

# County Council

## Cabinet Member Reports



### LEADER OF THE COUNCIL



#### Unitary

Delivering the new Buckinghamshire Council programme is making good progress with seven months until vesting day. The programme has a clear and detailed implementation plan that sets out the critical milestones over the coming months, which Members of the Shadow Executive approved in July.

The Shadow Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee met for the first time in July and elected Cllr Alex Collingwood from Buckinghamshire County Council as chair and Cllr John Gladwin from Chiltern District Council the vice chairperson. They will meet regularly over the coming months with a specific focus on looking at the budget and implementation plan for the new council.

On 23 July, Rachael Shimmin was announced as the Chief Executive of the new Buckinghamshire Council. Subsequently, the recruitment to the corporate management team for the new council has begun and will be completed by mid-October.

Over the summer there were a series of workshop sessions with town and parish councils to explore the options for creating a more local council for the future. In total, 156 people participated in the workshops with 98 town and parish councils represented. The views gathered during these sessions have been considered and used to help inform our proposal for Community Boards.

A public consultation launched on 12 August that asks members, residents, town and parish councils and local community groups to give their view on how they think these boards could work. The consultation will close on 30 September.

We also agreed over the summer that existing funding agreements for the devolution of highway services, including urban grass cutting, would be extended for a further two years. Therefore, existing agreements will continue on the current terms until 31 March 2022.

Another significant decision made recently was to agree how office space is used to accommodate staff and elected members during the transition period as well as where they will be located from April 2020. It was agreed that a small central base for elected members

and senior management be located at the Gateway, AVDC's offices, Aylesbury while we set up the new council.

The new council will take advantage of our five current councils' bases across Buckinghamshire to make our services accessible. This will be developed further after 1 April 2020, when we will be looking at office accommodation and how best this is used.

Public engagement is important as we develop the new council. In addition to the Community Hubs consultation, we also consulted on a new Council Tax Reduction Scheme which sets out how the new council will support people on low incomes by reducing the council tax bill. We will also be undertaking engagement on the priorities and budget of the new council in October/November 2019.

## **Growth**

### **Heathrow Airport Expansion Consultation**

The Heathrow consultation closed on 13 September. As part of the consultation, Heathrow have held a series of consultation events in southern Buckinghamshire for people to go along to and learn more about the consultation. These events were held in Gerrards Cross, Beaconsfield and Richings Park.

In addition to proposals for flood storage areas in South Bucks, Heathrow have asked for views on the future operations of the expanded three runway airport. This includes proposals for managing the impacts of an increase in capacity through night flights, runway alternation and directional preference. The consultation material can be found at [Heathrow Expansion Consultation](#).

Buckinghamshire County Council worked with partners, including Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership, to provide a submission representing the views of the county.

### **Oxford to Cambridge Arc**

The Oxford to Cambridge Arc continues to be seen by central government as a key engine of future economic prosperity.

The scale and range of infrastructure investments in the Arc will be further defined through the Comprehensive Spending Review in spring 2020, and Buckinghamshire councils are preparing for this by establishing the appropriate governance (Buckinghamshire Growth Board) and evidence base for determining local priorities.

MHCLG have expressed an intent to simplify the existing infrastructure funding landscape and are proposing funnelling future funding through a 'local growth package' which would be overseen by the local Growth Board and accountable to government.

An opportunity arose in late August to pitch for funding for projects which complement ambitions for the Arc and could be announced by the end of October. The criteria were very challenging with projects needing to have a fully developed business case in place by the end of the month, be deliverable within three years, and have a cost benefit ratio of more than one. Of the projects pitched, the satellite applications centre at Westcott looks the most likely to receive government backing, however this is yet to be confirmed.

### **Buckinghamshire Growth Board**

Central government have confirmed that they recognise the need for a separate Buckinghamshire Growth Board, distinct from the Central Area Growth Board. Among many other advantages, this will give Buckinghamshire greater flexibility over how it chooses to prioritise and deliver a local growth package.

The inaugural board will be scheduled for late September. The board will be constituted as the Shadow Growth Board until the establishment of the unitary council in 1 April 2020. The shadow board will have the remit to:

- Develop proposals and engage with the Government on the Oxford to Cambridge Arc, with focus on the forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review in Spring 2020
- Develop evidence base and consensus across local authorities on infrastructure funding priorities
- Establish a compelling narrative for economic growth, environmental sustainability, and place-shaping in Buckinghamshire
- Propose the permanent formal governance arrangements for the Growth Board as part of the new Buckinghamshire Council.

#### England's Economic Heartland (EEH)

Major Road Network schemes have now been submitted to the Government. More than £700 million worth of road investment priorities have been submitted to Government by EEH.

The schemes – which include junction improvements, capacity upgrades and new relief roads – would reduce congestion and improve journey times, helping to realise the region's immense economic potential, which Government has made a national priority.

EEH's submission follows a request from Government for regions to agree their priorities for improving the Major Road Network, which comprises the country's busiest and most economically important local authority "A" roads.

As the sub-national transport body for the region, EEH worked with its local transport authority partners to agree a list of 11 priority schemes. In Buckinghamshire, dualling the Aylesbury Eastern Link Road was identified as one of the priority schemes. Government is expected to announce its funding decisions later this year.

#### Oxford-Cambridge Expressway Route Options Consultation

The Oxford-Cambridge Expressway route options consultation is due to start in October / early November and run for 10 weeks. Exact start date for the consultation is still to be confirmed. To date, Buckinghamshire County Council has not been involved in any discussion with Highways England on the potential route options. However, Highways England is due to come to a senior level meeting on 12 September.

The consultation will ask for opinions on the potential route options for the link proposed between Oxford and Milton Keynes and what wider benefits and opportunities will arise from the route options. BCC have yet to see precise details of the proposed consultation.

As part of the engagement, Highways England will be undertaking around 50 public events in key locations. For the first two weeks, they will be focused on engaging with landowners, local authorities and other stakeholders. Public events will then begin in earnest on week three.

The consultation will be hosted on Highways England's website and residents will be able to respond by hard copy, letter or email. Residents who are closer to one of the route options are likely to see higher levels of information (e.g. leaflets for those closer to one of the route options). Highways England states that they will try and reach all those affected and also has a dedicated [website](#) for the Expressway for those wanting more information.

At the recent EEH Leaders' meeting, it was agreed to develop an alternative proposal which promotes improvements to the local road network rather than investment in the Expressway. I am also seeking to meet the Minister, in partnership with the Leader of AVDC and other councils along the route, to put forward this alternative proposal.

Following this consultation, we expect a preferred route announcement in autumn 2020.

## **HS2**

### **Review of HS2**

On 21 August the Government officially launched a review of HS2. We understand the results of the review will be published in around six weeks' time in the autumn. The review is being led by Douglas Oakervee who was a Chairman of HS2 Ltd from March 2012 to October 2013, together with a panel of experts including Lord Berkeley.

The review's terms of reference state that it will consider how much "realistic potential" there is for cost reductions by amending the scope of the project, such as:

- Reducing the speed of the trains;
- Making Old Oak Common the London terminus "at least for a period", instead of Euston;
- Building only Phase 1, between London and Birmingham;
- Combining Phase 2a – extending the line to Crewe – with Phase 1;
- Altering plans for Phase 2b, which currently involves taking the line to Manchester and Leeds.

### **Letter to the Prime Minister**

On 27 August, I wrote to the Prime Minister, new Secretary of State for Transport (Grant Shapps) and Doug Oakervee, who is leading the review, to ask again that Government ceases all work in the county, ahead of the results of the review and also the official Notice to Proceed to contractors. We expect a 'go or no go' decision on the HS2 project to be made in the autumn.

At the time of writing this report, no responses had been received.

## **Health and Wellbeing Board**

I made the difficult decision over the summer to hand over chairmanship of the Health and Wellbeing Board to Cllr Gareth Williams, Cabinet Lead for Community Engagement and Public Health.

I have enjoyed chairing the Health and Wellbeing Board over the last five years and I believe the board has made considerable progress in terms of developing governance arrangements, effective partnership relationships and considerable work on the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities. I will continue to support the ambitions of the Health and

Wellbeing Board in my role as Leader of the Council. Cllr Williams' first meeting as chair was on 5 September.

## **Brexit**

Following a period of relative calm during which we continued to focus on supporting residents' access to the EU Settlement Scheme, we have, together with local authorities across the country, once again ramped up preparations ahead of a potential no deal exit on 31 October.

On 13 August, the Secretary of State for MHCLG gave councils across the country clear directions regarding Brexit preparations, including:

- Local government seen as playing a critical role on Brexit, including a central coordinating role in their communities
- Real focus on SMEs, supply chains, and business preparations
- One million of an estimated three million eligible EU nationals have secured settled/pre-settled status. The focus is now on remaining EU nationals
- New guidance, actions and public awareness campaigns to start shortly

The message from Government was clear that the UK will be exiting from the EU on 31 October and preparations for a no deal exit are now the Government's top priority.

In Buckinghamshire, we are working closely across all five councils to ensure Buckinghamshire is as prepared for Brexit as possible. In line with this commitment, and the Government's request, each of our organisations has appointed a Brexit Lead Officer (and deputy) to coordinate preparations across our organisations:

- **BCC (and Buckinghamshire) Lead** – Neil Gibson (Marco Dias)
- **AVDC Lead** – Andrew Small (Andy Barton)
- **CDC/SBDC Lead** – Steve Bambrick (Ben Coakley)
- **WDC Lead** – John East (Nigel Dicker)

Finally, we are aware of a number of rumours making the rounds regarding the EU Settlement Scheme. Government has published official [guidance for EU citizens](#), and we recommend always checking the latest official government advice, as this is a complex area. You can directly contact the Home Office with any queries [here](#), and a helpful FAQ has recently (August 2019) been published [here](#).

We will continue to update you as the situation evolves. For more information on national preparations please check government guidance [here](#). For more information on local preparations, please check our Brexit pages [here](#) or contact Marco Dias [mdias@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:mdias@buckscc.gov.uk)

**MARTIN TETT**  
**LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

## **DEPUTY LEADER & CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORTATION**



### **Severe Weather**

The late summer has seen a period of extremes weather wise, placing unseasonal pressures on working programmes and our workforce. In late July and late August extreme heat meant temperatures on site in excess of 40°C, with working patterns adjusted to protect the workforce. Weather sensitive surface dressing programmes were also affected.

In addition, unseasonal storms in mid-August resulted in localised flash flooding and many fallen tree limbs, meaning a very busy period for emergency response and maintenance crews.

### **ADEPT Live Lab project**

"The ADEPT SMART Places Live Labs Programme is a two-year, £22.9 million programme funded by the Department for Transport and supported by project partners SNC-Lavalin's Atkins business, EY, Kier, O2, Ringway and WSP. Led by local authorities, it aims to introduce digital innovation across SMART mobility, transport, highways maintenance, data, energy and communications. The project in Aylesbury plans to install new technology on the streets of Fairford Leys. Over the past month, a number of goals have been achieved including:

Solar and wind suppliers have been selected with the aim of installing a 'first in the UK' design;

Work has started to develop a composite (fibre glass) lighting column, 3d recycled lamp column adornments, kinetic energy recovery roadway, gully and smart sensors. Suppliers and finances are due to be released to these partners very soon with works beginning in the coming months;

Discussions with Nokia to plan a 5G installation in the Fairford Leys area have begun and a meeting is scheduled for 9 October to discuss how we could make the installation a reality;

Agreed with Aylesbury Town Council the luminaires (lights) to be installed on the composite lighting columns;

The AGT Live Labs program will enhance the efficiency of existing transport systems and deliver a superior experience for travellers and residents. Furthermore, the program supports new technologies both physical and digital that represent the next stage in industry evolution.

### **Category 1 defects/potholes**

The Plane and Patch programmes completed in 2018 and 2019 continue to pay dividends, along with the continuing investment in our roads with priority (Cat 1) defect numbers now at a record low, averaging around 40 per month in Spring/Summer 2019 compared with over 1000 per month in the spring of 2018 after the severe winter of 2017/18. Resources are able to concentrate on full repairs to more minor defects, undertaking preventative work to stop potholes from forming rather than reactive repairs.

### **Update on Weed Treatment**

The three cycle programme is progressing well, with the majority of the second spray complete by the end August. Die back has been seen in all areas. Road sweepers are active in both the north and south of the county, removing dead weeds and detritus through mechanical sweeping. Herbicides need time to be effective and not all urban areas can be swept after every weed spray. All areas will be swept once at some point during the season. To complement this work, gangs continue to undertake hand clearance of more established weeds in local areas.

TfB are also engaging with Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Local Nature Partnership to develop a sustainable strategy for roadside verge management which equates safety and amenity requirements with natural habitat development for flora and fauna – Bucks Buzzing.

### **Network Safety**

The Department for Transport have officially released the 'Reported Road Casualties Great Britain: 2018', Annual Report. This means comparisons can be made between authorities and vulnerable road users. Nationally there is a downward trend of 13% from 2013 to 2018. Buckinghamshire is exceeding this trend by having a reduction of 20% in casualties over the period. The team continues to analyse casualty data and trends to inform and target campaigns and improvements to key groups and locations.

### **Communications**

Last year, TfB was able to claim over £120,000 for damage caused to the highway, all of which went towards the necessary repairs. TfB is currently running a campaign 'Don't pay twice' asking the public and parish councils in particular, to continue to report if they witness any damage to highway property.

### **2019/20 Capital Delivery Programme**

During 2019/20 over £24million will be invested in carriageway and footway surfacing treatments as well as improvements to countywide assets associated with street lighting, parking, casualty reduction, drainage, safety fences, traffic signals and bridges.

The spring and summer months are extremely busy periods across all work streams with multiple activities taking place across the county. Despite periods of extreme weather, TfB were able to make good progress with the delivery of the carriageway surfacing programme, in particular the surface dressing treatment which benefited from the use of new innovative technology that helped to reduce road closure times and improve the overall effectiveness of this treatment.

With multiple road closures in place across the network, teams across TfB have benefited from collaborative working opportunities and have also been able to complete various maintenance activities without the need for separate closures.

During this period further progress has been made with improvement work across other assets including; drainage, safety fences, traffic signals and bridges. Design and pre-construction activities across all work streams have also continued, which will enable TfB to programme further construction work to be carried out during the second half of the year.

As the autumn and winter months approach, it is vital that further improvements are made to the street lighting asset. Work to replace life expired street lights commenced with over 100 street lights already replaced. In addition to this as part of an invest to save initiative, up to 700 street lights have been converted to LEDs.

The Buckingham Cycleway Extension opened following installation of new surfacing, signage, road markings and cycle symbols. A new tactile crossing point and red surface treatment across the car park entrance highlight the presence of the new shared cycleway. The scheme includes a tarmac cycle ramp alongside the steps so that cyclists no longer have to bump their bikes down the steps.



TfB have also been able to take advantage of the school summer holidays by completing a number of schemes located near to schools. Examples included:

New bollards and kerbing were installed outside Drayton Parslow School.

Footway widening and various works included new yellow “School Keep Clear” zig-zag markings outside Denham Infant Village School have been completed.

The refurbishment and upgrade of the pedestrian crossing outside Monks Risborough Primary School also occurred during the school holiday period. The works were coordinated along with planned surfacing and drainage work on Aylesbury Road to minimise disruption to all and make best use of efficiency savings. Replacement of the signals and associated works were completed in the footpaths during the day with the resurfacing undertaken at night.





Drayton Parslow



Denham



Monks Risborough

Further information regarding individual schemes across all delivery streams can be found on the Members Portal.

### **EEH Outline Transport Strategy**

England's Economic Heartland are in the process of developing a transport strategy for the region. In order to gain steer from members of the organisation, they have produced an outline transport strategy which sets out their vision and principles. They are consulting with stakeholders for their opinion until 31 October 2019. This is not open to the public.

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

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



### **Roll out of Making Every Contact Count training to partners**

Making Every Contact Count (MECC) is an approach to behaviour change which uses the day to day interactions people and organisations have with others. MECC enables the opportunistic delivery of 'healthy conversations' which can help sow the seeds of change and improve health and wellbeing by preventing, reducing or delaying the onset of ill health and need for care and support.

Public Health is delivering a free 45 minute engagement session to partners. The session raises awareness of MECC, looks at the concept of behaviour change, the skills for a 'healthy conversation' and services to signpost to. Sessions have been delivered to Bucks Fire and Rescue, Department for Work and Pensions, Community Impact Bucks, Chiltern and South Bucks District Council and Buckinghamshire County Council (including Early Years and Integrated Commissioning).

The benefits of a MECC approach include increasing partners' skills and confidence to have conversations about healthy behaviours, and knowing where to signpost people for advice. MECC creates a culture of prevention, where stakeholders support people to improve their health and wellbeing (therefore supporting the Bucks shared approach to prevention). MECC also empowers stakeholders to have effective conversations and feel they're making a bigger difference. The outcomes of MECC training include greater partnership working with Adult Social Care, informing the contract monitoring process to assess how clients are supported with healthier lifestyles.

### **Update on Social Isolation**

Buckinghamshire Public Health team are working on an exciting project to look at how partners can work together as a system to tackle social isolation in Bucks. Social isolation was identified as a priority by key health and wellbeing partners following a workshop on the Bucks shared approach to prevention last year. To take this work forward, we are working with the [Design Council](#) who bring a wealth of expertise in both the public and private sector in identifying and implementing high impact changes.

The first stage of the project required partners to explore a number of 'challenge statements'. A set criteria was used in the decision process which included

- all organisations being able to contribute to the challenge
- responding to a key gap which has an impact on a high number of people and the ability to narrow health inequalities.

Two challenge statements were selected, one to look at *how we might support and develop the assets and strengths of individuals and communities to prevent social isolation at key life events* and secondly focussing on those with *limiting health conditions and disabilities*.

Workshop sessions at the end of September will form the second phase of the programme. This will be led by the Design Council and attendees will use a variety of design methods and approaches to co-design solutions to social isolation in Bucks. Following the workshops, a small number of task and finish groups will be established to take forward the opportunities and action plans as well as additional show and tell meetings where progress can be shared with a wider group of stakeholders.

## **Prevent**

In September, I chaired the first Prevent Community Roundtable. It was a rare opportunity to meet with senior officials from the Home Office to talk about Prevent and ask questions about how it is being implemented nationally and locally. The presentations, which included a particularly engaging one on radicalisation from the Home Office, generated a healthy level of debate. Around 50 people attended, including elected members from the county, district and parish councils, schools, the police, voluntary and community sector, health and council staff. The next event is being planned for November.

## **NHS Health Checks**

### What is an NHS Health Check?

The NHS Health Check is a health check-up for adults in England aged 40-74. It's designed to tell you whether you are at higher risk of getting certain health problems such as stroke, kidney disease, heart disease and diabetes.

In Buckinghamshire the programme is delivered through GP practices and through the Live Well Stay Well outreach team that offers health checks in community venues and workplaces to reach those less able/or unlikely to attend a GP appointment . In 2018-19 the programme delivered 12,388 health checks.

### Who attends an NHS Health Check?

- More women attend a check than men - we need to encourage men to attend
- Older people attend more than younger people - younger people need to see the benefit of attending when they may feel well, we want to pick up early warning signs
- There are only small differences in the attendance of different ethnic groups
- Fewer people in deprived areas are invited to, or receive a check - we need to support GP practices in those areas and work with our outreach team to improve this.

### How can we encourage more people to attend?

Social media campaigns this year are focusing on encouraging men, younger age groups and those from more disadvantaged communities to attend a health check. Personal stories are powerful ways to spread the message and Cllr Gareth Williams volunteered to have his

own health check filmed as a means to encourage younger men to have a check, even though they may feel well. The video created will be used in our social media campaigns across Buckinghamshire.

### Does an NHS Health Check help?

Yes. The NHS Health Checks programme is successful at identifying people with significant risk factors for CVD, they can then have lifestyle advice from our Live Well Stay Well Service and appropriate treatment. The Buckinghamshire programme between 2013-2018, found that of those having a health check:

- 4% were identified as at high risk of a CVD event in the next 10 years
- 68 % had a raised cholesterol
- 29% had a raised blood pressure reading
- 9% had a raised blood sugar reading – which shows a risk of diabetes
- 19% were obese
- 10% were smokers
- 28% drank more than 14 units of alcohol per week
- 15% were inactive

### Workplace Checks

BCC staff and members can have a check at work on 9 and 10 September, 15, 16 or 17 October. <https://intranet.buckscc.gov.uk/how-do-i/human-resources/what-you-can-expect-from-us/health-checks/>

### **Health and Wellbeing Board**

I chaired my first meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) on 5 September. The HWB is a statutory partnership board which includes County Council and District Council representatives, along with NHS Public Health and Social Care Commissioners and Healthwatch Bucks that work together to improve the health and wellbeing of people in Buckinghamshire. The Board's work is led by the priorities of the [Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#). I am honoured to be chairing the Board at a pivotal time as we work together with our partners to navigate transformation and integration of health and care services but also focus on improving the wellbeing of our residents and tackle the wider determinants of health.

At the meeting, the Board agreed how it would take forward the partnership commitments included in the recommendations in the [Director of Public Health Annual report on Alcohol](#). As well as considering the [Integrated Care Partnership progress reports, which included an update on the Long Term Plan, Primary Care Networks, Preparations for Winter Planning](#) and an update on the [Better Care Fund 2019-20 Plan and Quarter 1 Performance](#). The Board also followed up on the actions agreed at a previous meeting on how partners can work together to improve the physical outcomes for patients with [Serious Mental Illness](#). Further information on the HWB and meetings can be found on the HWB webpages: <https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/health-and-wellbeing/buckinghamshire-health-and-wellbeing-board/buckinghamshire-health-and-wellbeing-board/>

The Buckinghamshire HWB featured in the LGA's July 2019 report, [What a difference a place makes](#), looking at the achievements, challenges and learning from 22 effective HWBs which were deemed to be making good progress on integrating health and care but also focusing on improving population health and wellbeing.

## **Event to mark the end of the Great War Buckinghamshire project**

The Great War Buckinghamshire project, hosted by the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Milton Keynes Council and Buckinghamshire County Council, has recently been completed. The project, which created biographies of people connected with the county who had been affected by the war, launched its website and a free commemorative book on Friday 19 July to coincide with the centenary of Peace Day. Some of the important documents relating to the war in the county have been digitised and will be available online in due course through the website: [www.greatwarbuckinghamshire.co.uk](http://www.greatwarbuckinghamshire.co.uk). The commemorative book, including text written by World War One expert Professor Ian Beckett, includes a list of sources held at the Centre to encourage others to conduct their own research into this conflict. Copies of the book are available on request from the Centre.

## **Director of Public Health Annual Report**

The 2019 Director of Public Health Annual Report is on the impact of alcohol on the health and wellbeing of our residents. The report has now been to Cabinet and the Health and Wellbeing Board and is available on the Health and Wellbeing section of our [website](#).

The report sets out an overview of alcohol in Buckinghamshire and the harms it can cause. It includes stories from Buckinghamshire residents about the impact alcohol has had on their lives as well as stories from frontline staff about the issues they see due to alcohol in Buckinghamshire.

The report aims to stimulate conversation and action across partners and communities in Buckinghamshire to increase awareness of safer drinking levels and what we can do to help reduce the harms from alcohol. There is a role for all partners in this, but particularly for frontline staff in health and social care to routinely ask the simple questions that might result in someone getting the help they need and changing their life for the better.

It is estimated that more than 1 in 4 adults in Buckinghamshire drink at levels above the Chief Medical Officer for England guidelines. This equates to more than 100,000 adults in Buckinghamshire who are at risk of damaging their health. Most of these people are not dependent on alcohol and may not realise they have a problem.

There is information about what services are available in Buckinghamshire and links to useful resources that local residents and professionals can use.

## **Bowerdean Community Appraisal**

The Community Links Officers held two successful community engagement events in Bowerdean High Wycombe on Saturday 27 and Wednesday 31 July as part of a wider programme of community appraisals being delivered across the county. The events are an opportunity for the officers to work in collaboration with local residents to better understand and appreciate the strengths within the local community. Following the conversations, the Community Links Officers support residents to develop local initiatives building on these strengths, with a focus on those activities that will keep people well now and in the future.

Residents had lots of good ideas for new community assets such as a book club, Saturday 'pop-in' coffee and chat, summer fete, potential new Street Association, community café at the Hive community centre with a potential mother/toddler coffee morning, cinema club, and

a community garden. The team also met with existing groups who could benefit from some additional support and advice and discussed 'quick wins' such as a new notice board at the community centre so residents would be more aware of the activities running there and other events taking place in the community.

The Community Links Officers will now work with local residents to develop a shared action plan to take these ideas forward. The team is continuing to work with residents in Great Kingshill, Widmer End, Westcott, Ludgershall and Disraeli High Wycombe where similar engagement events have been delivered this year as part of the wider programme of community appraisals.

**GARETH WILLIAMS**  
**CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH**

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



### **New Family Support Service Launched**

I am delighted to update you on our new Family Support Service, which launched on Monday 2 September. The new service has been carefully designed to provide better, more targeted support for vulnerable families who face a range of issues or more complex challenges, as part of a wider, partnership early help offer. Our proposals, which were subject to a wide consultation, will see children, young people and families being supported earlier by the right service at the right time. Families supported by the new service will have a lead professional who, depending on the level of need, can coordinate a team around the family to support them to address the issues they are facing – with the ultimate aim of helping them to overcome their problems leading to happier and healthier lives.

In addition, youth and early year's practitioners will provide individual support to young people and parents of young children. Open-access universal sessions and health services for early years children and parents will be delivered through a network of 16 Family Centres across the county, which will also offer a range of support for parents and children up to age 19 (25 with SEND). The 19 former children's centres which are not being retained by the Council as part of the new service will be used for alternate provision, primarily for early years' benefit and community use. This is underway and we are hopeful that the handovers will take place during this autumn.

We are confident our new Family Support Service will improve the lives of the Buckinghamshire families who need us the most and that this, as part of our partnership approach to early help, is the best way that we can help them overcome their challenges to become more self-reliant, healthier and happier.

### **We Do Care Celebration Event**

On 20 August, we hosted the annual event, now in its ninth year, which recognises and celebrates the personal, academic and sporting achievements of the county's looked-after children and young people leaving care.

The children and young people, ranging in age from tiny babies to young adults, were nominated by professionals working with them in a number of categories, including overcoming difficult circumstances, coping admirably with change and for achievements within education, training or sport. In total, over 70 of our children in care and care leavers have had their achievements celebrated.

In addition to the inspiring speeches by two of our care leavers and one of our foster carers, there was a host of different activities for the guests to take part in, all based on an 'around the world theme'. They included knocking cans down with flip-flops in Australia, wrapping each other up as mummies in Egypt, creating Japanese tokens and making Venetian style masks in Italy.

Each child and young person was presented with an individual certificate of achievement and a gift voucher which was kindly donated by The Entertainer toyshop.

I am always humbled by the achievements of our children and young people in care and the event shows just how much can be achieved despite having to overcome some really challenging times. I find hearing about their achievements very inspiring and I am incredibly proud of every one of our children in care. It was a fabulous day celebrating with everyone.

On behalf of everyone involved, we would like to put on record our thanks and gratitude for the generous support from The Entertainer, Telnik Roofing Limited, Silverson, The Alex Timpson Trust, Garnett Interactive and Tofield Ltd. In addition, a special thanks to all those who helped organise the event.

### **Introduction of New Electronic Multi Agency Referral Form**

Our Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) has recently launched a new online form for reporting concerns to children's social care. This new form has replaced the existing referral form and can be used by both professionals and the public – anyone who may have a concern about a child's welfare.

The new form brings a number of key benefits which will improve overall safeguarding work:

- Seamlessly guides users through the referral process, encouraging people to provide appropriate information and will ensure that there is adequate detail on the risk to the child.
- Ensures that the referral meets social care intervention thresholds and where appropriate directs the user to other, more universal services.
- Ensures that the child that is being referred lives in Buckinghamshire and if not will direct the user to the correct local authority.
- Establishes a clear understanding of what the referrer's expectation is around safeguarding a child.
- Enables parents/guardians to be aware of the referral and will establish whether consent has been given.

The new form is available on our website at

[https://account.buckscc.gov.uk/service/Report\\_a\\_concern\\_about\\_a\\_child](https://account.buckscc.gov.uk/service/Report_a_concern_about_a_child)

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



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



### **Introduction of Speech Link and Language Link in Primary Schools**

From the start of September, the Council, together with Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG), began supporting reception and key stage 1 classes in mainstream primary schools with the introduction of the innovative online packages, 'Speech Link' and 'Language Link'. These support tools help with the early identification of speech and language needs amongst pupils and provide activities and resources that the teaching staff can use to support them.

The Children's Speech and Language Therapy Service (SLT) is part of the Children and Young Peoples Integrated Therapy Service provided by Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust (BHT). The SLT Service has seen an increasing trend of referrals over the last two years with a 40% rise over this period. Evidence from other authorities suggests that adopting 'Speech Link' and 'Language Link' will result in earlier management of speech, language and communication problems in children and a reduction in referrals for speech and language therapy, enabling the service to focus on those with more complex needs and reducing waiting times for the service. It is also envisaged there will be benefits for the Council's Specialist Teaching Service (STS) which also supports pupils with speech and language needs.

The Council and BCCG will fund the purchase of a county-wide licence for the academic year 2019/20 for all primary mainstream schools in Buckinghamshire. The impact and outcomes achieved through the use of these programmes during this pilot year will be evaluated to inform decision making about the use and funding of the software in future years.

The Council's Integrated Commissioning Service will work collaboratively over the coming months with SLT and STS colleagues and schools to complete the roll out.

### **School Exclusions**

Recently released figures from the Department for Education show that the permanent exclusion rate in Buckinghamshire is falling and is now below the national average. Fewer children are being permanently excluded at both at primary and secondary schools meaning that our overall rate now sits at 0.08% compared to the national average of 0.1%. Within Buckinghamshire, as part of our Side by Side Project, we have been working with schools to develop more inclusive practices rather than excluding pupils. This work is still developing and we hope that it will demonstrate even better outcomes in the longer term.

### **GCSE and A Level Results**

In August, GCSE and A level results were delivered to anxious teenagers across the county. Whilst data at a local authority level has not yet been released by the Department for Education, we recognise the hard work and commitment of teachers and students in Buckinghamshire that have resulted in individual triumphs. Entries and outcomes at GCSE across the UK have remained stable from 2018, with small increases at grades 7/A and 4/C. Nationally, A Level entries have increased as a proportion of 18 year-olds, while pass rates are stable from 2018 to 2019.

### **St Michael's Catholic School**

The Aylesbury satellite of St Michael's Catholic School in High Wycombe has now opened its door in its new permanent home. The school welcomed its first 120, Year 7 students, in a temporary campus on the Berton Road site last September, but moved into new buildings on the site of the former Quarrendon School this September. An additional 150, Year 7 pupils, joined these students at the start of the new 2019/20 academic year.

The new state of the art campus includes specialist teaching accommodation such as science labs, a drama studio and bespoke rooms for design and technology and music. The new premises also includes a range of facilities including an activity studio, multi-use sports hall, 3G artificial pitch and grass playing fields, all of which are able for community use.

The satellite school is a partnership between the County Council, the governors and trustees at St Michael's School and the Diocese of Northampton. Pupil numbers will increase year on year with each new Year 7 intake to reach an expected 180 pupils a year by September 2020. Eventual capacity is expected to cater for a total of 900 pupils with a 6 form entry, from Year 7 up to Year 11 and a further 180 pupils in their sixth form. The building costs have been met from the Department for Education Basic Need funds and Section 106 contributions from housing developments.

Further information on the new school can be found on their website:

<https://www.stmichaels.bucks.sch.uk/secondary-aylesbury>

### **Abbey View Primary Academy**

The new school in Kennedy Avenue in High Wycombe opened in September to cater for growing demand for school places brought about by new housing growth in the area and has been funded from Section 106 contributions from housing developers. The design of the new premises allows for future expansion from 1 to 2 forms of entry as the demand rises from further new housing currently being considered in the area.

The school will initially welcome 30 children in foundation stage along with a Year 1 and a Year 2 class. The establishment will slowly grow its offer of places, building up to Year 6 by 2023. Nursery places will also be offered in time to meet need in the local area.

Further information on the new school can be found on their website:

<http://www.abbeyviewprimaryacademy.org/home>

**ANITA CRANMER  
CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND SKILLS**

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT**



### **Country Parks**

Despite the rather 'variable' weather this summer, we have once again had a successful start to the year;

- **Visitor Numbers**  
Visitor numbers year to date are just below 520k compared to 510k last year (or about 2% increase) – hopefully this means we should be on target to exceed last year's total of 1.03m for the full year.
- **Events**  
There has been a full programme of fun children's/family events and activities including den building, bugs and beasts, craft workshops and forest school activities along with a really popular Dinosaur Trail over the last week of August that attracted over 1200 participants in 3 days. In total there have been 2400 children and 1000 adults attending our summertime events.
- **Filming**  
Filming continues to place high demands on the parks' facilities with several major film franchises using Black Park and Langley Park, including a major Disney production, which unfortunately has to remain confidential at this stage. Three separate Marvel 'superhero' productions, one of which has built a Mayan Temple and pyramid, the BBC filming A Christmas Carol and Netflix filming scenes to represent Arthurian Britain.
- **Volunteers**  
The annual Country Parks Volunteer 'Thank you' BBQ was held on Friday 6 September. Despite some rather inclement weather, a great time was had by all who attended. Volunteers included those from the Country Parks Wednesday Group, Park Run, the Black Park 'Shed' (the 'Men in Sheds' initiative), The Friends of Langley Park, and Simply Walk to name but a few of the groups who assist in the parks on a regular basis.

### **Rights of Way (RoW)**

- **Camsweb**
  - The new RoW reporting tool is now fully operational allowing users to report and 'follow' issues on the RoW network as they are inspected and corrected.
- **Capital Projects**
  - Improvements to the Thames Path in Marlow have been completed in partnership with the National Trails Team;

- Repairs to Kitty's Bridge over the River Chess in Chesham have now been completed;
- The draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan which takes into account the views, priorities and concerns of local people and organisations for the improvement of the rights of way network will be consulted on from October to December 2019 with a view to the plan being implemented in early 2020. This is the second phase of the project with the first phase receiving just under 1,500 public responses during engagement. The responses back gave a high degree of statistical significance to the results and a good understanding of the views of users on what issues they would like the County Council to focus on.

### **Definitive Map and Local Land Charges**

The Strategic Access Officer organised the installation of a new disabled accessible footbridge between Coldharbour and Ellen Road roundabout along the Round Aylesbury Walk. This involved partnership working with the Highways Infrastructure Projects team, with funding provided by DfT.

### **Planning and Enforcement Team**

BCC were recognised as one of the most improved Planning Authorities for speed of determining applications in accordance with target times between 2013 and 2018 seeing a 58% improvement in performance. The team is currently running at 100% compliance with national target determination times which were introduced with the aim of speeding up decision making in the planning system.

Due to the hard work of the planning enforcement officer, we have achieved full compliance with a planning enforcement notice on land to the West of Mansion Lane, Iver. A significant amount of waste was dumped on the site and it is pleasing to report that the site is now fully compliant with the requirements of the enforcement notice with top soil reinstated and the land re-seeded to pasture.

### **The new BMERC (Bucks and Milton Keynes Environmental Record centre) data request system**

August saw the much awaited launch of TEE's Environmental Records Centre's (BMERC) new data request system. This innovative, self-service online portal represents the cutting edge of such systems, allowing BMERC to streamline many of its commercial enquiries from two weeks to just two hours! The new system is run in partnership with another Local Record Centre (LRC), who also manage services for other LRCs; an approach which may spread with time. We have already received very positive feedback from customers and have generated over £5.8k income in the first month; not bad for a traditionally slow period.

Anyone wanting to search for species and habitats in their local neighbourhood can view the new system here: <https://my.lerc.online/?src=bm>

### **Pednormead End Flood Management Scheme**

A £3.4 million flood management scheme has been drawn up to protect the historic old town area of Chesham from flooding. More than 100 homes, businesses and a school in the Church Street area of Pednormead End are at risk of flooding from a combination of excessive surface water and an overflowing River Chess in heavy downpours. The

proposed scheme involves building a bigger culvert under Church Street and providing each property at risk with the offer of a package of flood prevention measures tailored to their needs.

To raise awareness and encourage property owners to sign up for the scheme, the Project Team has been working on a strong engagement strategy. A marketing campaign has been carried out during the month of August through various routes. A market stall was done in the town of Chesham on 7 August 2019, to advertise the scheme to local residents. Letter drops and door knocking were carried out on the 12 and 16 August to all the affected property owners. The aim was to inform them about the scheme proposed by BCC, to invite them to sign up for the Property Flood Survey and to attend community events in September.

The first event was held on the 4 September and was supported by various stakeholders and myself. Also present were Mary Dhonau, affectionately known as 'Mary Queen of Floods', representatives from the Environment Agency and Chesham Town Council. Around 18 very keen residents attended the drop in session on the 4 September and most of them have signed up for the survey. At present we have over 35 property owners who have expressed strong interest in the scheme. Another community event is planned on the 10 September.

## **District Local Plans**

### **Wycombe District Local Plan**

Wycombe District Council adopted The Wycombe District Local Plan on 19 August 2019. This now forms part of the development framework for Wycombe District alongside the Delivery and Site Allocations Plan, adopted in 2013.

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

The District Council has published their suggested modifications to the Local Plan which are currently being considered by the Inspector. It is expected that these will be consulted on during the autumn for the plan to be adopted by the end of the year, with the likely consultation start date of 7 October.

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

The Draft Chiltern and South Bucks Local Plan were consulted on over the summer closing on the 23 August. The District Council will now prepare all the representation received on the Plan to submit to the Planning Inspectorates. The District anticipated that the Plan will be submitted in September.

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

Work has continued on the production of the AGT masterplan with the final draft approved by the Delivery Board in September. A public consultation on this will be undertaken early next year.

A high level Vision for AGT with its key ambitions to 2050 is also being produced. Once agreed by the board, this will underpin a public engagement campaign later this autumn as a pre cursor to the consultation of the masterplan in the new year.

The AGT programme is also in the process of clarifying its delivery priorities for the next period for the Garden Town. This will include key strategic initiatives such as the Aylesbury

'Gardenway', greening the town centre and enhancing the cycle network. There will also be smaller community based projects such as Community Food Growing, Street Playgrounds and a Community Funding Pot.

### **2019 Best Kept Villages**

On Saturday 14 September, I, as the Chairman of the Best Kept Village Competition, went along with other judges, including the Lord Lieutenant, and travelled to the winning villages and towns to present the winning trophies. The results were as follows:

**Aston Abbots, winner of the Gurney Cup** (villages with a population of 500 and under);  
*Fulmer runner-up*

**Hedgerley winner of the Morris Cup** (villages with a population of 500 – 1500);  
*Chearsley and Cuddington joint runners-up*

**Stewkley winner of the DeFraigne Cup** (villages with a population of 1501 – 3000);  
*Steeple Claydon runner-up*

**Burnham winner of the Pushman Cup** (villages with a population over 3000);  
*Chalfont St Peter runner-up*

**Winslow winner of the Michaelis Cup** (small towns);  
*Olney runner-up*

**Chalfont St Giles winner of the Tindall Cup** (competition for the 2017 cup winners);  
*Wendover runner-up*

**Winslow** has been awarded the **Sword of Excellence** as the best overall winner.

**The Dashwood Trophy** for the best runner-up goes to **Chearsley**

**Downley** has been chosen to receive the **Community Award**

### **Household Recycling Centres**

The recent changes to the county's Household Recycling Centre (HRC) service have now been in place for five months. The service has settled back down after a period of big change and is already delivering savings to the authority. The recent changes were the biggest the service has faced in a long time and I appreciate the efforts by site staff, officers and the patience residents have shown.

At the January Cabinet, Members took the decision to revisit and review the recommendation of a possible permanent closure to the Burnham HRC at its September meeting.

Further to this, at the 9 September meeting, Cabinet reviewed the papers and decided to keep Burnham open, five days a week. As such, there will be no change for residents who use Burnham HRC, and the authority will continue to run nine HRC sites across the county.

The overall picture of the changes is positive. On average, 80% of the waste that comes to HRC sites is still deposited free of charge, and those residents that do bring non-household waste are paying on average approx. £8.00 per visit.

Residents were very concerned about the impact changes may have on fly-tipping. Data from April-July shows no increase in fly-tipping compared to the previous year, which is a positive result and reflects what other authorities have seen when introducing similar changes. We will continue to promote the successful SCRAP fly tipping campaign and take a zero tolerance approach to fly-tipping.

I would like to take the opportunity to highlight the switch to Winter hours at the beginning of October. All sites will close at 4pm from 1st October, instead of the Summer hours of 6pm. Sites become much quieter in the winter as the nights close in and it makes sense to close a little earlier. We will of course be promoting the change as we do each year.

### **Zero Waste Week**

By minimising waste prevention, we are aiming to help the public to reduce the environmental impacts of waste, and also aim to reduce the cost of handling it. By way of raising awareness, the Waste team joined in with the national Zero Waste Week between 2-6 September. Seventeen additional events were held across the county. Hundreds of people attended the main event in Aylesbury Town Centre with local businesses promoting their Zero Waste wares. There was even a Zero Waste Orchestra to entertain the crowds.

Starting on Monday 23 September Recycle Week will see a focus on recycling as much as possible. So look out for tips and hints on how to recycle more and maybe Buckinghamshire can move up a couple of places and become the best recycling county in the country.

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

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



### **Transformation Update around Preparation for Adulthood and Teams Coming Together**

One of the priorities in the Adult Social Care [Better Lives](#) Strategy is that young people moving from Children's Services into Adult Social Care will be much better prepared for adulthood. With a smooth transition between Children's and Adult Social Care, we are calling this "Preparing for Adulthood". This is a joint initiative between Children's and Adults Services with the intention of creating a single Preparing for Adulthood Service across the two directorates.

One of the first concrete steps in creating this new service is locating the Children with Disabilities Team with the Adult Social Care Transitions Team so that they can begin working much more closely together. This co-location in Amersham should be completed by the end of September. We will be spending the autumn period designing the new service with input from young people and their families, partners and our own staff.

### **Social Care Workforce Update**

We have had significant success recruiting to Occupational Therapists (OT) posts using a 'try before you apply' initiative. The OT posts have been notoriously difficult to recruit previously and therefore this initiative will now be used to focus on the recruitment of Social Workers. The recruitment of Social Workers remains challenging particularly within the Learning Disabilities area and the Resourcing Team is working directly with Heads of Service on a targeted recruitment campaign. The Communities, Health and Adult Social Care (CHASC) Health and Social Care recruitment event took place on 7 September. The event was well attended; the initial feedback received has been really positive and interviews are being arranged as a priority for any interested candidates. Feedback from this event will be analysed to help inform future recruitment approaches.

### **NHS Long Term Plan and Local Strategic Plan**

At the end of June, the Government published the NHS Long Term Plan Implementation Framework. The Framework sets out the approach that local systems need to take in creating their five year strategic plans. Locally the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care System (BOB ICS) has been working on the development of its five year plan.



The plan will describe how all partners will work together both locally and at scale, when it is appropriate to do so, to ensure current and future health and care needs are met. After being taken through local governance, including the Buckinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board, the draft plan will be submitted to the NHSE/NHSI Regional Team by 27 September, before being finally agreed by 15 November. The BOB ICS five year plan will be published at the end of November.

### **Social Care Funding**

The short and long term funding of social care remains a significant concern despite the 2019 Spending Round announcement. Both locally and nationally, councils are continuing to lobby for change. In August Buckinghamshire County Council made a written submission to the Health and Care Parliamentary Select Committee Inquiry into the NHS Long Term Plan. The Committee is investigating the implications of funding of areas such as social care and training on the delivery of the NHS Long Term Plan.

On the national level, James Bullion, Vice President of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) wrote to Prime Minister Boris Johnson to ask for adult social care to be a top priority for the government. The letter calls for certainty and sustainability for social care and asks for clarity around the future of the Better Care Fund.

### **Thrift Farm**

Thrift Farm is a 52 acre farm owned and run by Buckinghamshire County Council in North Buckinghamshire. In February 2019, a consultation was started on the future of Thrift Farm and an exercise initiated to invite submissions of bids from other providers to take over the operation of the Farm. The outcome of the consultation and the evaluation of the expressions of interest received were taken to Cabinet on 9 September and I am delighted to say that the recommendation to approve the transfer of the Farm a joint venture between Kids Play and Mead Open Farm was approved.

### **Seeley's House**

Seeley's House just outside Beaconsfield provides two distinct services: day activities and a short breaks service. The latter, Seeley's respite provision, has had a number of challenges. In September, to raise the quality of the support delivered, we took the decision to suspend placements for clients for a short term to allow intensive development of the staff team, procedures and processes in the unit.

Earlier in the year a consultation on the location and scope of the service was started with a proposal to move the short breaks provision to a more accessible site in Aylesbury and to make it a jointly-commissioned health and social care service. A decision on the consultation is to be taken by Cabinet on 30 September.

**LIN HAZELL  
CABINET MEMBER HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES**



### **Technology Services Update**

The focus of the IT Team remains on upgrading the council's core IT capabilities, preparatory work for unitary and joint working with our NHS colleagues.

As part of the council's IT Improvement Programme we're continuing the process of moving core systems (SAP, Children's Services) onto another IT Platform. This is part of a programme to provide a more resilient and more efficient service environment.

By the autumn the council will also replace its two legacy telephony systems and move all users to a new Skype for Business Online environment. The upgrade in our core cyber capabilities continues through the new Managed Security Service, and we have expanded the service to include schools so we can now work with individual schools when we detect a threat. In addition Wycombe District Council will join the new cyber service and we are in discussion with our other District colleagues about unitary implications.

Preparatory work for Windows 10 continues and we will start to roll out the new Tablet devices in the autumn. The roll out of new desktop PC screens continues in NCO and following the very positive feedback from staff we're now working floor by floor on a weekly basis.

On the unitary side we're working with our District colleagues to ensure that everyone has the council email address for Vesting Day. Work is also in progress to join up the networks so that all the councils are linked together.

### **Property – School Projects**

Abbey View Primary Academy in High Wycombe achieved Practical Completion on 9 August and will open its doors for the very first time at the start of the new academic year this September. The new school in Kennedy Avenue has been created to cater for growing demand for school places brought about by new housing growth in the area and has been funded from Section 106 contributions from housing developers. The design of the new premises allows for future expansion from 1 to 2 forms of entry as the demand rises from further new housing currently being considered in the area.



The Aylesbury satellite of St Michael's Catholic School achieved Practical Completion on 5 August and is opened its doors in its new permanent home in September 2019.

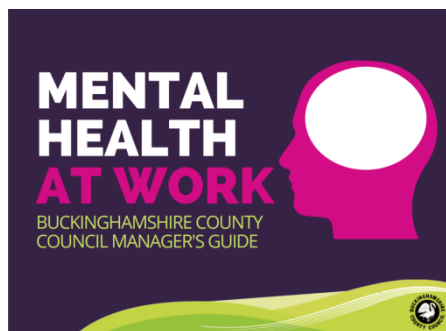
The new state of the art campus includes specialist teaching accommodation such as science labs, a drama studio and bespoke rooms for design and technology and music. The new premises also include a range of facilities including a sports hall, activity studio, multi-use sports hall, 3G artificial pitch and grass playing fields, all of which will be available for community use. The satellite school is a partnership between the County Council, the governors and trustees at St Michael's School and the Diocese of Northampton.



The building costs have been met from the Department for Education Basic Need funds and Section 106 contributions from housing developments.

### **Employee Wellbeing**

In the employee wellbeing space, some of the highlights in the past quarter include: **Your Health and Wellbeing at Work Guide** - HR has created a guide for BCC employees which sets out our wellbeing offer. The guide details our occupational health provision, including how to access counselling; resources and training that support mental, physical and financial wellbeing; specific information for employees who are also carers; and for people experiencing domestic abuse.



**Manager's Mental Health Guide** - In addition, we have also launched a guide for managers on how to support their team's mental health. The guide is intended to be used as a source of practical advice for managing and supporting team members who may be experiencing mental health problems.

**Mental Health First Aiders** - We're continuing to train more Mental Health First Aiders across the organisation, most recently in Children's Services and CHASC.

**Time to Change Champion Mental Health Awareness Training** - One of our Time to Change Champions and Mental Health First Aiders has created a bitesize mental health awareness training session for managers, which we successfully piloted in the summer. The session, which mixes practical stigma- and myth-busting activities, with sharing experiences of poor mental health, is really impactful. HR is working to help roll this out to more managers. World Mental Health Day on 10 October marks our one year anniversary of signing the Time to Change Employer Pledge.

### **Resourcing**

**CHASC Careers Event on 7 September 2019** - We held our first CHASC careers events at New County Offices on Saturday 7 September. This is a proactive response to assist the

service in showcasing the organisation and attracting potential candidates and future talent for hard to fill roles. The event included interactive Q&A sessions, networking opportunities and the chance to speak with our service experts. It is one of a series of wider initiatives but this particular event was aiming to showcase the service and the diversity of roles and career paths within CHASC and to promote Bucks CC as an employer of choice.

**“Try Before You Apply”** - Resourcing have successfully recruited five permanent hard to fill Occupational Therapists over the last eight months as a result of the “Try Before You Apply” session. These sessions have been a great success with positive feedback and have replaced a number of agency staff with good cost savings. This initiative is being rolled out for Support Workers and Social Workers.

**Agency Days** – three have been held over three locations to ensure that our agency staff understand the benefits of converting to a permanent or fixed term contract post at Bucks CC. These have also provided some excellent feedback and some interest in converting to a permanent or fixed term contract post. The first three sessions have just been completed and eight agency staff have expressed an interest in converting to a permanent contract.

**Bucks Skills Show** - Plans are in development for BCC’s presence at the Bucks Skills Show in October to help inspire the next generation to consider a career in local government. The Bucks Skills Show is an interactive careers experience where young people can discover different industry sectors for themselves and ask questions about career pathways. BCC is upping our game this year, with virtual reality, and a large interactive touchscreen with Google Earth displaying Buckinghamshire in 3D.

### **Blue Badge Scheme**

On Friday 30 August the National Blue Badge Scheme was extended so that people with a non-visible (hidden) disability may now be eligible for a Blue Badge. This is the biggest change to the scheme in nearly 50 years and a long awaited change for those with a non-visible disability and their families.

This year, for the first time, the Blue Badge Team had a stand at the County Show to help inform our residents about the changes to the eligibility criteria. It was also an excellent opportunity to highlight the blue badge enforcement work taking place countywide.



A huge number of people passed through the Bucks CC marquee and visited the Blue Badge stand. The team were kept busy answering questions and visitors gave the team positive feedback about the Blue Badge application process and the customer service they had received. People also commented that parking around Aylesbury town centre seemed to be slightly easier which suggests that our enforcement activity is now beginning to act as a deterrent.

**JOHN CHILVER  
CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES**