



Agenda and Reports

23 May 2019

16 July 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, The Gateway, on Thursday 23 May 2019 at 9.30 am**, to transact the business set out in the agenda overleaf.

SARAH ASHMEAD
Monitoring Officer

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AGENDA

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To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25 April 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 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**
- 6 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN**
- 7 REPORT FROM THE LEADER – ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS TO CABINET**
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- 14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
25 July 2019 – Annual Debate

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Buckinghamshire County Council convened and held on Thursday 25 April 2019 in The Oculus, AVDC, Gatehouse Way Aylesbury, commencing at 9.32 am and concluding at 12.22 pm.

PRESENT

Ms N Glover in the Chair;

Mr M Appleyard, Mr R Bagge, Mrs P Birchley, Mr S Bowles, 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, Mrs B Gibbs, Mr C Harriss, Mr D Hayday, Ms L Hazell, Mr A Hussain, 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 B Roberts, Mr M Shaw, Mrs L Sullivan, Mrs J Teesdale, Mr M Tett, Ms J Ward, Julia Wassell, Mr D Watson, Ms A Wight, Mr G Williams and Ms K Wood

DIGNITARIES AND OTHERS PRESENT

Sir H Aubrey-Fletcher, Mrs M Aston, Mr M Colston, Mr P Lawrence, Mrs G Miscampbell OBE DL, Mr R Pushman and Mrs J Upton MBE

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr W Bendyshe-Brown, Ms J Blake, Mr C Etholen, Mr P Martin, Mr R Reed, Mr D Shakespeare OBE, Mr W Whyte, Mrs A Davies, Mrs V Letheren and Mr K Ross MBE DL

1 MINUTES

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 21 February 2019 were **AGREED** as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

2 PETITIONS

There were none.

3 COMMUNICATIONS

Apologies were received from: Mr Appleyard, Mr Bendyshe-Brown, Mr Etholen, Mr Peter Martin, Mr Shakespeare, Mr Reed and Mr Whyte and Hon Aldermen Mr Ross, Mrs Letheren and Mrs Davies

The Chairman highlighted the recent Buckinghamshire County Council Workplace Hero Awards. The Chairman's update and winners appended to the minutes.

The Chairman also reported on a number of events since the last meeting and highlighted the following in particular:

- The Chairman thanked all colleagues involved in the Christmas present appeal.
- The recent Chesham Community Event
- The opening of The Exchange in Aylesbury town centre which was well attended.
- The British Legion Cadets Awards held at the Oculus, The Gateway.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

5 SELECT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

The Chairman introduced the Annual Report of the Select Committees and asked the Chairman of each committee if they had anything to add to the report.

Health and Adult Social Care

Mr B Roberts thanked the committee for their hard work and colleagues in Democratic Services for their support. Mr Roberts stated that he wanted to ensure that the excellent scrutiny work carried out by the County Council was carried forward into the new authority.

In response to how the public could be more involved in the HASC Select Committee, Mr Roberts stated that a number of approaches had been tested and he welcomed ideas from Members on how this could be improved.

Children's Social Care and Learning

Mr D Dhillon thanked Members of the committee, Democratic Services and officers for their support. He also mentioned the complex areas within the committee's remit that would need to be highlighted moving forward into the new authority. Mr Dhillon highlighted that there were now two primary school governors on the committee.

Transport, Environment and Communities

Mr D Carroll thanked the team for their work and highlighted the volume of work the committee had got through and looked to future work which included HS2 attending to discuss community engagement.

Finance, Performance and Resources

Mr D Watson thanked members for their continued commitment and support. Mr Watson highlighted recent progress on recommendations made by the committee which included how the public could have an increased view on how money was spent. Mr Watson also highlighted the unique opportunity ahead in becoming a unitary authority.

Mrs Clarke thanked colleagues in Democratic Services for their administration of all four select committees.

RESOLVED: Council NOTED the Annual Report of the Select Committees.

6 PROPORTIONALITY REPORT

The Chairman advised that a revised report had been published as a supplement.

Council considered the report and recommendations.

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

7 CABINET MEMBERS' REPORTS

Leader

Mr M Tett highlighted the following updates:

- The Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) bid was essential to provide infrastructure upfront to accommodate housing growth.
- The bid was submitted in February/ March 2019 and a result was expected by summer. An evaluation of the report would now not be given until June which would result in a delay in announcement.
- Mr Tett had written to Homes England to draw attention to the fact that the funding was essential.

In response to Member questions, the Leader highlighted the following:

- A formal welcome was given to Ms Julia Upton, MBE as the new High Sherriff for Buckinghamshire.
- The structural change order for the unitary council had been laid but not yet made as it still had to be debated and agreed by the House of Commons and House of Lords.
- The councils had entered into an agreement collectively for a proposal that all Members would work within the parameters set down by government in the structural change order. Two meetings had taken place, one of which agreed a spend protocol around new expenditure.
- Mr Tett expressed concerns that the authority was about to enter into a 10 year+ waste contract just before the formation of the unitary organisation.
- Although concerns were expressed over financial pressures due to the high figure of elected Members in the new authority, it was hoped that this would encourage diversity in the election of new Members.
- The Shadow Authority would come into effect when it was passed through parliament.
- Buckinghamshire County Council(BCC) recognised the need for a bypass for the Ivers and the Aylesbury area to provide for a link around Aylesbury to accommodate the high levels of traffic caused by high housing growth. This supported the argument for the importance of HIF. BCC would champion that the bypass be dualled from the beginning as opposed to a single carriage way.

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transportation

Mr M Shaw highlighted the following updates:

- A new contracts manager for Ringway Jacobs had been recruited. Ms Louise McCann would be joining the organisation from Northamptonshire County Council.
- A Modern United Nations debate would take place at The Oculus the following day. This would include 150 young people and would be on the topic of extremism.

In response to Member questions, the Deputy Leader highlighted the following:

- Regular meetings were being held with HS2 who were being pushed to disclose

information on HS2 traffic numbers.

- Mr Shaw had accepted an invitation to visit the south of the county and view the newly implemented parking sensors following Mr A Collingwood's disappointment in the system.
- In response to concerns raised on damage to footways caused by utility companies, residents were encouraged to contact BCC to report damages so that licenses could be checked.
- Reassurance was given that outstanding road schemes from the previous year would be reinstated and delivered.
- Mr Shaw gave apologies to Mr Lambert and Ms Glover for distress caused to residents due to the rising bollards in their divisions. The bollards had been vandalised and were overly sensitive causing them to malfunction. Ongoing issues had been reported and raised multiple times via Fix My Street and select committee. Mr Shaw had raised the issue with Ringway Jacobs and was awaiting a response. This response would be shared with Mr Lambert to pass on to parish councils and residents.

ACTION: Mr Shaw

- Mr Shaw would also confirm if faulty lamps in Coldharbour were due to an electrical malfunction or if they were broken down.
- In response to praise over how well Fix My Street was working, Mr Shaw highlighted that it had been nominated for a national award. It was also highlighted that newly recruited Depot Manager, Ms Rosie Taylor, had been nominated for a national award as the only female depot manager in the country.

Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment

Mr B Chapple had no further updates to add to the report. In response to Member questions, Mr Chapple highlighted the following:

- Mr A Collingwood felt that the Environment Agency (EA) had not delivered on their promise for the flood elevation scheme in Marlow. They needed to return and complete the work properly so the field could be opened and used by children. Mr Collingwood would email Mr Chapple so that the issue could be escalated to the EA.

ACTION: Mr Collingwood

- Thanks was given to Mr Chapple for help provided with responding to residents who were dissatisfied with the changes to the household waste recycling centers, but it was highlighted that residents struggled to understand how the administration costs would not outweigh the revenue gain.
- Julia Wassell would email Mr Chapple regarding resident concerns over a footpath which had the potential to disrupt local wildlife. The County Local Wildlife Officer would get in touch with Julia to advise on this.

ACTION: Julia Wassell

- The decision to implement the charges in the household waste recycling centres had not been easily made, but failure to do so would have resulted in the closure of more sites.
- Mr Chapple highlighted that flytipping would be kept under review and closely monitored. Most cases of flytipping were executed by commercial companies as opposed to law abiding residents. In response to concerns of Members and residents that the newly implemented charges would result in an increase in flytipping, Mr Chapple assured Members that it was very unlikely that there would be a direct correlation between the two.

- A meeting would take place the following week to confirm the charges of the recycling centres. The charges would be tweaked if necessary.
 - There was funding in the capital programme to make improvements to Rabans Lane to accommodate increased traffic caused by the recycling centres.
 - An issue regarding Aylesbury Town Council being turned away from the recycling centre had been resolved.
 - The staff onsite at the recycling centres were trusted, but measures to monitor best practise were in place to ensure that staff were not exploiting residents in return for cash payment. Cash payments were not accepted on the site.
 - Members praised the efforts of flytipping staff in the organisation.
 - It was felt that harsher punishments on flytippers such as points on licenses and the seizing of vehicles would see a reduction in the offence. Mr Chapple highlighted that flytipping is currently the responsibility of the County Council in partnership with the District Councils and that most people realised the negative impact that having a criminal record could have on their lives. Mr Chapple would include this the next time he writes to the Secretary of State.
- ACTION: Mr Chapple**
- Letters of exception would be given to town/ parish councils and charities who had taken part in a clean-up of the area.

Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Public Health

Mr N Brown highlighted the following updates:

- A successful event held to educate people on the negative effects of domestic abuse.
- The benefits of the Street Associations project. This had been taken up to a national level.
- Thanks was given to Mr P Irwin for his radio broadcast on mental health.

In response to Member questions, Mr Brown highlighted the following:

- Work on Marlow Library was an ongoing project. Updates would be given when possible following the move into unitary.
- In relation to the EU settlement scheme, library staff would be given support to help members of the public with the home office process. An update would be provided to Mr Christensen on what work was being done.
- In response to concerns raised over vulnerable young people joining gangs, Mr Brown highlighted that the government had failed to make youth service a legal requirement. Lack of funding had resulted in a struggle to keep some youth clubs running. PCC had gained funding that had been targeted towards the prevention of knife crime and gangs. This was in the process of being developed.

Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Mr G Williams, Deputy Cabinet Member highlighted the following updates:

- The service was hoping to host a children in care celebration event in August. Potential sponsors were being sought..

In response to Member questions, Mr Williams highlighted the following:

- In response to concerns over the recruitment and retention of social workers it

was highlighted that positive changes were being made, with an increasing confidence across the manager ranks. Members were asked to spread the word of the benefits of working for Buckinghamshire County Council.

- Thanks were given to Members for their support of the opening of the new children's home which had been rated as "good" by Ofsted.
- The pressures of an increased demand on the service while experiencing budget cuts were highlighted.

Cabinet Member for Resources

Mr J Chilver highlighted the following updates:

- Congratulations were given to all winners of the "Workplace Heroes" awards.

In response to Member questions, Mr Chilver highlighted the following:

- Praise was given over the selection of an appropriate land contractor and sub-contractor and how the concerns of residents had been taken on and addressed.
- There had been no further update on the previous contribution by charities for Seeley's House. A response from the Legal team was being chased.
- There had been a delay in works on the Old Wycombe Library due to asbestos but it was hoped that staff would be able to move in later in the year.
- Members were pleased with the renovations to the former police station in Aylesbury, with a Japanese restaurant due to open in May 2019.
- Praise and thanks was given to IT and Democratic Services for the changes in IT access for Members. Clarification was needed of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) statement. Mr Chilver would consult officers and report back on this.

ACTION: Mr Chilver

- Regeneration plans for the Old County Offices were high on the property agenda. There were plans to convert these into 50 town centre apartments which would be a great contribution to the regeneration of the town centre. The building plans had been through two changes and there had been delays from the planning authority.

Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

Ms L Hazell highlighted the following updates:

- The Better Lives transformation programme had been shortlisted in the MJ awards.

In response to Member questions, Ms Hazell highlighted the following:

- Members would be engaged in the planning phase of the short breaks consultation where possible.
- Three organisations had expressed an interest in taking over the space of Thrift Farm. This was being worked through.
- Thanks were given to senior managers and teams for providing effective and immediate assistance for two specific local families.

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

Ms A Cranmer, Deputy Cabinet Member, highlighted the following updates:

- Bucks Learning Trust (BLT) had ceased trading in March. All school improvement services were taken in house.
- A new school had opened in Berryfields with 76 students and 720 projected. A teacher recruited at the school, Ms C Imbriano had been nominated for outstanding new teacher of the year.
- 91.5% of children in the county attended schools rated as “good” or “outstanding” by Ofsted which was above the national average.

In response to Member questions, Ms Cranmer highlighted the following:

- A reorganisation of the Special Educational Needs (SEN) department would help to address the problem of outstanding SEN assessments.
- More praise of local schools was needed, regular updates could be included in local newsletters.
- Interactions with schools were taking place to address the closure of Burnham Academy by E Act. This had caused a lot of distress to pupils and parents.
- The goal for the department was to have 100% of children enrolled in “good” or “outstanding” schools. There was still a lot of work to do especially in urban areas.

8 NOTICES OF MOTION

The Chairman advised that a Motion to Council: “Enabling works for HS2 in Buckinghamshire” had been received from Mr Clare.

Mr Clare proposed the motion and highlighted his main points (appended to the minutes).

Mrs Macpherson seconded the motion and highlighted her main points to Council (appended to the minutes).

Mr Tett, Leader highlighted the following points:

- The long and proud record held by the Council in opposition to HS2. The Council had been at the forefront of campaigning and had actively lobbied for mitigations since the bill had been passed. Mr Tett stated that HS2 were woefully short with those mitigations
- The business case was flawed and the money could be better spent on improvements to existing commuter routes, high speed broadband and west to east connectivity.
- Mr Tett urged the Government to stop HS2 now and not to press ahead with a flawed business case.
- Mr Tett looked forward in anticipation of the motion being passed and writing to the Secretaries of State on this dual strategy that impacted not only transport but also the environment.
- Dame Cheryl Gillan MP on the anticipated passing of the motion would also write to the Secretaries of State in support.
- Building on the success of the motion going through the district councils, Mr Tett stated that they spoke as one council to stop HS2 and urged Members to support the motion.

The Leader of the Opposition, Mr Lambert, highlighted the following points:

- Mr Lambert rose to support the motion.
- Following the announcement of HS2 in 2010 there had been immediate opposition due to the environmental impact.
- People's property, the impact on local wildlife and the damage to historic woodland had not been taken into account. Concerns were expressed over the effect on climate change and habitats.
- Dame C Gillan, MP had been a champion against HS2 throughout the campaign and had spoken regularly in parliament.
- Aylesbury MP, Mr David Lidington had formed a committee to vote against HS2 every step of the way, but had not followed through with this.
- Progression of transport lines needed to be made, but HS2 was not using modern technology to do this and was not the right approach,
- Birmingham would gain a lot of benefits from HS2 and had spent millions of pounds on upgrading the infrastructure of the city centre to accommodate the project. It was suggested that the full environmental impact was not understood.
- Mr Lambert wanted the motion to be amended to include all MPs in Buckinghamshire and not just the government.
- Mr Lambert thanked the HS2 BCC Officers for the work they had done.

The Chairman invited Members to debate the motion and the following main points were made:

- The business case for HS2 was not strong.
- The concerns of residents had not been taken into account by HS2.
- HS2 would have a serious impact on the environment, local wildlife and habitats.
- The project should be discontinued, and funding should be used to improve the existing railway lines.
- Money would be better invested in providing relief roads in Iver and around Aylesbury. This would relieve congestion and improve air quality.
- There was no economic case for HS2 with a cost of £150 billion.
- The damage to the environment and costs of HS2 outweighed the benefits.
- There had been cases of residents experiencing severe distress over HS2 who had decided to move out of Buckinghamshire because of it.
- Members and residents should unite together to stop the project.
- The resolution should be passed unanimously.

The Chairman put forward the following Motion to Council:

This Council proposes that the Leader should write to Government to request that all enabling works for HS2 in Buckinghamshire should be paused until the Notice to Proceed to main works contractors has been approved. As required by the Department of Transport, Notice to Proceed should not be given until management capability, affordability of contracts and robustness of revised business case have all been proven. We see no reason why the County should suffer significant disruption and long term environmental destruction until detailed design and cost has been approved. We also ask that HS2 Ltd significantly improves the effectiveness of its community engagement with those impacted by the line.

RESOLVED: The proposed Motion was voted upon by a show of hands. This was

carried unanimously.

9 CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS TAKEN - INFORMATION ONLY

RESOLVED: Cabinet NOTED the report.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

23 May 2019.

CHAIRMAN

Workplace Hero Awards

Tuesday 26th March 2019

“Any council knows that their staff are their biggest asset and we certainly have a wonderful passionate, committed and skilled workforce.

The awards stretched right across the council recognising the collective and individual efforts and achievements of staff at the County Council. It was truly inspiring to listen to all the nominations and their dedication and commitment.

Examples of the stories we heard are; firstly the team from the Hillcrest Day Centre, for adults with learning disabilities, were nominated for their actions in January when a snow downfall caused 20 clients to be stuck in the centre due to gridlocked roads. The team stayed late into the evening, ensuring the clients were safe and warm, kept up to date and even walking to the local Tesco to buy food and drink to keep them all going, as well as thinking about any emergency medication.

Secondly, Vanessa Rolfe and Lisa Gardner from Resources and Children’s Services for their caring and responsive actions when faced with a medical emergency. Vanessa and Lisa were at a meeting when a DWP staff member fell, knocked her head and become unconscious, a condition which quickly worsened when she stopped breathing. Thanks to Vanessa calling an ambulance and Lisa performing CPR, the individual made a full recovery.

I’d like to mention a special recognition award. In June last year, several members of our youth offending service, in particular Robert and Aman, intervened when a young man was stabbed near to their office. With an extraordinary presence of mind they administered immediate first aid and stayed with the young man who was losing significant amounts of blood, reassuring him all the time. They then worked with the emergency services and accompanied him to hospital. The result of their actions was that they helped to save his life.

I wanted to take the opportunity to highlight some of the winners from those Awards. The Team of the Year Awards went to the Steeples’ Residential Home Team, nominated for their hard work in getting from inadequate to good in the recent Ofsted inspection. To turn this around in six months showed extraordinary teamwork. By implementing the improvements recommended by Ofsted, the team have been able to provide a high quality of placements for some of the county's most vulnerable young people, and children in the home report feeling happier and safer. This kind of change in such a short time is very hard to achieve.

The Manager of the Year went to Cynthia Tapping who manages the Stoke Mandeville Hospital Team. She has been described as a kind, caring and compassionate manager who supports her team to the highest level. Cynthia has been at the forefront of much of the work in the integration of health and social care. She has trialled new ways of working and continually looks for better ways of doing

things. Cynthia often sacrifices her own personal time, putting herself forward for weekend working so the team is fully supported.

And the Employee of the Year award went to Marco Dias who has shown a huge amount of initiative in driving forward a highly successful programme of work to support the council and the county in preparation for Brexit. Thanks to his efforts the council has received national recognition for best practice in Brexit planning and we have been able to be proactive in providing information to help our local residents, businesses and other stakeholders to prepare.

There were so many nominations too – it made it so difficult to judge winners. We have great people who do truly great work”

Motion to Council on 25 April, to be proposed by Cllr Charlie Clare

'This Council proposes that the Leader should write to Government to request that all enabling works for HS2 in Buckinghamshire should be paused until the Notice to Proceed to main works contractors has been approved. As required by the Department of Transport, Notice to Proceed should not be given until management capability, affordability of contracts and robustness of revised business case have all been proven. We see no reason why the County should suffer significant disruption and long term environmental destruction until detailed design and cost has been approved. We also ask that HS2 Ltd significantly improves the effectiveness of its community engagement with those impacted by the line'.

HS2 is not a done deal. The plans that have been made public so far - and that were used to gain Parliamentary Assent for the scheme in 2013 - are little more than educated guesses.

But although HS2 doesn't not have permission to be built, our County is already being irreversibly damaged and that I hope that destruction can be stopped.

For three years, Effiage Kier, the designated contractors for the line through Buckinghamshire, have been working on detailed designs and – most importantly costings – for the actual building of HS2 through our county.

Before HS2 has permission to build anything, they have to take these designs to the Government, along with

- Affordability of contracts i.e. The Cost
- Proof of Management Capability
- And a Revised Business Case.

This process is known as 'Notice to Proceed' and until it has been granted the HS2 scheme is no more than a Government proposal, for which they have asked for a quote. There are no costs, there is no accepted design, there is no proof of a viable business case. HS2 does not have permission to be built.

Day by day more and more doubt is thrown onto the affordability and the business case for HS2. The Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Liz Truss has made it very clear that there are significant doubts about this project.

HS2 have postponed providing the information required for Notice to Proceed – one can only assume because the numbers don't add up yet - until the end of the year and I think that is fair to summarise that currently the project's

costs are escalating out of control and they are desperate to find a way to make it affordable.

So HS2 is far from being a done deal. Yet, Buckinghamshire is already suffering huge environmental damage and massive disruption for residents.

Although HS2 does not have permission to start building the line, they do have permission for 'enabling works' under the HS2 Bill. Enabling works allow contractors to clear the way for future construction...but HS2 is pushing the boundaries of this remit, into destroying our countryside.

Currently from the very south to the very north of the country there is disruption and damage being caused by HS2 under 'Enabling Works'. A quick tally of works listed on the HS2 community website indicates that there are around 80 such schemes throughout Buckinghamshire.

Many of these works bring irreversible damage to our environment and will leave the Country scarred for generations. There are many examples, but perhaps the most sever is at Steeple Claydon.

This 'de-veg' plans to remove 500 acres of historic Countryside, kilometres of hedgerow, over 75 acres of woodlands and more than 100 mature Oak Trees. The Oaks are generations old, some surely over a century old and as such irreplaceable. HS2 plan to rip out our rural heritage, despite not having shown the community or the government what they plan to build in their place. Nor have they shown the treasury how much it will cost.

These irreplaceable Oak trees could be removed at any point – indeed new machinery has moved onto the site since Easter – and with just a few hours work – HS2 will change our countryside irreversibly.

HS2 is cutting a swathe through Buckinghamshire, right now, for an infrastructure project which might well never be built.

This motion seeks to defend our county, our countryside and our residents from the devastation which HS2 will inflict on us...Damage done, before the Government has even seen what it is buying and how much it will cost!

Before I finish I would just like to say a quick word about HS2's community engagement and why this motion calls for it to be improved.

At Steeple Claydon in late February this year, HS2 gave Landowners only three weeks' notice that contractors were coming on their land to sterilise it from any wildlife.

That this is being done in Nesting Season is unforgivable, but just as awful is the way the news was broken to landowners and the community.

That community made its feelings clear in a petition calling for the CEO Mark Thurston to engage with the community and mitigate the de-veg. 2500 people signed hard copies in just three working days. Over 4 weeks later residents have had no response! Indeed, I can share with you that had I not pointed out – last week - that they should, HS2 had no plan to respond to that petition at all.

In the Community Engagement Statement, Mark Thurston, says that

“The legacy of HS2 will be judged on how the communities up and down the route feel they have been treated by us and our contractors. For me as Chief Executive this legacy is as important as our ability to deliver the railway safely, on time and to budget”

... he goes on to say...

“and where we make mistakes, learning from these will help us to constantly improve our engagement approach.”

Mark Thurston's callous disregard of our residents and his complete lack of response to residents' petition give us just a glimpse of how HS2 plans to treat Buckinghamshire.

We cannot expect our residents to put up with this treatment for a project that has not yet been costed, designed or justified in anyway.

This motion calls for our Government to halt all engagement works until they have granted Notice to Proceed. HS2 have postponed making their business case until December 2019. It is simply wrong that they should continue to destroy our County and disrupt our residents' lives when this project has proven future at all.

Angela Macpherson

“Thank you madam chairman I rise to second Charlie Clare’s notice of motion. Everything we’ve heard reflects the level of concern dismay, anger and frankly the anxiety and depression many of our residents that are affected by this vanity project are experiencing

I welcome the opportunity to second this motion.

Now that the enabling works have started in earnest along the track we’re seeing at first hand the illogical and questionable way that HS2 are proceeding. As you’ve heard in my own ward around Calvert, devegation of large areas of land is taking place as we speak, hedgerows ripped out and all this in bird nesting season at extortionate cost. I heard last evening that the dodgers hall lodge is threatened with compulsory purchase in June for enabling works again premature.

At grass roots level we are doing everything we can to halt the process at the very least until after nesting season and achieve a delay to protect our wildlife.

Residents and councillors are actively campaigning to achieve this. A petition of over 2500 signatures has been presented to HS2 head office (but have had no response) national and local media are highlighting our efforts and I have written to both of our MPs and the CEO of HS2

We now hear that there is a six month delay to the Notice to Proceed to release the next tranche of funding taking us to the end of the year. So surely it makes sense to at the very least postpone this local environmental destruction until that point.

Encouragingly there is renewed debate in government circles about the viability of the scheme with huge question marks over the spiralling costs and the already shaky business case,. Liz Truss is asking for a zero based capital review and ex treasury minister Lord Macpherson is on record saying HS2 would fail a cost benefit analysis and warns the technology is likely to be outdated by the time it becomes fully operational!
We can but hope that government will come to its senses and recognise priorities of far greater national importance.

The specific point in this notice of motion about improved engagement is critical

Let’s look at HS2’s published community commitments:

I Quote:

Our aspiration is to be a good neighbour every single day by respecting the people and communities we impact and being sensitive to their needs earning our social licence to operate.

In order to build the railway we must earn the trust and credibility to do so. We need to demonstrate that we understand local concerns and that we have taken all reasonable steps to address issues that have been raised whilst continually looking to lessen the impacts of the project.

Come on HS2 that is not what our communities are experiencing

Whilst I recognise that our representations may fall on deaf or disinterested ears, I firmly believe we must keep on helping our residents and communities the best we can.

So I second this motion”.

County Council



Select Committee Structure

Thursday 23 May 2019

Report from the Chief Executive

Purpose of this Report

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, this report sets out the proposed structure of Select Committees for the forthcoming year. No changes are envisaged to the number of the Council's Select Committees.

It should be noted that the County Council's Select Committees are concerned with the current activity of the County Council, and a separate Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be established in due course by the Shadow Authority to scrutinise activity in relation to the establishment of the new unitary council.

The Council will appoint four Select Committees to discharge the Council's statutory overview and scrutiny functions. These shall be known as:

- I. Children's Select Committee;
- II. Transport, Environment and Communities Select Committee;
- III. Finance, Performance and Resources Select Committee;
- IV. Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee.

Formal meetings of Select Committees will be public meetings (except under specific confidential circumstances as set out in the Local Government Act 1972). The dates of forthcoming Select Committees are published on the Council's website.

Each Select Committee has the power to undertake scrutiny inquiries, to investigate issues and make recommendations to decision-makers for change in relation to areas within their remit. Evidence for these inquiries may be taken at Select Committee meetings or may be taken through additional informal inquiry sessions.

In addition to the general functions of the Select Committees set out in the Council's Constitution, the broad remits of the four Select Committees are set out in the table below. This information is intended as an indicative guide to the remits of the Select Committees, recognising that a number of potential topics could span more than one Select Committee.



Where the lead responsibility for scrutiny is unclear the relevant Chairmen will agree how best to take forward the work, including agreeing one Select Committee to take lead responsibility for approving the set-up of any inquiry and follow-up.

Table 1: Select Committee remits

<p>Finance, Performance and Resources Select Committee (FPR)</p> <p>The role of the Finance, Performance and Resources Select Committee is to hold decision-makers to account for improving outcomes and services for Buckinghamshire.</p> <p>It shall have the power to scrutinise all issues in relation to the Council’s strategic performance, financial management and corporate issues. This will include all areas under the remit of the Council’s Resources Business Unit. This includes, but not exclusively, responsibility for scrutinising issues in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Strategic Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan • Resources responsibilities including Policy, Performance, Communications, the Council’s Technology Strategy, HR, Business Intelligence, Legal, complaints, property, procurement and finance and the strategic commissioning of Council resources. • The overall effectiveness of the scrutiny function • Strategic alliances and partnerships with others externally—nationally, regionally and locally. <p><i>By convention the Chairmen of the other Select Committees are invited to participate in the annual budget scrutiny inquiry, whereby the Executive’s draft budget is automatically referred for scrutiny as part of the annual budget setting process.</i></p>
<p>Transport, Environment and Communities Select Committee (TEC)</p> <p>The role of the Transport, Environment and Communities Select Committee is to hold decision-makers to account for improving outcomes and services for Buckinghamshire.</p> <p>It shall have the power to scrutinise all issues in relation to the remit of the Transport, Economy, and Environment Business Unit. In addition it will also have within its remit all areas relating to communities issues/services (currently structurally under the Communities, Health and Adult Social Care Business Unit). This includes, but not exclusively, responsibility for scrutinising issues in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic business planning • Growth & Strategy and Highways • Regeneration & Infrastructure • Environment Services (including country parks and waste management) <p>Communities issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Localism strategy & Voluntary and community sector engagement • Libraries • Resilience (emergency planning) • Crime and disorder and crime and disorder reduction partnerships

(community safety partnerships)*

- Museums; Registrars & Coroners.
- Impact of Welfare Benefits Reforms.
- Local Emergency Support

** In accordance with the BCC Constitution, this Committee shall act as the designated Crime and Disorder Committee and will hold the countywide Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership to account for the decisions it takes and may take part in joint reviews with District Councils of District Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships.*

Children's Select Committee

The role of the Children's Select Committee is to hold decision-makers to account for improving outcomes and services for Buckinghamshire.

The Children's Select Committee shall have the power to scrutinise all issues in relation to the remit of the Children's Services Business Unit. This will include, but not exclusively, responsibility for scrutinising issues in relation to:

- Nurseries and early years education
- Schools and further education
- The Bucks Learning Trust
- Quality standards and performance in education
- Special Educational Needs (SEN)
- Learning and skills
- Adult learning
- Children and family services
- Early intervention
- Child protection, safeguarding and prevention
- Children in care (looked after children)
- Children's psychology
- Children's partnerships
- Youth provision
- The Youth Offending Service

** In accordance with the BCC Constitution, this Committee shall act as the designated Committee responsible for the scrutiny of Education matters.*

Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee (HASC)

The role of the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee is to hold decision-makers to account for improving outcomes and services for Buckinghamshire.

It shall have the power to scrutinise all issues in relation to Health and Adult Social Care. This will include, but not exclusively, responsibility for scrutinising issues in relation to:

- Public health and wellbeing
- NHS services
- Health and social care commissioning
- GPs and medical centres
- Dental Practices

- Health and social care performance
- Private health services
- Family wellbeing
- Adult social services
- Older people
- Adult safeguarding
- Physical and sensory services
- Learning disabilities
- Drugs and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT services)

** In accordance with the BCC Constitution, this Committee shall act as the designated Committee responsible for the scrutiny of health matters holding external health partners to account.*

Recommendation

That Council agrees the proposed structure & remit for Select Committees for the municipal year 2019/20 in order to discharge the Council's statutory overview and scrutiny functions.

**RACHAEL SHIMMIN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

County Council



Report on Committee Proportionality, Appointments and Substitutions

Thursday 23 May 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 seat allocations by political groups for 2019/20.

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. It is incumbent on the County Council to satisfy itself each year that the rules on proportionality continue to be properly applied.

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, 2 Independent Conservatives, 1 East Wycombe Independent, and 1 Labour. There are two political groups comprising 40 (The Conservative Group) and 7 (The Liberal Democrat with East Wycombe Independent, Labour and Independent Group) Members. There are 2 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 Independent, Labour and Independent	7	14.3%	10.71	11
Ungrouped	2			3
Total	49		75	75

Table 2: Final allocations of Seats

Committee	Size	Conservative	Liberal Democrat with East Wycombe Independent, Labour and Independent	Remainder
Development Control	8	6 (7)*	1	1 (0)*
Pension Fund	6	5	1	
Regulatory & Audit	8	6 (7)*	1	1 (0)*
Rights of Way	8	7	1	
Senior Appointments and Bucks Pay Award	7	6	1	
Select – Children’s	11	9	2	
Select – Health & Adult Social Care	11	8 (9)*	2	1 (0)*
Select – Finance, Performance & Resources	8	7	1	
Select – Transport, Environment & Communities	8	7	1	
Total	75	61 (64)*	11	3 (0)*

* The Conservatives have an over-allocation of 3 seats which should go to ungrouped members.

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, Labour and Independent	Remainder
Fire Authority	11	9	2	

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.

Substitution Arrangements

The Council has agreed substitution arrangements to Council Committees in accordance with legal requirements arising from s102 of the Local Government Act 1972. These substitution arrangements are as follows:

- Substitutions must be made at least the day before the meeting concerned in writing to the relevant clerk of the Council Committee (under delegated powers of the Monitoring Officer). No requests for substitutions at the meeting on the day will be allowed.
- Substitution requests must be in writing by email from the Group Leader (or the Group Leader's nominated member for handling substitutions for example the Deputy Leader). There is no requirement for a hardcopy signature or any additional forms.
- All County Councillors are potential substitutes onto Council Committees.
- By convention Select Committees do not normally require substitute members. This is because Select Committees are not decision-making bodies and work by consensus to scrutinise and support policy development on a cross-party basis.
- Other points to note on substitutions are: Cabinet is legally not allowed to have substitutions but deputies can attend and speak (but not vote) at Cabinet Meetings; and the Development Control Committee is the only statutory committee where there is an additional requirement for Members to have attended training before substituting.

Recommendations

Council is asked to:

1. **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.**
2. **Agree the appointments to Council Committees in accordance with the rules on political proportionality, in line with the proposals put forward by each of the political group leaders for the municipal year 2019/20.**
3. **Agree to delegate to the Monitoring Officer powers to vary the membership of a Committee at any point on a permanent or casual basis upon the written nomination of a Group Leader.**

**SARAH ASHMEAD
MONITORING OFFICER**

Appendix 1 – Background Calculations on Political Balance

Appendix 2 – List of Committee Appointments (*paper to be tabled at the Council meeting*)

Appendix 1 – Background Calculations on the Allocation of Committee Seats

Table 4

Size	Conservative	Liberal Democrat with East Wycombe Independent, Labour and Independent	Remainder
No of Seats	40	7	2
3	2	0	1
4	3	1	
5	4	1	
6	5	1	
7	6	1	
8	7	1	
9	7	1	1
10	8	1	1
11	9	2	
12	10	2	
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 Independent, Labour and Independent	Remainder
Development Control	8	6.53 (7)	1.14 (1)	
Pension Fund	6	4.90 (5)	0.86 (1)	
Regulatory & Audit	8	6.53 (7)	1.14 (1)	
Rights of Way	8	6.53 (7)	1.14 (1)	
Senior Appointments	7	5.71 (6)	1.00 (1)	
Select – Children’s	11	8.98 (9)	1.57 (2)	
Select – Health, Adult Social Care	11	8.98 (9)	1.57 (2)	
Select – Finance, Performance & Resources	8	6.53 (7)	1.14 (1)	
Select – Transport, Environment & Communities	8	6.53 (7)	1.14 (1)	
Total	75	64*	11	0*

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

County Council



Report on work of Outside Bodies 2018/19

Thursday 23 May 2019

Report of the Deputy Leader

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the work of Council appointees on outside bodies in 2018/19.

In April 2016 the Council's Regulatory and Audit Committee agreed a new protocol on outside bodies. This protocol is published online and provides guidance to Members on expectations about their roles, details of the annual appointment process and reporting process to Council. For further details on the protocol see here:

<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/mgListOutsideBodies.aspx?bcr=1>.

Outside Bodies Overview

The Council makes appointments to outside bodies that have organisational objectives that the Council supports and where there are areas of mutual interest. The purpose of the appointments is to assist these organisations and support effective communications with the Council.

As outlined in the Council's Constitution, appointments to outside bodies are made by the Council's executive by the Leader. Currently, these appointments are delegated to the Deputy Leader. The Deputy Leader makes appointments annually normally in May/June.

The Council makes appointments to sit on outside bodies based on merit. Appointees are not expected to 'represent' the County Council but are rather appointed based on an expectation that they will apply their skills and experience in the best interests of the group to which they are appointed to.

Whilst each outside body is unique, the following role description is applicable to all appointees of the Council on outside bodies:

- To champion the interests of the people of Buckinghamshire on the outside body.
- To attend, generally, all meetings of the outside body as required.
- To understand, underpinned by appropriate experience or knowledge, the purpose and work of the outside body.
- To annually report on the work of the outside body to all Members of Council, as well as throughout the year as required to Committees and Members.



- To understand the procedure for dealing with conflicts between their own interests, those of the Council and those of the outside body.
- To have an appropriate understanding of any regulatory framework that affects the outside body, operating within the rules of the outside body at all times.
- To have or gain the skills needed to properly fulfil his or her role in the outside body.
- To behave ethically and follow the Council's Member Code of Conduct.
- To inform Democratic Services if they wish to resign from their role on the outside body.

Feedback 2018/19

Full details about outside bodies are published on the Council's website. See here:

<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/mgListOutsideBodies.aspx?bcr=1>.

Appendix 1 sets out the list of appointees to Council outside bodies in 2018/19.

Members on outside bodies were invited to complete a short annual feedback survey to gain an overview of experiences and report back to Council.

Key survey findings are:

- 21 Members sat on 60 outside bodies in 2018/19.
- In total Members attended approximately 220 meetings of outside bodies in 2018/19 which was an increase on 2017/18 of approximately 10%.
- In total Members dedicated over 1100 hours of service to support the work of outside bodies in 2018/19.
- 89% of respondents felt that their contribution was valuable to support the work of outside bodies.
- 95% of respondents rated their role and work as an appointee on the Outside Body as very important or important and 97% wanted to continue as an appointee.

In response to a question on what Members most valued or enjoyed about being on an outside body, comments included:

- *I have enjoyed understanding the differing requirements and representing the council and hopefully making a valuable contribution.*
- *I enjoy making a difference and contributing to this important trust.*
- *I have enjoyed networking and understanding the different ways to tackle issues*
- *Improved collaboration between the bodies and BCC.*
- *I enjoyed assisting with improving the effectiveness of the organisation.*
- *It was extremely important to contribution to consultations*
- *Ability to influence key strategic decisions affecting Buckinghamshire*
- *Extremely valuable and critical*
- *With so many changes in the making, I feel it is absolutely essential that BCC be well represented on these committees.*
- *It has been interesting time to see the change and the development of a positive addition within the town. A positive step forward.*

Recommendation

1. Council is asked to NOTE this report.

**MARK SHAW
DEPUTY LEADER**

County Council Appointees on Outside Bodies 2018/19

Community Engagement Portfolio Area

Name of Organisation	Existing Appointee for 2018/19
Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils (BMKALC)	Noel Brown
Buckinghamshire County Show Management Committee	Bill Chapple OBE
Bucks County Museum Trust	Bill Chapple OBE Noel Brown
Buckinghamshire Scout Council	David Watson
Chiltern Open Air Museum Advisory Council	David Martin
Healthy Communities Partnership	Noel Brown
HWBIDCo (High Wycombe)	Lesley Clarke OBE
Joint Trading Standards Committee	Noel Brown
Milton's Cottage Trust	Tim Butcher
National Paralympic Heritage Trust	Anne Wight
Safer and Stronger Bucks Partnership Board	Noel Brown
SE Reserve Forces & Cadets Association	Bill Bendyshe-Brown

Stoke Mandeville Stadium Management Committee	Steve Bowles
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Health & Wellbeing Portfolio

Integrated Care System Partnership Board and Executive	Lin Hazell
Oxford Health Trust Board	Lin Hazell
SECASC (South East Councils Adult Social Care)	Lin Hazell
Sustainability and Transformation Partnership	Liz Hazell

Education and Skills Portfolio

Adventure Learning Trust	Steve Bowles Barbara Gibbs
Bucks University Technical College (UTC) Governing Body	Mike Appleyard
SACRE	David Watson Ralph Bagge
South East Councils for Education	Mike Appleyard
William Harding's Charity	Bill Chapple OBE

40



Children's Services Portfolio

Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board	Warren Whyte
South East Regional DCS and Lead Members	Warren Whyte

Deputy Leader Portfolio

Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel	Bill Bendyshe-Brown
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Leader Portfolio

Aylesbury Vale Enterprise Zone Strategic Board	Clive Harriss
Bucks Advantage	Clive Harriss
Bucks Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)	Martin Tett Mark Shaw (deputy)
Bucks Skills Sub-Committee (LEP)	Mike Appleyard
CCN (County Council Network)	Mark Shaw Warren Whyte Martin Tett Steven Lambert Bill Chapple
England's Economic Heartland Strategic Alliance	Martin Tett

	Mark Shaw
LGA General Assembly	Mark Shaw Martin Tett Lin Hazell Steven Lambert
LGA Economy, Environment, Housing & Transport	Martin Tett
South East Strategic Leaders	Martin Tett

Resources Portfolio

Chiltern and South Bucks – Joint Strategic Partnership	Gareth Williams
iESE Ltd Board (Improvement and Efficiency South East)	John Chilver Steve Bowles
LHC Joint Committee	John Chilver David Martin
South East Employers	John Chilver

Planning & Environment Portfolio

Aylesbury Town Centre Partnership	Bill Chapple OBE
Aylesbury Vale Garden Town Initiative	Bill Chapple OBE Steve Bowles
Buckinghamshire Historic Buildings Trust	Bill Chapple OBE Clive Harriss
Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum	Bill Chapple OBE Clive Harriss
Bucks Local Access Forum	Bill Chapple OBE Clive Harriss
Chilterns Conservation Board	Bill Bendyshe-Brown
Colne Valley Park CIC	David Martin
Groundwork South Local Area Board for Thames Valley	David Martin

Heathrow Community Engagement Board (HCEB) (new – added January 2019)	Luisa Sullivan
Heathrow Community Engagement Board (HCEB) Strategic Advisory Group Elected Members (SAGEM) (new – added January 2019)	Martin Tett
Heathrow Community Noise Forum (new – added January 2019)	Luisa Sullivan
Natural Environment Partnership Board	Clive Harriss
Regional Flood and Coastal Committee – Anglian Region	Warren Whyte
Regional Flood and Coastal Committee – Thames Region	Bill Chapple OBE
River Thames Alliance	Clive Harriss
Waste Partnership for Bucks	Bill Chapple

Transportation Portfolio

Buckinghamshire Local Transport Body	Mark Shaw Martin Tett
East West Rail Consortium Strategic Board	Mark Shaw
London-Luton Airport Consultative Committee	Anne Wight
PATROL Adjudication Joint Committee	Mark Shaw
Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group	Mark Shaw
Strategic Transport Forum for England's Economic Heartland	Mark Shaw Martin Tett

County Council



Annual Report

Thursday 23 May 2019

Report from Martin Tett

Purpose of this Report

1. The annual report highlights the Council's achievements against the three strategic aims:
 - Safeguarding our vulnerable;
 - Creating opportunities and building self-reliance;
 - Ensuring Buckinghamshire is thriving and attractive.

This will also be used to inform the County Council debate on 25th July 2019

Recommendation

Council is asked to:

- | 1. **Members are asked to note the report.**

MARTIN TETT



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT



2018-19





FOREWORD

In 2018, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government confirmed the decision to create a single new council for Buckinghamshire, combining the current five county and district councils. This change will ensure that we can continue to deliver great services to our residents whilst making huge savings.

This annual report will reflect the achievements of the county council in its 130th year. Whilst we can look back and be proud of what we have achieved, we also look forward with excitement for the years to come. We embrace this opportunity to effect change together, improve services and outcomes for our residents and remain positive about the future of the county.

Whilst some of the financial pressures being faced by local authorities were recognised in the 2018 Autumn Budget, managing the increase in demand for services, including social care and children's services, continues to be a significant challenge. Our services will continue to take action to mitigate these pressures where possible.

Following the disappointing outcome of the Ofsted inspection for children's social care services, regular monitoring visits have taken place which have indicated early signs of improvement. We will continue to embed performance compliance and further develop practice and quality standards throughout the next phase of our improvement journey.

We are committed to delivering the best quality support within adult Social Care. To do this we are redesigning and improving the way that we support people who need care, as well as enabling people to live independently with support from their own family and community networks.

With significant increases in population expected, we also need to plan for development of housing and infrastructure in order to meet future demand. We are working with partners to ensure that all growth is beneficial to our economy and the wellbeing of our community as well as being good for the environment.

Martin Tett
Leader of Buckinghamshire County Council



SAFEGUARDING OUR VULNERABLE

The council aims for all residents to be safe, happy and healthy. Most residents live healthy lives but some need extra support. The council, working closely with its partners, is successful in equipping the most vulnerable children, adults and families with the support and skills they need to do more for themselves and to get back their independence at the earliest opportunity.





SAFEGUARDING OUR VULNERABLE

Pauline has dementia and is unable to communicate. Her nurse, manager and GP all agreed it would be in Pauline's best interest to move to a home closer to her husband, as he is her only visitor, and a move would enable him to visit more frequently. Lewin House was able to offer a bed which ended up roughly £30 a week cheaper. Her husband was really happy with the placement and the fact he could see his wife more often.

Better Lives is a programme that we have introduced that takes a radical new approach to improving the lives of vulnerable adults. By improving the information, advice and guidance and preventative solutions available to people, 61% of people's needs are now resolved at the initial stage of contact. The proportion of people receiving a long term service has reduced from 48% to 33% meaning big improvements in independence, with more people being helped to live in their own homes and communities with less intrusive support packages.

Jane, a mum of three, was referred to the Buckinghamshire Family Information Service. Two of her children have special educational needs and the service contacted Jane to discuss the challenges she was experiencing. It was found that one of her children had stopped taking their medication and Jane had found it very difficult to cope over the past year.

The Family Information Service gave Jane information about respite and its purpose and suggested regular activities for all three children as well as parent support groups for Jane to meet other parents in a similar situation. Jane now finds she has more time to support her children effectively and feels more in control.

CASE STUDIES



SAFEGUARDING OUR VULNERABLE

Achievements this year

27

Special educational needs and disability groups were attended by Family Information outreach officers



students have been trained about online safety and



8 female students attended a trial session in partnership with the RAF to build self confidence and increase physical activity



24

people have attended e-safety drop-in sessions run by those trained students. This project aims to link communities such as schools and older people's homes together.

7,641

referrals made to Children's social care

30

schools participated in the GO GIVERS project with the Citizens Foundation aiming to build up 7-11 year olds' confidence by helping other people and the environment



1,000

young people attended the final celebration event!



2 new homes opened for looked after children allowing us to place more young people within the county

448

children supported by our children with disabilities team



The Early Years Team were awarded a National Honour for their work in forecasting and coping with the huge increase in demand for child care

4,055

children with an Education, Health and Care Plan supported by the service

17

children adopted into loving homes

23%

more foster carers



Hughenden Gardens retirement village opened on 1st May 2018. It supports people aged 55 and over to help them stay independent for longer





CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND BUILDING SELF-RELIANCE

Buckinghamshire residents have the aspiration and opportunities to lead successful and independent lives, taking responsibility for their own health and wellbeing and supporting each other in their communities. Children should have the best start in life and young people should thrive in Buckinghamshire schools, enabling them to progress to good jobs and training opportunities in the county.





CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND BUILDING SELF-RELIANCE

CASE STUDIES

James, a serving RAF officer, was referred to the school admissions Team by Cllr Bill Bendyshe-Brown, the Council's Armed Forces Champion. James will be returning to Buckinghamshire, where he owns a property and at the same time will be leaving the RAF and becoming a reservist. He wanted his daughter to have a place at the local primary school. We agreed that as a currently serving officer with evidence of his reservist role in the Auxilliary Air Force that he should have the same residence arrangements as a continuously serving officer. As a result, his daughter was offered a place at the local school and the family can look forward to the new phase of their lives back in Buckinghamshire.

Jack came to the Coffee Club at the library for the first time having seen the advertisement in the local paper. He is divorced with two grown-up daughters who live quite a way away. Jack said he was feeling very lonely and that he had come to the library to "break the silence". We gave him details about the Simply Walk group and our 'Learn My Way' basic computer sessions. Jack stayed for the session and enjoyed chatting to other customers and to our volunteers. He now regularly attends many of our events in the library and has made new friends.

Larry was discharged from hospital after having heart and lung problems. He lives with his wife and had a very supportive family. Larry was living downstairs in his house with various equipment, including a frame and wheelchair. He hadn't had any physio in hospital as he had been unwell and unable to get out of bed. Larry was determined to walk again. With a positive attitude and the assistance of Reablement, he was able to live independently again. He was seen a couple months later walking around his home town with a stick.



CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND BUILDING SELF-RELIANCE

Achievements this year

The launch of our Side by Side project to support schools as they seek to deliver the very best education for their pupils



14,820

residents received an NHS Healthcheck

Launched KOOH, an online counselling service to support young people's emotional wellbeing and mental health



37

apprentices hosted by Corporate Business Support services since the scheme started



3,922

residents are participating in Active Bucks



5,386

births registered

1,736

ceremonies conducted

3,225

deaths registered



17

care leavers supported at university



90% and 74% of pupils offered their first preference in primary and secondary schools respectively



97%

of Early Years providers have good or outstanding Ofsted judgement



Employment in Bucks is expected to grow by an average of 0.6% per annum to 2028, above the national rate of 0.5% to rank 8th among LEPs

On World Mental Health Day we signed the Time to Change Employer Pledge which encourages people who have experienced mental health challenges to talk about them openly and honestly - helping others to open up and ask for help when they need it



ENSURING BUCKINGHAMSHIRE IS THRIVING AND ATTRACTIVE

Buckinghamshire is growing rapidly and its economy is one of the strongest in the country. As it grows, our challenge is to shape quality places, ensuring they are prosperous, thriving and attractive. We will continue to plan and deliver early interventions with our partners to drive forward and secure good jobs, good road, rail and other essential infrastructure, which will meet the current and future needs of our residents. We will proactively protect and mitigate the impact of development on the county's unique natural environment.





ENSURING BUCKINGHAMSHIRE IS THRIVING AND ATTRACTIVE

CASE STUDIES

The Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership (BTVLEP) is recognised as one of the strongest in the country and has been awarded an exceptional rating from government for its performance delivery.

The effective use and management of the Local Growth Fund programme in Buckinghamshire has helped BTVLEP to secure £73m funding. This is being used to support some of Buckinghamshire County Council's priority road improvement schemes in High Wycombe town centre and Aylesbury as well as delivering world-leading new facilities at the National Film and TV School in Beaconsfield and the Silverstone Enterprise Zone. This funding has also helped establish a new centre for entrepreneurship at the University of Buckingham, a ground-breaking 5G test facility at the Westcott Venture Park and a new centre for construction and motor trades at the Buckinghamshire College Group Flackwell Heath site.

Since April 2015, we've devolved services such as urban grass cutting, hedging, weed killing, rights of way clearance, removal of fly posters, approving charity event advertising and cleaning/maintenance of street furniture to town and parish councils. There have been many benefits since the devolution scheme was introduced - local people are much happier: complaints about grass cutting reduced by 50% in the first year; creation of local job opportunities increased through social enterprises and apprenticeships; local councils are working together to provide services, developing positive collaboration and improved efficiencies.

Since November 2018, we have been working with five local councils to deliver a road repair pilot scheme. This empowers these councils to repair local road defects such as minor potholes, kerb defects and footway issues on residential 30mph roads.

Our Country Parks (Black Park, Langley Park and Denham) provide more than 800 acres of green space for residents of Buckinghamshire and the surrounding areas. They offer visitors a wide range of facilities and activities such as: Park Run; Simply Walks; Men in Sheds; conservation volunteering schemes; family friendly workshops; walking, cycling and riding routes; open air film screenings; as well as commercial activities such as Go Ape's tree top adventures, Segways and bike hire and much more. As well as being a popular leisure and environmental location, the Country Parks generated more than £1.4m in 2018/19.



ENSURING BUCKINGHAMSHIRE IS THRIVING AND ATTRACTIVE

Achievements this year

Launched S.C.R.A.P Fly-tipping campaign and have recorded the first decrease in fly-tipping in 6 years - an 11% reduction



95%

superfast broadband coverage for residents and businesses in Buckinghamshire delivered 16 months ahead of schedule

700+

people have been prosecuted for fly-tipping since 2004



£1M+

paid by convicted offenders in fines and costs



28%

reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from our energy use (as of October 2018)

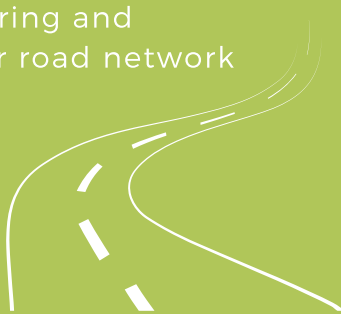
£184M



bid submitted for funding for highways, schools and other infrastructure in order to unlock planned housing in Aylesbury

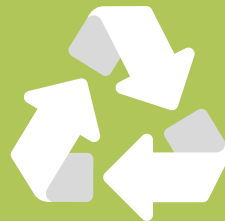
£22M

spent on repairing and resurfacing our road network



63

gritting runs completed



74%

recycling rate at our Household Recycling Centres

5%

only gets put into landfill

£4.4M

funding secured from ADEPT & Department for Transport for innovation on the highway



Producing enough electricity to power

40,000

homes from the Greatmoor energy from waste facility

4,449,089

square yards of grass cut



Over

1,000,000

visitors to our country parks for the third year in a row



ABOUT US

Achievements this year

125

active apprenticeships, making use of new talent and upskilling existing staff



504

children were in our care on 31 March 2019

154

children placed with in house fostering placements

243

care leavers receiving after care support

84%

of qualifying apprentices move into further employment with the council



We are an inclusive employer and this year our median hourly gender pay gap has fallen by 3.6% to 1.8%

225%

increase in engagement on our social media channels



550

officers completed online customer service training during National Customer Service Week



Since March 2018 over 150,000 customers have accessed and used our online forms. 91% of customers have rated the forms four or five stars



Calls answered in under 29 seconds has improved from 40% in March 2018 to 64% in February 2019



In March 2018, we created Brilliant at the Basics, a programme of work that aims to strengthen our existing technology, reduce the number of microsites that have been created by the business, reduce costs and protect the council's reputation, alongside enhancing the customer experience.

This means our customers can interact with us 24 hours a day seven days a week and we have had over 2.5 million visits to our website since March 2018

THE NEXT CHAPTER

We are now moving into the 131st and final year of the county council. From 1 April 2020 the existing five councils in Buckinghamshire will become one brand new authority called Buckinghamshire Council.

The new council will be responsible for all the services that the county and district councils deliver today. This gives us a unique opportunity to look at the way each service is delivered and draw upon the very best of the expertise and knowledge from each council to provide more joined up services which will help to address the challenges we face as a county.

Reorganising local government in Buckinghamshire will involve a great deal of work and whilst 1 April 2020 will not be the end of the transformation journey, there are a number of things that need to be in place prior to this date. This is why it is crucial that all five councils work collaboratively to ensure that the future Buckinghamshire Council has the best possible start.

Our priority during the period of transition is to ensure that services continue without disruption, focusing on the wellbeing of our residents. The reorganisation also gives us a key opportunity to engage and work with partners, voluntary and community sector organisations, businesses, and town and parish councils, making the new council more approachable to residents and partners and allowing local people to feel more involved in decision making for their communities.

We are extremely optimistic that the reorganisation of local government in Bucks will be a catalyst for us to work more efficiently for our residents and provide excellent services which deliver better value for money.



County Council

Cabinet Member Decisions Taken

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

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

24 Apr 2019

ED06.19 - Adult Learning Fees 2019-20 (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member:

AGREED the proposed fees and concessions set out in the paper and that they are adopted for the 2019-20 academic year

Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment

7 May 2019

PE04.19 - Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Environmental Records Centre (BMERC) new charging system (Decision Taken)

The Cabinet Member **ENDORSED** the proposed increases to Fees as set out in paragraphs [2.4](#) and [2.5](#) with a commencement date of 1 June 2019 (allowing one month's notice to clients).

10 May 2019

PE0519 - Definitive Map Charging Review (Decision taken)

The Cabinet member:

- a) **Approved** the proposed increase to the contribution to charges for public path order applications from £1583 to £2452.50 – £2898, which includes an increase to the non-refundable deposit from £100 to £252. Additional to this fee is the required newspaper advert costs and also new signage costs.



- b) Approved the proposed increase to the charges for combined Section 31(6) Highways Act 1980 and Section 15A(1) Commons Act 2006 landowner deposits (up to 4 parcels of land) from £272.56 to £319, with an increase of processing a declaration from £26 to £31. Also approves the proposed increase from £26 to £31 for each additional parcel of land.
- c) Approved the proposed increase to the charges for a Section 31(6) only landowner deposit (up to 4 parcels of land) from £169 to £201, with an increase of processing a declaration from £26 to £31. Also approves the increase from £13 to £15.50 for each additional parcel of land.

Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Resources

14 May 2019

T13.19 - Strategic Transport Infrastructure (Decision taken)

The Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation and Cabinet Member for Resources APPROVED:

- the allocation of £432k from the Strategic Infrastructure Feasibility Reserve for initial feasibility and preliminary design work linked to potential dual-carriageway construction for some of the planned Aylesbury Link Roads.
- the allocated £237k of the unused contingency from a previous sustainable travel scheme to allow the A4 Sustainable Travel Scheme to progress through to construction.

Leader of the Council

14 May 2019

L01.19 - Buckinghamshire Business First Grant Agreement (Decision taken)

The Leader:

APPROVED the provision of a £400,000 annual grant to Buckinghamshire Business First to support economic growth in the County until end of March 2021

For further information please contact: Claire Hawkes on 01296 382343