

## **BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES**

Minutes of the meeting of the Buckinghamshire County Council convened and held on Thursday 28 November 2019 in The Oculus, AVDC, The Gateway, commencing at 9.30 am and concluding at 10.45 am.

### **PRESENT**

Mr B Roberts in the Chair;

Mr M Appleyard, Mr R Bagge, Mrs P Birchley, Mr T Butcher, Mr J Chilver, Mr A Christensen, Mr C Clare, Mrs L Clarke OBE, Mr A Collingwood, Mrs A Cranmer, Mrs I Darby, Mr D Dhillon, Mrs B Gibbs, Ms N Glover, Mr C Harriss, Ms L Hazell, Mr A Hussain, Mr M Hussain, Mr N Hussain, Ms A Macpherson, Mrs W Mallen, Mr D Martin, Mr P Martin, Mr R Reed, Mr D Shakespeare OBE, Mr M Shaw, Mrs L Sullivan, Mrs J Teesdale, Mr M Tett, Ms J Ward, Mr D Watson, Mr W Whyte, Mr G Williams and Ms K Wood

### **DIGNITARIES AND OTHERS PRESENT**

Sir H Aubrey-Fletcher, Mrs C Aston, Mrs M Clayton, Mrs G Miscampbell OBE DL, Mr D Polhill, Mr R Pushman and Mrs J Upton MBE

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr W Bendyshe-Brown, Ms J Blake, Mr S Bowles, Mr N Brown, Mr D Carroll, Mr W Chapple OBE, Mr C Etholen, Mr D Hayday, Mr P Irwin, Mr R Khan, Julia Wassell, Ms A Wight, Mrs M Aston, Mr M Colston, Mr P Lawrence, Mrs V Letheren and Mr K Ross MBE DL

## **1 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2019 were **AGREED** as an accurate record.

## **2 PETITIONS**

Mr Butcher presented a petition on behalf of residents of Elmwood Rise, Chalfont St Giles regarding a residents parking scheme.

The petition was handed to the Chief Executive.

## **3 COMMUNICATIONS**

Minute's Silence:

The Chairman opened Council with a minute's silence to pay respect to former County Councillor Audrey Bainbridge who had sadly passed away. Audrey was a County Councillor for Fulmer, Wexham and Iver Heath 1985-2001 and was Vice Chairman of the Council 1997-2001.

Apologies were received from Mr Bendyshe-Brown, Mrs Blake, Mr Bowles, Mr Carroll, Mr Chapple, Mr Etholen, Mr Hayday, Mr Irwin, Mr Khan, Mrs Wright, Mrs Aston, Mr Colston, Mrs Letheren, Mr Lawrence, Mr Ross, Julia Wassell and Mr Brown.

The Chairman's update would be appended to the minutes.

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

There were none.

#### **5 YOUTH JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN**

Mr W Whyte, Cabinet Member for Children's Services presented the Youth Justice Strategic Plan to be considered and approved by Council. Mr Whyte highlighted that the plan was a statutory requirement for the County Council and was a cross partnership document.

Mr Whyte highlighted the following points:

- 10-17 year olds that had entered the Youth Justice System had reduced by 26.7% compared to the previous year.
- The custody rate was lower than the national average and the South East and was in line with the Thames Valley figure.
- Young people remanded in custody had increased slightly in 2018/19.
- Priorities for 2019-20 would 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.

**RESOLVED: Council APPROVED the 2019-20 Youth Justice Strategic Plan for Buckinghamshire.**

#### **6 TREASURY MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

Mr R Bagge, Deputy Cabinet Member for Resources presented the update report and highlighted the following points:

- It was a requirement to present a mid-year report to Council.
- Whilst borrowing was up in the current year, the interest paid on loans had decreased.

A member requested to see a split of the £282m borrowing between Energy from Waste, commercial investments and ongoing council arrangements. Mr Bagge stated that a breakdown of the borrowing was available at the meeting but would speak to officers about the format of the report and would respond to the member in written form.

**RESOLVED: Council AGREED the Treasury Management Mid-Year Report and the Prudential Indicators for 2019/20.**

## **7 CABINET MEMBERS' REPORTS**

### **Leader**

Mr Tett highlighted that following the motion that was passed at the last Council meeting relating to Kashmir, he had written to MPs and their responses had been circulated to members. There had also been a motion passed opposing The Expressway that was to run through Buckinghamshire and that there had been a subsequent statement by the Secretary of State regarding a future review of The Expressway that he found encouraging.

### **Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transport**

Mr Shaw announced that Transport for Bucks (TfB) had been awarded a national award from the Institution of Asset Management for the asset management and customer service. The award was a fantastic achievement and full credit and congratulations was given to TfB.

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

- Following unprecedented rain fall all efforts were being made to clear as many gullies as possible to elevate any flood risks. It was an area that was highlighted for further investment.
- Painting white lines in winter months was not effective hence the programme to start again in April. Mr Shaw however did say that he would ask TfB to look into particular areas raised.
- Mr Shaw agreed to visit Desborough Road in Wycombe with Mrs L Clarke.
- Mr Collingwood to contact Local Area Technician in relation to yellow junction box.
- Mr Shaw would discuss failed roads with the Asset Management team.
- Mr Shaw confirmed the budget for footpaths had been reinstated as an important area of focus particularly in areas leading to schools, doctors etc. It was also noted that any law to change parking on pavements would have to be considered nationally.

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

Mr Williams highlighted the recent Emotional Wellbeing Conference that took place which promoted mental health in schools. 95 colleagues from over 50 schools had attended.

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

- Residents of Winslow were reassured that their concerns regarding the community library were being listened to and would remain open.
- Mr Williams would meet with Mr Hussain to discuss any support that may be available to help reopen the Healthy Living Centre café on Walton Court.

### **Cabinet Member for Children's Services**

Mr Whyte highlighted the following points from his report:

- Fostering and Care Awards evening that had recently taken place and the next round of information events taking place were on 18 December in Buckingham and 15 January in Aylesbury. To book and to find dates for 2020 information

events visit the council's website <https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/care-for-children-and-families/fostering/fostering-information-event/>

- A new adoption readiness checker had been launched and adoption information events would take place on 5 December in Chesham and the 8 January in Aston Clinton. Mr Whyte encouraged members to promote these events.
- Excellent results had been received from the Virtual School.
- The Christmas present appeal would run again this year and Mr Whyte urged staff and members to donate.
- A successful Action 4 Youth event had been hosted by the County Council which involved students from Buckingham School. Mr Whyte thanked all those involved and officers who had organised the event.

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

- Mr Whyte agreed to feedback to Mrs Clarke help and support that was in place for young carers to ensure they did not get left behind in their education.

### **Cabinet Member for Education and Skills**

Mrs Cranmer highlighted recent A-level results which were above national average, that the county were 5<sup>th</sup> nationally for GCSE's and scored across the board higher than national average in reading and writing skills. Mrs Cranmer highlighted the excellent programmes in place to support schools which included the Side by Side programme which covered up to 100 schools and provided up to 18 days of expert skills to them.

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

- Mrs Cranmer also agreed to feedback to Mrs Clarke help and support that was in place for young carers to ensure they did not get left behind in their education.
- There still needed to be a focus on supporting those children in care or from troubled families that were not performing to the national average.
- Mrs Cranmer assured members that there was no outstanding Home to School Transport cases to be resolved and that a thorough review of the process was underway. Mrs Cranmer stated that the changes in place for post 16 SEN young people, where they would have to contribute to their travel, had been postponed until September as it had been recognised that communications had been lacking. Following the meeting it was confirmed that it was in fact the procurement of the service that had been delayed to September and not the changes implemented.
- Mrs Cranmer confirmed there were policies and procedures in place to help the most challenged schools and was happy to discuss any particular concerns members had outside of the meeting.

### **Cabinet Member for Planning and Environment**

Mr Harriss deputised for Mr Chapple in giving an update and highlighted the success of the recently installed wood leaky barriers which were a natural flood barrier and had held up against recent rainfall.

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

- Mr Harriss would write to the Canal and River Trust regarding the state of the steps and tow path on the Wendover arm of the Grand Union Canal.
- It was highlighted that the work following the climate change motion passed at the previous council was ongoing and was a continuation of work at the council for some time.

- Mr Harriss would respond to Mr Reed regarding his question relating to the enforcement of commercial fly tipping.
- Mr Tett confirmed that those local plans that had been approved and adopted would go through to the new council; in relation to the Chiltern and South Bucks plan, the timescales indicated adoption would be after vesting day.
- Mr Harriss would speak to household waste recycling centre operatives and make arrangements for those carrying out community litter picking and disposing of fly tipping not to be charged.

### **Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing**

No further update to that given in the report.

### **Cabinet Member for Resources**

Mr Chilver highlighted that the Employer Branding Team were thrilled to win an award of 'Social Media Superstars'.

In response to Members' questions the following main points were noted:  
Mr Chilver confirmed that a working group had been set up to discuss the IT provisions for members of the new council and that he was happy for members to feed in any comments or issues.

## **8 NOTICES OF MOTION**

There were none.

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

**RESOLVED: Council NOTED the report.**

## **10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The last meeting of the County Council would be held on 12 March 2020 and would be a celebratory meeting that looked back over the 131 year history of the County Council.

**CHAIRMAN**



## **Chairman's Update November 2019**

I have once again had the privilege to represent you many times since our last council meeting, and many events involve our wonderful volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure the more vulnerable members of our communities get the support they need. A very humbling experience and my heart goes out to them for what they do.

As I have said on numerous occasions it is amazing what goes on in our wonderful county on a daily basis, I would urge our local press would give these events the publicity they deserve and to help raise their profile, what a difference it would make.

The many Queens Awards that our Lord Lieutenant has awarded this year illustrates the vibrancy of Buckinghamshire. I have had the privilege to accompany Henry at many of these ceremonies. And of course I must thank Dev for standing in for me on the occasions I could not attend.

The funeral of PC Andrew Harper was one of those experiences that I will never forget. Being in the Oxford Cathedral within the precincts of Christ Church College where 800 hundred people gathered to show their respects, and with 10,000 people lining the route through Oxford it was a very sad occasion but a beautiful service that was fitting for someone like Andrew who was so tragically murdered whilst just doing his job.

I pay tribute to all of our Blue Light Services who work to help and protect us 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and in many cases without due regard to some of the dangers they put themselves into just doing their job.

Flying Fortress Ceremony on 10th November recognised the bravery of 9 American Airman who died when their B17 Bomber, The Tomahawk Warrior, crashed in August 1944 when avoiding the aircraft crashing into a heavily populated area of High Wycombe. I would like to put on record my sincere thanks to the Earl and Lady Howe for allowing Penn House, their beautiful house to be used for this fascination occasion, and of course Joe Bradshaw for organising the whole thing. A very successful afternoon enjoyed by all especially the American relatives who came over for this ceremony.

Bucks and Milton Keynes Sports Awards on 22nd November was another great evening when many of the sport related activities across Buckinghamshire are recognised for all the work they do to support. Some of these people may be recovering from Chronic Illness, some have special needs and some are sports persons trying to keep fit. A great occasion.

Royal visit to the Heading Dog for the Deaf Organisation on the 26th November was one of the highlights of my Chairmanship, when you see these dogs and what they do to bring back people from the lonely world of deafness, wow. Princess Anne the Princess Royal opened the New Dog Breeding Centre, and yes puppies everywhere. I know Netta had a similar experience seeing the amazing things these dogs can do, and like Netta my wife wanted to take them all home. I did say no!

