### Modern Slavery Inquiry Recommendation Monitoring

Completed at the end of last year, this inquiry was an excellent example of proactive pre-policy scrutiny. It examined the national emerging issue of Modern Slavery and the role and new responsibilities of the Council.

Outcomes: At the six month inquiry recommendation monitoring review, the Committee was impressed with the dedication of officers to drive this work forward and the significant progress that had been made towards implementing the recommendations. In particular they heard that:

- The Council had over 500 people trained on modern slavery, recognising the signs and how to report it.
- It had published a Modern Slavery Statement.
- The policies in relation to vulnerable children and adults had been enhanced.
- Most significantly, a local victim support service had been established. This was highlighted as a key gap by the police during the inquiry. The service has already been instrumental in supporting the police in identifying and supporting victims, increasing referrals to the national referral mechanism and helping to facilitate the arrests of a number of offenders.

"The collaborative approach between the Committee, Cabinet Member, officers and partners, was instrumental in the success and positive outcomes achieved as a result of the inquiry and dedication of the officers to drive this work forward." - **Committee Chairman**

# Transport, Environment and Communities Select Committee

## Household Recycling Centre Policy Review – Pre-Consultation Workshop

As an area of significant review and public interest, the Cabinet Member sought the ‘critical friend’ challenge of the Committee at the early stages of this policy review. The Committee felt that scrutiny could strengthen the process through reviewing the planned approach to the public consultation to ensure that it was fit for purpose. Through an open and collaborative discussion with officers, the Committee highlighted some simple areas to further strengthen the consultation process (primarily around information provided) so that residents were well informed, and the process would meet the recognised principles underpinning effective consultation.

## Street Lighting and Gully Cleansing and Drainage Maintenance – Focussed Committee Meetings

These two areas were highlighted within the TfB annual report as underperforming at the start of the year. The Committee agreed key lines of inquiry for each and examined issues in detail within topic focussed committee meetings. Members reviewed performance, recent and planned improvements and were able to identify a number of simple recommendations to ensure that further improvements were driven forward over the coming year. The Committee wrote to the Cabinet Member, highlighting recommendations, which will be monitored and reviewed later in the year.

## Looking ahead

In March 2019, the Committee held a detailed and informative workshop with input from lead officers within the service areas to inform the development of the 2019/20 work programme. Members were briefed on the key areas of priority, key challenges, major service reviews and consultation and national emerging policies/issues. Emerging issues that were highlighted for further consideration included:

- Weapon Crime (crime and disorder remit)
- Air Quality and Open Spaces
- Skills of the future – to create a thriving economy
- Devolution
- High Speed 2 – Community Engagement
- Bucks Strategic Infrastructure Plan and corporate governance of the growth agenda

“The inquiry helped shape and develop effective ways of working, efficient processes, raised awareness, understanding and the profile of this important issue, through a positive, proactive and collaborative approach to the scrutiny work.” - **Cabinet Member for Community Engagement**

# Promoting Scrutiny

## **The scrutiny function at Buckinghamshire County Council is supported by an experienced and dedicated Committee and Governance Team.**

During 2018-19, the team facilitated the varied work of the four Select Committees and worked to raise awareness of scrutiny throughout the organisation, highlighting its added value in supporting service improvement and providing a voice for Bucks' residents.

The team provide training to officers across the Council on working with Members. The team have revamped this to ensure that it showcases how to engage with scrutiny and highlights the benefits of early engagement with Members. In addition, a Member News launched to support staff in getting to know Members and to gain valuable insight into the diversity of their role.

The team support Members in striving to improve public engagement and participation. Plans are underway to utilise marketing expertise from within the team to transform the current web pages, ensuring that they are logical, better structured and require less clicks for the public to find content. Finally the team have contributed to discussions with the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) on new scrutiny guidance for Local Government which is due to be published shortly, and have attended various conferences and networking forums in order to support national and local practice improvement ideas.

Following discussions with colleagues nationally, the team have been trialling innovative approaches, particularly championing pre-decision scrutiny work. The Select Committees play a valuable role in supporting well-informed, meaningful decision-making and acting as a voice for service users and residents. The Committees provide effective, timely, supportive and constructive 'critical friend' challenge to Cabinet Members and help to continue delivering service improvement.

# Public engagement

The Council welcomes the public's involvement in scrutiny because public services are provided to help improve local lives. There are a number of ways in which anyone who lives, works or studies in Buckinghamshire can get involved in the work of scrutiny at the County Council:

## Get informed

### Come to a meeting

Select Committees are open to the public and anyone interested simply needs to turn up at the meeting. Dates of all meetings are on the Council's website.

### Watch a webcast

The Select Committees are webcast and can be watched live or up to six months after the meeting on the Council's website.

## Get involved

### Contribute to an inquiry

Scrutiny work is improved by the involvement of local people. To have your say on any current scrutiny inquiry, please email [democracy@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@buckscc.gov.uk)

### Ask a public question

Public questions are an opportunity for the public to put their question or point of view on any issue that has an impact on their local community or the county as a whole. For more information, visit the Council's website (which also gives information on other routes for individual issues).

### Follow us on Twitter

Follow @BucksDemocracy



### Contact us directly

Email [democracy@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@buckscc.gov.uk) or call 01296 382343



# County Council



## Report on Committee Proportionality

Thursday 25 April 2019

Report of the Monitoring Officer

### Political Proportionality

This report sets out the allocation of Committee seats in line with legal requirements on political proportionality. Appendix 1 sets out the current seat allocations by political groups.

The distribution of seats on Committees is governed by Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, which require the allocation to accord with the rules on proportionality. Since the last Council meeting in February 2019, Janet Blake has left the Conservative Group and stands as an ungrouped Independent Conservative.

The Regulations state that seats on Committees must be allocated to each political group in the same proportion to the number of seats held by each of those groups on the County Council (rules of aggregation as well as being in the correct proportions on each Committee individually, in so far as this may be practicable).

The political balance of the Council is currently 39 Conservatives, 4 Liberal Democrats, 2 Independents, 1 East Wycombe Independent, 2 Independent Conservatives and 1 Labour. There are two political groups comprising 40 (The Conservative Group) and 6 (The Liberal Democrat with East Wycombe Independent and Labour Group) Members. There are 3 ungrouped members.

Following the agreement of all political groups the final allocations proposed are listed below (Appendix 1 sets out the background calculations).



**Table 1**

Political Group	Seats on Council	% of whole	Seats actual	Seats rounded
Conservative	40	81.6%	61.22	61
Liberal Democrat with East Wycombe Independents, Labour and Independent	6	12.2%	9.18	9
Ungrouped	3			5
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>		<b>75</b>	<b>75</b>

**Table 2: Final allocations of Seats**

Committee	Size	Conservative	Liberal Democrat with East Wycombe Independent and Labour	Remainder
Development Control	8	6 (7)**	1	1
Pension Fund	6	5	1	
Regulatory & Audit	8	6 (7)**	1	1
Rights of Way	8	7	1	
Senior Appointments and Bucks Pay Award	7	6	1	
Select – Children’s	11	9	1	1
Select – Health & Adult Social Care	11	8 (9)*	1	2 (1)*
Select – Finance, Performance & Resources	8	7	1	
Select – Transport, Environment & Communities	8	7	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>61 (64)*</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5 (2)*</b>

\* The Conservatives have an over-allocation of one seat due to the reduced allocation for the Conservative Group on this committee. This seat should now go to an ungrouped member.

\*\* With the reduced allocation for the Conservative Group on this committee, this seat should now go to an ungrouped member.

### Other Council Committees

There are currently no other Council Committees where proportionality applies. If a new Council Committee is created and proportionality applies, it will be applied on the basis as set out in Appendix 1.

### Buckinghamshire Fire Authority

The County Council has 11 places on the Fire Authority which, applying the rules on proportionality, results in the following distribution of seats across the groups.

**Table 3: Fire Authority Seats**

Committee	Size	Conservative	Liberal Democrat with East Wycombe Independent and Labour	Remainder
Fire Authority	11	9	1	1

### Other Member Bodies

It is the current policy of the County Council that notwithstanding that the rules of proportionality do not apply to non-decision making bodies, all member bodies should be appointed on a proportional basis whenever reasonably practicable.

### Recommendations

#### Council is asked to:

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

**SARAH ASHMEAD  
MONITORING OFFICER**

Appendix 1 – Background Calculations on Political Balance

## Appendix 1 – Background Calculations on the Allocation of Committee Seats

Table 4

Size	Conservative	Liberal Democrat with East Wycombe Independents and Labour	Remainder
<b>No of Seats</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>
3	2	0	1
4	3	0	1
5	4	1	
6	5	1	
7	6	1	
8	7	1	
9	7	1	1
10	8	1	1
11	9	1	1
12	10	1	1
13	11	2	
14	11	2	1
15	12	2	1
16	13	2	1

Table 5 – Initial calculations before adjustments

Committee	Size	Conservative	Liberal Democrat with East Wycombe Independents and Labour	Remainder
Development Control	8	6.53 (7)	0.98 (1)	
Pension Fund	6	4.90 (5)	0.74 (1)	
Regulatory & Audit	8	6.53 (7)	0.98 (1)	
Rights of Way	8	6.53 (7)	0.98 (1)	
Senior Appointments	7	5.71 (6)	0.86 (1)	
Select – Children’s	11	8.98 (9)	1.35 (1)	1
Select – Health, Adult Social Care	11	8.98 (9)	1.35 (1)	1
Select – Finance, Performance & Resources	8	6.53 (7)	0.98 (1)	
Select – Transport, Environment & Communities	8	6.53 (7)	0.98 (1)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>64*</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5*</b>

\* The Conservative seat entitlement from Table 1 is 61, therefore 3 seats should be re-allocated to an ungrouped member.

# County Council



## Cabinet Member Reports

### LEADER OF THE COUNCIL



#### Unitary

Following the announcement of a single unitary council for Buckinghamshire, work continues in earnest to bring the five councils together, as colleagues from across the councils collaborate on key areas of work. A brand new council is the opportunity of a lifetime to truly modernise local government, pooling expertise, resources and knowledge to create the best council for our residents. The unitary programme structure is in place and appointments are underway to support the coordination and management of the huge amount of work that will be required to ensure a smooth and successful transition to the new council by 1 April 2020. It is important that our focus over the next year is on becoming one council, one team and making sure there is no disruption of services for residents on day one of the new council. I am pleased to see staff from across the councils already working together on the transition.

The parliamentary process to make this change to the structure of local government is moving forward. The Regulations Order was approved on 22 February and the Structural Changes Order which will implement the proposal for a new single unitary council in Buckinghamshire is progressing through Parliament. This sets out the 'shadow' arrangements that will bring the five councils together to oversee the creation of the new council, and confirms the following details:

- The new council will replace the current five councils – AVDC, BCC, CDC, SBDC and WDC. These councils will cease to exist after 31 March 2020.
- The name of the new council will be 'Buckinghamshire Council'. It will have 147 elected members – three per current county ward.
- Elections for the new council will take place in May 2020, then in May 2025 and every four years after.
- A temporary 'shadow' authority will be formed, with all current county and district councillors having a seat on this body; the Shadow Authority will set the 2020/21 council tax and budget. The Shadow Authority will meet within 14 days of the approval of the Structural Changes Order by Parliament.
- Leadership to oversee the transition to the new council will be through a Shadow Executive comprising of eight district councillors and eight county

councillors plus the Leader of the County Council as its chairman. The Shadow Executive will meet within 7 days of the first meeting of the Shadow Authority.

- An implementation team will be established to manage the smooth transfer of services and staff to the new Council. This will be led by the County Council Chief Executive with a district Chief Executive as deputy.

The County Council recently announced its Shadow Executive nominees and deputies, who have a wealth of experience and skills, geographically as well as across the county services areas, with five of the eight Executive nominees also District Councillors, to ensure a good balance to oversee the transition work. This is a great opportunity to be a part of making history in Buckinghamshire and the County Council is committed to continuing to work together in the best interests of our local residents, businesses, and communities.

## **Growth**

### Heathrow Airport

Heathrow have recently consulted on stage two of their airspace change process, and eight of the routes could have some or significant impact on communities across southern Bucks. The Council's position on this remains focused on the principle of minimising the number of people and communities that are 'newly overflowed'. Working with district and LEP colleagues, our joint response to Heathrow re-iterated our 'triple lock' on expansion: investment in local transport infrastructure; evidence that improved options to get to the airport are working; and improving air quality in and around the Ivers.

As a host authority for expansion, the County Council and LEP have also been working to optimise the economic development and skills potential that expansion could bring to Buckinghamshire. Heathrow's next public consultation will be in June 2019. This will be seeking views on their preferred masterplan, including the runway and physical infrastructure changes needed for expansion.

### Western Rail Link to Heathrow

Network Rail's planned new rail link from the Great Western mainline to Heathrow would run through the Ivers area. The County Council supports the scheme in principle but has a holding objection to the closure of Hollow Hill Lane. We want to ensure that the community, business and emergency services don't lose the Hollow Hill Lane road link without having replacement road capacity elsewhere in the Ivers.

### Aylesbury Garden Town Housing Infrastructure Fund

Cabinet considered the proposed Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) business case to support Aylesbury Garden Town on 4 February 2019 and delegated the final composition of the bid to be determined in consultation with the Leader and the Portfolio Holder for Resources.

The HIF Business Case was submitted on 22 March 2019 for a total of £183.6m to provide new link roads, schools, electricity grid reinforcements, green infrastructure cycling links and land assembly, making a balanced bid to support the growth of Aylesbury Garden Town. A decision from MHCLG is expected in summer 2019.

## Oxford to Cambridge Arc

In March, Government released a document alongside the Spring Statement clarifying the latest position for the development of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc and setting out the next steps over the next 12 months. This included:

- **Economic study on economic capacity for the Arc** as well as the constraints and opportunities for possible new settlements and urban extensions.
- **New governance arrangements** across government with the establishment of an inter-ministerial group, inter-departmental board, and a dedicated portfolio team as well as strengthening of local arc governance in formalising the delivery for the Arc.
- A **public engagement exercise** will be launched in summer 2019 to engage with the public and will be used to help inform our future plans for the Arc and ensure they benefit existing and new communities and businesses.

## England's Economic Heartland

England's Economic Heartland is specifically referenced in the Arc joint declaration as providing the 'single local voice for strategic infrastructure across the Arc and beyond its boundaries'. Its initial framework for the overarching Transport Strategy will be launched at its annual conference on 16 July at the University of Hertfordshire. The Transport Strategy's vision is to 'connect our people and places with opportunities and services' in a way which improves overall quality of life and results in net environmental gain. Publication of the initial framework will mark the start of a wider engagement with residents, businesses and potential investors before the final version of the Strategy is prepared for publication in summer 2020.

## Expressway

Highways England's public consultation on route options for the expressway's 'western section' between Oxford and Milton Keynes is due in the autumn. In parallel to this, England's Economic Heartland has begun a study into how communities not on the expressway itself can still benefit from it.

## West Coast Mainline opportunities

A strategic priority for England's Economic Heartland is developing north-south rail services on the Northampton-Milton Keynes-Aylesbury-High Wycombe-Old Oak Common axis – realised through a combination of the opening of East West Rail and the first phase of HS2 releasing capacity on the West Coast Mainline. England's Economic Heartland is taking part in a study and working group with Network Rail which will consider how this can be achieved.

## HS2

### Update on HS2 Road Safety Fund

In November 2017, Government announced that Buckinghamshire County Council would be allocated £3.95m to be spent on road safety measures. The funding can be used for any measures to improve road safety, including supporting traffic calming, safer junctions or better pedestrian crossings. Authorities must ensure that improvements made leave a lasting legacy of road safety. Buckinghamshire County Council has not yet launched the fund to town and parish councils for bids, as the

official lorry routes that HS2 Ltd contractors will follow have not yet been announced. As soon as the routes are known the fund will be launched.

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

There have been several further funding announcements:

- £243,103 to Chilterns Conservation Board for 'Chalk, Cherries & Chairs'
- £72,202 to Colne Valley Park CIC for 'The Colne Valley: Open for Business'
- £16,080 to Amersham Museum Ltd for 'Amersham's Mobile Museum'

As of March 2019, £1,337,713 of CEF and BLEF has been allocated to projects within Buckinghamshire.

### **Health & Wellbeing Board**

At the December 2018 meeting, the Board looked at the remaining priority area [Protect from harm](#) and considered a report setting out a revised process for analysis and a reduction in the number of indicators the Board oversees. The Board received detailed analysis on delayed transfers of care and how current challenges are being addressed. The Board also received its annual [briefing on whole system winter planning](#) to seek assurance that the integrated health and care system is resilient throughout the winter. The Board received an update on the [Time to Change Mental Health project](#). This 18-month project provides the opportunity to stimulate a longer term change in attitudes towards mental health.

At the March 2019 meeting, Healthwatch Bucks presented on their achievements in 2018 and [priorities for 2019](#). The Board also received reports from the Director of Public Health on the [Shared Approach to Prevention](#), an update on the Physical Activity Strategy and a presentation outlining future priorities for the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. As well as standing items covering the Integrated Care System and Better Care Fund, the Board received an update on EU Exit preparedness. The health and care system has been working proactively on planning, and preparations have been reviewed regionally and assessed to be well developed.

### **Brexit**

Buckinghamshire County Council, working with partners locally, regionally and nationally, is well positioned to address any potential disruption arising from Brexit in Buckinghamshire. BCC's Brexit preparations started in earnest around May 2017, and this has allowed the Council to focus efforts to ensure the preparedness of both the County Council as an organisation, and Buckinghamshire as a place. More information can be found in the March report to Cabinet here:

<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=124&MIId=11077&Ver=4>

**MARTIN TETT  
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**



**DEPUTY LEADER &  
CABINET MEMBER  
FOR  
TRANSPORTATION**



**Highways Update**

The team has successfully delivered a £27.2m programme across the county in 2018/19, with the majority of spend being within the carriageway maintenance area. This means that we will be moving only £500k into next year to continue with other priority schemes. Of particular note is the delivery of the £5m Stoke Hammond Bypass resurfacing scheme, where we successfully replaced the running surface of the bypass whilst also completing works to other areas such as safety fencing and drainage. The scheme was delivered in partnership with Central Bedfordshire Council to minimise the impact of the works on the travelling public. We commenced the 2019/20 programme in early April and will seek to complete the main capital programme by the end of the summer.

Within the capital programme is the completion of another successful year of SALIX upgrades for our street lighting stock. A further 3,295 lanterns have been replaced, mainly in the outlying areas of the county, lowering both our reactive maintenance requirements and, more importantly, our energy bills. We are working on a three year programme for the remainder of the stock which will see all lanterns upgraded by the end of the period.

Winter has also come to an end and spring is now with us. Many of us will remember the winter as a mild one, however our gritters have been out around 65 times this year, an almost 20% increase on an “average” winter. The majority of activity occurred after Christmas, you will all remember the snow in early January! The lack of “the Beast from the East” this year has also meant that our roads have held together far better, this being a combination of both the levels of investment over the previous years beginning to pay dividends and the lack of prolonged snow conditions. We did, in February, take delivery of a further 1,000 tonnes of rock salt to supplement supplies in the south of the county. All of the gritting runs are completed by the TfB team, combining this activity with their “day jobs”, not surprisingly we had some tired people towards the end of February.

The Plane and Patch programme commenced in the first week of March and saw around £750k spent on 30 individual schemes in March. The overall programme will see £4m spent over a total of 150 schemes and is predicted to run until late summer.

The first of three cycles of routine weed-spraying covering all key footways will take place in April/May (and then again June/July and September). The chemical used will be a non-residual contact herbicide. In addition, removal of mature weeds/self-seeded vegetation growth on footways and channels will be undertaken between late April and September 2019. The above is in addition to our normal treatment of noxious, injurious and invasive weeds in identified locations.

The Road Safety team continue to implement a programme of road safety schemes. Locations of these schemes are identified through collision analysis and investigation in order to prioritise sites. In 2018/19 these sites included: A413 Buckingham Park roundabout, A413 Buckingham Road Aylesbury junction with Bicester Road and B470 Langley Park Road, Iver. Additionally, Road Safety Education Training and Publicity Schemes continue to be targeted at vulnerable groups.

And finally, we have been awarded £4.2m by ADEPT (Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport) and DfT to take forward our proposal to create recycled composite lighting columns, innovative wireless technologies, an Enhanced Central Management System for lighting and energy creation and storage solutions on the public highway. Our work will be focussed on the Fairford Leys area of Aylesbury and will be a test bed for further technology roll-outs across the Garden Town and beyond.

### **East West Rail**

The public inquiry into the Transport and Works Act Order for the Western Section between Oxford and Bedford and Aylesbury and Milton Keynes is expected to conclude in April, with the Inspector's report submitted later this year. The ambition is to see works on site start at the end of the year/early 2020, subject to the Inspector confirming the Order.

The County Council objected to details of the proposal and has reached agreement with East West Rail on Archaeology, Rights of Way and Flooding matters. For Ecology and Highways issues that we cannot resolve, we will be appearing at the Public Inquiry on 9 and 10 April. BCC remains a staunch supporter of East West Rail.

The East West Railway Company is currently analysing responses received during a consultation on route options for the Central Section between Bedford and Cambridge. A preferred route option will be announced later this year. In February the East West Rail Consortium launched its Eastern Prospectus which makes the case for the core East West Rail scheme to be realised at the earliest opportunity – i.e. with direct services from Norwich and Ipswich to Oxford. This work is fully supported by England's Economic Heartland.

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

**CABINET MEMBER  
FOR  
PLANNING &  
ENVIRONMENT**



**Marlow Flood Alleviation Scheme**

The Marlow Flood Alleviation Scheme was launched on Friday 8 March. The scheme was opened by Dominic Grieve MP, Sir James Bevan (CEO of Environment Agency) and Bill Chapple OBE (Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment from Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC)). The scheme was originally conceived after the floods in 2003 and it is good to see it being completed.

The scheme will protect 276 properties in Marlow from flooding from the river. The scheme involves a flood wall and bank between Pound Lane and the river is coupled with a flood compensation area upstream of Marlow, which is already attracting wildlife. The area around Gossmore, Firview and Mill Road is also protected with a bank and some flood gates. At both locations, there will be some relief from local groundwater flooding in the vicinity with the provision of pumps.

BCC are been very pleased to have been involved in this project as an active partner and contributor of £1.25m to the project. BCC were instrumental in lobbying politicians and the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee to get this project back on the Environment Agencies programme in 2015. We are particularly pleased that the issue of the local groundwater flooding has been addressed through the pumps in the scheme. BCC and our partners Transport for Bucks will have an ongoing involvement in the scheme with the management and maintenance of those pumps and we look forward to continuing to work in a positive way in the future with Environment Agency, Wycombe District and Marlow Town Council and the people of Marlow.

**Let's S.C.R.A.P Fly Tipping for Good**

Buckinghamshire Waste Partnership (of which Buckinghamshire County Council is a partner) has launched Phase 2 of its S.C.R.A.P campaign to rid the county of fly-tippers and spread the message that if it is your rubbish, it is your responsibility to dispose of it properly. Otherwise fly-tippers face the possibility of a £400 fixed penalty notice or, if court action is taken, typically fines over several thousands of pounds or even a custodial sentence.

S.C.R.A.P stands for Suspect, Check, Refuse, Ask, Paperwork – a helpful five point checklist to help stay on the right side of the law:

- Suspect all waste carriers
- Check with the Environment Agency that the provider taking your waste away is licensed
- Refuse unexpected offers to have waste taken away
- Ask what will happen to your waste
- Paperwork should be obtained – get a full receipt

The S.C.R.A.P campaign not only features useful advice for householders and businesses to thoroughly check who they are using to dispose of waste on their behalf, it also reminds people that they can also play their part by reporting suspicious activity or fly-tipping in progress. All they need to do is go online to <https://www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk/> and select fly-tipping from the drop down menu.

While we continue with our zero-tolerance approach to bringing fly-tippers to justice, we have just successfully taken our 696th successful prosecution. The big gains are in stopping it from happening in the first place.

For further details about all aspects of the S.C.R.A.P campaign, please visit: <http://www.recycle4bucks.co.uk/fly-tipping/>

### **New Interactive Archaeology Map On Our Website**

The BCC archaeology and IT teams have been busy creating an interactive, online, publicly accessible map, which shows all the historic and archaeological sites and monuments in the county. You can zoom into your area of interest and switch map layers on and off. So if you want to find out more about your local listed buildings, medieval villages, Roman villas or WW2 sites, take a look at the County archaeology pages or follow the link as detailed below:

<http://buckscc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=4b37c160dbe54f8e85f9e1b3dec50af9>

### **Local Wildlife Sites and Community Engagement – Keeping Buckinghamshire Thriving and Attractive**

The County Local Wildlife Sites Officer has been working with local schools and communities to deliver positive management of their local wildlife sites. A collaborative project between BCC, Chiltern Rangers and Ash Hill Primary School in High Wycombe, is just one example of how community engagement can benefit Buckinghamshire's natural environment. Local volunteers and school children helped to clear scrub from the species-rich chalk grassland over the winter, allowing wildlife to flourish on the site over spring and summer. The Local Wildlife Sites Officer has developed a management plan for the site and has put it forward for designation as a Local Wildlife Site, which will help to ensure its long term survival.

## **New Online Tool for Reporting Rights of Way (RoW) Problems**

The Rights of Way team has just launched a brand new online tool to report damage and obstructions on Buckinghamshire's 2,000 miles of public footpaths, bridleways and byways. The new online tool will provide a more efficient way for members of the public to report and track issues on the rights of way network. Walkers and horse riders can report items like broken stiles, overgrown vegetation or fallen trees, damaged bridges or path surfaces or even damaged or missing signposts and waymarks.

Reports received can then be prioritised and dealt with as quickly as possible. Not only will the system provide feedback on progress to the customer, it will also say if the problem has already been reported. The system also allows volunteers to sign up to help deal with reported problems. The online tool is part of a wider drive to get defects and damage sorted out so people can make full use of the county's rights of way network.

The introduction of the new facility followed feedback from both the Buckinghamshire Local Access Forum and the Bucks Rights of Way Liaison Group, who both suggested keeping customers more up-to-date and informed with progress for rectifying problems.

## **District Local Plans**

### **Wycombe District Local Plan**

After gaining agreements from the Inspector on the modification proposed by the District Council to address the matters raised during the examination hearings, Wycombe have been able to undertake the consultation on it. The consultation on the Proposed Main Modifications to the Submitted Plan took place from 13 February to 27 March 2019.

It also consulted on a Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Proposed Main Modifications along with a revised Sustainability Appraisal and revised Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Regulation 19. After viewing the documents to the consultation, the County Council responded with their support to the removal of a site in High Wycombe and no further comments could be made.

If there is no need for further hearing sessions, the Inspector will issue a report with proposed changes that are necessary to make the Wycombe District Local Plan sound. The plan is likely to be adopted by autumn 2019.

### **Aylesbury Vale Local Plan (VALP)**

Since the November update, the District Council has continued to work on the modifications they will be proposing to the submitted VALP. The District Council are required to get agreement from the Inspector on the modifications before these could be consulted on. However, the Inspector has agreed to the lower housing figure than

what was previously recommended (31,539). The housing requirement is now likely to be 30,100.

The District Council is currently preparing the proposed modifications document to the Regulation 19. An updated timetable will soon be published on the website. The District Council expects that the local plan will be adopted in 2019.

### **Chiltern and South Bucks Local Plan**

For Chiltern and South Bucks (CSB), there has been a 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 due to further work being undertaken by the councils on transport and highway matters.

The plan is anticipated to be ready for adoption in summer 2020, which will be a decision for the new Buckinghamshire Council. The Highways Agency has now confirmed that they have lifted their holding objection to the local plan following completion of the traffic modelling on four junctions as requested.

The revised timetable will be soon published through a revised Local Development Scheme.

### **Summary for Growth Across Buckinghamshire Local Planning Authorities**

Overall and collectively across Buckinghamshire, the local authorities are planning for approximately 50,000 homes by 2033/2036 and over 250,000sqm of employment floor space which is based on the Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) for the county. This includes the increase Aylesbury Vale housing number.

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 (MWLP)**

The modifications to the submitted MWLP were considered by the Inspector to be acceptable for consultation. Consultation on the proposed modifications took place over an eight week period from 10 December 2018 to 4 February 2019. Due to a technical error in this consultation, a further consultation on two of the main modifications, MM14 and MM19, was undertaken and finished on 25 March 2019.

The Council submitted the Schedule of Representation received during the two modification consultations to the Inspector at the end of March. The Inspector will now consider the comments received, as well as those made during the consultation undertaken last summer and the hearing session. The Council now await the Inspector's final report into the examination of the MWLP and his recommendation for modifications to the plan.

It is anticipated that the Inspector's report will be received within the next few weeks. Subject to the recommendations, a report will be taken to Cabinet in May or June 2019 and then to the Full Council in July 2019 for adoption.

### **Aylesbury Garden Town (AGT)**

Work on the Masterplan for Aylesbury Garden Town (AGT) continues, with key outputs such as Green Infrastructure, Movement and Town Centre layers being considered by officers. The first draft of the Masterplan document will to be released for consideration and feedback on the 10 April. The final version is expected to go for consideration by the AGT Board at their meeting in July.

A strategic narrative that contains the AGT vision and key ambitions to 2050 is also being produced. The first draft of this was released in January, with a revised version due for consideration in May. Stakeholder events and engagements have been undertaken and will continue as the outputs from the master planners continue to be released over the next few months.

At the end of last year, AGT held an international experience weekend with Dutch Company Witteveen & Bos that looked at walking and cycling around Aylesbury. The teams came up with schemes of how walking and cycling can be improved within Aylesbury. The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan that is currently being produced will set out the strategy for walking and cycling improvement across Aylesbury.

### **Bucks Strategic Infrastructure Plan (BSIP) and Interactive Mapping**

While discussion continues around partner (District and LEP) roles and input, BCC will progress with an in-house commission to profile the delivery of our identified strategic schemes to 2033/2036 – in keeping with Local Plan timeframes. Scope is to be decided as part of the tender. BCC are beginning to set the governance for the commission, an early action being to establish the Senior Assurance Board to clear the brief and oversee the subsequent commissioning process.

Understanding the delivery of our combined strategic package will form a key part of discussions under our Modernising Local Government remit and support the establishment of the new Buckinghamshire Council.

Work continues in a separate work stream (the Interactive Map) to plot our strategic schemes. BSIP forms part of the baseline data for this, combined with Local Plan evidence and Asset Management delivery programmes, to provide a comprehensive visual aid to assist BCC decision making around service delivery.

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

**CABINET MEMBER  
FOR  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
& PUBLIC HEALTH**



**Bucks Domestic Abuse Big Tent Event**

A Domestic Abuse Big Tent Event was delivered on 5 February 2019. Tickets for the event were sold out and colleagues from a range of partners attended.

The event was organised by Community Safety at Buckinghamshire County Council (representing the Safer & Stronger Bucks Partnership Board) and was delivered in partnership with representatives of the Bucks Safeguarding Adults Board, Bucks Safeguarding Children's Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board to ensure cross-board collaboration. The event was sponsored by the NHS Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group.

Guest speakers included (but were not limited to) Frank Mullane (MBE) speaking about the effect of domestic homicide on relatives, Dr Jane Monckton-Smith speaking about the homicide timeline and Shonagh Dillon from Aurora New Dawn speaking about stalking and coercive control.

Feedback on the event was excellent and the outputs will be used to inform the development of the approach to domestic abuse across Buckinghamshire.

**Advertising Standards Authority contract award won by Trading Standards**

Buckinghamshire and Surrey's Trading Standards Team were awarded a three year contract to supply enforcement services (known as a 'legal backstop') to the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) through National Trading Standards and have been successfully running this since January.

The ASA is the advertising industry's self-regulation body. It deals with complaints about advertisers and considers if they've broken any rules that the industry itself sets, which could be about inappropriate or offensive content or misleading claims in adverts. The ASA resolve the majority of complaints they receive using their own sanctions but they don't have any legal powers if a firm continues to break the rules.

Which is where Trading Standards comes in – Trading Standards does have legal powers to prosecute if laws to protect consumers have been broken. As a last resort



the ASA can refer cases of non-compliant, misleading non-broadcast advertising to Trading Standards, who can use the law to enforce if necessary.

Awarding the contract, the ASA said that Buckinghamshire and Surrey Trading Standards was appointed having “demonstrated an excellent understanding of the advertising regulatory landscape and the importance of an effective statutory enforcement power to underpin our work.”

The contract award recognises the excellent professional service and the wider experience and expertise our joint Trading Standards team offers and I’m proud that it’s our joint team who will be behind this nationally important work.

### **Street Associations shortlisting**

The Street Association is gaining momentum with nearly 300 Buckinghamshire residents working in partnership with the County Council to keep their neighbours safe and well.

In recognition of this, the Street Association initiative was shortlisted for an LGC Award in the category of Community Involvement.

Whilst the initiative didn’t win the award for Community Involvement, it was exciting to receive recognition for the achievements to date, including increased referrals to preventative services and greater awareness of cons and scams in local communities. Planning is underway for a summer event to thank all Street Association members for their ongoing commitment to keeping their communities safe and connected.

### **Wycombe Wanderers - Time to Change Partnership**

Buckinghamshire Time to Change Hub is working in partnership with Wycombe Wanderers Football Club to tackle stigma around mental health amongst men. A range of activities are planned for the Wycombe Wanderers v Charlton Athletic match on 9 April 2019 and by working with the Sport & Education Trust and the Football Club we will make more of an impact.

In the lead up to the match itself, a number of things are taking place with the club to raise the profile for both Time to Change and Wycombe Wanderers.

- Deliver a Time to Change talk to the players and staff to raise awareness.
- Spread the Time to Change and Wycombe Wanderers mental health message to fans through numerous media outlets including the press and social media to try and recruit champions.
- Players’ involvement in build up to the Time to Change event.
- Champions to attend training ground for a picture and conversations with staff and players to promote the event.

On the match day itself; before the match, Champions will be outside the ground distributing leaflets and pocket sized conversation starters.

- This will also give fans the opportunity to talk to champions about Time to Change.
- The ground and event will be heavily branded to raise awareness.
- Wycombe Wanderers will be signing the Time to Change Employer Pledge.
- We are having Time to Change branded corner flags and the players will be wearing Time to Change t-shirts during the warm up prior to the game.

### **Aylesbury Library**

The newly refurbished Aylesbury Library was formally relaunched with a community celebration day on Saturday 26 January.

Over 1,500 customers and visitors attended story-telling sessions, demonstrations of the new equipment, coding club events and a special guest appearance from the 'Gruffalo'.

The library has had a complete renovation to include many fantastic new features and a total reworking of the space with brand new furniture throughout.

The new space includes:

- Better computing facilities with more power points for customers using their own devices
- A designated quiet study / learning area
- New self-service technology – so customers can borrow and return books really quickly and easily
- A modernised children's area with a colourful new sensory wall
- Refurbished toilets and a new baby-changing area
- A dementia-friendly layout
- A new exhibition area and a new 'well-being' zone
- Two new meeting rooms
- Lots of new books and longer opening hours!

The response from customers has exceeded expectations:

“looks fantastic, more space, bright and really inviting”

“best place in Aylesbury, it looks so light and bright. Lots of space for people to sit and the children's area is lovely”

“It was a great delight when the newly refurbished library opened again. The space is so much brighter and welcoming.”

### **Launch of MacMillan Cancer Information point in Buckingham Library**

Buckinghamshire Libraries are working in partnership with Macmillan and launched an information point at Buckingham Library on 21 March. The Infopoint will benefit local residents by improving access to information, services and support and will raise awareness, not only for those diagnosed with cancer, but also family, friends and carers. This in turn could lead to quicker diagnosis and more effective signposting to support services and information. To date, library staff have received face to face training from Macmillan to give staff a basic understanding of Macmillan's role in the local community and we will be working with Macmillan to recruit volunteers to support the Macmillan Info Points.

A second Macmillan information point is being launched at High Wycombe Library on 10 April at 10:30am at their community coffee morning.

### **Diabetes collection at Aylesbury Library**

Aylesbury Library has launched a special new collection of books about diabetes, food and mindfulness, funded by Aylesbury Vale Diabetes UK support group.

Diabetes UK local groups offer people living with diabetes a chance to meet, share experiences and gain support from others with the condition.

The collection was officially launched on Saturday 23 March at Aylesbury Library on Walton Street. The launch included interactive quizzes and activities as well as 'Know your Risk' sessions to assess people's risk of developing Type 2 diabetes.

### **Marlow Library**

Work is now taking place to design a refurbishment for Marlow Library and to develop the library as a community hub.

Meetings have taken place with the local member and stakeholders The Marlow Society, Marlow Museum, Marlow Chamber of Commerce, Wycombe District Council officers and Marlow Town Council.

A customer engagement exercise was undertaken during December 2018 and January 2019 to help develop a design and over 300 comments have been received.

The most popular suggestions related to creating a comfortable, informal and sociable reception area with coffee facilities, improvements to the children's area, introduction of new meeting rooms and a desire to see more social and cultural events in the library.

Work is taking place to develop an outline design with a space made available for the Marlow Museum and a new Making Marlow Dementia Friendly area.

Marlow Library will be one of three pilot community hubs and so the design for the new library will also include:

- Access to information, advice and support through face to face contact and self-service internet transactions.
- Direct line into the Customer Service Centre
- Officer and partner touchdown areas.
- Meeting rooms for specific service provision and partner use.

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

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES**



### **Early Help**

On 4 March 2019, Cabinet agreed changes to Children's Services which will introduce a new Family Support Service and Early Help strategy across the county. The recommendations for change were prepared following a recent public consultation, conducted by an independent consultation agency BMG Research. This asked residents and organisations for views on how to deliver early help services to support children and families. The changes will take effect from September 2019.

The new integrated Family Support Service will consist of three area-based family support teams working in partnership with other organisations, particularly schools and health, to improve access to services.

The service will include a network of 16 family centres across the county, which were previously used as children's centres. It will also ensure that a further 19 buildings, which will no longer be used as children's centres, will continue to be used for early years services and community benefit. The Cabinet has also agreed an Early Help Strategy, setting out the ambition of the service and how the Council and its partner organisations will work together.

Other key elements of the changes include:

- (a) A named key worker for each family who will create a team around the family to help them tackle the issues they face. This will help ensure they only need to tell their story once, to their key worker.
- (b) Investment in the Buckinghamshire Family Information Service website to ensure there is effective promotion of community activities together with information and guidance for families.
- (c) Open access to stay and play sessions for babies and toddlers at family centres.
- (d) Each school will have a named link family support worker to co-ordinate family support.

This new approach will let us put even greater focus on helping vulnerable children and families at an earlier point in time to avoid the escalation of their problems. I am also pleased we have listened to the views of our residents and that we will be

opening 16 family centres – two more than we has previously proposed. Again, these will help us to get the right professional support to children and families when they need it the most. The changes we are making are absolutely the right thing to do. Supporting our most vulnerable children and families is a priority for us, and these plans will help us to achieve that.

### **Placement Sufficiency for Looked after Children**

This year, we have concentrated on a developing and reinforcing a really clear message to the public regarding the benefits of fostering for Buckinghamshire County Council. This has helped us recruit and approve 14 new households. We hold regular fostering information events for people who want to find out more about fostering (details of all these events can be found [here](#)). We challenged ourselves to achieve 20% growth of in-house fostering placements between April 2018 and 2019 and it is pleasing to report that, to date we have in fact exceeded this target and we currently have 37 more in-house placements than we did in April 2018. This alone has avoided costs of over £5 million, compared to placing with an Independent Fostering Agency.

Our first new home in Aylesbury opened 6 months ago and recently had its first Ofsted inspection with very positive feedback from inspectors on the support given by staff to young people placed at the home. I am delighted with the outcome of this inspection and it is a real credit to the children's home staffing team for the way they managed to achieve this positive outcome in their very first inspection.

Our second new home has now been completely refurbished and is ready to open as soon as the Ofsted registration process is completed. This home will have a welfare bed which will give us provision to make short term placements for those who come into care in an emergency, this will help us keep more young people within the county and find placements which better match their needs. We were pleased to visit the new home recently and meet the team that will operate it, and we were all impressed with how homely it was.

### **Report into Children's Services in Buckinghamshire following inspection**

John Coughlan (Chief Executive, Hampshire County Council), Improvement Adviser for Children's Services in Buckinghamshire has provided the Department for Education (DfE) with the first progress report on the improvement of our children's services. Whilst the report identifies that our improvement journey remains extremely challenging on a number of levels, John reports that progress is just about as well as can be expected in the circumstances. John comments that there is an extremely strong "core" from Chief Executive, to Director of Children's Services and to Assistant Director and in addition, our new heads of service are of high calibre and are settling well and getting to grips with the management group.

John goes on to acknowledge that whilst it is generally too early to define positive outcomes to the partnership work, it is a general positive to note that all of the elements of the package of support, as agreed between Hampshire, Buckinghamshire and the DfE are in hand and have progressed as should be expected by this stage.

Overall, the report accurately reflects the current position and we will continue to work with Hampshire over the coming months.

### **South East Sector Led Improvement Programme**

Buckinghamshire is part of the South East Sector Led Improvement Programme (SESLIP), which is a membership group of all single/upper-tier local authorities in the South East, it aims to:

- Improve outcomes for children and young people across the South East.
- Establish a culture of honest and constructive dialogue and challenge within and between authorities.
- Demonstrate the capacity and capability of the sector to achieve a coherent and consistent self-improving system.

On Friday 22 March 2019, I attended the launch of the 2019-20 improvement plan which focuses on how local authorities can support each other to improve across the region. The proposed priorities for this year's plan include:

- Improving provision for complex looked after children as well as identifying ways in increase in-house foster placements.
- Promoting educational inclusion.
- Sharing and developing new models of social care practice that fit the times.
- Developing the regional quality assurance capacity.
- Building leadership capacity across the region.
- Workforce development.
- Increasing political lobbying to address the funding gap.

As we are facing similar challenges locally, the service and I welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with authorities across the South East on the above priorities to improve outcomes for the families we serve in Buckinghamshire.

### **Front Line visit**

Gareth Williams and I have just visited the Aylesbury Assessment Team. We found the time spent with them to be very informative and useful, hearing about the challenges they face and how they deal with those complex cases.

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

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES**



### **Annual Workplace Heroes 2019**

On 26 March, the County Council hosted our penultimate Annual Workplace Hero Awards at Aylesbury's Waterside Theatre, recognising some of our incredible staff and their contributions and achievements over the past 12 months, in what was a heart-warming afternoon.

There were so many examples and stories of where employees have gone above and beyond their role to help the most vulnerable members of our communities and keep our county beautiful and thriving for residents and businesses.

Some of our 2019 winners included:

- Employee of the Year – Marco Dias, who works in the Policy Team, in recognition of driving a highly successful programme of work to support the Council and the county in preparation for Brexit.
- Manager of the Year – Cynthia Tapping, who manages the Stoke Mandeville Hospital Team, for being a kind and compassionate manager, trialling new ways of working and being at the forefront of much of the work in the integration of health and social care.
- Team of the Year – The Steeples Residential Home Team, for their hard work in getting from 'inadequate' to 'good' in the recent Ofsted inspection.
- Apprentice of Year – Brad Smith, who works in Strategic Flood Management, who was recognised for completing some outstanding work including improving our planning application screening process, intercepting all drainage consent applications and negotiating extensions to a consultation; all of which have substantially increased his team's efficiency.

### **Legal services**

The county and district councils in Buckinghamshire have started the process of sharing legal resources from the autumn, part of the first steps to joining up support services for the new Buckinghamshire Council.



Under the plans, the legal team at Wycombe District Council and joint legal service at Chiltern and South Bucks District Councils, will provide some key elements of the County Council's legal work such as property, contracts and employment work from October.

An in-house team at Buckinghamshire County Council will provide its children's and adults services legal work, since this is not replicated at district level, until all legal teams transfer to the new unitary council in April 2020.






Officers from all five district and county councils worked together to develop the plans and will put forward proposals for a fully integrated legal service for the new Council in due course.

### **Fix My Street**

"FixMyStreet Pro by Buckinghamshire County Council with mySociety" has been nominated in the Digital Public Service Innovation category, in this year's Digital Leaders 100. The DL100 2019 finalists will be announced at a reception in London on 11 April. Once announced, the DL100 list is opened up to a combination of a judging process and public vote, which will put the DL100 list and its 10 categories into a final order.

### **SOCITM**

Visits to the BCC website continue to increase dramatically, with over 2.5 million visits to our website since March 2018. In the 12 months since March 2018, we have improved our rating in all areas of performance and are above the industry benchmark for each indicator.

Performance Indicator	Mar-18		Mar-19		BCC 12 month change	Direction
	BCC	Industry benchmark	BCC	Industry benchmark		
Digital Certainty Index	79.5%	78.4%	83.5%	77.9%	4.0%	
Quality Assurance	98.1%	86.9%	99.0%	85.3%	0.9%	
Search Engine Optimisation	78.1%	77.8%	86.2%	78.0%	8.1%	
Accessibility	61.4%	70.0%	92.5%	70.7%	31.1%	
Readability	4.0%		54.0%		50.0%	

In August 2018, SOCITM rated our website as 3\* (4\* is the maximum). Accessibility was identified as an area of improvement in order to achieve a 4\* star rating. The inclusion of alternative text and other fixes has improved accessibility to meet the target of 8/10, meaning the site would now achieve a target of a 4\* rating.

## **Tackling Blue Badge Misuse in Buckinghamshire**

As part of a BBC investigation, analysis by the Press Association found 94 out of 152 (62%) local authorities in England did not pursue abuses of the Blue Badge scheme in 2017/18. Since June 2018, the BCC Blue Badge Team have been running a pilot to tackle Blue Badge misuse. To date, a total of 67 badges have been seized by one Enforcement Officer who is patrolling the streets for 4 hours per week.

Cases are prepared for prosecution in partnership with the BCC legal team, and so far a total of six cases have already been successfully prosecuted, with a further 11 cases listed in February and March. A total of £708 in fines and £1766 in costs have been awarded so far.

A PR strategy is being developed to help demonstrate to the public what is being done to tackle misuse in Buckinghamshire. A campaign is also being designed to reach out to all current and prospective new badge holders, to help dispel any myths around the use of a Blue Badge. Warning signs are to be introduced in areas which are known for Blue Badge misuse taking place.

An evaluation of the pilot is now taking place, with a view to developing a longer term plan for the future of Blue Badge enforcement in Buckinghamshire.

## **Former Police HQ- Japanese Restaurant**

The property was acquired in 2014 as a part of the complete Thames Valley Police complex. Demolition of two of the three buildings enabled the creation of Waterside North Car Park. The former Police HQ was kept for redevelopment opportunity. The decision was made to strip out and refurbish the building speculatively before a tenant was secured.

A full lease agreement was signed at the end of January 2019 with the tenant, Noble Restaurant Limited. This has allowed the creation of £95,000 per annum sustainable income stream to support BCC service delivery, improve capital value of the BCC asset.

The use of the property will be an upmarket and modern Japanese fusion restaurant with an ancillary micro-brewery in conjunction with a wine bar and lounge. Currently, the tenants plan to open to the public in May 2019.

## **Other Property News**

**Aylesbury Library** - Practical completion was achieved on 11 January 2019. The library opened to the public on Thursday 24 January followed by a family day on Saturday 26 January.

**One Public Estate (OPE) Funding** - Successful OPE Phase 7 funding for £456,000 for project enablement has been secured and the Council is working collaboratively with its strategic partners to bring forward these new feasibility studies in addition to a number of existing projects.

**JOHN CHILVER  
CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES**

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH & WELLBEING**



### **Dignity In Care Awards**

Our Dignity in Care Awards 2019 are being held on 14 May 2019 at the Oculus in Aylesbury.

We have had over 80 nominations this year which all demonstrated the importance of dignity in care amongst providers in Buckinghamshire.

The shortlisting of the entries took place on 19 March where an independent panel consisting of myself, the Service Director (Integrated Commissioning), a volunteer area organiser for Contact the Elderly and a representative from Bucks Older People Action Group met and had the difficult job of choosing the finalists.

The results will be announced at the ceremony in May where we will celebrate these fantastic examples of best practice.

### **Residential Short Breaks Consultation**

Our residential short breaks service is currently located at Seeley's House in Beaconsfield. It offers overnight breaks for up to eight adults with complex needs at any one time. The building in Beaconsfield has a limited life span, is not suitable for renovation and is expensive to maintain. We also have a building in Aylesbury where a day centre is sited which is under-used and offers an affordable opportunity to improve the service offer.

If agreed, the plan is to invest in a new state of the art respite care centre at the Aylesbury Opportunities Centre site. The service would be jointly commissioned in partnership with health, thus ensuring that it is able to accommodate a wider range of adults who need nursing care.

The consultation started on 16 January and following a decision by the Cabinet Member to extend by a further two weeks, closed on 13 March. More information is available on the website under short breaks for adults and an all Member briefing took place on 17 April to provide Members with more detail of the improvement plans.

If a decision is taken to support the recommissioning of provision, the service is keen to involve Members in the implementation stages.

### **Thrift Farm Consultation**

Thrift Farm has been supporting adults with learning difficulties for over 40 years.

It currently provides day opportunities and supported employment to around 64 people – around half of which are Buckinghamshire County Council clients. It aims to support people to develop key skills and engage in meaningful activities.

There are a number of challenges in relation to Thrift Farm including location, health and safety risks and financial viability. As a consequence, the Cabinet agreed, on 4 February 2019, to run an 8-week consultation about the future of Thrift Farm. The consultation opened on Wednesday 13 February and was due to close on 9 April.

Following a great deal of interest from some potential alternative providers, we arranged a Thrift Farm Question and Answer session on 10 April, and extended the period to submit a business case to 23 April 2019.

To make sure we are capturing the views of clients, we arranged for Talkback (advocacy charity) to hold sessions with service users between 11 and 16 March at the Farm. They will work with service users to help them to share their perspective and ideas.

### **Social Care Workforce**

Communities, Health and Adult Social Care (CHASC) has successfully recruited 42 new starters over the last six months including six Social Workers, six Senior Social Workers and one Occupational Therapist.

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

We have a number of separate initiatives, such as social media campaigns, recommend a friend payment and new try before you apply sessions, in place to support the recruitment of Social Workers, Occupational Therapists and Social Care staff across Adult Social Care.

**LIN HAZELL  
CABINET MEMBER HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & SKILLS**



### **Buckinghamshire Learning Trust**

On 18 March 2019, the Buckinghamshire Learning Trust (BLT) communicated with all schools in Buckinghamshire that they have now ceased trading. The BLT have been in discussion with the County Council for a few weeks regarding their financial difficulties and we have been working with them to explore options to enable them to remain solvent. The County Council was unfortunately unable to assist BLT to alleviate its financial issues, and it is understood BLT's enquiries with other organisations also failed to produce the necessary financial relief.

By way of background, in 2018, following the 2013 commission of BLT to deliver school improvement services, the government removed that funding. At that point we were therefore forced to transfer those services from the BLT back to the County Council. The five year contract we had with the BLT was also up for renewal in July 2018. We announced in January 2018 that services were going to change.

In April 2018 the following services transferred back to the County Council:

- Specialist Teaching, Learning & Cognition Service
- Early Years Service
- Early Years Workforce Development Service
- Schools Financial Management Advisory Service

In August 2018, School Improvement Services also transferred back. Traded Governor Services had continued to be profitable for the BLT and so these were retained by the Trust although statutory governor functions transferred back to BCC.

From this point, BLT were left with a single statutory service contracted by us – namely Newly Qualified Teacher support for which there was no charge to the local authority, although the BLT charged schools for the provision. We understand that BLT was reliant on traded services and were going to look at expanding their operations elsewhere including a strong area of work in the Middle East. They have not been as successful as they hoped and are therefore now in a position that forces them to go into liquidation.

We know that for some schools this news will come as a great loss as they have bought services from the Trust and these monies are now being held by the administrator. We are currently in discussion with the administrator to look at options for supporting those schools affected by this news. The council also sent out an email to all schools providing a contact email address for schools for queries regarding services that are outstanding. We will continue to communicate and work with schools for those that have Newly Qualified Teachers.

The team are also working closely with BLT administrators and the Adventure Learning Charity on the future use of the Learning Campus, previously occupied by the BLT.

### **Green Ridge Academy Opening**

Green Ridge is a new school in Aylesbury educating primary age pupils from the rapidly growing Berryfields estate. I attended the official opening of the school on Monday 18 March 2019, where The Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher was in attendance. The occasion was marked with a tree planting and the burial of a time capsule.

Aaron Wanford, Head Teacher, is leading the growth of the school from the initial intake of 90 pupils in 2017 to a projected maximum number of 720. The school is going from strength to strength with one of their staff, Cinzia Imbriano, winning the national teaching award for Outstanding New Teacher of the Year last October.

### **Schools Funding**

In February 2019, I agreed the Buckinghamshire schools funding formula following the recommendation by Schools Forum in January. Buckinghamshire is continuing with its policy to progress towards the implementation of the National Funding Formula for schools proposed by the Department for Education (DfE); however, we are not yet in a position to implement the funding rates in full.

Additional funding of £1.3m was allocated by the Education Secretary for the High Needs element of the schools budget. Despite this, high needs budgets, which support pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) continue to be under pressure as demand to support children with very complex needs increases.

Buckinghamshire plays an active role in the F40 group of the 42 local authorities who are the lowest funded for the schools budget. F40 is a lobby group that has been established for a number of years and is highly regarded by the DfE. Currently the group is lobbying government for:

- Urgent changes to the National Funding Formula to make it fairer, more easily understood and transparent so that it meets the aspirations for equity set out in early consultations. We seek the removal of the historic inequalities and funding protections in the system and the raising of basic entitlement to ensure the core cost of running a school are met.
- An immediate increase of £2.3 billion per annum in the amount invested in schools to ensure there is sufficient to meet the cost pressures facing all schools, to allow them to operate successfully and to provide quality

education for all children, regardless of where they live. This must be index-linked.

- An immediate injection of £1.5 billion of additional funding to deal with a crisis in High Needs provision across the country. We also seek legislation to allow structural change in the way High Needs is managed by local authorities.

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





# County Council

## Cabinet Member Decisions Taken

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

### Cabinet Member for Children's Services

27 Mar 2019

#### **CS02.19 - Short Breaks for Children with Disabilities (Decision taken)**

**The Cabinet Member:**

1. **NOTED** the outcome of the public consultation on the Short Breaks Service Statement.
2. **AGREED** to the principles set out in the draft Short Breaks Service Statement and **DELEGATED** final ratification of this document to the Executive Director for Children's Services following the recommissioning process. The delegated decision to be taken in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services.
3. **AGREED** to the recommissioning of our contracted short breaks services for children with disabilities, in line with the accompanying business case, by means of an open tender process.
4. **AGREED** to the new Section 75 Pooled Budget agreement between Buckinghamshire County Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group for the provision of commissioned short breaks.
5. **DELEGATED** to the Executive Director for Children's Services the authority to take a decision on the contract award

### Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Public Health

27 Feb 2019

#### **CS01.19 - BCC Local Area Needle and Syringe Programme for Under 18's (Decision taken)**



**The Cabinet Members:**

1. **APPROVED** the local area policy for the provision of specialist needle and syringe programme for children and young people under 18 (including under 16) for implementation across Buckinghamshire.
2. **AGREED** that the local area policy attached be reviewed annually

**Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing**

25 Feb 2019

**HW02.19 - Decision to award a contract to Carers Bucks for the provision of an Integrated Carers Support Service (Decision taken)**

**The Cabinet Members:**

**APPROVED** the decision to award the contract for the provision of an Integrated Carers Support Service to Carers Bucks

**Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Public Health**

14 Mar 2019

**CE01.19 - Registrar Fees 2019-20 (Decision taken)**

**The Cabinet Member:**

**APPROVED** the fees being recommended

Please note:

This decision is being taken under general exception provisions as it has not had the required 28 days' notice on the forward plan. This is because Registration Service fees for the next 3 years were omitted from the Cabinet Fees & Charges Schedule. As the Service collects fees 4 months ahead and at point of sale, urgent approval of fees are required to ensure the required levels of income are achieved to ensure the Service can be delivered within budget.

9 Apr 2019

**CE02.19 - 2019/20 Communities Fees & Charges (Decision taken)**

**The Cabinet Member:**

| **APPROVED** the fees and charges being recommended

**Cabinet Member for Education and Skills**

28 Feb 2019

**ED03.19 - Dedicated Schools Grant and Schools Funding (Decision taken)**

***The Cabinet Member:***

1. ***AGREED to adopt the following principles to be applied to the local schools funding formula:***
  - a. ***Adopting the National Funding Formula (NFF) factors from 2018/19 (This means using the minimum funding level per pupil, FSM Ever6 and Sparsity factors and removing the LAC factor)***
  - b. ***Prorate (scaling) of each factor agreed to match the available allocation of funding from the DfE.***
  - c. ***Continue to use a minus 1.5% minimum funding guarantee factor.***
  - d. ***Use capping of gains per pupil to pay for the cost of protecting schools where the formula reduces their budget by more than minus 1.5%.***
  - e. ***That the optional funding floor factor introduced by the DfE for 2019-20 is not included within the local funding formula***
2. ***AGREED the proposed funding model, incorporating the above principles, recommended by Schools Forum on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019 as follows:***
  - a. ***Funding Factors are 99.2% of NFF values***
  - b. ***Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) costs £416k for 26 schools, met from capping 46 schools to the equivalent amount.***
  - c. ***1% optional Funding Floor factor not applied.***
  - d. ***No funding transferred to the High Needs block***
3. ***AGREED the Central Schools Services budget proposed***
4. ***AGREED the High Needs budget proposed***
5. ***AGREED the Early Years budget proposed***

*This decision is being taken under the Council's Special Urgency provision. The requirement for Special Urgency provision arises because the Department for Education (DfE) operational guidance requires political approval for the final 2019 to 2020 funding formula by 28th February 2019 in order to meet the statutory deadline for schools budget shares to be confirmed to individual schools.*

25 Mar 2019

**ED04.19 - Determined Admission Arrangements 2020 entry (Decision taken)**

**The Cabinet Member:**

**AGREED the determined admission arrangements for admission in September 2020.**

**These arrangements shall include:**

- 1. The coordinated scheme for primary and secondary admissions in Buckinghamshire, for admission from September 2020, as set out in Appendix 1.**
- 2. The 2020 determined admission rules for community and voluntary-controlled primary schools as set out in Appendix 2. This includes the admission rules for schools, nursery classes and nursery schools and the Published Admission Number for each school. In addition, the consultation gave a steer to the future consultation for 2021 entry regarding the feeder school rule for junior school intakes.**
- 3. The determined admission rules for community and voluntary-controlled secondary schools as set out in Appendix 3. This includes the proposed Admission Number for each school and sixth form admission arrangements. A revised catchment area for Mandeville School is attached as Appendix 4.**
- 4. The proposed relevant area for school admission arrangements from September 2021, as set out in Appendix 5.**

12 Apr 2019

**ED05.19 - Schedule of Fees & Charges 2019/20 (Decision taken)**

**Recommendation**

**That the Cabinet Member AGREED the proposed fees and charges set out in the attached schedule for the Education and Skills Portfolio were to be adopted for the 2019-20 academic year.**

**Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing**

27 Mar 2019

**HW03.19 - Market Position Statement for Technology – enabling people to stay connected and stay independent (Decision taken)**

**The Cabinet Member:**

**AGREED to publish Buckinghamshire's Health and Social Care Market Position Statement 2018-2022, the theme of which is 'Technology – Enabling People to Stay Connected and Stay Independent'**

**Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment**

26 Feb 2019

**PE01.19 - BMWLP Local Aggregate Assessment 2017 (Decision taken)**

**The Cabinet Member:**

**APPROVED the Local Aggregates Assessment 2017 report for publication, attached as Appendix**

1 Apr 2019

**PE03.19 - Pednormead End flood management scheme (Decision Taken)**

**The Cabinet Member AGREED to proceed with taking up the combined option of property flood reliance measures together with the replacement and upsizing of the culvert under Church Street, Pednormead End, Chesham for flood alleviation works and to invest £2M of Flood Management Project Capital funds in the project whilst leveraging in £1.45M of Central Government and local Levy money.**

**Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment and Cabinet Member for Resources**

1 Mar 2019

**PE02.19 - Isle of Wight Farm, Denham - Proposed minimum 20MWh Gas Peaking Storage Project (Decision taken)**

**The Cabinet Members:**

- **APPROVED the proposed Gas Peak Power Generation scheme based on the attached agreed Heads of Terms that will form a basis for Option and Lease agreement**
- **APPROVED the recommended Developer.**
- **APPROVED that the Council enters into agreements to facilitate completion of the Lease**

25 Mar 2019

**R04.19 - Budget Amendments to the Approved Capital Programme (Decision taken)**

**The Cabinet Members AGREED:**

1. To add to the approved 2019/20 capital programme a budget of £1.898m to cover the cost of purchase of plant and equipment required for the continued operation of the Household Recycling Centres (HRCs).
2. To finance this expenditure using a ring-fenced waste reserve that was created to cover essential costs of this nature.

**Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation**

25 Feb 2019

**T04.19 - High Wycombe Proposed Junction Protection (no waiting at any time) restrictions (Decision taken)**

**The Cabinet Member:**

- a. **AUTHORISED** the Director of Growth, Strategy and Highways to make the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for the scheme outlined in this report; noting that it is slightly different to the one that was advertised during the Statutory Consultation process because it takes into account the responses received during the consultation period.
- b. **AGREED** that the TRO be made as advertised at Statutory Consultation but with the following amendments:
  - **Removal of proposed 'no waiting at any time' restrictions on Bassetsbury Lane (map ref Area Code: AE 71)**
  - **Removal of proposed 'no waiting at any time' restrictions on Ford Street / Beech Road / Kings Square (map ref Area Code: AG 73)**
- c. **AGREED** that responders to the Statutory Consultation be informed of the Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation Decision

25 Feb 2019

**T03.19 - Noise reduction options for Wendover (Decision taken)**

**The Cabinet Member AGREED to**

**Write to HS2 Ltd Undertakings and Assurances Committee seeking to amend Assurance 1861 "Wendover – roadside noise barriers" to very Low Noise Surfacing (Option 4).**

**Authorise Ian McGowan, Head of Infrastructure Projects to undertake appropriate site and materials investigation and design work to enable prompt implementation of an appropriate vLNS surfacing material, following HS2 agreement.**

**Subject to receipt of approval for a change in Assurance 1861 from HS2 Ltd, authorise Ian McGowan, Head of Infrastructure Projects to progress the implementation of appropriate vLNS with details of the material to be used and temporary traffic management arrangements delegated to the Head of Highways Infrastructure Projects and Head of Highways (Client).**

1 Mar 2019

#### **T05.19 - Chesham Town Parking Review Phase 2 (Decision taken)**

**The Cabinet Member:**

- a. AUTHORISED the Director of Growth, Strategy and Highways to make the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for the scheme outlined in this report as advertised during the Statutory Consultation process.**
- b. AGREED that responders to the Statutory Consultation be informed of the Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation Decision**

7 Mar 2019

#### **T06.19 - Asset Management Strategy 2018 (Decision Taken)**

**The Cabinet Member for Transportation AGREED this revision to the Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Strategy as the ongoing basis for management of the Authority's highway assets.**

20 Mar 2019

#### **T08.19 - Daws Hill Lane speed cushions (Decision taken)**

**The Cabinet Member:**

**AGREED to allow TfB to suspend making a final recommendation on re-instating the speed cushions on Daws Hill Lane. Alternative traffic calming measures (with associated funding) are being considered for Daws Hill Lane. This decision will therefore close the formal consultation process.**

20 Mar 2019

**T07.19 - Little Chalfont Phase 2 Parking Restrictions (Decision taken)**

**The Cabinet Member:**

**APPROVED** the making and introduction of the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) comprising various parking restrictions as advertised.

25 Mar 2019

**T09.19 - Pound Lane, Marlow existing speed table extension (Decision taken)**

**The Cabinet Member:**

**AGREED** that the extension of the speed cushion is granted as proposed

8 Apr 2019

**T10.19 - The Buckinghamshire County Council (High Wycombe Town Centre) (consolidation) Order 2019 (Decision taken)**

**The Cabinet Member:**

- **Overruled** the objections, as detailed in this report
- **APPROVED** amendments to the order, as detailed in this report.
- **APPROVED** the making of the The Buckinghamshire County Council (High Wycombe Town Centre) (consolidation) Order 2019
- **INSTRUCTED** Buckinghamshire County Council officers to inform the responders to the statutory consultation of the decision and to implement the final traffic regulation order and associated works as required.

12 Apr 2019

**T11.19 - The Slip Road forming Part Of North Orbital Road, Denham Green, Proposed Waiting Restrictions (Decision taken)**

- **The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transportation AGREED** to authorise the Executive Director Transport, Economy, and Environment to make the Traffic Regulation Order.
- **The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transportation AGREED** that responders to the Statutory Consultation be informed of the Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation Decision.

16 Apr 2019



**T12.19 - Frogmoor & Oxford Street Road, High Wycombe, Proposed Waiting and Parking Restrictions (Decision Taken)**

**Recommendation**

- **The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transportation authorised the Executive Director Transport, Economy, and Environment to make the Traffic Regulation Order.**
- **That responders to the Statutory Consultation be informed of the Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation Decision.**

For further information please contact: Claire Hawkes on 01296 382343

