

Delivering the new Buckinghamshire Council Programme Update

Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Forum

Overview

The Delivering the new Buckinghamshire Council programme is making good progress with seven months until go live for the new council.

The programme has a clear and detailed implementation plan that sets out the critical milestones over the coming months, with officers from across all the councils working together to make sure there is a seamless transition to the new council by 1 April 2020.

Shadow Executive

The Shadow Executive meet on a regular basis to oversee plans to create the new council.

At the Shadow Executive meeting on the 9th July 2019 the Executive agreed the Programme Implementation Plan and Budget.

At the Shadow Executive meeting on the 23rd July 2019 the Executive agreed Rachael Shimmin be appointed as the first Chief Executive for Buckinghamshire Council. Rachael's appointment followed a thorough recruitment process which started in early June and was overseen by the members of the Senior Appointment Sub Committee.

At the same meeting the Executive also agreed to extend the contracts to Town and Parish Councils for the devolution of highways services, including urban grass cutting, for a further two years.

At the Shadow Executive meeting on the 20th August 2019 the Executive agreed an interim Accommodation Strategy for the new council. As an interim, a small central base for the corporate management team and elected members will be located at the Gateway, AVDC's offices in Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury. This will make use of space that is currently mostly vacant so will not impact on AVDC staff who will stay in their current location. This will not mean any change for the public visiting council offices and staff. The current council buildings will continue to be used as they are now for residents and we are also looking at developing more access points in the community for the future.

The longer term plans for making the best use of all the council's current buildings will take place alongside transformation post 1 April 2020.

Overview and Scrutiny committee

The Shadow Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee met for the first time on 8 July and elected their Councillor Alex Collingwood from Buckinghamshire County Council as chair and Councillor John Gladwin from Chiltern District Council the vice chairperson. They will meet regularly over the coming months with a specific focus on looking at the budget and implementation plan for the new council.

You can keep up to date with these meetings at shadow.buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Organisational Structure

A strong leadership team is key to the implementation and creation of a new council.

Following the appointment of Rachael Shimmin as the Chief Executive of the new Buckinghamshire Council the recruitment to the corporate management team for the new council has begun and will be completed by mid-October.

These will be challenging roles which play a crucial part in ensuring the delivery of a successful new council. They will establish the basis for the transformation that will be required over the next few years.

The following posts are being recruited to as part of this process: Deputy Chief Executive

- Corporate Director, Resources
- Corporate Director, Communities
- Corporate Director, Planning Growth & Sustainability
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Consultations to inform the creation of the new council

The Delivering the new Buckinghamshire Council programme has launched two public consultations to help inform plans for the new Buckinghamshire Council:

- *Community Boards Consultation*

The new unitary council will need to have good links with the community and local people to understand the specific issues affecting each area and work together to find solutions. To enable the new council to do this, the proposal is to set up community boards across Buckinghamshire, to help the new council understand local

needs and respond to them more effectively. A public consultation launched on 12 August that asks members, residents, town and parish councils and local community groups to give their view on how they think these boards could work. There are a number of drop-in sessions for the public to find out more over the coming weeks. This consultation closes on 30 September.

Public drop in information sessions:

- **29 August 2019** – Bucks County Show
- **3 September 2019** – 11am – 1pm – Friars Square, Aylesbury
- **4 September 2019** – 10am – 12pm – Burnham Library
- **5 September 2019**, 10am – 12pm – Chiltern District Council, Amersham
- **10 September 2019**, 10am – 12pm – Buckingham Library
- **17 September 2019** – 12pm – 2pm – Wycombe District Council

- ***Council Tax Reduction (also known as Council Tax Support)***

Currently across Buckinghamshire each district council has their own scheme (called the Council Tax Reduction Scheme) that sets out how they support people on low incomes by reducing the council tax bill. The current schemes offer various levels of support for people in the same situation living in different parts of the county.

The aim is to have one scheme that offers the same level of support to all council tax payers across the whole of Buckinghamshire from 1 April 2020. One scheme will mean that people in the same situation are treated consistently and fairly wherever they live in Buckinghamshire.

A public consultation will run from 14 August – 24 September asking for people's views on the proposed changes to the level of reductions to council tax bills for people on low incomes in a new scheme for Buckinghamshire Council.

Find out more and take part in these consultations:

<https://shadow.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/consultations>