



Agenda and Reports

28 November 2019

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20 November 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 28 November 2019 at 9.30 am**, to transact the business set out in the agenda overleaf.

SARAH ASHMEAD
Monitoring Officer

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AGENDA

	Page No
1 MINUTES To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 26 September 2019.	7 - 20
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 YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN	21 - 48
6 TREASURY MANAGEMENT UPDATE	49 - 54
7 CABINET MEMBERS' REPORTS To note the written report of Cabinet Members, and any written questions & responses received. To receive any additional verbal updates from Cabinet Members on their reports, as well as provide an opportunity for any oral questions from Members. A Leader of the Council B Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transportation C Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Public Health D Cabinet Member for Children's Services E Cabinet Member for Education & Skills F Cabinet Member for Planning & Environment G Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing H Cabinet Member for Resources	55 - 80
8 NOTICES OF MOTION	
9 CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS TAKEN - INFORMATION ONLY	81 - 82
10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING 12 March 2020	

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Buckinghamshire County Council convened and held on Thursday 26 September 2019 in The Oculus, AVDC, The Gateway, commencing at 9.35 am and concluding at 1.47 pm.

PRESENT

Mr B Roberts in the Chair;

Mr M Appleyard, Mr R Bagge, Mr W Bendyshe-Brown, Mr S Bowles, Mr N Brown, Mr T Butcher, Mr D Carroll, Mr W Chapple OBE, Mr J Chilver, Mr C Clare, Mr A Collingwood, Mrs A Cranmer, Mrs I Darby, Mr D Dhillon, Mr C Etholen, Mrs B Gibbs, Ms N Glover, 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 P Martin, Mr I Rashid, Mr R Reed, Mr D Shakespeare OBE, Mr M Tett, Julia Wassell, Mr W Whyte, Ms A Wight, Mr G Williams and Ms K Wood

DIGNITARIES AND OTHERS PRESENT

Sir H Aubrey-Fletcher, Mrs M Aston, Mrs M Clayton, Mr M Colston, Mrs A Davies, Mrs V Letheren, Mr R Pushman and Mrs J Upton MBE

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs P Birchley, Ms J Blake, Mr A Christensen, Mrs L Clarke OBE, Mr M Shaw, Mrs L Sullivan, Mrs J Teesdale, Ms J Ward and Mr D Watson

1 MINUTES

The Chairman paid tribute to Police Constable Andrew Harper, Thames Valley Police Officer, who had died in service. The Council observed a minute's silence.

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th July 2019 were agreed, subject to an amendment which reflected that Mr Pushman and Mr Colston had been in attendance.

2 PETITIONS

The following petition was handed to Ms R. Shimmin, Chief Executive:

Julia Wassell presented a petition on Home to School Transport, which requested the new Unitary Authority to make transport places available to all students attending their catchment schools, including Grammar Schools and for students with paid for places. The petition had 1149 signatures and had been supported by Mr Dhillon.

3 COMMUNICATIONS

Apologies had been received from Mrs Blake, Mrs Birchley, Mrs Clarke, Mrs Ward, Mr

Shaw, Mr Christensen, Mr Watson, Ms Teesdale, Mrs Sullivan, and Honorary Alderman, Mr Lawrence, Mrs Miscampbell, Mr Allen, Mr Ross and Mr Colston.

The Chairman reported on a number of important events which he had recently attended.

He had visited the Bucks Army Cadets' Summer Camp to meet the next generation of potential recruits. He had attended a Looked after Children (LAC) and carer event at Missenden Abbey. The Chairman gave compliments to everyone involved in organising the event and making it a success.

Lindengate, a charity that supported adults with learning difficulties, special needs or dementia using therapy through horticulture and gardening had recently celebrated their 5th Birthday and the Chairman paid tribute to their volunteers in Buckinghamshire. The Chairman had also visited Waterside Festival in Aylesbury, which benefitted the Parkinson Society and Child Bereavement charities. The day had been a big success. The Chairman also commended the County Show and its organisers as they had attracted a record number of attendees and he felt that the event improved every year. Lastly, he had attended the Merchant Navy flag-raising ceremony in Market Square, Aylesbury, which had celebrated the Merchant Navy's contribution during the last war.

The Chairman asked Mr Dhillon, Vice-Chairman, to deliver an update about the events he had attended on his behalf. Mr Dhillon had attended the celebration of Buckingham Medical College's inaugural intake; this was the first private medical college in England, established since the Victorian era. He had visited Universal Care Ltd in Beaconsfield and had been delighted to present carers with over ten years of service with special commendations. He had also attended a regatta in Dorney and a celebration of student excellence at the Highcrest Academy.

Mr Bendyshe-Brown expressed thanks to the Kop Hill Climb event, which had achieved record attendance, despite having to close the event early due to adverse weather conditions. The event had raised £650,000 over the previous ten years for various local charities.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr Whyte declared that he was a member of the Tesla Owners UK club and founder of Bucks EVs, a club for electric car drivers.

5 ANNUAL PRESENTATION FROM THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER AND CHIEF CONSTABLE

The Chairman welcomed Mr A Stansfeld, Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) – Thames Valley Police (TVP), to present his report.

Mr Stansfeld informed the Council that he would be standing down in May 2020, following 8 years in his current role. The main points of his update were:

- There had been consistent cuts in policing but the service had recently seen a reversal of this, with additional police officers promised.
- TVP expected to get at least 600 additional Police Officers to support Neighbourhood Policing.
- Thames Valley covered a wide area with more roads and large major towns

than other force areas.

- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) results had not yet been released but TVP were performing well and confident of a good result.
- Mr Stansfeld reminded the Council of the main duties of his role and of important statistics relating to the policing of the area. He introduced 5 key topics areas which had represented the last year:

Prevention and early intervention

- A great deal of effort and money went into this area to ensure that people who had offended didn't become repeat offenders.

Vulnerability

- The police were working hard to support vulnerable groups; including the elderly, children and young people and people with mental health issues.
- A Victims First hub had been established in Reading, which commissioned partnership working and educational workshops.

Serious Organised Crime and Terrorism

- This had been a serious issue and TVP had the responsibility of co-ordinating this for the whole of the South East.
- County Lines had continued to be an issue and a recent operation had resulted in a large amount of warrants issued, arrests made and drugs seized.

Reducing re-offending

- It was important to properly support people after they had been released from prison, to prevent them reoffending.
- Mr Stansfeld told the Council that he was an advocate for GPS tagging after people who had committed serious crimes were released. There had been budgetary constraints on this activity but he felt that the benefits outweighed the costs.
- The PCC also gave £2.7m of the Community Safety Fund to local councils to fund prevention initiatives and support for victims.
- Mr Stansfeld acknowledged that the response to 101 calls had not been great and was an area which would need improvement

Mr Stansfeld handed over to Mr J Campbell, Chief Constable – TVP, and said that they would be happy to take questions at the end.

Mr Campbell introduced the strategic plan for the ensuing year and informed the Council that he had taken up his post in April, having worked for TVP for 9 years. He commented that the complexity of the police environment had increased in recent times with some crimes which were now dealt with regularly, not even existing 30 years ago. During the presentation the following main points were noted:

- Police Officers had to keep up to date with changes in crime and legislation and the basics of policing needed to be right to ensure public confidence in TVP as a good police force.
- Neighbourhood Policing Teams had been maintained, when other forces had lost theirs, albeit with less police officers within those teams.
- TVP aimed to react to calls in a caring and swift way. He praised the Officers for doing a remarkable job and advised that they would always prioritise 999 emergency calls over 101 calls.
- Mr Campbell felt that TVP had a good record with serious crime investigations, but needed to get better at local crime solving.

- In the last year, there had been additional events to police including the President's visit, two Royal weddings and other major events, whilst also maintaining business as usual
- TVP was a large organisation, so they needed to ensure it ran efficiently to enable more resources to be focussed on operational policing.
- Stop and Search exercises had increased with a focus on knives and there had been very very few complaints about how officers had carried this out.
- There had been an increase in street robbery last year and also a dramatic increase in rapes reported since 2007. Mr Campbell felt that rapes continued to be underreported and he hoped there would be an increase in reporting, as victims should be supported effectively.
- There had been a focus on exploitation, which included county lines, fraud, modern slavery and child sexual exploitation. The Chief Constable reported that 80% of fraud was preventable.
- The hot summer had caused a spike in call volumes. There had been improvements in 101 call response times which had decreased from 8 minutes, down to 2 minutes.
- Mr Campbell discussed the challenges which officers faced in their line of duty, the most frequent crimes within the Buckinghamshire area and next year's priorities for TVP.
- He advised Council that although funding for additional officers had been promised by the Prime Minister, it would take time to recruit and train the right candidates

He finished by thanking Councillors for their support of the TVP force.

In response to Members' questions the following main points were noted:

- A violent crime strategy had been created to deal with knife crime across the Thames Valley. This had received some Government funding to help them deal with 'surge' activity. A multi-agency violent crime reduction unit had also been created and they regularly educated young people about dangers and created diversionary activities.
- Government funding didn't usually reach TVP until July and had to be spent by April.
- Problems with local motorist behaviours in Wendover and Halton, including regular speeding, would be passed back to the local Commander.
- Traveller communities and the impact they had on local people had been an issue. The laws around traveller communities were very weak and police could only move them on. Mr Stansfeld had met with the Home Secretary and had suggested that tighter rules were needed.
- There was no policing solution to fixing homelessness in town centres. Instead, this required a multiagency approach
- There had been a rise in reported crime; however, part of the reason for this had been the way crime classifications had been changed for reporting.
- Rape investigations had been particularly difficult to lead to a prosecution due to the fact they are often historic and lacked forensic evidence. Despite this, TVP remained committed to supporting victims
- TVP continued to attend local community events, such as the local area forums (LAFs) but needed to coordinate them around their existing duties. A member stated that the Buckingham LAF in particular had been well-attended and they had felt past police presence had been beneficial to residents and the officers

- who had attended.
- A member, who was also an Independent Custody Visitor, observed that there had been a marked improvement in how detainees were treated, over the last ten years and asked for this to be fed back to relevant colleagues.
 - Several of the Neighbourhood Action Groups had continued to be active and successful in High Wycombe, tackling many issues, not just speeding.
 - There had been funding issues to create enough locally-situated sexual assault referral centres, as these had to be multi-agency funded. TVP had dealt with this delicately and tried to minimise victim travel times when accessing a centre
 - TVP had been developing their capability for the public to report non-emergency incidents online. This project intended to reduce the burden on call handlers and on caller waiting times for 101 calls
 - Councillors were keen for community initiatives such as street associations to continue to be supported and funded by Mr Stansfeld's successor
 - Rural crime was recognised as a continuing issue, but had been successfully reduced, in particularly there had been a reduction in the theft of heavy plants and machinery. The increase in officers would help in rural areas.

The Chairman thanked Mr Stansfeld and the Chief Constable for their time and contributions and wished Mr Stansfeld all the best for the future.

6 CABINET MEMBERS' REPORTS

Leader

Mr M Tett highlighted the following points:

- He had experienced difficulty in meeting with Grant Schapps, Transport Secretary, to make Buckinghamshire's views on HS2 known, although he had managed to meet with 4 local MPs and a top Civil Servant from the Department for Transport.

In response to Members' questions the following main points were noted:

- The Leader had written to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State to express concerns over the HS2 independent review terms of reference and had questioned the appropriateness of having an ex-Chairman of HS2 chairing the review. Additionally, the only local government representatives had been supporters of HS2.
- There was concern about the amount of clearance work which had continued in Great Missenden, Steeple Claydon and Calvert despite the fact the HS2 project had been paused, pending a review outcome. The damage the clearance continued to cause was an environmental disaster.
- He congratulated Mrs Macpherson's leadership on the issue of HS2 and also expressed thanks to Mr Clare and Mr Chilver, saying he would support any further representations which were made
- East-West Rail connectivity should be a priority and would boost the Northern Powerhouse. A further concern about noise levels from HS2 on Oxford Road, Aylesbury if the line was raised, would be included in further communications with Central Government
- The Leader agreed to report back to Members on whether Buckinghamshire would be bidding for 5G broadband.

A Member encouraged the rest of the Council to take practical action against vegetation clearance and sign a petition which requested cessation of this action, as

100,000+ signatures would force a debate in Parliament.

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transportation

Mr P Irwin, Deputy Cabinet Member for Transportation attended to represent Mr M Shaw in his absence. He highlighted the following:

- Buckinghamshire County Council had won a Live Labs award for their work, which had introduced more solar panels, better connectivity and had initiated a 5G project. All actions would be better for the environment.
- The plane and patch programme continued into its 2nd year and had reduced potholes from 1000 per month, down to 40 potholes per month.

In response to Members' questions, the following main points were noted:

- Transport for Bucks and the Cabinet Member for Transportation received thanks for the plane and patch programme in Marlow, for the new sensors on Marlow bridge, for flooding reduction on London Road and for the work completed on the A4010.
- The weed spraying programme was nearly completed, with the third round due in a couple of weeks.
- Gully Smart was a new programme that had been implemented to improve gully maintenance and to reduce instances of flooding on new road surfaces.
- A lot of recent roadworks across Aylesbury Vale which had caused issues had been due to water companies. The Council worked hard to manage these situations effectively with contractors.
- Road resurfacing would continue until April, with a lot more done after the Christmas period.

Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health

Mr G Williams had nothing further to add to his report. In response to Members' questions, the following main points were noted:

- Once the Public Health grant was reduced, the Addaction-type services would be delivered in collaboration with multi-agency partners. A substance misuse task group with high level representation from partner agencies had already been formed. Prevention services were under pressure.
- A lot of work was being done to tackle male loneliness and depression. There had been social isolation workshops, run jointly with local community groups, and cross-agency commitments to tackling social isolation, such as by the street associations.
- The recent PREVENT Community Roundtable meeting had been well-attended with representation across many communities and also by the Home Office. Mr Williams hoped that all Community Leaders would take responsibility and play their part in their PREVENT duties.
- The Cabinet Member would consider the feasibility of lobbying for minimum unit pricing for alcohol in the UK, due to the success and significant sales reduction which had been achieved in Scotland.

Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Mr W Whyte highlighted the following:

- The Looked After Children (LAC) Celebration Event had been a really uplifting day and he wanted to thank the sponsors who had made the event possible.

In response to Member questions, the following main points were noted:

- Speeches from care leavers had been excellent and had worked very well

- The personal adviser service would continue for 16-18 year olds as it played a very important role in supporting them towards independence.

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

Mrs A Cranmer highlighted the following:

- She gave apologies on behalf of Mr Shaw, Cabinet Member for Transportation and for herself for the difficulties which children had faced with their Home to School Transport arrangements. All parents affected had received a letter of apology.
- All concerns and issues were being taken seriously and a team of transport professionals had been reviewing responses, so that similar issues would be avoided in future. Parents and Members had highlighted a number of general and specific concerns, which would take time to address.
- She thanked parents for the petition relating to eligible and discretionary travel passes and assured them that systems were being thoroughly reviewed.

In response to Members' questions, the following main points were noted:

- The possibility of implementing an automatic renewal system would be considered, so that parents would qualify for a school transport place until they opted out.
- Communications had been very poor when informing parents and issuing of discretionary passes had been too late in the process. The IT system had gone down over the August Bank holiday resulting in 1250 paid transport passes being sat in the system and unable to be actioned. The bus pass printer had failed halfway through the print run and the call system had been overwhelmed by the volume of calls.
- There were no plans to change policy in connection with children who passed their 11+ and wanted to attend a grammar school. There would be significant budget implications if the policy around grammar school transport were to change.
- GL Assessment had accepted full responsibility for the recent errors in 11+ testing and had confirmed that there would be no need for retesting. Members were reminded that the County Council had no influence over the choice of 11+ test providers.
- There remained some disparity in Black Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) groups and vulnerable groups of children attending grammar schools, but there were many initiatives in place to try and narrow the gap.
- A Member requested that the home to school transport policy should prioritise the welfare needs of the more vulnerable, younger children who would be making the transition from primary to secondary schools.

Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment

Mr W Chapple had nothing further to add to his report. In response to Members' questions, the following main points were noted:

- Members complimented the Cabinet Member on managing the budget effectively which had allowed Burnham Recycling Centre to remain open.
- Despite HWRC savings, the Bledlow HRC closure could not be reconsidered as the overall budget forecast still indicated a small overspend. In response to a question regarding flytipping on private land not being recorded as an incident by the Council, Mr Chapple explained that there was not sufficient resource to address tipping on private land, but the Council would take a prosecution to court on an individual's behalf if there was sufficient evidence.

- Following the formation of the unitary council, each of the existing district council Local Plans would continue and a new Buckinghamshire Plan would be developed as a priority, although this could take up to 5 years to finalise. In the interim, existing local plans would continue to apply.

Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

Mrs L Hazell expressed her thanks to the new provider who would be taking over Thrift Farm. She stated that the project was in its infancy and a lot of hard work remained.

The local Member, Mr Chilver, also expressed thanks and asked when the facility management would pass across. Mrs Hazell couldn't provide a finalised date as the decision has only been taken that week.

Cabinet Member for Resources

Mr J Chilver had nothing further to add to his report.

A Member informed Mr Chilver that he had been waiting for a response about the allocation of the Bledlow HRC site to a Community Interest Company. Mr Chilver informed the member that he had forwarded the response to officers and would ensure he received a reply.

7 NOTICES OF MOTION

Oxford to Cambridge Expressway

The Chairman advised that a Motion to Council: "OX-CB Expressway" had been received from Mrs Macpherson.

Mrs Macpherson proposed the motion and highlighted these points:

- There was a need to improve the road network but there was no evidence to justify the construction of a motorway through the north of the county.
- There would be both an environmental impact and the addition of thousands of new houses.
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) could be destroyed forever
- There had been a total lack of public consultation and visibility from Highways England on the Expressway project.
- It would be preferable to improve the existing local roads and support East-West Rail.

Mr Chilver seconded the motion and highlighted the following points:

- That Highways England had supported the worst route and had provided a poor example of how to consult on a major infrastructure project.
- The Expressway would not solve any existing transport issues and would destroy farmland.
- There would be very few junctions in the county, meaning residents would get all the noise and pollution but receive very few benefits.
- The Expressway would also create urban sprawl.

Mr Tett, Leader said that he wholeheartedly supported the motion and highlighted these points:

- He understood the stress this had caused residents

- The option of the most southern route would have delivered more benefits locally

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

- He also supported the motion
- The Council had to balance the responsibility for infrastructure, with the responsibility for the environment.
- There were opportunities to safeguard the green areas in Buckinghamshire through the development of the new authority's Local Plan
- He didn't see the need for the Expressway and suggested the council wrote to MPs and the PM to express everyone's views.

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

- Members felt that facts had been hidden from the public
- The location of the expressway would have a devastating effect on the environment
- Money could be spent more effectively and costs would be excessive
- The proposed plan wouldn't be a joined up or cohesive plan for Buckinghamshire. In 2020 the Unitary Council would have more of an opportunity to consider the needs of this county holistically
- AVDC had approved a similar motion the previous week.

The motion was voted on and was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: Council agreed to:

- (1) Oppose the Expressway project and support the electrification of the East-West Rail route for passenger and freight traffic as part of the strategic rail network. This includes to encourage these intermodal connections to East-West Rail and to discourage long distance freight by road.**
- (2) Support better east west public transport and active rail solutions.**
- (3) Develop alternative proposals which avoid the damaging environmental impacts of The Expressway.**
- (4) Continue to work with environmental groups including the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership to develop plans as part of vital mitigation if the Expressway does progress.**
- (5) Write to local MPs to express the Council's view, to outline to them the points detailed in resolutions (1)-(4), and to ask for their support in the Council's endeavours.**

Kashmir

The Chairman advised that a Motion to Council: "Kashmir" had been received from Mr Lambert.

Mr Lambert proposed the motion and highlighted these points:

- Buckinghamshire residents of Kashmiri heritage were very concerned for their families in Kashmir
- He gave examples of personal refugee experiences from within his own family and reported that some Bucks residents had been unable to contact their family members due to curfews, communication shutdown and power outages.
- There was a need to promote harmony in Buckinghamshire's diverse communities.
- He would write to MPs to raise awareness of local residents' concerns.
- He paid particular tribute to Adam Cheyo at AVDC for his community work.

Mr Tett, Leader seconded the motion and made the following points:

- The Council could not get drawn into taking sides due to the complexity of the divisions in Kashmir.
- He paid special tribute to the Kashmiri women who had attended the meeting to support the motion.
- Buckinghamshire had very good cross-community relations.
- He would write to the local MPs and the Foreign Secretary.

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

- Buckinghamshire had a large community who had been affected by this issue.
- Members were community leaders and had a moral obligation to foster community relations and fight against human rights abuses. They should convey the strength of feeling within Buckinghamshire, to the Foreign Secretary.
- In Kashmir there had been a 52 day curfew, with no hospitals or broadband and no action being taken to resolve the situation
- Residents were encouraged to write to MPs to raise awareness of the issue.
- Steve Baker MP received thanks for raising awareness of the issue.
- There were approximately 15,000 Kashmiris in High Wycombe alone and some Council members had been directly affected by the issues, due to their own Kashmiri heritage.

The motion was voted on and was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED: Council agreed that the Leader would:

- 1) Write to all our local Members of Parliament to make known the concerns of local Buckinghamshire residents of South East Asian heritage. This has to be done in a manner that does not seek to heighten tensions between different communities within the county and in particular respects the human rights of all concerned.**
- 2) Ask that the MPs listen to those concerns and raise them, as appropriate, with the Foreign Secretary**

Climate Change

The Chairman advised that a Motion to Council: "Climate Change" had been received from Mr Tett.

Mr Tett proposed the motion and highlighted these points:

- He felt this was one of the most important motions debated in the Chamber, over his 15 year career in politics
- 2013-2018 had been the warmest years on record and 20% of that rise occurred between 2011 and 2015.
- There was a threat to the oceans, with warming waters endangering coral reefs and melting Arctic ice.
- The UK accounted for 1% of carbon emissions and there needed to be a global reduction in emissions and energy usage, with the UK leading the way.
- The target to reduce carbon would be a challenge, but progress had already been made as more power was now being created from zero emission sources instead of from fossil fuels.
- Buckinghamshire had been playing its part for many years by recycling over 50% of waste, reducing landfill waste and moving to LED streetlights to save energy and reduce pollution.
- Mr Tett was keen to exploit Buckinghamshire's agricultural estate by reforestation to offset carbon.
- A roll-out of electric car charging points across Buckinghamshire would promote sustainable travel.
- The new Unitary Council would implement new planning policies to encourage energy efficiency and reduce reliance on gas boilers.

Mr Chapple seconded the motion. He would bring a report to the next Cabinet meeting and told Council that the streets of London had been packed with young people protesting against climate change on the previous Friday. He believed that the Council had a duty to pass the planet on to the next generation in good condition and made the following points:

- 2050 would be an achievable target to become carbon neutral and bringing that date forward was unrealistic, as behaviours needed to change.
- Whilst he understood the motives of the protestors, it was important to recognise that other countries were much bigger polluters than the UK and therefore should be encouraged to make changes.
- Making the necessary changes would require courage, commitment and finance. All residents would be required to change their lifestyle and standards.
- It had taken the council 10 years to complete the actions which had resulted in a 41% decrease in carbon emissions across the county.
- Infrastructure would be needed to support the switch to electric vehicles and consideration needed to be given to the sustainability of electrical supplies.
- He encouraged people to take action immediately to improve their own carbon consumption.
- The future Bucks Local Plan should encourage developers to create carbon neutral developments.
- He hoped there would be tree planting and the creation of meadows to support bees and other insects.

The Leader of the opposition, Mr Lambert, also supported the motion and made the following points:

- He thanked Mr Tett and Mr Chapple for incorporating his comments into the wording of the motion and agreed that this item was one of the most important debates to happen in the Chamber.
- He felt it was important for Buckinghamshire County Council to pass on an

- organisational memory of climate action to the new council.
- 70% of species on the planet would be at risk if action is not taken, this included humans.
- He paid tribute to Greta Thunberg as an inspirational young person.
- He noted that the Amazon rainforest had burnt uncontrollably and that global temperatures had risen to their highest levels, so now would be the time to take action.
- He praised young people who had actively educated people who were in a position of power and stated that he was proud of their actions, with the hope that this would be promoted in Schools
- He informed the Council that Alderman Davies and the High Sheriff had established SAVE (Save Aylesbury Vale Environment) and the Liberal Democrats had introduced recycling and a range of other environmental policies when they had controlled AVDC. He wanted all Members to act and lead the way in environmental change.
- At the recent Liberal Democrat Conference they had agreed a radical environmental policy. This policy gave local government new powers to be responsible for climate change, including the ability to cut emissions, to end fracking and to produce zero emissions by 2045.

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

- Members paid tribute to Greta Thunberg and the young people standing for climate change
- A more holistic view of planning and sustainability in communities would be welcomed in future
- There would be an economic cost to climate change. Leaders would need to analyse any improvements which could be made and any budget implications which these would lead to
- The Chiltern chalk streams were in a desperate state.
- The Council had many environmental achievements which were mentioned, notably the use of better building materials, solar panel and LED lighting upgrades, insulation and double glazing. All of these actions had delivered carbon reductions, improved energy efficiency and saved £1 million of the council's budget.
- The council had a duty to get a good return for their pensioners through the Pension Fund and responsible divestment would be supported
- Other countries and organisations, known to be the largest polluters, would be lobbied and encouraged to reduce carbon. A working group would be formed for this purpose and would include young people
- Buckinghamshire residents needed to reduce their energy usage
- Members looked forward to welcoming Buckinghamshire's plans for a carbon footprint reduction within the carbon audit report
- There was support for tree planting practices, to offset carbon output
- A target of 2050 for zero emissions was not thought to be ambitious enough and Members suggested that 2030 was preferred
- The environment should be at the heart of the corporate plan for the new council and the new local plan should encourage all developments to be carbon neutral
- Particular infrastructure projects were thought to be detrimental to the local environment, this included the expansion at Heathrow, which would destroy 1400 acres of green belt land and would require 6 rivers to be diverted

- Suggestions for moving action forward within Buckinghamshire included a plant a tree campaign, promotion of sustainable transport, educating children at school, introducing green waste recycling, increasing electric charge points and the provision of water refill stations
- J Wassell announced that she would be abstaining from voting as she had promised a group of children that she would support an amendment from 2050, to 2030, as the situation was an emergency and required urgent action. She could not support the motion in its current form and felt that she should have put forward this amendment herself.
- The public protestors were acknowledged and commended by several Members
- BCC had taken 10 years to reduce carbon by 41% and there would be new challenges including a rising population
- Everyone's cultures and standards would need to be changed to achieve the target and that had been why 2050 had been decided as the target date. Radical changes would need to be implemented including limiting air travel, transitioning residents to electric vehicles and reducing commuting. The Council would lead the way with these changes

The motion was voted on and carried, 1 Member abstained.

RESOLVED: Council agreed to:

- 1) **Recognise that the rate of climate change is a global emergency.**
- 2) **Recognise that, although the UK constitutes 1% of global carbon emissions, it must nevertheless play its part in leading the way in promoting change both in the UK itself and, importantly, globally.**
- 3) **Note the significant progress that Buckinghamshire County Council has made to date in addressing climate change.**
- 4) **Agree that the new Buckinghamshire Council should consider addressing climate change as a key issue.**
- 5) **Acknowledge the net-zero 2050 UK target, as contained in the 2008 Climate Change Act (as amended).**
- 6) **Commission a carbon audit pre assessment to gain an insight into the Council's carbon usage.**
- 7) **Recommend that Cabinet should further consider this issue, including what proposals, ahead of vesting day, the authority could implement to support this agenda. These proposals to include using the carbon audit gap analysis report to inform the policy decisions of the new Buckinghamshire Council once it is established next April.**

8 CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS TAKEN - INFORMATION ONLY

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be on 28th November 2019 at 9:30am in the Oculus room, The Gateway, AVDC Offices, Aylesbury.

CHAIRMAN

County Council



Youth Justice Strategic Plan

Thursday 28 November 2019

Report from Warren Whyte

Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Buckinghamshire Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2019-2020. The Youth Justice Strategic Plan provides details of progress made against the agreed outcomes for children and young people. It outlines priorities, alongside potential future challenges for the partnership over the coming year. In addition, the Youth Justice Strategic Plan highlights the partnership arrangements and budget position for the Youth Offending Service Partnership.

Background

2. Buckinghamshire Youth Offending Service is a multi-agency partnership between the Police, Children's Services, Health Services, Probation, Community Safety and both voluntary and private sector providers. The Youth Offending Service (YOS) plays a key role in keeping our communities, families, children and young people safe through the prevention of offending and reoffending, reduction in the use of custody and through contribution to multi-agency protection and safeguarding.
3. The Youth Justice Strategic Plan is produced in compliance with Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, which stipulates the following:
 - 'It shall be the duty of each local authority, after consultation with the relevant persons and bodies, to formulate and implement for each year a plan (a "youth justice strategic plan") setting out:
 - How youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded; and
 - How the Youth Offending Team (YOT) or teams established by them (whether alone or jointly with one or more other local authorities) are to be composed and funded, how they are to operate, and what functions they are to carry out.'
4. The plan also incorporates guidance from the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and must be submitted to the YJB for England and Wales and published in accordance with the directions of the Secretary of State.



5. Multi-agency YOT/YOS were established in 2000 following the 1998 Crime and Disorder Act with the intention of reducing the risk of young people offending and re-offending, and to provide counsel and rehabilitation to those who do offend. The act stipulates the composition of the YOT and identifies statutory partners to work alongside the Local Authority.
6. The YJB has set three national outcome indicators for all YOTs which form the baseline for performance information included within this year's plan. These are as follows:
 - i. Reduce the number of First Time Entrants (FTE) to the Youth Justice System
 - ii. Reduce Re-offending
 - iii. Reduce the Use of Custody
7. In 2018-19, 100 young people aged 10 to 17 entered the Youth Justice System in Buckinghamshire for the first time. This figure has reduced by 26.7% compared with 2017-18.
8. The custody rate in 2018-19 was 0.15 per 1000 of the 10 to 17 year old population in Buckinghamshire. This is lower than both the National average (0.30) and the South East (0.16), and is in line with the Thames Valley figure (0.15).
9. The number of young people remanded in custody increased in 2018-19. The number of bed nights accrued during this period increased by 70.1% compared to the previous year. This is reflective of the seriousness and nature of offending.
10. The proportion of young people reoffending within a 12 month follow up period has continued to fluctuate. The latest reported figures from June 2017, showed Buckinghamshire's rate of reoffending was 29.2%. This is lower than the National average (38.4%), the South East (36.7%) and Thames Valley (33.9%). There were 14 reoffenders in Buckinghamshire within this most recent cohort in comparison with 23 reoffenders in June 2014, representing a 39.1% decrease in the number of young people reoffending. Whilst the number of young people reoffending continues to fall, the numbers of offences per offender has increased, leading to an increase in average reoffending rate.
11. The YOS offers a prevention programme which monitors the young person for 12 months to see whether they commit any offences and subsequently become a first time entrant. Of the 87 young people offered a voluntary programme in 2017-18, 11 (12.6%) went on to commit offences and become a first time entrant within 12 months. All of these 11 young people refused the prevention programme they were offered.
12. The YOS relaunched its board to ensure partners were fully engaged in delivering a multi-agency response to local youth justice issues. During 2018-19, partners were consistent in attendance and engagement was positive.

Priorities for the coming year

13. Partners from voluntary and statutory services have engaged in the consultation of the Youth Justice Strategic Plan. In particular, colleagues attended a workshop delivered by

the YOS which identified opportunities to learn from recent inspections and also supported in identifying the priorities for 2019-20.

14. There are a number of systemic issues which lead young people into the Criminal Justice System. The YOS are keen to influence change across the organisation to not only prevent young people entering the Criminal Justice System but also to secure more positive outcomes for those that have already entered.
15. The YOS will underpin all the work they do on the following three areas to contribute to systematic change across the wider organisation.
 - i. Continuing to address disproportionality;
 - ii. Addressing exploitation of young people; and
 - iii. Embedding an evidence based model of practice

More specifically, priorities for 2019-20 will include:

- Raise awareness of and aim to reduce the exploitation of children and young people within organised criminal groups and in the supply of drugs (county lines).
- Aim to reduce repeat offending and serious youth violence by way of delivering trauma informed models of intervention.
- Strengthen engagement and intervention delivery with partners to reduce children becoming involved in violence through early intervention.

Recommendation

Council is asked to:

- 1. Approve the 2019-20 Youth Justice Strategic Plan for Buckinghamshire**

WARREN WHYTE

Appendix 1 – Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2019-20

Buckinghamshire Youth Justice Strategic Plan

2019 - 2020



Buckinghamshire
Youth Offending Service

SECTION 1	<p>Foreword Executive Summary Buckinghamshire Youth Offending Service (YOS) Priorities 2019-2020 National Outcome Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reducing First Time Entrants - Reducing Repeat Offending - Reducing the Use of Custody 	<p>P3 P4 P5 P6 P7 P8</p>
SECTION 2	<p>Local Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prevention Programme - Remand Bed Nights - Education and Health Care Plans - Children Looked After - Throughput Data 	<p>P9 P10 P11 P12 P13</p>
SECTION 3	<p>Resourcing and Finance Table Structure and Governance</p>	<p>P14 P15</p>
SECTION 4	<p>Addressing Overrepresentation Addressing Exploitation Embedding Evidence Based Practice Other Significant Areas of Work</p>	<p>P16 P17 P18 P19</p>
SECTION 5	<p>Management Board Members Appendix A – Buckinghamshire Youth Offending Service Budget Plan Appendix B – Buckinghamshire Youth Offending Service Staffing Appendix C – Glossary of Terms</p>	<p>P20 P21 P22 P23</p>

Welcome to the 2019-20 Youth Justice Strategic Plan

This plan gives an overview of the work of the Youth Offending Service (YOS) in Buckinghamshire, setting out details of performance over the past twelve months and our priorities for the coming year.

In Buckinghamshire, we work together in partnership to ensure our communities, families, children and young people are safe. The YOS plays a key role by helping prevent offending and reoffending, reducing the use of custody and contributing to multi agency public protection and safeguarding. The YOS does this by working together with its key partners to deliver high quality and effective services to young people, their families and the victims of offending. These partners include; the police, children's services, health services, probation, community safety and both voluntary and private sector providers.

Having attended my first Management Board meeting in March 2019, I have been delighted to see such a wide ranging and engaged group of attendees, representing both statutory and voluntary organisations. It is clear that the Board have a real focus on supporting, scrutinising and ultimately delivering effective and efficient Youth Justice services across the county. With this level of engagement, I am pleased that we are able to report outcome indicators in terms of youth offending in Buckinghamshire that paint a positive picture. Notably, there are low numbers of young people entering the justice system for the first time, lower levels of reoffending than comparative averages and there continues to be reduction in the use of custody, in line with the national trend.

Our strategic priorities for 2019-20 seek to reduce:

- the exploitation of children and young people within organised criminal groups and in the supply of drugs (county lines);
- repeat offending and serious youth violence by delivering trauma informed models of intervention; and
- children becoming involved in violence through early intervention.

Over the coming year, we will continue to embed the adopted enhanced case management model, with trauma informed practice at its core; ongoing work to further address disproportionality, and seeking a system wide approach to address exploitation of young people.

Aman Sekhon-Gill took up the challenge of Head of Youth Offending Services last year and has put in place structures and processes, with energy, drive and determination. The Youth Offending Service, with the support of a renewed Management Board, is creating an environment which will ensure high quality services are available to support young people, families and victims. As always, the Management Board is extremely grateful for the skill and dedication of those working in this arena. On behalf of the Management Board I am pleased to present the Youth Justice Strategic Plan for 2019-20.

Superintendent Michael Loebenberg – LPA Commander for Aylesbury, Thames Valley Police

<p>Staffing</p>	<p>Recruitment has presented significant challenges and as a result, the YOS were unable to appoint to all vacancies in a timely manner. Agency cover has been sought for staff maternity leave. One vacancy remains, and the workload has been distributed amongst the workforce. Efforts will continue to appoint a fully permanent workforce.</p>
<p>Strengthening preventative services</p>	<p>Thames Valley were successful in securing funding from the Early Intervention Youth Fund. The money has locally funded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x Full Time Equivalent Speech and Language Worker to work across 8 secondary schools, • 1 x Full Time Equivalent Youth Worker to work with children who are arrested but not charged. <p>In addition, theatre productions and bespoke mentoring have also been commissioned via this funding pot. Impact of this work will be evaluated throughout 2019-2020.</p>
<p>Work with partners</p>	<p>The YOS has delivered training to Social Care, Foster Carers, Care Homes and Education staff. This includes Restorative Justice as well as bespoke training on working with adolescence. The YOS have worked closely with colleagues in Social Care to contribute to the development of the revised Exploitation Hub. The YOS have also embarked on a bespoke piece of work looking at over-representation of Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) children which has been reported on in the Youth Justice Bulletin.</p>
<p>Outcome Indicators NB – all data is retrospective and historical. These are the official measures in relation to desistance.</p>	<p>1) First Time Entrants: 100 young people entered the youth justice system for the first time in Buckinghamshire in 2018. This is a 26.5% decrease on the 136 first time entrants in 2017. 2) Reoffending: The proportion of young people reoffending within a 12 month follow up period has continued to fluctuate. At 29.2% for April to June 2017, the rate of reoffending in Buckinghamshire is lower than the National average (38.4%), the South East (36.7%) and Thames Valley (33.9%). 3) Use of Custody: There were 0.15 custodial sentences per 1000 of the 10 to 17 year old population in Buckinghamshire during 2018-19. This is lower than the National average (0.30) and the South East (0.16), and is in line with the Thames Valley figure (0.15).</p>
<p>YOS board re-launch</p>	<p>The YOS relaunched its board to ensure partners were fully engaged in delivering a multi agency response to local youth justice issues. During 2018-19, partners were consistent in attendance and engagement was positive. Representation includes statutory, local authority and voluntary sector.</p>

Our Priorities for the Coming Year

Partners from voluntary and statutory services have engaged in the consultation of the Youth Justice Strategic Plan. In particular, colleagues attended a workshop delivered by the YOS which identified opportunities to learn from recent inspections and also supported in identifying the priorities for 2019-20. Prior to final plan being submitted, a draft was circulated for feedback and amendments were made accordingly.

There are a number of systemic issues which lead young people into the Criminal Justice System. The YOS are keen to influence change across the organisation to not only prevent young people entering the Criminal Justice System but also to secure more positive outcomes for those that have already entered.

The YOS will underpin all the work they do on the following 3 areas to contribute to systematic change across the wider organisation.

- 1. Continuing to address disproportionality
- 2. Addressing exploitation of young people
- 3. Embedding an evidence based model of practice

More specifically, priorities for 2019-20 will include:

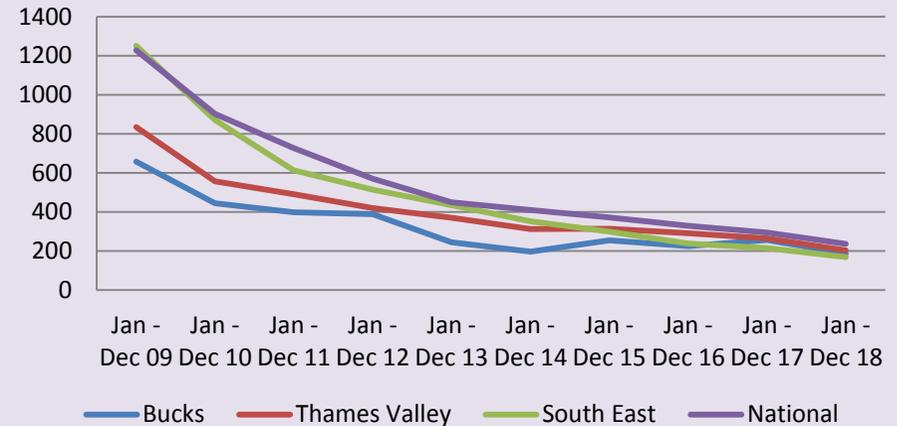
- Raise awareness of and aim to reduce the exploitation of children and young people within organised criminal groups and in the supply of drugs (county lines).
- Aim to reduce repeat offending and serious youth violence by way of delivering trauma informed models of intervention.
- Strengthen engagement and intervention delivery with partners to reduce children becoming involved in violence through early intervention.

First Time Entrants

100 young people entered the youth justice system for the first time in Buckinghamshire in 2018. This is a 26.5% decrease on the 136 first time entrants in 2017 and a 71.2% reduction on the 347 young people entering the system in 2009. At 186 per 100,000 10 to 17 year olds, the Buckinghamshire rate for 2018 is lower than the National average (236) and Thames Valley (203) but above that seen across the South East (168).

30

Trends in First Time Entrants per 100,000 10 to 17 Year Population 2009 - 2018



Risks to YOS Effectiveness

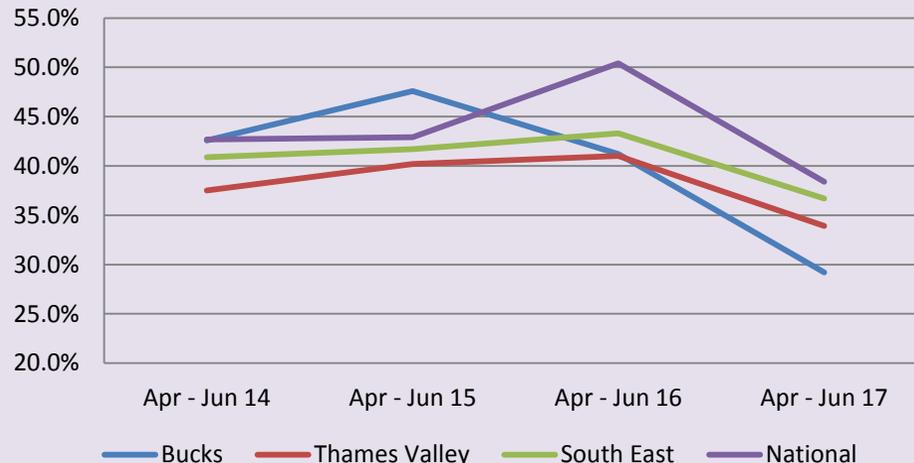
- Resources continue to focus on prevention; however, some of these resources are time limited (i.e. year long funding) which could impact future first time entrant rates.

Reducing Repeat Offending

The proportion of young people reoffending within a 12 month follow up period has continued to fluctuate. At 29.2% for April to June 2017, the rate of reoffending in Buckinghamshire is lower than the National average (38.4%), the South East (36.7%) and Thames Valley (33.9%). There were 14 reoffenders in Buckinghamshire within this most recent cohort in comparison with 23 reoffenders in April to June 2014, representing a 39.1% decrease in the number of young people reoffending.

31

Proportion of Young People Reoffending Comparative Cohorts 2014 - 2017



Risks to YOS Effectiveness

- Although numbers of young people repeat offending is reducing, the number of offences committed by those children is increasing. As a result, the cohort of children is becoming far more complex and require a more intensive approach to managing multiple needs.

Reducing The Use of Custody

There were 0.15 custodial sentences per 1000 of the 10 to 17 year old population in Buckinghamshire during 2018-19. This is lower than the National average (0.30) and the South East (0.16), and is in line with the Thames Valley figure (0.15). This represents 8 young people receiving custodial sentences in comparison with 7 in 2014-15.

Footnote: Please note there have been issues with a small number of Youth Offending Teams returning custodial data to the Youth Justice Board and as a result this data may be subject to minor inaccuracies. This should not impact on the overall trends.

Custodial Rate per 1000 10 to 17 Year Old Population, April 2014 - March 2019



Risks to YOS Effectiveness

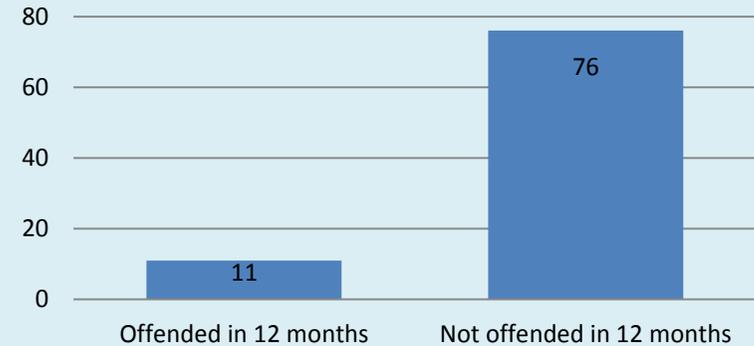
- An increase in the seriousness of offending means there is a risk that custody rates may increase. The YOS remain committed to reducing the use of custody by way of offering courts robust alternatives to custody; however, acknowledges there may be a small number of young people who commit very serious offences where custody is the only option to protect the public and prevent further victims.

Local Indicators

Effectiveness of Prevention Programmes

All young people offered a Prevention programme by Buckinghamshire YOS are tracked for 12 months to monitor whether they commit any offences and subsequently become a first time entrant.

Of the 87 young people offered a voluntary programme in 2017-18, 11 (12.6%) went on to commit offences and become a first time entrant within 12 months. All of these 11 young people refused the Prevention programme they were offered, therefore no intervention had been delivered by the YOS.

Prevention Programmes Offered 2017-18**What does this mean?**

- Once young people have engaged in a prevention programme, the YOS is able to demonstrate positive outcomes in the rates of children who then go onto offend.
- In contrast, when a child refuses the programme, the evidence suggests these children are most likely to end up in the Criminal Justice System.
- Young people are offered a programme and should the child not engage, no work is delivered.
- The YOS have realigned their existing prevention worker by way of direct engagement within a school setting, rather than a referral process. It is hoped this will increase engagement at the earliest possible opportunity.

Local Indicators

Remand Bed Nights

There has been a significant increase in both the number of young people remanded to custody and the number of bed nights accrued in 2018-19. This represents an increase of 70.1% in bed nights since 2017-18.

Please note that one of the young people remanded in 2018-19 remained on remand at the time of producing this data. Bed nights have been calculated to the end of March 2019.

34

No. of Remand Bed Nights (No. of Young People)



What does this mean?

- The length of time a child spends on remand has increased, alongside the number of children who have been on remand. This is reflective of the seriousness and nature of offending.
- This has a significant implication on finance, as all remand bed nights are paid for by the Local Authority with the Youth Justice Board providing a grant to support costs.
- Alternatives to custody and suitable bail packages will ordinarily be explored, unless the offence is so serious the YOS are not in a position to support bail and ensure public safety.

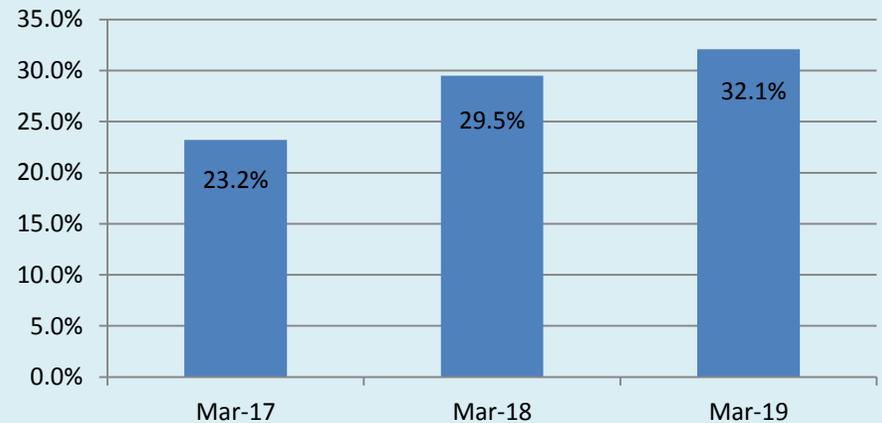
Local Indicators

Education Health and Care Plans

The following chart provides a snapshot from 3 comparative periods of the percentage of young people on the YOS caseload with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

There has been an increase in the overall percentage of young people open to the YOS with an EHCP over the last 3 years. In March 2019, there were 27 young people in this category, which is an increase from 23 in March 2017. However, it is important to note that within the last 12 months, data cleaning processes ^{on} have been introduced to enhance the accuracy of this data, which may therefore have impacted on the increase in percentage.

Snapshot of YOS Caseload with EHCP



What does this mean?

- The link between education and criminal justice has been well researched, and the YOS recognises the importance of ensuring young people have an appropriate plan in place to address educational needs.
- Although there has been an “increase” in children with an EHCP, this is yet to be tested in terms of whether the accuracy of recording has impacted the figures that are being recorded.
- This will continue to be monitored alongside education colleagues to ensure there is an understanding of educational needs of those within the Criminal Justice System.

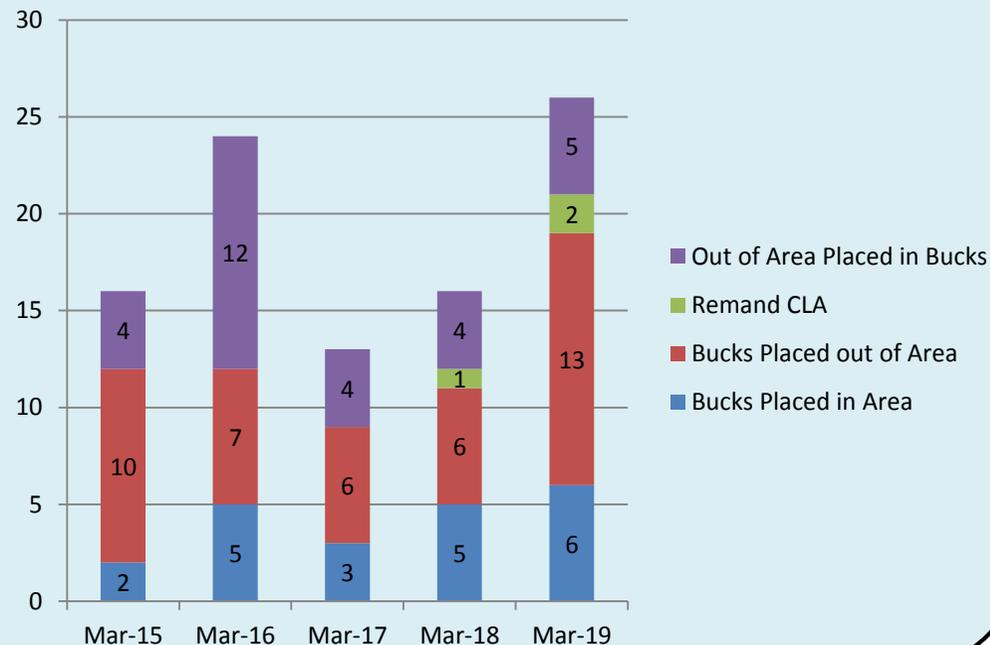
Local Indicators

Children Looked After

The following chart shows a snapshot of the YOS caseload by Children Looked After (CLA) over 5 comparative periods, broken down by their CLA status.

Between March 2015 and March 2019 there has been a significant increase in the percentage of young people on the YOS caseload who are Looked After. In actual numbers, this is an increase from 16 young people in March 2015 to 26 in March 2019 (62.5% increase).

More detailed analysis of the March 2019 cohort shows that 20 of the 26 CLA offended first, prior to becoming Looked After (76.9%). However, of the 20 young people who offended first, 15 were known to Social Care prior to committing their first offence. Therefore, 21 out of 26 (80.8%) were known to Social Care prior to committing their first offence.



What does this mean?

- This is reflective of national trends, where an increase in CLA is visible in the YOS cohort of children.
- It is recognised that the expertise of the YOS in working with adolescents within the criminal justice system can be shared across Social Care teams to ensure there is greater understanding of children considered “at risk”.
- The YOS currently deliver training using a real life case study to support social care colleagues to increase the awareness of children who are at risk of entering the criminal justice system.

The table shows that between 2017-18 and 2018-19 there has been a:

- significant decrease in the number of Buckinghamshire young people who have offended (26.6% reduction);
- a decrease in the number of offences being committed (5.7% reduction);
- an increase in the average number of offences per offender (0.8 increase); and
- a significant decrease in the number of disposals (25.5% reduction).

37

	2017-18	2018-19	Level of change
No. of Young People who Offend	229	168	26.6% decrease
No. of Offences Committed	617	582	5.7% decrease
Average No. of Offences Per Offender	2.7	3.5	0.8 increase
Number of Disposals	298	222	25.5% decrease

What does this mean?

- This is not dissimilar to the national trends where it is evident that although the number of young people who offend has decreased, the number of offences committed per young person who offends has increased.
- This demonstrates an increase in the complexity of the children who are being worked with, as it is recognised those within the system are responsible for repeat offending.
- There is a need to ensure staff are equipped and able to deliver interventions that meet these complex needs. As a result, the model of delivery the YOS have been trained on is Trauma Model.

Buckinghamshire YOS 2019-20 Budget

Partner Contributions 2019-2020	Staffing Costs (£)	Payments in Kind (£)	Other Delegated Funds (£)	Total (£)
Buckinghamshire County Council	507,389	-	155,378	662,767
Thames Valley Police	-	119,511	-	119,511
Clinical Commissioning Group	-	76,285	-	76,285
National Probation Service	-	48,019	5,000	53,019
Police Crime Commissioner	120,000	-	102,000	222,000
Youth Justice Board Grant	346,059	-	23,700	369,759
TOTAL	973,448	243,815	286,078	1,503,341

Budget Summary

- Overall, the YOS budget for 2019-20 demonstrates a reduction in funding of approx. £82,000 compared to 2018-19. The YOS has been creative in utilising funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner to support prevention work and allocating the majority of Youth Justice Board and Buckinghamshire County Council funding against the staffing establishment to deliver core statutory services.
- The YOS has reviewed all aspects of the service to consider where any additional savings can be made. This includes the use of sessional workers, holding a vacant post for 3 months (going into 2019-20) and use of one agency post to cover two establishment posts where staff are on maternity leave. The YOS will continue to regularly review funding to make best use of available resources.
- This has led to additional pressures on existing staff in not only managing caseloads but covering court-office duty. It is recognised that the cohort of children has become more complex and delivering statutory work is at times prioritised over the delivery of preventative interventions.
- The YOS have continued to receive posts in kind from Police, Probation, Clinical Commissioning Groups (Health Nurse, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services).

The Management Board is the strategic partnership body within Buckinghamshire that oversees the local delivery of responsibilities under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 for youth justice services and the Youth Offending Service.

Safer Stronger Bucks Partnership Board
(Crime & Disorder Partnership)

Youth Offending Service Management Board
(Strategic Overview)

Youth Offending Service

Health and Wellbeing Board

Buckinghamshire
Safeguarding Children
Board

Corporate Parenting Panel

Thames Valley Wide Meetings

- Local Criminal Justice Board
- Out of Court Disposal Scrutiny Panel
- Victims - Witnesses - Restorative Justice
- Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements
- Digital Working
- Reducing Reoffending
- Criminal Justice Liaison & Diversion

- Strategic Exploitation and Missing meeting
- Fair Access Board
- Multi Agency Child Exploitation meeting
- Channel - Prevent
- Youth Panel - court

39

What Have We Done?

- Sourced and analysed data enabling the YOS to have increased understanding of what the disproportionality issues are.
- Engaged partners in dialogue regarding disproportionality.
- Identified specific streams of work to develop an understanding of the cohort of children.
- Trained all staff in unconscious bias training.
- Worked with Thames Valley Police to review data on disproportionality.

**What Has the Impact Been?**

- Diversity statement added to all Pre Sentence Reports recognising over representation of BAME groups.
- YOS contract reviewed by Head of Equalities, BCC to ensure it is inclusive.
- Pilot programme commenced which screens decision making by multi agency partners in criminal justice by removing all information which may allude to young persons diverse needs in relation to BAME.

What Will We Do Next?

- Audit cases to assess impact of training and see improved assessments and intervention plans which are inclusive.
- Review impact of pilot programme where ethnicity is removed (by way of case studies).
- Task and Finish group set up to further understand local drivers of disproportionality. This aims to identify what YOS and partners can do differently to have a positive impact on disproportionality at an earlier stage.

What Have We Done?

- Identified a champion within the service who can support in leading on complex areas of exploitation.
- Raised awareness in the use of National Referral Mechanisms.
- Chaired a task and finish group identifying local picture of what exploitation looks like. This was reported into the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board's (BSCB) exploitation sub group
- Provided access to the front door service to the YOS database.

**What Has the Impact Been?**

- Increased referrals to National Referral Mechanism being accepted.
- Having access to YOS database at the front door means a holistic picture of the child is understood and any signs of exploitation are identified at the earliest opportunity.
- Member of BSCB exploitation sub group has meant YOS have been able to influence strategic direction in tackling exploitation.

What Will We Do Next?

- Release YOS champion to work within the Exploitation Hub within the social care front door service.
- Work closely with local businesses and communities to engage children in supervised reparation within their own communities, reducing the risk of opportunities to exploit.
- Utilise youth workers within the community to identify opportunities to deliver outreach youth work in "hotspot" areas.

What Have We Done?

- Trained all staff in Trauma Informed Practice.
- Reviewed aspects of service provision to ensure it is more trauma informed.
- Work with staff to identify how we can manage secondary traumatic stress and increase wellbeing of staff which can have a positive impact on children being worked with.
- Visited high performing local authorities such as Lewisham who have significantly reduced repeat offending through evidence based delivery of local youth justice services.

**What Has the Impact Been?**

- Enabled staff to identify ways in which to engage with children who are suffering complex trauma and secure positive outcomes.
- Focus on relationship based practice.
- Improved use of language in assessments which enables greater understanding of the experiences of the child.
- Increase in YOS staff training other professionals across organisations in Restorative Approaches - facilitator training, such as school staff, care homes and Social Care staff, ensuring consistency in approach for young people.

What Will We Do Next?

- Further evaluations of impact of Restorative approaches - facilitator training.
- Review all policies in line with a trauma informed model of delivery.
- Audit cases to identify evidence of relationship building in intervention plans and ensure assessments are trauma informed.

NATIONAL STANDARDS

- Revised National Standards were implemented as of the 1st April 2019.
- These standards define the minimum expectation for all agencies that provide statutory services to ensure good outcomes for children in the youth justice system.
- The YJB require all Youth Offending Services to undertake a self assessment which involves;
 - Auditing against standards of 20% of cases relevant to each standard with a minimum of 20 cases where possible; however to audit all custody cases against related standards.
- Methodology for self assessment will be agreed via YOS Partnership Board in September 2019 where a plan of action to complete this self assessment will be presented.
- A year end submission baseline against all the standard will be made and reported to YOS board.
- Gaps in provision will be identified, will form part of the local priorities and cited in Youth Justice Plan for 2020/21.

43

CONSTRUCTIVE RESETTLEMENT

- The YOS recognises that resettlement doesn't only include transition between custody and community; but views resettlement as an ongoing piece of work for all transitional points for young people. This includes resettling young people back into their communities.
- The YOS are building links to local businesses and community settings such as mosques and churches, to gain their engagement in supporting young people to volunteer, gain a skill set, complete meaningful reparation hours and increase attachment to their local communities
- The YOS are being flexible in ensuring professionals who will work with children upon release from custody commence the relationship with the child whilst they remain in custody

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- The input of strategic leads in health at the YOS board has created opportunities to develop increased links, maximise resource and create joint working opportunities to impact health and wellbeing for young people in a positive way.
- This includes Youth Justice Liaison and Diversion & Forensic Community Adolescent Mental Health Service (FCamhs) strategic leads.
- The YOS are also part of the Forensic Camhs stakeholder feedback group recognising the increase in young people with unmet mental health needs who may present a risk to the community

Michael Loebenberg – Superintendent – LPA Commander – Thames Valley Police – Chair

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard Nash – Service Director - Children’s Services, Buckinghamshire County Council • Errol Albert – Head of Safeguarding - Children’s Services, Buckinghamshire County Council / Amanda Andrews – Head of First Response - Children’s Services, Buckinghamshire County Council (rotate to represent Social Care) • Aman Sekhon-Gill – Head of Service - Youth Offending Service • Ollie Foxell – Operational Manager – Youth Offending Service • Becky Beer – Performance Review & Information manager - Youth Offending Service • Darren Frost – YJU Unit Police Officer - Thames Valley Police • Debbie Johnson – Senior Operational Support Manager - National Probation Service • Linda Ricks – SPO - National Probation Service • Lou Everatt – Head of Operations North - Community Rehabilitation Company / Katie Hunter – SPO TV - Community Rehabilitation Company (on rotation) • Marie Mickiewicz – Specialist Commissioning Manager - Commissioning, Buckinghamshire County Council • Alison Pocock – Magistrate - Youth Court Magistrates | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maria Edmonds – Education Strategy Manager - Buckinghamshire County Council / Viv Trundell – Education Entitlement Manager, Buckinghamshire County Council (Rotate attendance) • Sarah Holding – Deputy Head teacher Aspire (PRU) • Yvette Thomas – Equality and School Improvement Manager, Buckinghamshire County Council • Jenifer Cameron – CEO – Action4Youth (VCS) • Simon Barnett – Operations Director - Action4Youth • Helen Fortgang – Service Manager - Barnardo’s • Sandra Aaronson – Team Manager - Barnardo’s • Azad Khan – President - Ghausia Mosque • Angie Sarchet – Manager - Community Safety, Buckinghamshire County Council • Gareth Morgan – Head of Early Help, Buckinghamshire County Council • Sabrina Miller-Cummings - Service Manager - Switch Bucks, Young People Substance Misuse Service • Matt Lister – Consultant Forensic Psychologist - CAMHS • Joseph Franks – Service Manager - Liaison & Diversion |
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44

Total grant to be used exclusively for the delivery of youth justice services and for the purposes of the following outcomes:

Reduction in youth reoffending, reduction in the numbers of first time entrants to the youth justice system, reduction in the use of youth custody, effective public protection and effective safeguarding.

Expenditure Category	Description	£
Staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of effective assessment, intervention planning and supervision for young people at risk of offending or reoffending in Buckinghamshire. • Delivery of services to the victims of youth offending. • Development of key areas of practice such as SEND, Liaison and Diversion and restorative justice. • Analysis of performance information to inform practice development across all areas. • Delivery and development of Community Reparation and Unpaid Work. 	346,059
Overheads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expenses incurred by staff in carrying out core duties. • Development and training of staff in effective practice. 	10,200
Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of Core+ to support effective case management, timely submission of statutory data. and the use of connectivity to ensure mandatory documentation is shared securely with the Youth Custody Service. 	13,500
Total		369,759

TYPE OF ROLE	NO. OF STAFF	GENDER	ETHNICITY
Strategic Manager	1	F	Asian
Operational Manager	1	M	White
Team Manager	3	F – 2 M – 1	White - 3
Performance and Information	2	F – 2	White - 2
Early Intervention and RJ Co-ordinator	1	F	White
YOS Officer	10	F – 10	White – 8 Mixed – 1 Asian - 1
Probation Officer (seconded)	1	F	Black
Early Intervention Officer	1	F	White
RJ Support Worker	1	F	White
Education Officer	1	M	White
Youth Worker	2	F – 1 M – 1	White – 1 Black - 1
Police Officer (seconded)	2	F – 1 M – 1	White - 2
Linked Specialists: Addaction Worker (1) Connexions Worker (1) Clinical Psychologist (1) SALT Worker (1)	4	F – 3 M – 1	White - 4
Business Support (4) Finance (1) Reparation - Unpaid Work Officer (1)	6	F – 3 M – 3	White – 3 Mixed – 1 Asian - 1
Volunteers	24	F – 18 M – 6	White – 22 Black – 1 Asian - 1

BAME	Black Asian and Minority Ethnic
BCC	Buckinghamshire County Council
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CLA	Child Looked After
EHCP	Education Health and Care Plan
FAB	Fair Access Board
BSCB	Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board
MACE	Multi Agency Child Exploitation meeting
MAPPA	Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements
PCC	Police Crime Commissioner
STEM	Strategic Exploitation and Missing meeting
YJB	Youth Justice Board

County Council



Treasury Management Mid-Year Report

Thursday 25 November 2019

Report from Cabinet Member for Resources

Purpose of this Report

The Council is required to report to members on the current year's treasury management. It was agreed that a mid-year report on treasury management would be reported to Regulatory and Audit Committee prior to reporting to County Council as required by the CIPFA Code of Practice on treasury management in the public sector.

Background

- 1 In line with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice for Treasury Management and the Council's Financial Regulations (B5), this Council is required to provide Regulatory and Audit Committee with a mid-year report on the treasury management activity for the first six months of the financial year.
- 2 The Council's current strategy is to maintain borrowing and investments below their underlying levels, sometimes known as internal borrowing, in order to reduce risk and keep interest costs low. On 30th September 2019, the Council had net borrowing of £256.1m arising from its revenue and capital income and expenditure. Investments totalled £26.2m. The forecast outturn for interest earned on investments £489k. Loans outstanding totalled £282.3m at 30 September 2019; £250.1m was from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB), £30m LOBO loans and £2.2m accrued interest. The forecast outturn for interest payments on external debt is £8.6m.
- 3 The Code of Practice defines Treasury Management as:



The management of the organisation's investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.

Treasury Management Strategy

- 4 The Council approved the 2019/20 treasury management strategy at its meeting on 21 February 2019. The general policy objective for this Council is the prudent investment of its treasury balances. The Council's investment priorities are the security of capital and liquidity of its investments. The Council will aim to achieve the optimum return on its investments commensurate with the proper levels of security and liquidity. The effective management and control of risk are prime objectives of the Council's treasury management activities. In exceptional circumstances, where investments do not meet this criteria, decisions on investments will be delegated to the Director of Finance and Procurement in consultation with both the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Resources, or where considered appropriate will be referred to Cabinet for such a decision. The Council's cash position is a net borrower:

	31 Mar 2018	30 Sept 2018	31 Mar 2019	30 Sept 2019
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Borrowing				
PWLB Borrowing*	-102.1	-150.0	-243.5	-250.1
LOBO Borrowing#	-78.0	-30.0	-30.0	-30.0
Short term Borrowing	-32.0	-45.0	-20.0	0.0
Accrued Interest	-1.1	-1.0	-2.7	-2.2
Gross Borrowing	-213.2	-226.0	-296.2	-282.3
Treasury Cash				
Money Market Funds	15.3	4.8	5.5	21.2
CCLA Property Fund	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Total Cash	20.3	9.8	10.5	26.2
Net Cash / (Borrowing)	-192.9	-216.2	-285.7	-256.1

*PWLB Public Works Loans Board. The PWLB is a statutory body, part of HM Treasury, its purpose is to lend money to local authorities. The Council's main objective when borrowing money is to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving certainty of those costs over the period for which funds are required.

#LOBO Lender Option Borrower Option. LOBOs are long term borrowing instruments which include an option for the lender to periodically revise the interest rate. If the lender decides to revise the interest rate, the borrower then has the option to pay the revised interest rate or repay the loan.

- 5 All treasury management activity undertaken during the period complied with the approved strategy, the CIPFA Code of Practice and the relevant legislative provisions. There were no investments placed which resulted in a breach of the investment strategy.

Debt Management Strategy

- 6 The Council's borrowing objectives are:
- To minimise the revenue costs of debt whilst maintaining a balanced loan portfolio.

- To manage the Council's debt maturity profile, leaving no one future year with a disproportionate level of repayments.
- To maintain a view on current and possible future interest rate movements and borrow accordingly.
- To monitor and review the balance between fixed and variable rate loans against the background of interest rate levels and the Prudential Indicators.

Outlook for Interest Rates

- 7 Arlingclose's central case is for Bank Rate to remain at 0.75% for the foreseeable future but there remain substantial risks to this forecast, dependant on Brexit outcomes and the evolution of the global economy.

Interim Performance Report

- 8 The following table summarises interest paid on external debt and interest earned on cash balances in 2018/19 and the forecast for 2019/20:

	2018/19 Outturn	2019/20 Forecast
	£m	£m
Interest paid on Loans	8.7	8.6
Interest Income	-0.5	-0.5
Net Interest Cost	8.2	8.1

- 9 The Council's current strategy is to maintain borrowing and investments below their underlying levels, sometimes known as internal borrowing, in order to reduce risk and keep interest costs low. On 30th September 2019, the Council had net borrowing of £256.1m arising from its revenue and capital income and expenditure. Investments totalled £26.2m. The forecast outturn for interest earned on investments £489k. This includes £5m invested in the CCLA property fund.
- 10 Loans outstanding totalled £282.3m at 30 September 2019; £250.1m was from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB), £30m LOBO loans and £2.2m accrued interest. The forecast outturn for interest payments on external debt is £8.6m. In May the Council arranged a new equal instalment of principal (EIP) loan. EIP loans are where equal half-yearly instalments of principal are paid with the interest on the balance outstanding at the time. Annuity loans are where fixed half-yearly payments include principal and interest. A repayment of £7m is due to be paid to the PWLB on 14 February 2020. Instalments of loan principal will be repaid on annuity and EIP loans totalling £3.2m between 1 October 2019 and 31 March 2020.
- 11 The forecast external borrowing as at 31 March 2020 is £272.6m which includes £240.4m from the PWLB, £30m LOBO loans and £2.2m accrued interest. On 30 September, the Council had no short term loans in place. The Council's chief objective when borrowing has been to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving cost certainty over the period for which funds are required, with flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Authority's long-term plans change being a secondary objective. This strategy enabled the Authority to reduce net borrowing costs (despite foregone investment income) and reduce overall treasury risk.
- 12 The PWLB increased the margin applied to loan rates by 1% on 8 October, the new margin above gilts is now 1.8%. Arlingclose suggested that those authorities that can sensibly delay long-term funding do so and select shorter-term loans from other local authorities in the interim. There are several alternatives to PWLB funding, such a bank

loans and the municipal bonds agency. Arlingclose held a detailed discussion with HM Treasury (HMT) policy makers. HMT is keen to ensure borrowing across local government is controlled. They observed a clear correlation between the reduction in PWLB rates and the increase in borrowing undertaken in recent months. While they increased the statutory PWLB limit by £10bn to £95bn, they were fearful that, at the current rate of borrowing, this could be exhausted in a few months. With no appetite to extend the statutory limit beyond this, HMT decided to control demand by increasing rates, thereby preserving the facility. HMT are less concerned about the type of borrowing or purpose, than the overall level of local authority debt.

- 13 The Council continues to be aware of the potential to restructure debt, but there are unlikely to be opportunities in the prevailing interest rate environment.

Prudential Indicators

- 14 Each year, the Council agrees Prudential Indicators under the Local Government Act 2003 which are affordable, prudent and sustainable. The indicators were agreed by County Council at its meeting on 21 February 2019.

Borrowing Indicators

- 15 The Capital Financing Requirement measures the Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes. This is essentially the Council's outstanding debt, necessary to finance the Council's capital expenditure. The actual debt is dependent on the type and maturity of the borrowing undertaken as well as seeking the optimal cashflow situation.
- 16 Comparing gross debt with the capital financing requirement is an indicator of the Council's prudence in managing its capital expenditure and is designed to ensure that, over the medium term, external borrowing is only for capital purposes. The Council should ensure that gross debt does not, exceed the total of capital financing requirement. The values are measured at the end of the financial year. Where gross debt is greater than the capital financing requirement the reasons for this will be stated in the annual treasury management strategy.
- 17 The authorised limit for external debt is required to separately identify external borrowing (gross of investments) and other long term liabilities such as covenant repayments and finance lease obligations. The limit provides a maximum figure that the Council could borrow at any given point during each financial year.
- 18 The Operational Boundary for External Debt is a key management tool for in-year monitoring and is lower than the Authorised Limit as it is based on an estimate of the most likely level of external borrowing at any point in the year. In comparison, the authorised limit is the maximum allowable level of borrowing.

Indicator	Unit	Revised Estimate 2019/20	2019/20
Gross Borrowing	£000	425,000	425,000
Capital Financing Requirement	£000	462,767	468,208

Indicator	Unit	Revised Estimate 2019/20	2019/20
Authorised limit (for borrowing) *	£000	435,000	435,000
Authorised limit (for other long term liabilities) *	£000	10,000	10,000
Authorised limit (for total external debt) *	£000	445,000	445,000

* These limits can only be breached with the approval of the full Council to raise the

Indicator	Unit	Revised Estimate 2019/20	2019/20
Operational boundary (for borrowing)	£000	405,000	405,000
Operational boundary (for other long term liabilities)	£000	7,500	7,500
Operational boundary (for total external debt)	£000	412,500	412,500

Treasury Management Indicators

- 19 The Council measures and manages its exposures to treasury management risks using the following indicators.
- 20 **Security:** The Council has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to credit risk by monitoring the value-weighted average credit rating of its investment portfolio. This is calculated by applying a score to each investment (AAA=1, AA+=2, etc.) and taking the arithmetic average, weighted by the size of each investment. Unrated investments are assigned a score based on their perceived risk.

Credit risk indicator	Indicator as at 30 September 2019	Target
Portfolio average credit rating	AA-	A

- 21 **Liquidity:** The Council has adopted a voluntary measure of its exposure to liquidity risk by monitoring the amount of cash available to meet unexpected payments within a rolling one month period, without additional borrowing.

Liquidity risk indicator	Actual	Target
Total cash available within one month	£29m	£10m

- 22 **Interest rate exposures:** This indicator is set to control the Council's exposure to interest rate risk. The upper limits on the one-year revenue impact of a 1% rise or fall in interest rates will be:

Interest rate risk indicator	Actual	Limit
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% <u>rise</u> in interest rates	-£36,000	-£23,000
Upper limit on one-year revenue impact of a 1% <u>fall</u> in interest rates	£36,000	£23,000

23 The impact of a change in interest rates is calculated on the assumption that maturing loans and investments will be replaced at current rates.

24 **Maturity structure of borrowing:** This indicator is set to control the Council’s exposure to refinancing risk. The upper and lower limits on the maturity structure of borrowing will be:

Refinancing rate risk indicator	Actual 30 Sept 2019	Upper limit	Lower limit
Under 12 months	10%	25%	0%
12 months and within 24 months	2%	20%	0%
24 months and within 5 years	7%	20%	0%
5 years and within 10 years	20%	25%	0%
10 years and above	61%	70%	25%

25 Time periods start on the first day of each financial year. The maturity date of borrowing is the earliest date on which the lender can demand repayment.

26 **Principal sums invested for periods longer than a year:** The purpose of this indicator is to control the Council’s exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments. The limits on the long-term principal sum invested to final maturities beyond the period end are:

Price risk indicator	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Actual principal invested beyond year end	£0m	£0m	£0m
Limit on principal invested beyond year end	£10m	£10m	£10m

Recommendation

Council is asked to:

- 1. Agree the Treasury Management Mid-Year Report and the Prudential Indicators for 2019/20.**

CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES



County Council

Cabinet Member Reports

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL



Unitary

Delivering the new Buckinghamshire Council programme continues to make good progress with five months now until vesting day.

Following the appointment of Rachael Shimmin as Chief Executive in the summer, we have now appointed the Corporate Management team for the new council, following a nationwide search and rigorous selection process. The new team are:

- **Sarah Ashmead**, Deputy Chief Executive of Buckinghamshire Council. Sarah is currently the Director of Resources and Assistant Chief Executive at the County Council.
- **Richard Barker**, Corporate Director for Communities. He has recently worked at the London Borough of Waltham Forest as their Corporate Director of Communities.
- **Joe O'Sullivan**, Corporate Director for Resources. Joe has undertaken a similar role within the Armed Forces and has recently worked with Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police.
- **Gill Quinton**, Corporate Director for Adult Services and Health. Gill is the county council's current Executive Director for Communities Health and Social Care.
- **Ian Thompson**, Corporate Director for Planning, Growth and Sustainability. Ian is currently Corporate Director Regeneration and Local Services at Durham County Council.
- **Tolis Vouyioukas**, Corporate Director for Children's Services, moving from his current role as Executive Director Children's Services at the County Council.

This is a really strong senior team for the new Buckinghamshire Council that will put our exciting new organisation in the best possible position as we go live in April 2020 and for the future.

We have also agreed a new logo for the new council. This followed some really high quality design work from a team of officers drawn from the existing councils. We took some of the best designs out to consultation and following this agreed a new modern design, which we will start to see in the new year as part of our communications plan to raise awareness of the new council and how it will operate.

We are continuing to consult on key aspects of the new council. We recently consulted on the new council's budget and priorities, which closed on 25 November 2019. At the time of writing, this consultation had attracted over 2,100 responses.

Work on localism is also taking shape with proposals on Community Boards progressing following a public consultation, and an approach to devolution of assets and services agreed by the Shadow Executive on 12 November 2019. Council Access Points will be in place across the county for day one of the new council, and the locations will be confirmed and communicated in December 2019.

There is still a lot to do, but we remain confident we will have everything necessary in place for the new Council on 1 April 2020.

Growth

Luton Expansion

London Luton Airport Limited (LLAL) is currently undertaking their statutory consultation on their proposed expansion plans to construct a new terminal facility and associated infrastructure to increase the airport's capacity to 32 million passengers per annum from the current 18 million capacity. The consultation is running from 16 October until 16 December 2019. Details can be found at [Future Luton consultation](#). The main areas of consideration for Buckinghamshire are:

1. Airspace impacts from an increased number of flights over northern Buckinghamshire and the Chilterns AONB,
2. Securing improved transport links to the airport for Buckinghamshire residents and businesses, and
3. Securing and improving access to skills and employment benefits for Buckinghamshire residents and businesses.

Buckinghamshire is identified by LLAL as one of the three counties (along with Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire), that would be rewarded with proposed economic benefits of the airport's expansion, including a share of the projected 9,000 new jobs created across the three counties. London Luton Airport is also one of the top 20 private jet airports in Europe and can provide Buckinghamshire residents and businesses with greater international links and investment opportunities.

Oxford to Cambridge Arc

The [Oxford-Cambridge Expressway route options consultation](#) has been officially delayed due to the upcoming election. Highways England has said that they will provide an update on the timeline next year. Highways England had previously asked Buckinghamshire County Council and Aylesbury Vale District Council for assistance to promote the consultation through our channels. However, we have agreed that the councils will not be publicising the consultation and will instead signpost to the Highways England Website.

Buckinghamshire Strategic Infrastructure Tool (BSIT)

As part of the Buckinghamshire Growth Board, work continues to develop the BSIT. This tool will be an interactive dataset to collate and profile (cost and delivery data) of infrastructure schemes known to be required to support growth across Buckinghamshire to 2033/36, in line with current Local Plans. Once complete, BSIT will provide a Buckinghamshire picture of the needed infrastructure to support the growth already agreed in local plans to 2033/36. Observations across the full suite of information will be drawn into a single, narrative report detailing identified trends and implications for the strategic vision for infrastructure provision in the County. The BSIT project is anticipated to be completed in March 2020.

HS2

Review of HS2

On 21 August 2019 the Government officially launched a 'go/no go' review of HS2. While it was widely reported that findings would be submitted to the Secretary of State in autumn 2019, it is now widely expected that the review will not be released ahead of the General Election on 12 December 2019.

Letters to the Secretary of State for Transport, and protest activity

Two letters were sent to the Secretary of State for Transport on 27 August 2019 and again on 21 October 2019 to ask the Government to cease all work in the county and the official Notice-to-Proceed to contractors ahead of the results of the review.

A response received on 18 September 2019 to the first letter in essence confirmed that, 'HS2 Ltd will continue limited work in parallel with the review to avoid delaying the project should the Government decide to continue'. At the time of writing this report, no response has yet been received to the second letter.

A large area of vegetation is being removed in the Calvert area despite the actions of local residents, who for 18 days kept the work at bay, until they were threatened with arrest after HS2 produced sufficient paperwork which showed ownership of the land.

Mitigation works to Link Road in Great Missenden were also due to commence on 15 October 2019 but this did not take place as many protesters and local residents objected to the removal of a number of trees, which would have been required to enable the work.

Based on the strength of feeling from local residents, the Council has now secured significant changes following a meeting with HS2 Ltd on 29 October 2019. This means most of the trees will remain untouched and works on Link Road have now been delayed until Feb/ Mar 2020, ahead of peak construction traffic along the A413.

Broadband

We are continuing to improve broadband connectivity in the county through the Connected Counties Programme. Currently 95.9% of all premises in the county can access superfast broadband, which is beyond the original goal of the Connected Counties Programme of 95%.

Recently, Buckinghamshire County Council wrote a letter of support for a consortium, who are seeking funds from central government to trial 5G technology in rural areas such as those within Buckinghamshire. These trials aim to show how better-connected residents can benefit from upcoming technical evolutions to medical and support services; and we will continue to work with those partners to shape this work.

Central government recently announced its support of the Shared Rural Networks paper put forward by Mobile Network Operators (MNOs). This paper proposed that MNOs should be able to pool their resources and funding in rural areas to improve the poor cellular coverage in some areas within the country. We are currently looking at these proposals and will work with the MNOs to better understand how we can ensure that Buckinghamshire's rural areas are included within their plans.

Brexit

As requested by government, and building upon our robust preparations for Brexit, Buckinghamshire County Council, working in close partnership with the district councils, prepared extensively for the possibility of a no deal Brexit on the 31 October 2019, working with partners across the voluntary, private and public sectors.

On 26 September 2019, the Buckinghamshire Councils held a multi-sector workshop bringing together 48 representatives from the county and district councils, Thames Valley Police, Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, NHS Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group, FedBucks, Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service, and Buckinghamshire Business First (BBF). Additional workshops were held with representatives from the local voluntary and community sector on 11 and 18 October 2019, while BBF organised a "Get Ready for Brexit" event aimed at businesses held on 16 October 2019 in High Wycombe.

In addition to supporting the EU Settlement Scheme in Buckinghamshire and undertaking resilience preparations (working in close partnership with public sector partners as coordinated by the Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum), Buckinghamshire councils, in partnership with BBF, agreed an innovative programme to boost local Small and Medium Enterprises' (SMEs) productivity and readiness in preparation for a possible no deal exit at the end of October 2019. Although the date for a possible no deal Brexit has now been pushed back to 31 January 2020, our Brexit Readiness Programme continues uninterrupted until the end of 2019 and it is hoped that this will continue to boost business productivity and resilience in Buckinghamshire, whatever the eventual outcome of Brexit.

Please visit the government [website](#) for information on national preparations and guidance on Brexit. For local government preparations, you can visit the County Council's [Brexit pages](#) or BBF's [website](#) for local businesses preparations. Alternatively, you can also contact Marco Dias mdias@buckscc.gov.uk.

MARTIN TETT
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

**DEPUTY LEADER & CABINET
MEMBER
FOR
TRANSPORTATION**



Reducing Priority Defect Numbers

Transport for Bucks (TfB) has seen success this year in reducing the numbers of priority highway defects. The Plane and Patch programmes completed in 2018 and 2019 continue to play a huge part addressing defects before they deteriorate to a priority status. The requirement for urgent treatment following report/identification places a burden on the teams and means that efficiencies are lost, overall outputs are lowered and reactive traffic management must be installed, which disrupts journeys. This is aside to the obvious direct safety implication of high numbers of significant defects on the network. Greater numbers also inhibit our ability to do higher quality, first time permanent repairs.

This is why the success over the last 18 months in reducing the numbers by a factor of around 30 should not be underestimated. Figures for 2019 are shown below (2018 comparative figures in brackets):

- | | | | |
|---------|-----------|-------------|----------|
| • April | 45 (1219) | • August | 20 (257) |
| • May | 39 (960) | • September | 28 (128) |
| • June | 75 (440) | • October | 74 (121) |
| • July | 58 (249) | | |

Note: October 2019 rise is due to the very wet weather experienced in late August and through September.

Resources are now able to concentrate on full repairs to more minor defects, undertaking preventative work to stop potholes from forming rather than reactive repairs.

Street Lighting update

The following summarises key work undertaken by the Street Lighting team in 2019:

270 of the 379 columns due for replacement this financial year were completed by the end of October and we will finish the rest during November and early December, replacing life-expired street lights in High Wycombe, Beaconsfield and the South Buckinghamshire areas. In all cases, we have taken the opportunity to install LED lanterns whilst replacing the column. The columns we've changed are primarily those shown by structural testing to require urgent replacement, although the figures also include columns with accident damage.

In addition, we have converted 2,443 lanterns to LED since April; meaning around 18,000 lanterns out of an overall stock of 29,000 are now LED. In November and early December we will be upgrading lighting in the majority of main pedestrian subways in the county to LED technology.

We have successfully repaired more than 95% of all faults within the nationally recommended 28 working days. Overall, the numbers of outages identified monthly are down to around 50% of 2017 figures, due to LED conversions and resultant abilities to programme work more efficiently.

In addition, outstanding stumps (cut down columns) are down to low and manageable numbers with the majority now addressed within a maximum two month period. Traffic islands across the county are also being targeted for repair / upgrade within the current programme.

Update of Progression of Weed Treatment

Since April, TfB's contractors have sprayed just under 10million square metres of hardstanding areas (e.g. footways, channels and kerb lines) with herbicide, to arrest the unchecked development of weed growth seen in recent years across the county. This equates to three sprays cross county.

The herbicide is an approved non-residual spray which kills weeds through direct contact. It is only effective on weeds that exist, does not remain in the ground and does not prevent the formation, or reformation, of weed growth.

Sprays one and two were successful with die back evident across the county. Spray three has been inhibited by wet weather throughout late August and September and has been less effective in inhibiting new growth.

Since June, when die back was evident, mechanical sweepers have been active in the county removing dead growth from channel and kerb line areas. This has the added bonus of removing general detritus in channels, thus further inhibiting repeat growth and removing a source of silt which enters drainage systems. The sweeping activity is however significantly slower than the spraying programme and will therefore continue throughout the winter, complemented by gangs continuing to work by hand to remove more established areas of growth which spraying/sweeping has not been effective in removing.

TfB are also engaging with Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Local Nature Partnership to develop a sustainable strategy for roadside verge management.

Winter Readiness

As usual, preparations have been ongoing for winter, with over 10,000 tonnes of salt used to restock depots and resilience stores, servicing of our fleet of 27 spreading vehicles and preparation of rotas of decision makers, depot managers and drivers ahead of the start of the winter season in mid-October. We successfully completed our first full precautionary salting treatment of the year in late October. Whilst tentative long range forecasts suggest a wet and relatively mild period up to the New Year, we remain ready 24 hours per day to deal with whatever the weather may throw at us to keep the main road network open and safe for use.

2019/20 Capital Delivery Programme

During 2019/20 over £24million is being 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.

Autumn continues to be a very busy period for TfB across all work streams, with multiple activities including the delivery of the carriageway and footway surfacing programmes and the continuation of improvement work across other areas including casualty reduction, drainage, traffic signals and bridges.

Actual spend to the end of October exceeded £18million (around 75% of overall annual budget spend).

A further programme of machine patching/plane and patch works will start shortly and continue up to the end of March 2020 alongside other design and pre-construction activities.

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

MARK SHAW
DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORTATION

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



Seasonal Flu Campaign

Influenza is a common winter illness which can be very serious, especially for people with long-term health problems, older people, pregnant women and children. The County Council is supporting the NHS flu vaccination campaign, making free flu jabs available to Council staff and offering vouchers to care home staff and teachers in non-academy schools. So far the uptake has been very good, and extra flu jab clinics have had to be provided in order to meet the demand. The annual school vaccination programme has also started, with school nursing teams this year providing the nasal spray flu vaccine to all primary school year groups.

Greater vaccine coverage produces “herd immunity”, which means that even people who are unable to be vaccinated are still protected to some extent by the fact that most of the people around them will not catch the virus. This is why even healthy people with no risk factors might want to consider getting vaccinated, especially if they have a relative or friend who is high-risk.

The Council is developing a social media campaign targeted at raising awareness amongst pregnant women, parents and people with long-term conditions. The targeting is based on data about which groups in Buckinghamshire had lower uptake of the vaccine in previous years, and research evidence about overcoming common barriers to vaccination.

Buckinghamshire Tobacco Control Alliance

A new Tobacco Control Alliance brings together partners in Buckinghamshire to progress the newly published Tobacco Control Strategy. The most recent meeting in October was attended by 13 different organisations.

The strategy aims to:

- 1) Continue to reduce smoking prevalence rates
- 2) Reduce the harms associated with second hand smoke
- 3) Reduce the supply and demand of illicit tobacco.

The Alliance is working to update and develop the strategy’s annual action plan, which is monitored by the County Council’s Health and Wellbeing Board.

Social Isolation

On 25 and 26 September a workshop focussing on tackling social isolation was held and was well attended by over 30 key partners. The workshop brought together colleagues from across local government, the NHS (including Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, Oxford Health NHS

Foundation Trust, South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust and the NHS Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group), the Police, Fire Service and Department for Work and Pensions along with key voluntary sector colleagues.

The sessions were facilitated by the [Design Council](#) (the government's lead advisors on design) and focussed on the challenge of social isolation at key life events and for people with limiting long-term conditions and disabilities.

The ideas from the workshop are currently being reviewed by the Public Health team.

Alcohol, Services and Us - Multi-agency Workshop

It is clear from the most recent Director of Public Health Annual Report 2019, Alcohol and Us, that alcohol is a part of many of our lives. More than 1 in 4 adults (over 100,000 adults in Buckinghamshire) drink at levels above those recommended by Chief Medical Officer for England.

In Buckinghamshire there are specialist services in place to help residents with a level of alcohol dependency, but we need to do more to get people who can benefit from this help into these services. The Council held a multi-agency workshop on 17 October which focussed on increasing engagement with alcohol services including developing and improving referral pathways from a variety of frontline service professionals. The workshop was attended by almost 40 people from a range of organisations and actions have been identified to increase the number of people who are accessing specialist support. This work will be taken forward by the Drug and Alcohol Strategic Group.

Promoting Mental Wellbeing

Buckinghamshire County Council has a programme of work to promote mental health wellbeing. As part of the local 'Time to Change' programme there are currently 49 champions in Buckinghamshire supporting activities in their organisations or communities, and the work of the Time to Change Hub this year has a focus on supporting men.

Mental health first aid training teaches people how to identify someone who is experiencing mental health problems, talk to them about it and then signpost them to where they can access support. Suicide first aid training provides people with the skills and knowledge to identify someone who may be thinking about suicide and then the confidence to talk to them about it.

Buckinghamshire has also recently received funding for one year to implement a suicide liaison support post which the Council will shortly be commissioning. This post will provide practical support to families and friends by actions such as attending Coroners' reviews and inquests with them and helping with the legal aspects. We are expecting the new service to start in the spring.

Summer Reading Challenge



This year over 4,600 children took part in Buckinghamshire Library Service's Summer Reading Challenge. Children had to borrow and read at least six books of their choice between 13 July and 7 September, getting rewards for every two books read, including stickers, wristbands, certificates and medals. More than 70 young volunteers aged 12-24 were also involved with helping to run the challenge this year.

The Council's library staff promoted the programme with a variety of space-themed events and competitions taking place across the county.

Winslow Community Library

Plans are being developed to deliver a new library for Winslow as part of a wider regeneration project that will include new residential and extra care housing, open space provision and buildings for community use.

It had been originally proposed to relocate the existing library to temporary accommodation while the demolition of the site took place as the demolition of all the buildings together was a sensible and workable option, but concerns were raised by both residents and the Town Council. As a result of these concerns, the Council will be looking at an additional option to retain the current library building for the time being rather than its demolition. Subject to costs and other practicalities, this option will form part of the overall business case which will be considered by Cabinet.

Trading Standards

Work continues to take place with Thames Valley Police to tackle under age sales of knives, as part of the Police operation 'Sceptre'. An underage volunteer recently made five attempts to buy knives from shops in Aylesbury. All attempts were refused which is a great improvement on the last round of test purchasing when 43% of sales were made.

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

**CABINET MEMBER
FOR
CHILDREN'S SERVICES**



Foster carers Annual Awards

On Friday 4 October at The Dairy, Waddesdon, we hosted our annual foster carers awards to recognise the huge commitment from our carers to the children in their care. In addition to certificates awarded to foster carers for long service and training achievements, there were also four awards for special achievements: Best Newcomer, Foster Carer of the Year, Willow Award (celebrating the courage and dedication that foster carers bring to their role each day) and the Emergency Award. Nominations for these awards were submitted and the winners were decided by a panel of judges.

This year's awards went to:

- Best Newcomer: Sam Hines and Aidan O'Neil
- Foster Carer of the Year: Rachel and Barry Porter
- Willow Award: Denise and Michael Wiles
- Emergency Award: Rose and Ted Farrar

Our fostering awards evening is just a small way of showing appreciation for all the fantastic commitment from our carers day in, day out. Without this brilliant group of carers, many children's lives just wouldn't be the same. We are extremely proud of everything our carers do to change children's lives for the better and would like to personally thank each and every one of them.

As lucky as we are to have our current group of foster carers, there are still children out there in need of a foster home close to their local community and we need more foster carers to look after them. Our informal fostering information events offer an opportunity to find out what is involved in becoming a foster carer. Please see the upcoming dates below:

- Wednesday 18 December 2019, 7pm to 8:30pm - Buckingham Opportunities Centre, Buckingham, MK18 1EN.
- Wednesday 15 January 2020, 7pm to 8:30pm - Buckinghamshire County Council, County Hall, Walton Street, Aylesbury, HP20 1YU.

MASH Open Days

In recent months, the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) has opened its doors and invited our partner agencies to spend time with us to see how the MASH functions. Partners can spend time with managers, staff and our Contact and Referral Officers, who handle incoming calls. This shows them the journey of a child/young person and family from the moment they enter the 'front door' to the point in which a decision about the next stage in their journey is made. Partners have the opportunity to ask questions, look at statistical information about the level of contacts we receive, where they originate from and the likely outcomes. We believe that these days offer us a

great opportunity to showcase our work, get to know our partners better and share good practice. It also helps us develop our service and strengthens our relationships.

So far, we had a wide range of visitors from Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) in Schools, staff from the Police and Crime Commissioner's office to environmental health officers. A few examples of the feedback we have received are shown below:

"I genuinely can't fault the experience. It was honest, transparent, welcoming and educational."
(Deputy Headteacher)

"Having been a DSL for 6 years, this is the first time that I have been given an oversight of what happens when we make a phone call in to First Response or complete a Multi-Agency Referral Form. I could have stayed the week. It was fascinating, eye opening and informative."
(Designated Safeguarding Lead in a school)

We will be continuing to run these events throughout next year.

Adoption Readiness Checker

To coincide with National Adoption Week which took place at the end of October, our adoption team launched a new online 'Adoption Readiness Checker' that lets anyone find out whether they are ready to become an adoptive parent.

In Buckinghamshire, we currently have 22 children waiting to be adopted. Many have had a difficult start in life and they need a loving, stable home where they can have a safe and secure upbringing. Being an adoptive parent can be challenging, but also brings great rewards. People often jump to the conclusion that some aspect of their life, whether it is their age, financial situation, sexual orientation or relationship status, will rule them out for adoption, but most of these assumptions are wrong. The checker lets you look at each aspect of your life and find out whether it has any bearing on your suitability to become a parent to one of the children in our care who are looking for a new family.

It has been developed in partnership with public sector technology consultants FutureGov and can be accessed via the adoption pages of the County Council website: www.buckscc.gov.uk/adoption

Buckinghamshire's Virtual School encouraging care leavers into higher education

Buckinghamshire's Virtual School, which is part of the County Council, supports the educational achievement of the county's children in care and care leavers. This year, we have more care leavers that have gone on to higher education and university. Currently, 20 of our care leavers are at university studying a range of courses including sports therapy, medicine, health and social care, law and nursing, with a further 14 post-16 students being supported to apply to university in the next two years.

As corporate parents, we want all our children in care and our care leavers to know and believe that they can achieve their goals in life, whatever they might be. And for our students in care who want to go on to higher education or university, we will support them to do that. It is vital that we encourage our young people to reach their full academic potential and we do that through our team of Virtual School specialist teachers and through financial and all-round support.

In addition, I am proud to say that the County Council itself has two young people working in apprenticeships run by the County Council, one in care and one care leaver. Both are doing exceptionally well and this is credit to their hard work and determination to succeed.

To find out more about Buckinghamshire's Virtual School, please visit <https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/education/schools/the-virtual-school/what-is-the-virtual-school/>

Christmas present appeal

I am very pleased that the council is, for the fifth year, running its annual Christmas present appeal. The appeal directly helps Buckinghamshire's vulnerable children and young people.

We invite Council employees and County Councillors to donate Christmas presents for disadvantaged and vulnerable children across the county. The presents will be handed over to children and young people by members of the Council's Children's Services teams in time for Christmas. Various local residents, businesses and organisations are supporting the appeal again this year, for which we are very grateful. It is heartening to know that everyone at the County Council cares and wants to help other people less fortunate, it will really make a difference to the children we work with.

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

**CABINET MEMBER
FOR
EDUCATION & SKILLS**



Outcomes for Children in Buckinghamshire

Data released by the Department for Education in October 2019 shows that 5 year olds leaving their Reception year at primary school achieved better than pupils across the rest of the country. 74.3% of our pupils achieve a good level of development, compared to 71.8% nationally. We are ranked 8th against our south east neighbours and 34th compared to all local authorities nationally.

The recently released provisional Key Stage 2 results for 2019 show that 66% of our pupils reached the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics compared to 65% nationally. Our results are the same as reported in 2018 whilst national results for state funded schools increased by 1%. When compared to statistical neighbours and all local authorities nationally, Buckinghamshire ranks 6th and 51st respectively. In addition, 12% of Buckinghamshire pupils reached the higher standard or were working at greater depth across all of reading, writing and mathematics. This is an increase of 1% from 2018. Nationally, 10% of pupils achieved this benchmark, which is the same as in 2018.

Key Stage 4 (GCSE) outcomes are significantly higher than national and we are, by quite a wide margin, 1st amongst our statistical neighbours and 5th nationally. The long term trend shows a gradual increase of pupils in Buckinghamshire against a decline nationally.

Overall, our results are very pleasing and we will strive to improve these further by supporting schools through our Side by Side Project.

Preparing for Life Beyond School

Within the county we have the 'Bucks Thames Valley Careers Hub'. This Hub works with our 21 non-selective secondary schools to ensure that pupils are provided with high quality careers information, advice and guidance, skills development and enterprise experiences. The support is funded for two years from central government.

The schools involved in the Hub receive support in order to achieve the Gatsby Benchmarks, which are the key measures used to identify outcomes in this area. Recent performance data shows that progression against set benchmarks has been very strong in the first year the project. Our baseline in 2018 was 1.7 against a national average of 2.5. Following considerable work with the schools, this year's result reached an outcome of 5.1, significantly above our target of 4 and higher than the national average of 3. This made Buckinghamshire the joint best performing Hub in the country.

Working in Partnership with the Stephen Spender Trust

Pupils and teachers from across Buckinghamshire have been involved in the 'Translators in Schools' initiative which has been supported by the County Council for the Stephen Spender Trust. Translators in Schools is the Stephen Spender Trust's flagship education programme and raises the profile of translation, multilingualism and language-learning through:

- Creative translation workshops in schools
- Teacher-training, consultancy and public engagement in the field of multilingual creativity
- Developing creative translation resources for teachers and translators

Primary and secondary schools from across the county were involved including pupils from Haydon Abbey Primary School, Highcrest Academy, The Royal Grammar School, Sir William Ramsay, St Edward's Catholic Junior School, St Louis Catholic Primary School and The Mandeville Secondary School.

The programme has received extremely positive feedback and we hope to continue to work with the Trust in the future.

"Shout Out for SEND"

On 7 November 2019, the service held a conference for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) at Adams Park in High Wycombe. The conference was aimed at young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and those who are registered as receiving SEN support. 28 young people attended, representing 13 Buckinghamshire secondary schools and Elective Home Education.

The conference provided an opportunity for young people to review the support available to them and their peers. During the day, young people were asked to provide feedback on their experiences accessing education, their life outside of school and college, as well as their transition into adulthood. The activities generated discussion and some challenging questions which were put to a panel of senior managers from across health, education and social care. The information gained from the day will now be used to inform the development of a new 2020 SEND Strategy for Buckinghamshire.

Reflecting on the day, participants said:

"It allowed us to convey our views of the systems to those who needed it... I learnt Bucks County Council care."

"I felt that my opinions were heard and had an impact."

"I learnt employability skills and new words."

"I learnt that everyone has a voice, it was really good!"

"I learnt a lot about myself and others and about my future and what I can achieve."

Pupils attending the conference received a certificate to show their participation and I would personally like to say thank you, for their valuable contribution. We plan to make the conference an annual event, bringing together a range of young people with varying skills and abilities to share ideas and have their voices heard.

Youth Voice

Youth Voice brings young people together with professionals to discuss key issues and share ideas for improving service delivery for children and young people. There are five key parts to Youth Voice:

1. Youth Voice Executive Committee
2. Focus groups and consultation Work
3. Youth Voice events
4. Online Youth Voice Community
5. Specialist Participation Team

The Youth Voice Executive Committee consists of 15 young people who represent different schools, communities or youth organisations or specialist forums. Over the last year, the Youth Voice Executive Committee has undertaken a range of activities and events. This has included:

- Hosting two Youth Voice events for secondary schools with 64 young people attending the event, representing the views of 11 different schools. The key priorities they identified were behaviour management in school, mental health support in schools, school transport and lack of accessible and affordable activities for young people.
- Undertaking specific consultation work on Home to School Transport, work experience and apprenticeships and the new Mental Health Support Teams in schools.
- Encouraging 1,945 local young people to vote in this year's 'Make Your Mark Campaign' which is an annual campaign run by UK Youth Parliament.

In addition to the universal Youth Voice offer, over the past year the Specialist Participation Team have continued to engage successfully with children and young people in care and children and young people with SEND in order to get their voices heard and influence service design and delivery.

Highlights include:

- A 'voice of the child' training course to Children's Services frontline workers, giving a unique insight into the perspective of their experiences of the services we deliver. The training received excellent feedback from participants and we are considering how this could be extended further.
- Monthly forums and activity sessions with young people have given feedback on key policy and practice developments such as mental health support, personal education plan meetings, the 'Local Offer' and advocacy.
- Members of the SEND Forum have taken on the role of Young Inspectors, visiting activities and clubs for young people in Buckinghamshire and reporting on whether they are suitable for young people with SEND. Their reports are then published on the Local Offer website.

To find out more about all of the Youth Voice projects, take a look at our website: <https://www.bucksfamilyinfo.org/kb5/buckinghamshire/fsd/youth.page?youthchannel=2>

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

**CABINET MEMBER
FOR
PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT**



Aylesbury Garden Town (AGT)

Progress has been made in confirming dates for the 'Vision' soft launch in November and the Masterplan public consultation in January. The public consultation in January will be for the public, stakeholders and partners to provide comments on the masterplan and shape its content. The Vision 2050 has been published on the Aylesbury Garden Town website and feedback can be submitted online: https://www.aylesburygardentown.co.uk/Vision_and_Masterplan_2050

Work is continuing on the short to medium term projects which promote the principles of garden town. The Community Project Funding Pot will be operated as a grant funding scheme which will be open for applications from November 2019-March 2020.

Country Parks

HS2

On Monday 4th November, HS2 Ltd and their sub-contractors Babcock International, working for National Grid, formally took possession of parts of Denham Country Park to commence delivery of enabling works for the HS2 railway line. These works will involve the realignment of high voltage power lines that will require the construction of one new pylon in the Country Park and eventually the removal of two existing pylons. It is envisaged that the works will take approximately two years to complete with access to areas of land between the River Colne and the Grand Union Canal being disrupted. Officers are working with HS2 Ltd and its contractors to minimise the impact of these works and to plan appropriate mitigation for after the works are completed.

Visitor Numbers

- Another great Halloween event at Black Park saw almost 1,300 children and their families following the clues and walking about a mile on the Spooky trail – current feedback from this event shows customer satisfaction at 75% and the team are also gathering addition customer feedback to help design future events.
- Bookings for the popular Santa's Grotto at Black Park between 7 and 21 December have recently opened and places are booking up rapidly so check out the website to avoid disappointment!
- Unseasonally poor weather, particularly at the weekends, during September and October and the success of some of the home nations in the Rugby World Cup have meant that visitor numbers have dipped slightly below our expectations during this period. However, an excellent year with filming activities and good visitor numbers in the first part of the year mean that we fully expect to achieve income and visitor number targets by year end.

District Local Plans

Wycombe District Local Plan

Since the adoption of the Wycombe Local Plan in August 2019, the authority has received two legal challenges on the Local Plan. It is now for the High Court to assess the merits in the cases brought against the Council's decision to adopt the plan which could lead to a Judicial Review.

The legal challenges have been brought by the following:

1. Keep Bourne End Green (KBEG) – This group is looking to quash the housing target in the plan, the Bourne End proportion of that and the Hollands Farm site allocation.
2. Mr Scott – looking to quash the housing allocation at land off Clappins Lane, Naphill/Walter's Ash.

There are now two stages to this process:

1. The court has to first give permission for a challenge to be heard. This is based on an initial assessment of the claims made by the applicants and the Council's response to those claims.
2. If permission is given, then claims will be heard in the High Court and a judgement will be made whether the contested parts of the plan are quashed and if the remainder of the plan should remain in force or not.

However, the Local Plan remains adopted and it does not change the status of the plan. The Council have progressed work on the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) required to support the Local Plan with the Design Guidance currently out for consultation.

Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP)

Aylesbury Vale District Council has published their suggested modifications to the Local Plan which have been considered by the Inspector. The consultation is now open and is taking place over a six week period to 17 December 2019. Representations can only be made on the main modifications. A summary of the main modifications are:

- Revised housing figures – amended spatial strategy with additional site allocation in close proximity to Milton Keynes (Shenley Park). The overall revised housing requirement is 28,600 dwellings.
- Key infrastructure requirements and other standards to be set out in the plan rather than supporting documents or supplementary planning documents (SPD).
- Reducing the number of SPDs referred to in the plan to 8 from over 20.
- Including all transport schemes in the plan text and showing on the policies map.
- Redraft of policy H6 (housing mix) to increase clarity and include C2 allocations.
- Various modifications to eliminate inconsistencies and increase clarity.

It is expected that the plan will be adopted before the end of the financial year.

Chiltern and South Bucks Local Plan

The Draft Chiltern and South Bucks Local Plan was submitted for independent examination on 26 September 2019. Planning Inspectors Matthew Birkinshaw and David Troy have been appointed to undertake an independent examination into the soundness of the Chiltern and South Bucks Local Plan 2016 - 2036.

Matthew Birkinshaw is currently examining Central Bedfordshire's Local Plan (hearings took place in July, formal letter from the Inspector received on 28 October) and David Troy the Allerdale Borough Council's Local Plan (Cumbria, plan at modification consultation stage).

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) examination will take place on 5 November 2019. Mr Geoff Salter BA MRTPI has been appointed to conduct the examination.

Protocol for Dealing with significant Metal-Detected Finds

Following the discovery of a large hoard in the south of the county, the archaeology team have produced a new protocol for dealing with metal-detected finds and unexpected discoveries. The protocol was developed in collaboration with Bucks County Museum, the Portable Antiquities Scheme and Milton Keynes Council Archaeologist, and is leading the way nationally in terms of its approach. Our planning archaeologist, Lucy Lawrence, has been invited to speak at a national meeting about the matter.

Planning

New Monitoring and Enforcement Plan for minerals and waste sites

A new Monitoring and Enforcement Plan was approved by the Development Control Planning Committee on 4 November, to support the recently adopted Buckinghamshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan. The plan set out the approach to monitoring of approved waste and mineral sites and enforcement against breaches of planning control for minerals and waste activities.

Planning - Waste Enforcement Action

Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) has issued a Stop Notice in Askett against the importation and disposal of waste in response to burning of waste. A full enforcement notice has been issued at Old Rectory Lane in Denham that requires the land owner to clear the land of unauthorised waste that had previously been mass dumped on the land. We have received an appeal against the enforcement notice that BCC issued in June at Bishops House in Farnham Royal that required the cessation of waste transfer activities.

Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership update

The Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership (the "NEP"), of which Buckinghamshire County Council is a key partner, has been working hard with the other Local Nature Partnerships across the Oxford to Cambridge Growth Arc to produce a strategic map of landscape-scale environmental opportunities. The map will be finalised in the next month and will be used by all the Local Nature Partnerships in the area for engagement and influencing.

Flood Management

Innovative Natural Solutions to Flood Management on River Leck

Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC), in partnership with Freshwater Habitats Trust (FHT), has recently installed 23 'leaky woody barriers' across the headwaters of the River Leck. This is part of a Natural Flood Management (NFM) pilot project to build evidence of the effectiveness of such measures at reducing flood risk, creating climate resilience and delivering environmental benefits. The leaky barriers are designed to emulate the function of naturally occurring woody debris and storing and slowing the flow of water in upland areas in order to reduce flood risk downstream to communities such as Leckhampstead.

The scheme is being funded by a £50,000 award from the Department for the Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs secured by the County Council's Flood Management Team, and £35,000 from the County Council's flood management budget. The local member, Cllr Warren Whyte, was instrumental in supporting the initial funding bid. Flood risk modelling undertaken

helped to determine the most effective placement and spacing of features, and estimated that the cumulative effect of all 25 barriers should reduce the peak flow through Leckhampstead village by approx. 9%. For such a relatively low project cost, this is a very positive return.

The work on the Leck is one of the first practical examples of Natural Flood Management to be completed in lowland southern England. The scheme is truly a local enterprise, working with three landowners - one of whom provided the timber for the project for free - and former local farm manager who now runs an agricultural and landscaping contractor who undertook the construction. Working in partnership with the Parish Council and with the local community allowed the project to benefit from their detailed knowledge of the land, access requirements etc, ultimately reducing time and costs spent. The scheme will now be monitored in partnership with landowners during the next couple of years to measure effectiveness, with a view to replicating it in other parts of the county.

Waste Management

Household Recycling Centres

You are probably aware of the changes Buckinghamshire Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) have undergone in the last 6-7 months. All the changes have been implemented and the service is now settling into the new rhythm. The HRCs are one of the most visible services that the Council provides so it's important we understand the impacts the changes have had. The closure of Bledlow HRC and the reduction of opening days at three other sites and the introduction of charges for disposal of non-household waste is helping us to stay on track to reach the £1.2million expected savings this year. Whilst we are still yet to see any link between these changes and increases in fly tipping, we continue to work hard to prevent fly tipping and prosecute those who choose to break the law. It's a difficult task when you consider that most of the waste fly tipped comes from commercial sources and many fly tippers come from outside Bucks. The annual customer satisfaction survey is now closed with over 4,000 responses which are now being analysed. The survey helps us to understand how residents use the service and what they think of it. It's likely to be the most important survey for a number of years and we look forward to reviewing the results.

Commissioning

The Waste Management team manage numerous contracts handling the 230,000 tonnes of waste produced each year from Buckinghamshire's homes. This means a constant cycle of commissioning different contracts. The HRC contract and the bio-waste (food and green waste) contracts require a significant lead in time to bring new contracting arrangements in place for the future Buckinghamshire Council. The HRCs are very visible to the public whereas the bio-waste disposal is not, but both are important to manage costs and ensure we manage waste safely and in the best way for the local tax payer and the environment. Meanwhile, central government is busy with major changes to waste collection and disposal across the UK. Changes which aim to boost recycling, create more products from recycled materials and make them easier to recycle at the end of their life.

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

**CABINET MEMBER
FOR
HEALTH & WELLBEING**



Social Care Workforce Update

The recruitment of senior social workers remains challenging. We have been extremely successful in recruiting to occupational therapists posts as a result of targeted recruitment campaigns and the 'try before you apply' initiative. This approach has resulted in the replacement of five agency workers with permanent employees over the last 12 months.

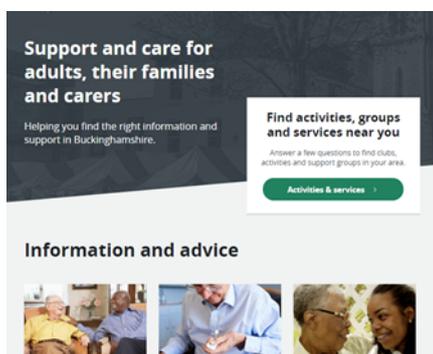
The same approach will now be taken with social work roles. 'Try before you apply' days are already scheduled to take place every Thursday for four weeks from 14 November and there are already a number of potential candidates lined up to attend.

Access All Areas 2019

The second annual 'Access All Areas' event was held at Stoke Mandeville Stadium in October. The event is a health and wellbeing event exclusively for people with a learning disability or autism and their families. The event was very well received and gave people the opportunity to try out healthy food and meals, accessible sport, drama and yoga. Over 50 stalls provided a wide range of information and a 'chill out space' made sure the event was easy for everyone to enjoy.

Digital Developments

New Digital Website



The redesigned 'Digital Front Door' for Care Advice Bucks was launched on 1 October following several months of intensive user research, feedback and workshops. Designed using revised data principles, the website has been future proofed and is leading the way for other areas across the Council.

The website provides a better user journey based on what the public, external professionals and internal staff fed back during the design and discovery work. It gives a modern feel and updated, easy to read content that enables users to find information and

support quickly and intuitively.

The new system also has activity reporting which provides information on how people are using the site. This will help us to improve the design and update the site based on the information and guidance for those areas most commonly searched for.

Over the coming months, data and content will continue to be added and updated. The new website is found at www.careadvicebuckinghamshire.org

Digital Supplier Day



On 25 September, staff, partner organisations, providers and residents were invited to a Digital Supplier Day, where they could see demonstrations from a number of providers of home care equipment.

Providers were showing a huge range of products and solutions from phone apps to artificial intelligence empowered plug sockets. Attendees could sample the products, and help advise the Council on how they could be integrated into care strategies.

Seeleys House Respite Care

Seeleys respite service was temporarily suspended from 4 September for all users because of concerns regarding the quality of care being delivered. Following intensive work with staff, the service is planning on re-opening on a phased basis from 18 November. This is subject to:

- The outcome of an independent mock inspection
- An internal inspection (using a regionally recognised inspection tool)
- Recruitment of good quality staff
- Up to date client care plans and induction in place for each client before they return.

A senior manager and a practitioner from an external organisation are also completing a deep dive in November based on the Care Quality Commission 'safe' rating.

All families have been offered alternative respite provision whilst the service has been temporarily suspended. Families have used a range of alternative respite provision such as Shared Lives, support in the home and additional day service provision (extra days, evenings, and weekends).

A small number of families took the decision to delay respite until the service re-opened. These families have been supported by social care staff to ensure the families are coping as the majority of these clients attend day services five days per week. These families have been prioritised with regard to the phased reopening provision.

A Strategic Approach

Adult social care services are working on a range of improvements to services to ensure they develop to support people in line with the Council's Better Lives approach. Two strategies currently being developed and which will shortly be presented for decision are an All Age Mental Health Strategy and a new Carers Strategy. These have been produced with involvement from service users. They will set out the Council's approach to better help people understand how the Council can support them in maximising their independence and achieving their own goals.

**LIN HAZELL
CABINET MEMBER HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

**CABINET MEMBER
FOR
RESOURCES**



IT Services Update

The focus of the IT Team remains on upgrading the Council's core IT capabilities and preparatory work for the new Buckinghamshire Council.

Nearly 2,000 desktop screens at New County Offices (NCO) have been replaced as part of a project to standardise the IT equipment used by all staff. With NCO completed, the project will move on to the area offices. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with staff appreciating the larger, high-quality screen display. The new screens have an additional advantage in that they are far more energy efficient than the ones they are replacing.



We are also currently moving all council provided mobile phones to a new service provider (EE). This project not only made considerable savings for the council, but also enabled us to upgrade and standardise the phones provided to staff. In parallel, we've made it far easier for staff to use their own phones to access their work email, calendar etc. Fully conscious of the need to keep council data secure, this project included implementing the latest technology to manage and keep devices secure.

The next step to improve staff IT user experience is to move all council devices to Windows 10. This roll out to over 3,500 staff is already in pilot stage and the full rollout will commence after Christmas. We will use this opportunity to replace the myriad of existing legacy staff laptops with a new lighter, more powerful and flexible laptop.

Colleagues in the district councils have agreed to standardise on the same laptops being deployed by the county council and they are also part of the new mobile phone contract.

The final step in upgrading the IT user experience will see all IT users move to the Microsoft Skype For Business online platform for telephony and collaborative working. This work will be completed by Christmas and for the first time it will mean all Buckinghamshire County Council IT users are on one single telephony platform.

Behind the scenes, key work continues on the council's core infrastructure. The final key systems like SAP are being moved off a legacy platform that was at its end of life and at risk of failure. We are also continuing the roll out of our cyber security service with the big additional bonus that our district colleagues have also agreed to join us.

Having already achieved our Public Services Network (PSN) security accreditation the council has also just passed the Government's Cyber Essentials classification.

We have reduced our dependency on Udata who manage our IT network. Since September some of those services have been brought back in-house realising major savings for the council and giving us the ability to do things faster and operate in a more flexible way. The remaining parts of that contract expire next year so the council will be going out to tender for a new partner who can work with us on building a new layer of connectivity across Bucks. That tender includes the districts and NHS partners.

On the unitary front we continue to work closely with our district colleagues. Major work continues on the following areas:

- All staff having a @buckinghamshire.gov.uk address.
- Joined up IT network between BCC and district councils (making SAP available to all partners)
- Seamless call transfers between councils
- Single address book
- New Service Desk for IT, HR and Finance

Legal Services update

The new legal service successfully went live as planned on 1 October, following the end of the contract for legal services with HB Public Law. The new service is in response to the forthcoming unitary transition, and has been developed in close collaboration with district council colleagues. The circumstances were unique, and presented a real opportunity to build a joint team across council boundaries ahead of the formal transition next year.

A significant amount of scoping work was undertaken in order to identify likely service demands and appropriate levels of staff resourcing. Recruitment efforts focused on legal roles that would build capacity in the right areas with minimal future duplication in the new council. It was highly beneficial to be able to draw upon the expertise of district council colleagues in this respect, allowing decisions to be made in the wider context of current overall provision across the County. The team is now fully staffed, including roles that are traditionally difficult to recruit to, and the team can work flexibly across the various council offices as needs dictate. The project is currently forecast to be within the approved budget, with headroom built in to cover any ongoing risks, and projected legal hours currently cover the ongoing staffing and running costs.

Phase 2 of the project has now commenced, and is intended to refine service provision in readiness for 1 April 2020. Legal provision to the new unitary council will need to encompass the requirements of all five existing councils, for 'both business as usual' work and any additional work associated with unitary transition. The aim is for the new legal service to work efficiently and consistently across the county, offering comprehensive legal support to meet the extremely diverse needs of client teams across the whole range of local authority functions.

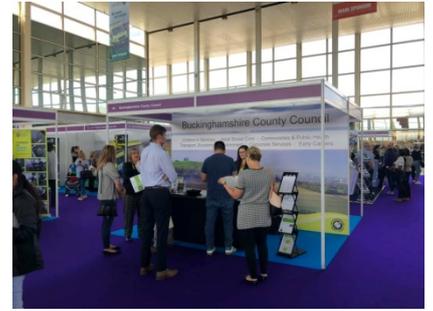
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Digital Fund

Buckinghamshire County Council has been awarded £50,000 from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Digital Fund. The funding is to do some collaborative work with other councils in the UK to improve the data we hold about local community based services. By improving the way we collect, manage and store this (non-personal) data we can make it easier for people to find local services, groups and activities.

Milton Keynes Jobs Fair

In September, the Employer Branding and Resourcing teams represented Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) at the Milton Keynes Jobs Fair for the second time this year.

The event was held over two days and was attended by thousands of local jobseekers and students. It was a great opportunity to showcase Buckinghamshire County Council as an employer and inform the public about the wide range of careers on offer here.



As a result, we collected the details and CVs of over 200 potential candidates, which have been passed onto the relevant resourcing consultants. The Employer Branding Team were thrilled to win the award of 'Social Media Superstars'. This was the only award exhibitors could compete for and it was given to the team who had the most engagement and best content on their social media pages. This was a fantastic achievement as they were competing against over 60 other exhibitors including McDonalds, Vodafone, Mercedes Benz and the NHS. They are looking forward to exhibiting again in 2020, where they will continue to promote BCC as an employer of choice.

**JOHN CHILVER
CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES**



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 Children's Services

9 Oct 2019

CS07.19 - Section 75 Agreement - Short Breaks for Children with Disabilities (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member:

AGREED the Section 75 agreement for lead commissioning arrangements and a pooled budget for children's short breaks services.

Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

1 Nov 2019

HW08.19 - Direct Payment Policy (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member AGREED the Direct Payment Policy.

Cabinet Member for Resources

7 Oct 2019

R09.19 - Surrender of Amersham library lease (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member:

AGREED to the lease surrender subject to this being simultaneous with the grant of a licence by Chiltern District Council permitting the library facility to be accommodated within the King George V office building and with all associated costs being met by Chiltern District Council



This decision has been taken under the Council's Special Urgency provisions for the following reasons:

"The Shadow Executive has approved the development plans to create the new Chiltern Lifestyle Centre and the scheme involves the demolition of the library which is to be temporarily relocated into the King George V offices pending completion of the new Centre. Chiltern District Council's programme of works apparently permits the contractor access to commence the demolition enabling works on the 14th October and the library is scheduled to re-open on Tuesday 15th October. Therefore the formal surrender of the County Council's leasehold interest in the library site needs to be legally completed in advance of Monday the 14th."

28 Oct 2019

R10.19 - Renewal of Estates and Asset Management Services (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member AGREED:

- 1) To re-procure the Estates and Asset Management Contract via a CCS Framework for 12 months, including a 12- month option to extend (Option 4 below)
- 2) To delegate the appointment and finalisation of the contract of the preferred Service Provider(s) to the Executive Director of Resources and the Director of Property in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources following the re-procurement process.

Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Transportation

4 Oct 2019

T29.19 - Winter Service Policy (Decision Taken)

The Cabinet Member agreed the Winter Service Policy. The Policy will undergo annual review in conjunction with the annual update of the Winter Service Operations Plan.

8 Nov 2019

T30.19 - A418 Oxford Road Corridor Improvements (Decision taken)

The Cabinet Member:

- 1 Agreed to delegate to Head of Highways Infrastructure Projects and A418 Project Board authority to progress the implementation of A418 Oxford Road Corridor Improvement project and award of a contract to Transport for Buckinghamshire.
- 2 Approved the implementation of the scheme and junction modifications proposed as part of the A418 Oxford Road Corridor Improvement project.
- 3 Approved the conversion of the footway/s into a cycle track as set out in Appendix A.

For further information please contact: Claire Hawkes on 01296 382343