



Budget Scrutiny Inquiry Task and Finish Group Agenda Supplement

Date: Monday 9 January 2023

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: The Oculus, Buckinghamshire Council, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury
HP19 8FF

Agenda Item	Time	Page No
4 Leader (Councillor Martin Tett) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome by the Chairman to the Leader and supporting officers• Introduction by the Leader of his priorities and the overarching strategy for the budget.• Introduction by the Leader of the overall position, governance and funding for the capital programme.• The Leader will also outline his own portfolio budget.• Inquiry group questioning of the Leader	10:00	3 - 18
5 Communities (Councillor Steve Bowles) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome by the Chairman to the Cabinet Member, Deputy Cabinet Member and supporting officers• Introduction by the Cabinet Member of their priorities and the overarching strategy for the budget• Inquiry group questioning of the Cabinet Member	11:30	19 - 40
7 Transport (Councillor Steve Broadbent) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome by the Chairman to the Cabinet Member, Deputy Cabinet Member and supporting officers• Introduction by the Cabinet Member of their priorities and the overarching strategy for the budget• Inquiry group questioning of the Cabinet Member	13:15	41 - 70

8	Accessible Housing & Resources (Councillor John Chilver)	15:00	71 - 94
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome by the Chairman to the Cabinet Member, Deputy Cabinet Member and supporting officers • Introduction by the Cabinet Member of their priorities and the overarching strategy for the budget • Inquiry group questioning of the Cabinet Member 		

If you would like to attend a meeting, but need extra help to do so, for example because of a disability, please contact us as early as possible, so that we can try to put the right support in place.

For further information please contact: Chris Ward on 01296 585807, email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.



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Budget Scrutiny

The Leader

9 January 2023

Agenda Item 4



Agenda

- Overview of the Portfolio
- Portfolio priorities
- Revenue Budget 2022/23
- Revenue forecast Q2 Cabinet
- Revenue budget savings since April 2020
- Proposed changes to the Revenue budget
- Overall Proposed Revenue Budget
- Challenges, risks and opportunities
- Top 5 contracts
- Fees & Charges
- Capital Budget and forecast 2022/23
- Proposed Capital Programme
- Questions

Overview of the Portfolio

The Leader's portfolio helps to deliver all of the Corporate Plan priorities with a particular focus and responsibility on:

- Economic Development (Lisa Michelson)
- Skills & Employability (Lisa Michelson)
- Financial Strategy (David Skinner)
- Strategic Infrastructure, inc. Housing Infrastructure Funding (Richard Lumley)
- Partnerships, Policy & Communications (Roger Goodes)
- Chief Executive's Office (Sarah Ashmead)

Overview of the Portfolio



£172m HIF funding to support Aylesbury Garden Town Development



5,214 new businesses have been registered in Buckinghamshire in FY22



£0.5m Grant support to BBF and LEP



£102m Levelling Up bids submitted



8,835 Out of work claimants (October 2022)



57% peak open rates on residents e-newsletters



551 Media Enquiries (Jan to Nov 2022)



Over 200 fully integrated, multi channelled communications campaigns delivered, supporting all service areas including key priorities such as Helping Hands, Ukraine and Bucks Climate Challenge



21,000 Followers



17,000 followers

Examples of outcomes from communications activity

- Over 1800 responses to the Budget Consultation
- Generated 26,000 garden waste subscriptions
- Over 3,400 responses received for the planning attitudes survey
- Crisis Appeal donations now standing at over £180,000



58.3%
Of employees living in Buckinghamshire working as managers / directors or in professional occupations (UK average is 50%)
Source: ONS 2021

Top 10
rank for new business registrations in Buckinghamshire against other Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) areas

90%
Town centre occupancy rate and up to 98% in some high streets



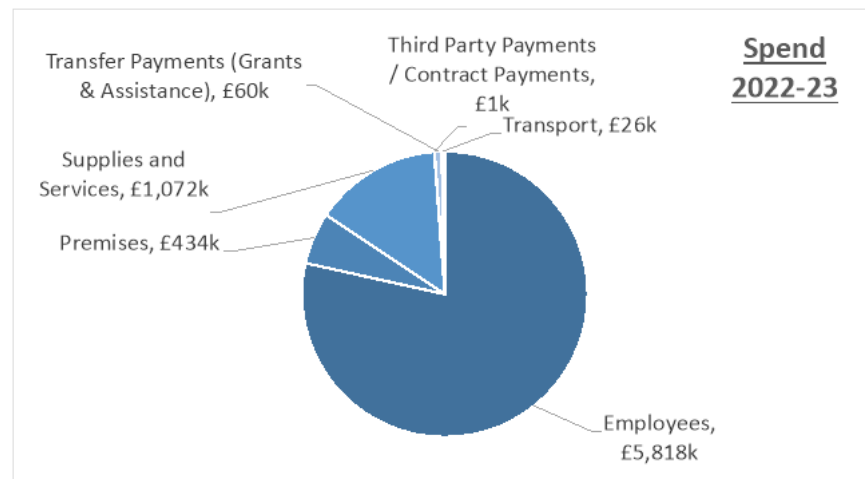
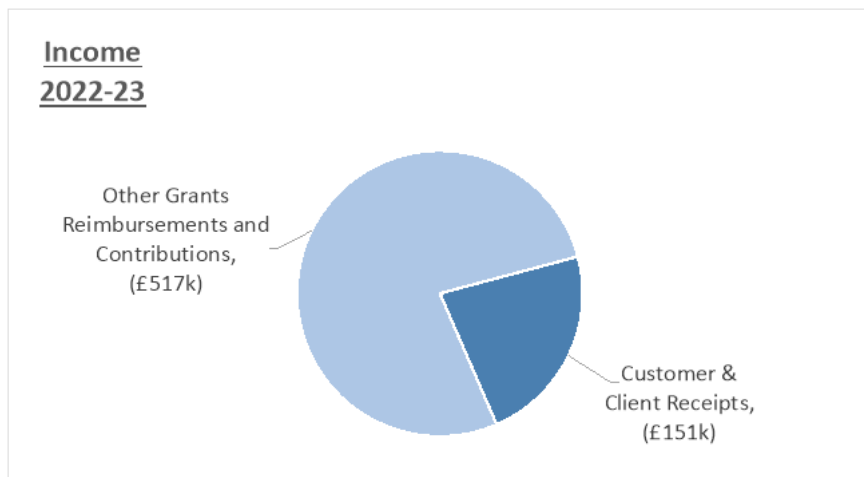
Portfolio priorities

- Growth and regeneration in Buckinghamshire, including economic development and delivery of supporting strategic infrastructure
- Securing a county deal for Buckinghamshire
- Levelling Up within Buckinghamshire
- Delivery of a financial strategy for a robust and balanced budget
- Ensuring the presence and voice of Buckinghamshire Council in local, regional and national discussions
- Ensuring Buckinghamshire is a welcoming place for those fleeing the war in Ukraine.

Revenue Budget 2022-23

		2022-23		
		Income £000	Expense £000	Net Budget
Chief Executives Office	Chief Executives Office		582	582
Chief Executives Office Total			582	582
Economic Growth & Regeneration	Economic Growth & Regeneration	(122)	2,278	2,156
Economic Growth & Regeneration Total		(122)	2,278	2,156
Partnerships, Policy & Communications	Partnerships, Policy & Communications	(546)	4,335	3,789
Partnerships, Policy & Communications Total		(546)	4,335	3,789
Strategic Infrastructure	Strategic Infrastructure		227	227
Strategic Infrastructure Total			227	227
Grand Total		(668)	7,421	6,753

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Revenue forecast at Q2

	Budget	Y/E Outturn	Variance	Change in Variance (from Q1 Cab)
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Expenditure	500	500	0	
Income	0	0	0	
Chief Executives Office	500	500	0	0
Expenditure	3,580	3,590	10	
Income	(370)	(380)	(10)	
Economic Growth & Regeneration	3,210	3,210	0	0
Expenditure	4,350	4,210	(140)	
Income	(550)	(500)	50	
Policy & Communications	3,800	3,710	(90)	(90) ↓
Expenditure	240	190	(50)	
Income	0	0	0	
Strategic Infrastructure	240	190	(50)	(50) ↓
Leader	7,750	7,610	(140)	(140) ↓

Leader Revenue Budget £7.7m*, Forecast £7.6m, Var £0.1m

- Leader Revenue is reporting £0.1m underspend.
- Policy & Communications £0.09m underspend, primarily related to staffing underspends due to vacancies.

**To note: the budget reported at Qtr 2 Cabinet is £0.997m more than the 22-23 base budget in slide 6 because there was a realignment of budgets from the Leader Portfolio after Qtr 2 reporting.*

Revenue budget savings from April 2020

<u>The Leader</u>	Description of Change £000's	Change		
		2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
DCE: Policy	Better Buckinghamshire Service Review	-	(12)	(12)
DCE: Communications	Better Buckinghamshire Service Review	-	(321)	(321)
DCE: Chief Executive Office	Better Buckinghamshire Service Review	-	(59)	(59)
PGS:	Better Buckinghamshire Service Review	-	-	(500)
PGS: Economic Growth & Regeneration	Consultancy Savings (Across PGS)	-	-	(165)
PGS: Economic Growth & Regeneration	Better Buckinghamshire Service Review	-	-	(130)
PGS: Economic Growth & Regeneration	Reduction in Pre-Pipeline development	-	-	(200)
PGS: Economic Growth & Regeneration	Policy Review of charging against external funding (Capitalisation, Grants) (Across PGS)	-	-	(100)
TOTAL		0	(392)	(1,487)

Proposed changes to the Revenue Budget

Leader		Change 2023-24 £000's
Economic Growth & Regeneration		
Savings	Reduction in consultancy spend	(135)
	Reduction in Planning, Growth and Sustainability management team costs	(170)
	Review of external partnership funding	(50)
	Savings from policy review of charging against external funding (capitalisation, grants)	(150)
Partnerships, Policy & Communications		
Savings	Efficiency savings in Partnerships and Policy (Better Buckinghamshire programme)	(77)
	Efficiency savings within Communications	(55)
	Loss of Clinical Commissioning Group (Integrated Care Board) Contract Income	(345)
	Removal of Community Engagement vacant post	(73)
Income	Loss of Clinical Commissioning Group (Integrated Care Board) Contract Income	345

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Economic Growth & Regeneration

Planned savings of £0.5m will be delivered across the Planning, Growth & Sustainability directorate (across multiple portfolios and held under Leader), through a target 10% reduction in consultancy spend, reducing the number of Service Directors for 5 to 4, maximising opportunities to charge revenue costs (mainly staffing) to external grant funding, and through a small reduction in the amount of grant funding offered to economic growth partners.

Opportunity Bucks

The council's pioneering programme for levelling up in Buckinghamshire, to address disparity in Buckinghamshire and create equality of opportunity for all residents and communities across the county, ensuring they have ready access to the means to thrive and achieve. The programme will initially focus on ten identified wards where residents are experiencing poorer outcomes around work, health and education. £1.5m p.a. for 3-years is put aside to support the programme, with the release of funding being dependent upon the approval of agreed business cases by the Leader. This will be funded from uncommitted earmarked reserves.

Policy & Communications

Planned savings £0.150m, through a review of the community engagement activity, continuous improvement within the Corporate policy unit and a reduction in Partnerships running costs. As additional saving, £0.055m will be delivered through a review of communications.

Overall Revenue Budget

		2023-24		
		Income £000	Expense £000	Net Budget
Chief Executives Office	Chief Executives Office		582	582
Chief Executives Office Total			582	582
Economic Growth & Regeneration	Economic Growth & Regeneration	(122)	1,773	1,651
Economic Growth & Regeneration Total		(122)	1,773	1,651
Partnerships, Policy & Communications	Partnerships, Policy & Communications	(201)	3,785	3,584
Partnerships, Policy & Communications Total		(201)	3,785	3,584
Strategic Infrastructure	Strategic Infrastructure		227	227
Strategic Infrastructure Total			227	227
Grand Total		(323)	6,366	6,043

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Change Type	Total £000
Savings	(710)
Special Items	1,500
Reserves	(1,500)
Grand Total	(710)

Challenges, Risks & Opportunities

- County Deal
- Delivering the HIF programme
- Contract with ICB for communications services will cease in 2023 reducing income to service, withdrawal plan to be developed.
- Changes to external factors leading to increased demand on services and support required e.g., conflict in Ukraine
- Given the wider pressures on council budgets and from inflation, sustaining levels of investment in non-statutory services remains a challenge.

Capital Budget and Forecast Q2

Service / Project	Actuals to Date £000	Released Budget £000's	Unreleased Budget £000's	Total Budget £000's	Forecast Outturn Released £000's	Forecast Unreleased £000's	Forecast Outturn £000's	Forecast Variance £000's
Rural Broadband	112	1,323	0	1,323	1,323	0	1,323	0
Economic Growth Total	112	1,323	0	1,323	1,323	0	1,323	0
A355 Improvement Scheme (Wilton Park)	36	397	0	397	397	0	397	0
Aylesbury Eastern Link Road	477	274	0	274	1,000	0	1,000	726
Creditor Reserve Payments	0	194	0	194	194	0	194	0
Grid Reinforcement Works	21	0	9,976	9,976	0	9,976	9,976	0
Cycle Infrastructure	5	840	236	1,076	800	236	1,036	-40
Marginal Viability Works	0	0	181	181	0	181	181	0
Abbey Barn - HIF / S106	121	50	0	50	50	0	50	0
Stoke Mandeville Relief Road / SEALR II	158	-27	0	-27	-27	0	-27	0
Princes Risborough Relief Road	528	0	617	617	872	0	872	255
SEALR (South East Aylesbury Link Road)	3,493	0	12,918	12,918	0	12,918	12,918	0
Strategic Infrastructure (HIF) Total	4,839	1,728	23,928	25,656	3,286	23,311	26,597	941
Grand Total	4,952	3,051	23,928	26,979	4,609	23,311	27,920	941

Leader Capital Budget £27.0m, Forecast £27.9m Var **£0.9m**

1. There is £0.9m of accelerated spend reported: £0.7m on Eastern Link Road, as a budget reprofile is due in Qtr 3; £0.3m on Princes Risborough HIF from expected early works and a prospective land acquisition aiming to be delivered before the end of the year; offset by a minimal £0.04m of slippage across HIF funded cycleway projects.
2. The budgets for SEALR and the Grid Reinforcement are due to be reprofiled in Qtr 3 to reflect the current programme of works on both projects.

Proposed Capital Programme 2023-24 to 2026-27

Expenditure

Service Area	Project Group / Project	2023/24 £000's	2024/25 £000's	2025/26 £000's	2026/27 £000's	MTFP Total £000's
Strategic Transport & Infrastructure	Strategic Infrastructure (HIF)*					
	A355 Improvement Scheme (Wilton Park)	980	-	-	-	980
	Aylesbury Eastern Link Road	2,896	10,000	25,393	-	38,289
	Cycle Infrastructure	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
	Grid Reinforcement Works	5,122	-	-	-	5,122
	Land Assembly	-	10,818	-	-	10,818
	Marginal Viability Works	1,306	643	-	-	1,949
	Princes Risborough Relief Road	1,500	2,000	5,198	-	8,698
	SEALR (South East Aylesbury Link Road)	23,829	1,062	-	-	24,891
	South Western Link Road South	250	250	-	-	500
Total Expenditure		36,884	24,773	30,591	-	92,247

Funding

Funding - MTFP Table	2023/24 £000's	2024/25 £000's	2025/26 £000's	2026/27 £000's	MTFP Total £000's
s106	(83)	(1,062)	(2,730)	-	(3,875)
Ringfenced Grants	(36,662)	(23,711)	(29,366)	-	(89,739)
Total Funding	(36,746)	(24,773)	(32,096)	-	(93,614)
Net Portfolio Totals	138	-	(1,505)	-	(1,367)
Funded From Corporate Resources	(138)	-	1,505	-	1,367
Total	-	-	-	-	-

**HIF Programme Budgets will be updated to reflect the HIF Link Roads Cabinet Paper being presented to Cabinet in December 2022, once confirmation of funding is received from Homes England and DfT*

Proposed Capital Programme 2023-24 to 2026-27

The Leader's Capital Programme covers the major infrastructure projects being delivered using Housing Infrastructure Funding awarded to Bucks Council from Homes England. These projects will unlock the delivery of housing in Aylesbury and Princes Risborough, and will be a major contributor to the deliver of the Council's housing supply targets.

The projects are entirely externally funded – mostly from HIF, but also LEP LGF grants, s.106 funding from developers, and specific funding from HS2 to discharge their assurance obligations.

The programme has been impacted by inflationary pressures. To manage these, additional funding has been sought from HS2, additional s106 obligations will be sought from developers, and HIF funding flexibilities are in the process of being agreed with Homes England. For more detail, see the recent Cabinet Paper on SEALR and the wider link road programme:

<https://buckinghamshire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s53753/Cabinet%20decision%20HIF%20and%20SEALR%20cover%20paperv2.pdf>



Questions



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Budget Scrutiny

Communities

9 January 2023



Agenda

- Overview of the Portfolio
- Portfolio priorities
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- Revenue forecast Q2 Cabinet
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Overview of the Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: [Councillor Steve Bowles](#), Deputy Portfolio Holder: [Councillor Arif Hussain](#)

A broad remit essentially focused on providing the “local face” of the council in Buckinghamshire for residents, communities and key partners / stakeholders such as town and parish councils and the voluntary community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector.

Services within the portfolio work with others in creative ways to make Buckinghamshire a prosperous, safe and healthy place to live, work and grow. Functions of the portfolio include:

- Community boards
- Strategic engagement with and local devolution to town and parish councils
- Voluntary and community sector strategic engagement
- Community safety
 - Counter-terrorism & Prevent strategy
 - Anti-social behaviour
 - Domestic abuse
- Equality and inclusion
- Helping hand
- Armed Forces covenant
- Resilience Services

Overview of the Portfolio (as at December 2022)



16 Community Boards



171 Town and Parish Councils



Over 4,600 charities and other voluntary / not for profit organisations



12,000 children eligible for free school meals

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£4.8m[^] of grants that support vulnerable people through Helping Hand



£154,000 of Lottery funds (both community funds and good causes fund)



92 Business Continuity Plans across the Council



[^]£4.8m of government grants in Financial year 2022-23. £2.4m worth of government grants to support the financially vulnerable residents. Now in the process of delivering a further £2.4m through the Household Support Fund

Overview of the Portfolio – Household Support Grant

- Buckinghamshire Household Support Fund Allocation for 22/23 £4.8m
- Fund will enable
 - Over £750k of direct bespoke support to be provided to financially vulnerable households through the Councils Helping Hand offer.
 - Over £400k provided to VCS sector to provide support to residents experiencing financial challenges.
 - Over £500k awarded as grants via Community Foundation, Heart of Bucks to households in need.
 - Over £1.6m of digital Food vouchers provided to young people in receipt of Free School Meals/Early Years' Pupil Premium/2-year old funded free education places
- By the end of 22/23 it is anticipated that this Fund will have facilitated support to households on over 140,000 occasions.
- In addition working with key Partners have sought to address the Financial Insecurity issues faced by many households through the #Backontrack initiatives.

Overview of the Portfolio – Community Boards

Budget Information 2022 - 2023

- Operational Budget = £1.17m including staffing
- Project Funding Budget = £2m (reduced from £3.9m in 2021-22)
- ❖ Changes introduced following service review, including feedback from Scrutiny and Members:
 - reduced management structure
 - dedicated funding team
 - projects capped at £15k
 - projects over £1k requiring contributory funding
 - £1k small grants scheme introduced
 - Board flexibility on priorities and how to operate

Overview of the Portfolio – Community Boards

The Boards have funded a total of 184 community projects during 2022-2023, with a further 57 applications currently passing through the due diligence process.

2022/23 Budget Allocation		Forecast Budget Spend	
Amersham & Villages	£89,696.00	£72,640.08	80.98%
Aylesbury	£207,127.00	£207,022.26	99.95%
Beaconsfield & Chepping Wye	£111,704.00	£111,548.55	99.86%
Beeches	£100,388.00	£99,835.60	99.45%
Buckingham & Villages	£117,026.00	£85,980.82	73.47%
Chesham & Villages	£111,128.00	£111,128.00	100.00%
Denham, Gerrards Cross & Chalfonts	£114,206.00	£108,506.70	95.01%
Haddenham & Waddesdon	£138,639.00	£138,639.00	100.00%
High Wycombe	£237,853.00	£236,873.70	99.59%
Missendens	£77,604.00	£76,214.70	98.21%
North West Chilterns	£125,177.00	£124,924.39	99.80%
South West Chilterns	£122,528.00	£121,835.51	99.43%
Wendover & Villages	£148,957.00	£115,337.39	77.43%
Wexham & The Ivers	£90,475.00	£72,623.71	80.27%
Wing & Ivinghoe	£99,040.00	£74,443.20	75.16%
Winslow & Villages	£108,452.00	£72,244.69	66.61%
	£2,000,000.00	£1,829,798.30	91.49%

Allocated (CB Current Spend)	Contributory Funding	Total Financial Community Value	Amount of contributory funding secured for every £1 of CB Investment
£18,822.55	£35,745.70	£54,568.25	£1.90
£67,022.26	£19,582.84	£86,605.10	£0.29
£65,501.12	£77,136.00	£142,637.12	£1.18
£67,795.98	£20,355.00	£88,150.98	£0.30
£46,980.82	£9,172.83	£56,153.65	£0.20
£21,277.00	£46,590.00	£67,867.00	£2.19
£81,568.96	£124,368.63	£205,937.59	£1.52
£120,862.03	£139,195.13	£260,057.16	£1.15
£72,666.70	£74,699.00	£147,365.70	£1.03
£3,014.70	£0.00	£3,014.70	£0.00
£56,502.69	£22,202.98	£78,705.67	£0.39
£36,824.00	£90,112.78	£126,936.78	£2.45
£46,097.83	£14,994.79	£61,092.62	£0.33
£39,782.89	£0.00	£39,782.89	£0.00
£13,062.00	£4,135.00	£17,197.00	£0.32
£40,244.69	£17,382.63	£57,627.32	£0.43
£798,026.22	£695,673.31	£1,493,699.53	£0.87

Overview of the Portfolio – Community Boards

Budget Overview

2020 - 2023

- Community Boards have funded a total of 827 projects since their launch in 2020
- A total of £5.6m invested in local projects
- The Community Boards have generated a total of £3.4m in contributory funding
- The total financial community value of projects is £9m
- Average project spend = £11,016

Overview of the Portfolio – Community Safety

	2022-23
Community Safety	£000
Employees	1,520
Premises	28
Transport	4
Supplies and Services	994
3rd Party Pmts and Contributions	84
Transfer Payments	236
Recharges	(259)
Total Expenses	2,607
Grants and Contributions	(624)
Total Income	(624)
Net Budget	1,983

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- Community Safety provide wardens to patrol Aylesbury and Wycombe Town centres, they are supported by our CCTV service which operates in these areas and other town centres
- We have recently undertaken a procurement process for Domestic Abuse Services across Buckinghamshire. This service along with new provision for victims of DA will provide a significantly enhanced service across the county.
- We have been working with the police and other key partners to develop the Thames Valley Together project. This is a shared database which will allow key partners, with the right level of vetting, to access all partners information about vulnerable people, enhancing the ability to share information across statutory agencies and respond accordingly to the persons need.
- We joined forces with Heart of Bucks to increase the level of funding available to local organisation’s working with our community safety officers to reduce the impact of Crime and Antisocial Behaviour within our communities.

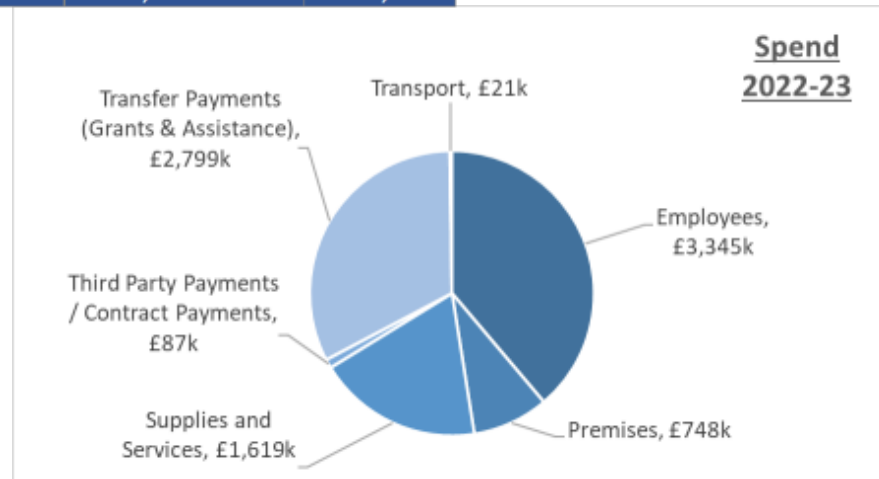
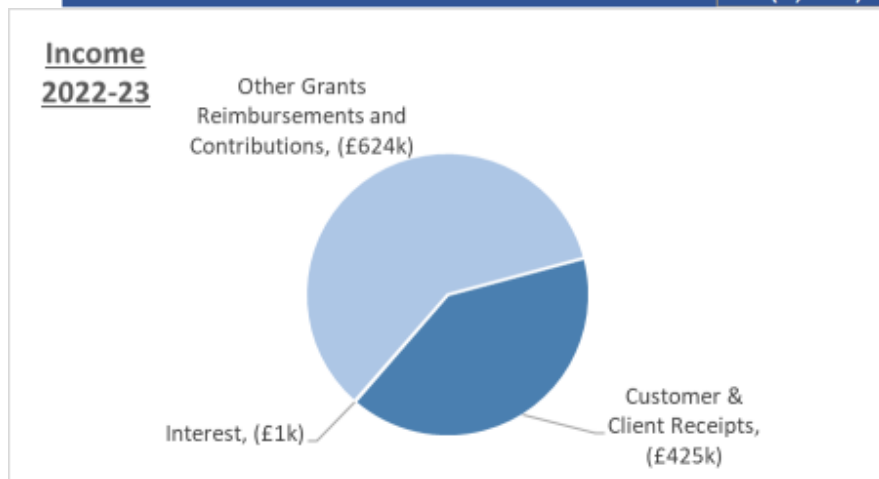
Portfolio priorities

- Community Boards deliver the Council's corporate priorities by establishing local priorities and which deliver change and improvements for their local communities through engagement and facilitation with residents and partners, alongside funded projects
- Developing the Helping Hand programme
- Working with the police and PCC to help reduce the fear of and prevent crime
- Understanding the issues around female safety and consider what could be done to address them
- Completing the next stage of the VCSE grant review
- Building effective relationships with partners and stakeholders to enable collaborative working to support local communities
- Delivering the local devolution programme

Revenue Budget 2022-23

	2022-23		
	Income £000	Expense £000	Net Budget
Community Boards		3,169	3,169
Community Safety	(624)	2,607	1,983
Community Support Helping Hand		218	218
Community Support VCS Grants		534	534
Community Support Total		752	752
Resilience Services		297	297
Special Expenses	(426)	1,795	1,369
Grand Total	(1,050)	8,620	7,570

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Revenue forecast at Q2

	Budget	Y/E Outturn	Variance	Change in Variance (from Q1 Cab)
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Expenditure	3,190	3,180	(10)	(10)
Income	0	0	0	0
Community Boards	3,190	3,180	(10)	(10)
Expenditure	3,650	3,370	(280)	(240)
Income	(1,650)	(1,560)	90	90
Community Safety	2,000	1,810	(190)	(150)
Expenditure	300	300	0	0
Emergency Planning	300	300	0	0
Expenditure	3,160	3,270	110	110
Income	(2,400)	(2,400)	0	0
Community Support - Helping Hands	760	870	110	110
Expenditure	1,840	1,690	(150)	(130)
Income	(470)	(320)	150	120
Special Expenses	1,370	1,370	0	(10)
Communities	7,620	7,530	(90)	(60)

Communities Revenue: Budget £7.6m, Forecast £7.5m, Var **£0.09m**

- Communities Revenue is reporting £0.09m underspend.
- Community Support – Helping Hands reporting £0.1m overspend due to 4th quarter Citizens Advice Bureau payment not accrued in FY22.
- Community Safety £0.2m underspend, related to staffing underspends (£0.08m within central team, £0.06m across CCTV and £0.06m favourable movement due to contribution from Community Boards). Favourable £0.15m movement from Q1 due to staffing underspends and contribution from Community Boards.

Revenue budget savings from April 2020

<u>Communities</u>	Description of Change	Change		
		£000's	2020-21	2021-22
Community Boards				
Community Boards	Reduce Funding for Community Boards	-	-	(1,900)
Community Safety				
Community Safety	Better Buckinghamshire Service Review	-	(162)	(162)
Community Support – Helping Hand				
Localities and Strategic Partnerships (LSP)	Better Buckinghamshire Service Review	-	(230)	(230)
TOTAL		-	(392)	(2,292)

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Community Boards: reduction in funding from £3.9m to £2.0m in financial year 2022-23

Community Support – Helping Hand: Better Buckinghamshire savings of £0.230m relate to Localities and Strategic Partnerships which is now split across Services which reside across a number of Portfolios as well as Community Boards and Community Support - Helping Hand.

Proposed changes to the Revenue Budget

Communities		Change 2023-24 £000's	Commentary
Community Boards			
Savings	Community Boards	(500)	Base £3.169m consisting of Pay and Running costs, £1.169m and Scheme Budget £2.0m . This will be a 16% saving
Community Support Helping Hands			
Special Items	Helping Hand	1,000	Pay and Running costs to support the Helping Hand initiative and deliver critical grants such as Household Support Grant
Reserves	Helping Hand funding from reserves	(1,000)	

Overall Revenue Budget 2023-24

	2023-24		Net Budget
	Income £000	Expense £000	
Community Boards		2,669	2,669
Community Safety	(624)	2,607	1,983
Community Support Helping Hand		218	218
Community Support VCS Grants		534	534
Community Support Total		752	752
Resilience Services		297	297
Special Expenses	(426)	1,795	1,369
Grand Total	(1,050)	8,120	7,070

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NB *Community Support Helping Hand Expense budget includes £1.0m spend funded from Reserves (see slide 14)

** Special Expenses budgets above will be amended once the draft proposed budgets have been agreed. Draft proposed budgets are shown on slide 16.

Special Expenses Draft Proposed Budgets 2023-24

2023/24 Special Expenses budgets	High Wycombe Town Committee £	West Wycombe Church Yard £	Aylesbury Town £
Recreation grounds	130,100		652,347
Allotments	32,940		
High Wycombe Cemetery	137,037		
Penn Road Cemetery	63,385		
Closed Church Yard		7,773	
Community Centres	0		339,463
Town Twinning	3,000		
Community Grants	20,000		
War Memorial	3,000		
Footway Lighting and Bus Shelter	1,800		
Town Centre Events	12,000		
Market			27,360
Management and Support	59,667		
Total Special Expenses	462,930	7,773	1,019,170
Interest on Balances	(21,486)		(8,000)
Net Spend for year	441,444	7,773	1,011,170
Balance b/f	(537,152)	0	(200,000)
Net spending for year	441,444	7,773	1,011,170
Collection fund precept	(441,444)	(7,773)	(1,011,170)
Balance c/f	(537,152)	(0)	(200,000)
Council Tax base	24,033.51	546.63	19,087.34
Band D Charge	18.37	14.22	52.98

Draft proposed budgets for 2023-24 are subject to the following:

- High Wycombe Town Committee draft budget is subject to review by the nominated HWTC Budget Sub-group Committee which is meeting on 5th January 2023, followed by the HWTC meeting on 17th January 2023. Once agreed at the HWTC meeting the budget will be recommended to Cabinet/ Full Council. It is anticipated that the outcome of the meetings may result in adjustments to the above proposed budget.
- Aylesbury Town Council assumes no devolution applies.

Challenges, Risks & Opportunities

The Communities Portfolio have a range of challenges and risks, including:

- changes in external funding i.e., changes in government funding and community safety funding
- capacity issues for any new requirements to be able to deliver statutory duties

Top 5 contracts

Segment	Supplier	Title	Annual Contract £000
Bronze	Community Impact Bucks	VCS Infrastructure Contract	187.2
Bronze	Hawk Incentives Limited	Holiday voucher Scheme (Helping Hands)	1883.0
Bronze	Aylesbury Women's Aid	Domestic Violence & Abuse (DVA) Youth Worker Contract to 31-03-2023*	26.0
Bronze	Wycombe Women's Aid	DVA In-Reach Worker - Contract to 31-03-2023*	25.0
Gold	Aylesbury Women's Aid	DVA Integrated Services (3+ 2 year contract)	585.0
	Thames Valley Police Authority	Public Space CCTV Services - Contract to 30-09-2023*	107.7

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* With the expiry of these contracts, a new approach to deliver these services is currently underway.

Fees & Charges

There are no Fees & Charges applicable to the Communities Portfolio except for Special Expenses fees and charges which are recommended to increase mostly by 9% with the following exceptions:

- New fees and charges are being proposed for HWTC cemeteries where a service offer for columbarium vault including inscription has been repackaged and repriced.
- Community bookings between 17:45 to Close at Community Centres have had no increase applied in order to encourage regular hirers to continue to use the facilities during this timeslot

Capital Budget and Forecast Q2

Service / Project	Actuals to Date £000	Released Budget £000's	Unreleased Budget £000's	Total Budget £000's	Forecast Outturn Released £000's	Forecast Unreleased £000's	Forecast Outturn £000's	Forecast Variance £000's
CCTV Projects	0	268	0	268	50	0	50	-218
Community Safety Total	0	268	0	268	50	0	50	-218
Grand Total	0	268	0	268	50	0	50	-218

Communities Capital forecast Q2 : Budget £0.3m, Var £0.2m

- The full programme is not anticipated to be completed this year due to the moratorium on capital spend; the expected spend is £50k

Capital 2023-24 to 2026-27

There are no further Capital Schemes proposed for 2023-24 to 2026-27. There is a risk that without further spend the CCTV network will continue to degrade, consideration in future years will be given as part of the MTFP budget setting process.

Special Expenses CIL for High Wycombe Town Committee

On 22 November 2022 HWTC recommended that:

- (i) A sum of £50,000 be allocated in the Council's budget towards a feasibility study for improvements to Arnison Avenue shopping parade*
- (ii) A sum of £17,752 be allocated in the Council's budget for the Coates Lane traffic calming and parking subject to the discussions by the working group
- (iii) A sum of £35,088 be allocated in the Council's budget for the traffic calming measures proposed on Bowerdean Road

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Members appeared to support £147,000 for Replacement and Refurbishment of Play Areas funded from special expenses but did not vote on this.*

*Members views on these points are to be clarified at the 17 January HWTC meeting.



Questions





Budget Scrutiny

Transport

9 January 2023



Agenda

- Overview of the Portfolio
- Portfolio priorities
- Revenue Budget 2022/23
- Revenue forecast Q2 Cabinet
- Revenue budget savings since April 2020
- Proposed changes to the Revenue budget
- Overall Proposed Revenue Budget
- Challenges, risks and opportunities
- Top 5 contracts
- Fees & Charges
- Capital Budget and forecast 2022/23
- Proposed Capital Programme
- Questions
- Appendices
 - Transport Services Top 5 Contracts by Total Contract Value (multiple contracts)

Overview of the Portfolio

Cabinet Members: Cllr Steve Broadbent (Portfolio Holder); Cllr Peter Martin (Deputy Portfolio Holder – HS2/ EWR) and Cllr David King (Deputy Portfolio Holders – Project Delivery)

The Transport portfolio is aligned to the:

- Communities Directorate (Richard Barker - Corporate Director Communities), specifically
 - Highways & Technical Services (Kevin Goad – Service Director)
 - Transport Services (Lindsey Vallis – Service Director)
- PGS Directorate (Ian Thompson – Corporate Director PGS), specifically
 - Strategic Transport & Infrastructure (Transport Strategy) (Richard Lumley – Service Director).
- The portfolio helps to deliver all of the Corporate priorities and is principally responsible for:
 - Highways – including asset management; footpaths, bridges, structures; gullies/drain cleaning
 - Rights of Way, Definitive Map & Highway Searches
 - Parking (on and off-street)
 - Transport Services - Home to School Transport Delivery and Policy; Social Care Transport; Public Transport including sustainable travel & fleet management
 - Strategic Transport & Infrastructure – Transport Strategy
 - Managing and mitigating the impact of HS2 and East West Rail in Buckinghamshire
 - Highways infrastructure projects (for example Westthorpe and A41 Corridor Improvements)

Overview of the Portfolio

Highways – incl. asset management; Footpaths, bridges, structures; Gullies/drain cleaning

The Highway service is moving to a new model from April 2023 and procurement arrangements are progressing to schedule.

The Highway service maintains and manages the highway, footway and highways verges. Part of the service includes defect repairs to other highway assets including potholes, safety barriers, streetlights, traffic controls (lights and signals), gullies and bridges.

The service is also responsible for network safety, both in terms of driver education as well as ensuring grass and weeds don't affect visibility and safety, gritting roads in the winter and maintaining drainage on the highways, including gully cleaning to help prevent flooding.

The Street Works team coordinates the multiple programmes of work on our highway which includes our own road works, utility providers, events such as cycle races and even production companies filming on the highway.

A small number of local maintenance services have been devolved to some local councils including urban grass cutting, hedging, siding out and Rights of Way clearance amongst other things.

Overview of the Portfolio

Rights of Way, Definitive Map & Highway Searches

- The public Rights of Way network spans 3,330km including around 2350 bridges, 4900 signposts, 6550 gates, 4550 stiles and 3200 waymark posts. A capital programme of £442k is in place over the next two financial years to improve the condition of the Rights of Way network.
- The Definitive Map and Highway Searches team ensure the delivery of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan, as well as processing applications and changes to Buckinghamshire's definitive map and carry out highway searches.

Parking

- Parking Services manage the Council's 84 regulated car parks, including 8 multi-storey car parks. Additionally, the service manages enforcement of; Off Street, 10,894 standard parking bays, 436 Blue Badge Bays and 97 electric car charging spaces – with more planned for the year ahead, and three Country Parks. On-street, there are approximately 7,355 standard parking bays, 150 Blue Badge bays, and 426 miles of parking restrictions, if placed end to end.
- The service is also responsible for the introduction of parking restrictions and the associated statutory processes (on and off street) and providing an appeals service and back office functions relating to parking management.
- Before COVID, the legacy Councils collectively received approximately £1m each month in parking income. This income is yet to recover, and this is being closely monitored. The parking service, having been delivered by several different teams before unitarization, was brought fully in house on 21 September 2021 and came together as one integrated team on 1 May 2022.

Overview of the Portfolio

Transport Services - Home to School Transport Delivery and Policy; Social Care Transport; Public Transport & Fleet

- Transport Services is responsible for enabling high quality, efficient and safe transport so that children and adults are able to get to school, work and access public services. This includes:
- Promoting public and community transport. This includes leading on the delivery of Buckinghamshire's Bus Improvement Plan and supporting public buses to be sustainable and accessible across the county. There are currently 96 public bus routes across the county.
- Ensuring children are provided with safe, accessible transport to get to school and access social care in line with the Council's statutory responsibilities. This includes providing transport for approximately 2000 SEND children and young people; and for over 4,700 children and young people without special education needs.
- Ensuring adults with learning disabilities and older people have transport to access education and day care centres.
- Providing fleet, including leasing and maintenance of vehicles for internal departments and external bodies such as schools through a traded account.

Overview of the Portfolio

Transport Infrastructure & Funding

This service consists of 2 teams:

- The **Transport Strategy & Funding** team brings in funding and investment and leads on developing transport strategies like the Local Transport Plan for Buckinghamshire. They carry out feasibility, bidding and manage a programme of externally funded S106 transport schemes. The team supports innovative and sustainable travel initiatives such as, EV charging points, Demand Responsive Transport Schemes, Active Travel and the e-scooter trials. The majority of this team's costs are staffing, plus around £0.3m of strategy development and transport planning budgets. They also host a dedicated team of s.106 and CIL officers, responsible for monitoring and managing developer contributions agreed through the Planning service.
- The **Transport Infrastructure & Delivery** team :
 - seeks to manage and mitigate the impact of national strategic infrastructure projects such as HS2 and East West Rail on Buckinghamshire's residents, businesses and special environment. The service continues to seek to mitigate the increasing construction impacts of both projects including environmental measures, traffic management and engaging with communities along the routes of both schemes. A large proportion of staffing in this team is funded by HS2 and EWR; the Council uses £0.7m of its own funds for activities not supported by HS2/EWR, including community engagement officers and marshals, legal challenges, CCTV, etc.
 - manages and delivers schemes on the ground, including major highway infrastructure, cycleways, s106 transport schemes and flood mitigation schemes (the HIF projects sit within Leader Portfolio). The majority of their costs are staffing, and are charged to the capital projects.
 - Note that the Leaders portfolio includes responsibility for large Strategic Infrastructure projects, including Housing Infrastructure Funding.

Portfolio priorities

- Investment in roads and pavements - £100m* investment in Buckinghamshire's roads and pavements to achieve improvements in condition across all categories
- Drain and gully clearance and repair programme delivery
- Investment in failed roads budget - £3m allocated for 2022/23
- Focus on improvements and outcomes for new Buckinghamshire Highways Alliance service to deliver operating model for the county from April 2023
- Deliver capital programmes including Rights of Way, Highways Infrastructure Projects, S106 funded projects and others
- Increase access to electric vehicle charging points – double the number of publicly available EV charging points by end 2023/24 and adoption of an EV Charging Action Plan
- Develop and adopt a Parking Strategy for Buckinghamshire
- Refresh transport policies including the Local Transport Plan and introducing new policies such as the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and Area Transport Strategies
- Introduce and support sustainable travel options through school travel planning, developer travel plans, delivery of Rights of Way Action Plan objectives, implementation of active travel schemes and initiatives such as Simply Walk and Bikeability

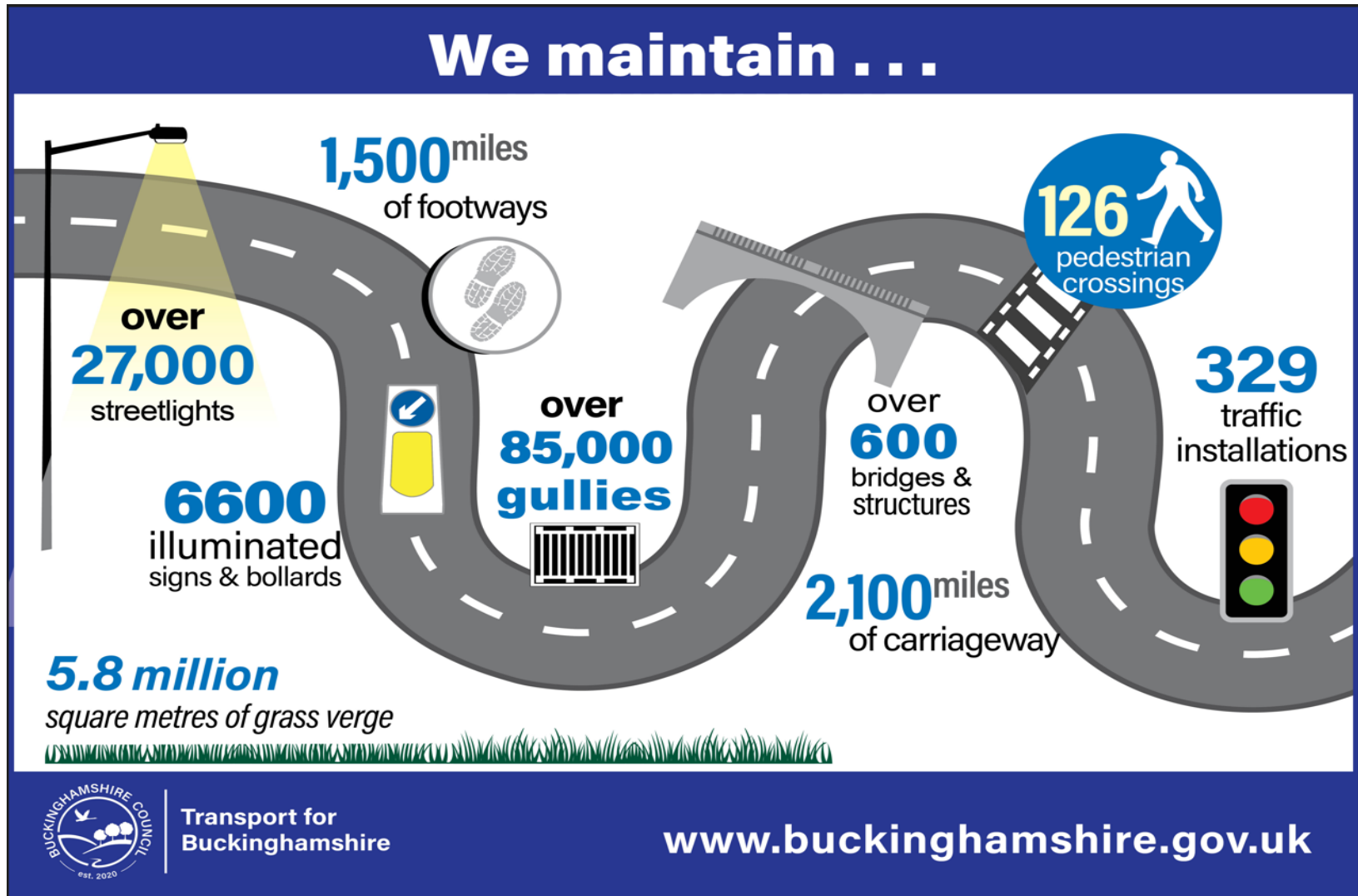
*£100m+ investment in roads (revenue and capital, drainage and footways) over the MTFP period.

Portfolio Priorities

- Promote and support bus services to recover post-COVID and to deliver against the Bus Service Improvement Plan within existing budgets
- Continuous improvement of school transport including better customer processes and innovations such as e-tickets
- Promote Independent Travel Training for SEND students and promote Personal Transport Budgets
- Continue scrutiny of HS2 applications and seek to secure benefits for residents and communities in Buckinghamshire
- Hold HS2 and EWR to account, including on road repairs, communications and ensuring contractor compliance as well as allocation of HS2 Road Safety Fund to ensure schemes are put in place

Our Service Users

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Transport for
Buckinghamshire

www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Our Service Users



Transport Services statistics December 2022

71,500*

School aged children in Buckinghamshire (5-16yrs)

* School census data January 2022

7%

travel by Council provided bus

2%

by Council provided taxi



Social care transport for

+/- **250 adults** with additional needs,

+/- **50 children** with SEND who either have social care plans or who are children in care

Provided home to school transport for **7,200** eligible students in 2021/2022, made up of +/-



4,700 mainstream students and **2,500** students with SEND

Helped set-up **18 new** commercial school bus routes in 2021/22



26% increase in demand for SEND transport since 2017-18



87 Council-run school bus routes running from September 2022



+/- 4,200 school bus passes produced for the 2022-23 academic year

1,400 contracts including

+/- **800** SEND contracts



160 Social Care transport contracts

Over **410 PTBs** in payment for 2022-23 AY

3,195 school transport enquiries received 1 July – 30 Sep 2022



84% of were responded To within 5 working days

95 local bus services

delivered by **13** operators



28 of which are funded by BC (mainly in rural and suburban areas)

60 Bucks schools now have an

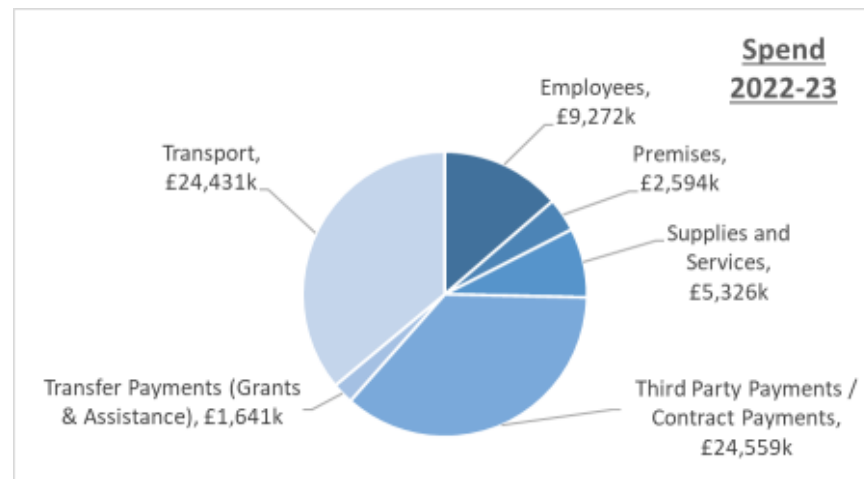
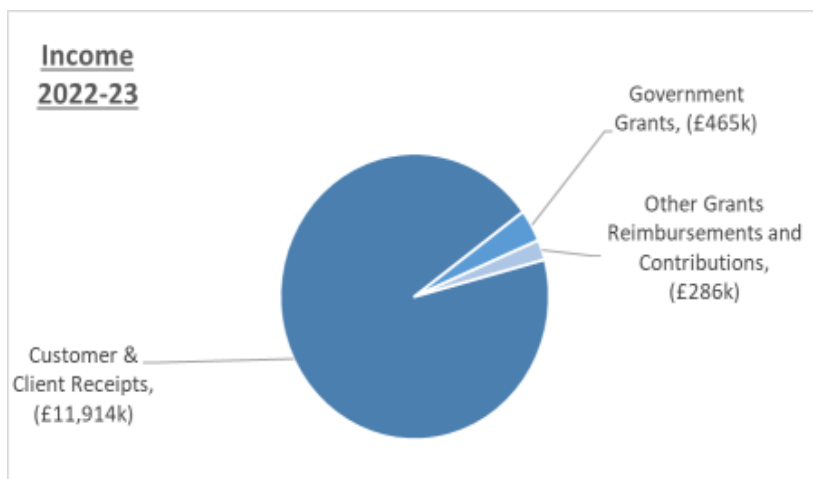


Active School Travel Plan

Revenue Budget 2022-23

		2022-23		
		Income £000	Expense £000	Net Budget
Highways & Technical Services	Other Highways & Technical	(48)	4,112	4,064
	Parking Operations	(9,399)	7,518	(1,881)
	Rights of way	(149)	959	810
	Transport for Bucks	-	17,301	17,301
Highways & Technical Services Total		(9,596)	29,891	20,295
Transport Infrastructure & Delivery	HS2	(391)	1,105	715
Transport Infrastructure & Delivery Total		(391)	1,105	715
Transport Services	Transport Services	(2,431)	35,526	33,095
Transport Services Total		(2,431)	35,526	33,095
Transport Strategy & Funding	Transport Strategy & Funding	(247)	1,487	1,241
Transport Strategy & Funding Total		(247)	1,487	1,241
Grand Total		(12,664)	68,009	55,345

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Revenue forecast at Q2

	Budget	Y/E Outturn	Variance	Change in Variance (from Q1 Cab)
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Expenditure	33,710	33,700	(10)	
Income	(13,330)	(13,000)	330	
Highways & Technical Services	20,380	20,700	320	140 ↑
Expenditure	1,110	1,490	380	
Income	(390)	(790)	(400)	
HS2	720	700	(20)	(20) ↓
Expenditure	35,560	36,750	1,190	
Income	(2,430)	(1,950)	480	
Transport Services	33,130	34,800	1,670	560 ↑
Expenditure	1,490	1,730	240	
Income	(250)	(420)	(170)	
Transport Strategy	1,240	1,310	70	120 ↑
Transport	55,470	57,510	2,040	800 ↑

Transport Revenue: Budget £55.5m, Outturn £57.5m, Adverse Variance **£2.0m**

- Transport Services £1.7m adverse variance. £1.9m cost pressure within Home to School Transport due to higher than anticipated increased SEND contract costs and a 3% increase given to all Home to School Contracts to mitigate rising fuel prices. There is an expected increase in Personal Transport Budget costs as more people are transferred over. There is also a £0.1m adverse variance currently forecast within Client Transport due to staffing costs pressure. £0.3m favourable variance on Public Transport due to a reduction in concessionary pot following negotiations with commercial suppliers.
- Highways & Technical Services favourable variance £0.2m. Increased income from Parking and Street works offset by energy cost forecast from September onwards affecting Highways and Parking after taking into account the recently announced energy price guarantees.
- Transport Strategy £70k adverse variance: £40k income shortfall on Simply Walk, and £30k income shortfall on Transport Studies, offset with favourable variances in Highways Projects (Leader Portfolio). There is an opportunity for further favourable variances this year due to staff vacancies. Both variances have been permanently resolved via the recent staffing realignment in the Service Review.

Revenue budget savings from April 2020

	2020/21 £'000	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000	Total £'000
Contract Harmonisation				
Highways & Technical Services - Parking Management System		-30	-78	-108
Highways & Technical Services - Cash Collection		-44	-4	-48
		-74	-82	-156
Better Buckinghamshire				
Highways & Technical Services:				
TfB/RJ Contract Overhead efficiencies		-35		-35
Amalgamation of Off Street and On Street Parking		-125	-125	-250
		-160	-125	-285
Other Savings				
Increased Income from Network Strategy and claims	-350			-350
Transport Strategy - Mitigations for unmet inherited income targets (holding vacancies, using project budgets)		-200		-200
TOTAL SAVINGS	-350	-434	-207	-991

Proposed changes to the Revenue Budget

Transport		Change 2023-24 £000's
Highways & Technical Services		
Growth	Increase in Enforcement costs	43
	Increase in Highways legal advertisement costs	55
	Increase in Rights of Way costs	65
	Increased costs from the growth of the road network	353
Income	Additional Off-Street parking income (post-Covid)	(1,556)
	Additional On-Street parking income (post-Covid)	(259)
	Increase in Definitive Map service fees and charges	(5)
	Increase in income from Moving Traffic Enforcement	(102)
	Increase in income from Streetworks (permit and non-permit related)	(350)
	Increase in Parking Fees and Charges (Off-Street and On-Street)	(250)
	Increase in Transport Fees and Charges	(40)
Inflation	Increase in Highways Service energy costs	2,160
	Increase in Devolution payments to Parish and Town Councils	46
	Increase in Highways contract costs	1,740
	Increase in material costs for the Rights of Way service	12
	Increase in Parking Operation costs	469
Savings	Efficiency savings general highways maintenance service	(10)
	Efficiency savings in Fleet and street lighting services	(25)
	Grass cutting (Rural & Urban) and vegetation clearing	(350)
	Reduction in fly-tipping clearance costs through improved enforcement	(10)
	Reduction in number of Weed killing treatments per annum	(230)
Special Items	Removal of one-off budget allocated for Highways procurement	(300)

Proposed changes to the Revenue Budget

Transport		Change 2023-24 £000's
Transport Services		
Growth	Increased costs from demand on Pupil Referral Unit through demographic growth and complexity	224
	Increased costs of services through demographic growth and complexity	1,706
	Reversal of savings in Independent Travel Training (ITT)	10
	Reversal of savings in schools-led SEND Transport Mini-Bus Scheme	50
	Reversal of savings in SEND transport delivery initiatives	100
	Review of Home to School Transport Budget based on forecasts	1,201
Income	Income reduction in Home to School Transport	453
Inflation	Increase in contract costs	1,266
	Increased taxi and bus contract costs	442
Savings	Efficiency savings in SEND Transport provision	(160)
	Reduced demand for SEND Transport	(100)
	Reduction in Personal Transport Budgets	(210)
Special Items	Increased costs for e-ticketing and real time vehicle tracking (funded from Reserves)	150
Reserves	Use of reserves to fund increased costs for e-ticketing and real time vehicle tracking	(150)
Transport Strategy & Funding		
Income	Additional income for Strategic Transport services	(60)

Proposed changes to the Revenue Budget - narrative

- **Highways & Technical Services**
 - Proposed growth changes have been limited to £516k, which is mostly growth in extent of highways asset following adoptions (assumed 200km additional roads over 5 years) and the balance relating to pressure on costs for Highways advert legal costs, Rights of Way (clearance, materials and staffing costs – need to manage demand from residents and to address shortfall on network) and enforcement (signs, lines and blue badges – where signs and lines are needed with the new restrictions from Moving Traffic Enforcement introduction, new traffic orders and general upkeep across the county and will enhance the ability to enforce parking restrictions and issue Penalty Charge Notices).
 - Income proposals assume recovery of Off Street and On Street parking following Covid – partial 10% improvement on prior year to 25% reduction on pre-Covid target for Off Street parking whilst On Street parking figures should be back to pre-covid levels from 23/24. Other income proposed is Streetworks permit and non-permit related income linked to higher demand for street works, new income from Moving Traffic Enforcement (shown as net income after costs with surplus to be used to purchase more cameras to enhance activity), and increases in parking fees and charges (10p increase for Off Street pay and display charges and 20p increase for On Street pay and display charges to influence behaviour change and increased use of car parks) plus Definitive Map temporary traffic order fee income given income has remained higher than expected over the past three years.
 - Inflation is mainly attributable to Highways contract inflation and energy inflation, Parking energy inflation with smaller inflation amounts linked to devolution and Rights of Way inflation. All inflation put forward is considered unavoidable.
 - Savings proposals are expected to come from a revision of Grass Cutting (rural and urban) and vegetation clearing frequency patterns (urban - 2 cuts from 3 per annum; rural - reduced to cuts for visibility measure only), non-statutory weed spraying reduction (though noxious, invasive, injurious weed treatment to continue as part of statutory treatment) and smaller savings from improved enforcement from fly tipping, new highways contract and general highways maintenance efficiencies and fleet efficiencies and street lighting savings.

Proposed changes to the Revenue Budget – narrative

- **Transport Services** proposed changes
 - Proposed growth is for demographic growth and complexity based on corporate modelling for MTFP and an additional amount for PRUs for solo transport based on 18% increase of PRU contracts with inflationary adjustment. Current year forecasts for period 8 reveal a 14% of £23m budget pressure for Home to School Transport linked to contract changes and new contracts at higher prices due to the prevailing inflationary environment. Rebasings of the Home to School Transport budget is based on the period 4 forecast and given changes in recent months in the forecast, there is a risk that costs may indeed be higher than the plan as proposed. Smaller growth items relate to SEND transport delivery initiatives, schools-led SEND Transport Mini-bus scheme and Independent Travel Training (all being reversals of previous savings put forward now undeliverable after due diligence business case discovery work including benchmarking against other councils).
 - Income is proposed to be reduced as a result of reduced income realised for spare seats which reflects the reduction in the number of Council run school buses and net contract savings achieved overall.
 - Inflation is directly linked to contracts for annual increases to contracts and market pressures (based on corporate modelling for MTFP) as well as increased taxi and bus contract costs (increases are CPI linked). It is expected that market prices will stabilise over time in future years.
 - Partial and reduced savings delivery is anticipated for Personal Transport Budgets, SEND transport and new delivery initiatives.
 - A special item for e-ticketing and real-time vehicle tracking is on track to be delivered and is proposed to be funded from reserves.
- **Transport Strategy & Funding** proposed changes
 - Service efficiency savings, which were set as part of Better Buckinghamshire savings in last year's MTFP process, have been delivered via a recent team restructure.

Overall Revenue Budget 2023-24

		2023-24		
		Income £000	Expense £000	Net Budget
Highways & Technical Services	Other Highways & Technical	(53)	3,900	3,847
	Parking Operations	(11,566)	7,487	(4,079)
	Rights of way	(149)	1,036	887
	Transport for Bucks	(370)	21,466	21,096
Highways & Technical Services Total		(12,138)	33,889	21,751
Transport Infrastructure & Delivery	HS2	(391)	1,105	715
Transport Infrastructure & Delivery Total		(391)	1,105	715
Transport Services	Transport Services	(1,978)	40,055	38,077
Transport Services Total		(1,978)	40,055	38,077
Transport Strategy & Funding	Transport Strategy & Funding	(307)	1,487	1,181
Transport Strategy & Funding Total		(307)	1,487	1,181
Grand Total		(14,813)	76,536	61,723

Change Type	Total £000
Growth	3,807
Income	(2,169)
Inflation	6,135
Savings	(1,095)
Special Items	(150)
Reserves	(150)
Grand Total	6,378

Challenges, Risks & Opportunities

- **Reduced income of parking services** – post-COVID, parking income is still in the process of recovery and progress is closely monitored
- **Highways contracts** – procurement of contracts to deliver the Buckinghamshire Highways service from April 2023 is progressing to schedule and a detailed programme in place to manage mobilisation and delivery
- **Impact of national projects**, such as HS2 and East West Rail continue to have a very real impact in Buckinghamshire (increased traffic on the network causing damage to the network and highways asset and environmental impacts); increased officer resource recruited to monitor projects on the ground and engage with communities
- **Inflation** - the current high inflation levels means the significant programme of highway infrastructure delivery projects may need to be reprioritized, some works may need to be scaled back or postponed, and additional funding may need to be sought to deliver projects; energy price inflation impacts parking and highways in particular
- **Increased demand** - managing the increased demand and costs for statutory home to school transport remains a challenge; an improvement programme is in place to ensure delivery of a value for money home to school and social care transport service with a safe and high-quality experience for customers
- **Funding** - a challenge exists regarding Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) for which we have received zero funding from government to deliver this; we continue to seek bidding opportunities to help fund electric vehicle charging points across Buckinghamshire

Top 5 Contracts*

Vendor	Annual Contract Value £k	Description (inc. Contract End Date)
Ringway Jacobs	46,665	Highways & Technical Services contract for Strategic Highways Maintenance; start date 1 st April 2009; end date 31 st March 2017; 8 years plus 7 years extension; contract extension end date 31 st March 2023.
Zipp Mobility Ltd	745	Strategic Transport & Infrastructure contract for E-Scooter trial scheme in Buckinghamshire; start date 16 th Nov 2020; end date 31 st May 2024; extension option 18 months. Externally Funded.
Yotta Limited	317	Highways & Technical Services contract for new Highways Asset Management System; start date 1 st April 2022; end date 31 st March 2024
Gilberts Taxis	199	Transport Services contract for passenger transport; start date 22 nd April 2021; end date 21 st February 2026; 5 years plus 2 years extension.
Bikeability Cycle Training contracts	194	Transport Services – 4 contracts with Haddenham Cycle Training, Outspoken Training, Cycle4Life and Bespoke Cycling Instruction for schools; start date 1 st April 2022; end date 31 st March 2025.

*See Appendix for Transport Services Top 5 Contracts by **Total** Contract Value where a supplier holds multiple contracts.

Fees & Charges

- The Fees and Charges schedules for Highways & Technical Services and Transport Services have been reviewed in detail as part of the MTFP project timeline.
- Fees and charges are applied to Public Transport (driving test, short notice one-off standing test, bus stop closure, bus pass replacement), Fleet Management (leases to academy schools, spot hire, cancellations, private MOT), Client Transport (contractor ID badge) and Paid for Home to School Transport (bus pass replacement, in-county resident fares, out of county resident fares, Post-16 including SEND with Education Health and Care Plan).
- The majority of Fees & Charges are proposed to be amended by a 9% RPI increase.
- Exceptions to this include Paid for Home to School Transport for which a Public Consultation during Autumn is required and a separate Cabinet Member decision is due in April 2023 with change to be effected in September 2023 in line with the academic calendar year. Replacement of bus passes for school transport or concessionary travel and contractor ID badge have been increased at a higher percentage than RPI to recover costs of replacement.
- Other exceptions relate to Highways & Technical Services' charges for extensions for Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders and Emergency Traffic Regulation Order for Definitive Map which are proposed to increase at greater than 9% to bring charges in line with Highways charges which fall under the same legislation. Local Land Charges for searches are proposed to remain at the same level for market competitiveness.
- Where harmonisation opportunities have been identified e.g. for Parking, these have been optimised. Off-street and On-street parking are proposed to be increased by 10p and 20p respectively. An element of consistency has also been applied in some areas where some places have charges until 6pm and are free to park on Sundays whilst other areas charges are in place until 9pm and 7 days a week. The consistency approach enables fairness so customers using car parks pay the same value per required session, irrespective of what time of day they park. It also assists in managing supply and demand and volume of traffic in an area. These changes require an amendment to the Traffic Regulation Order.

Capital Budget and Forecast Q2

Service / Project	Actuals to Date £000	Released Budget £000's	Unreleased Budget £000's	Total Budget £000's	Forecast Outturn Released £000's	Forecast Unreleased £000's	Forecast Outturn £000's	Forecast Variance £000's
Car Parks	-50	-438	0	-438	-438	0	-438	0
Car Parks Total	-50	-438	0	-438	-438	0	-438	0
ADEPT Live Labs	390	925	0	925	925	0	925	0
Globe Park Access / Westhorpe Junction	10	50	0	50	220	0	220	170
Haydon Hill Cycle Way	31	42	0	42	42	0	42	0
Highways & Cycleway Funded Schemes	58	1,660	0	1,660	1,660	0	1,660	0
HS2 Funded Schemes	-26	-127	0	-127	-127	0	-127	0
NPIF Schemes	6	582	0	582	267	0	267	-315
Taplow Cycle Way	0	607	0	607	607	0	607	0
Active Travel Tranche II - Emerald Way	382	500	0	500	500	0	500	0
Highways & Cycleway Funded Schemes Total	850	4,237	0	4,237	4,093	0	4,093	-145
Improvements to Rights Way	75	167	-65	102	167	0	167	65
Denham Bridleway Bridge Replacement	-17	213	0	213	230	0	230	17
Berryhill Footbridge Repair	0	0	334	334	0	0	0	-334
Rights of Way Total	58	380	269	649	397	0	397	-252
Bridge Maintenance	202	998	0	998	998	0	998	0
Footway Structural Repairs	829	2,065	0	2,065	2,065	0	2,065	0
Maintenance Principal Rds - Drainage	1,422	2,041	0	2,041	2,041	0	2,041	0
Plane & Patch	3,342	4,369	0	4,369	4,369	0	4,369	0
Replacement Traffic Signals	120	438	0	438	483	0	483	45
Strategic Highway Maintenance Program	11,184	15,973	0	15,973	15,973	0	15,973	0
Street Lighting	262	1,600	0	1,600	1,600	0	1,600	0
Safety Fences	-87	236	0	236	236	0	236	0
Failed Roads Haunching & Reconstruction	507	3,000	0	3,000	3,000	0	3,000	0
Marlow Suspension Bridge	181	-1,107	1,400	293	293	0	293	0
Abbey Way Flyover High Wycombe	25	-70	300	230	230	0	230	0
Road Safety - Casualty Reduction	233	856	0	856	856	0	856	0
Strategic Highway Maintenance Total	18,222	30,400	1,700	32,100	32,145	0	32,145	45
Public Transport	15	131	0	131	131	0	131	0
Purchase of Fleet Vehicles	27	240	0	240	240	0	240	0
Transport Services Total	42	371	0	371	371	0	371	0
East West Rail	563	2,200	0	2,200	2,063	0	2,063	-138
Other Highway & Technical	2	1,020	0	1,020	1,020	0	1,020	0
Electric Vehicle Charging Points	0	200	0	200	200	0	200	0
Wycombe Parking Review	0	50	0	50	50	0	50	0
Other Transport & Infrastructure Total	565	3,471	0	3,471	3,333	0	3,333	-138
Grand Total	19,688	38,421	1,969	40,391	39,901	0	39,901	-490

Capital Budget and Forecast Q2

Transport Capital: Budget £40.4m, Var £0.5m

- a) Strategic Highway Maintenance – Budget £32.1m, £0.1 variance - inflationary pressures and rising costs of materials relating to the Gyratory project not covered by DfT grant.
- b) Rights of Way – Budget £0.7m, £0.3m variance - slippage relating to Berry Hill Footbridge where Environment Agency has rejected a permit for the Council to commence works until February 2023.
- c) £0.2m of accelerated spend on Globe Park access. This project originally expected to spend £50k this year as the project winds down; now expecting wind down costs to be around £220k, to be funded externally.
- d) £0.3m of slippage the A40 London Road, Wycombe NPIF-funded scheme.

Proposed Capital Programme 2023-24 to 2025-26

Transport Portfolio Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2026/27

Expenditure

Service Area	Project Group / Project	2023/24 £000's	2024/25 £000's	2025/26 £000's	2026/27 £000's	MTFP Total £000's
Highways & Technical Services	Car Parks					
	Car Parks	935	300	300	214	1,749
	Car Parks Total	935	300	300	214	1,749
	Rights of Way					
	Berryhill Footbridge Repair	334	-	-	-	334
	Improvements to Rights Way	135	200	200	-	535
	Rights of Way Total	469	200	200	-	869
	Strategic Highway Maintenance					
	Bridge Maintenance	1,020	1,020	1,020	1,020	4,080
	Failed Roads Haunching & Reconstruction	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	12,000
	Footway Structural Repairs	2,100	2,150	2,150	-	6,400
	Maintenance Principal Rds - Drainage	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	8,000
	Plane & Patch	4,425	4,425	4,425	-	13,275
	Replacement Traffic Signals	490	490	490	-	1,470
	Road Safety - Casualty Reduction	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	3,000
	Safety Fences	250	250	250	-	750
	Strategic Highway Maintenance Program	15,580	15,850	15,850	15,850	63,130
Street Lighting	2,291	1,500	1,500	1,500	6,791	
Strategic Highway Maintenance Total	32,156	31,685	31,685	23,370	118,896	
Highways & Technical Services Total	33,561	32,185	32,185	23,584	121,515	

Proposed Capital Programme 2023-24 to 2025-26

Transport Portfolio Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2026/27

Expenditure

Service Area	Project Group / Project	2023/24 £000's	2024/25 £000's	2025/26 £000's	2026/27 £000's	MTFP Total £000's
Strategic Transport & Infrastructure	Highways & Cycleway Funded Schemes					
	Active Travel Tranche II - Emerald Way	884	-	-	-	884
	Highways & Cycleway Funded Schemes	1,512	456	-	-	1,969
	HS2 Funded Schemes	55	-	-	-	55
	HS2 Road Safety Projects	2,524	-	-	-	2,524
	NPIF Schemes	954	-	-	-	954
	Highways & Cycleway Funded Schemes Total	5,930	456	-	-	6,386
	Other Transport & Infrastructure					
	East West Rail	7,249	898	-	-	8,147
	Electric Vehicle Charging Points	200	200	200	-	600
Wycombe Parking Review	250	293	-	-	543	
	Other Transport & Infrastructure Total	7,699	1,391	200	-	9,290
Strategic Transport & Infrastructure Total		13,629	1,847	200	-	15,677
Transport Services	Transport Services					
	Purchase of Fleet Vehicles	240	240	240	240	960
	Transport Services Total	240	240	240	240	960
Transport Services Total		240	240	240	240	960
Total Expenditure		47,430	34,272	32,625	23,824	138,152

Proposed Capital Programme 2023-24 to 2025-26

Transport Portfolio Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2026/27

Expenditure (From Previous page)

Service Area	Project Group / Project	2023/24 £000's	2024/25 £000's	2025/26 £000's	2026/27 £000's	MTFP Total £000's
Highways & Technical Services Total		33,561	32,185	32,185	23,584	121,515
Strategic Transport & Infrastructure Total		13,629	1,847	200	-	15,677
Transport Services Total		240	240	240	240	960
Total Expenditure		47,430	34,272	32,625	23,824	138,152

Funding

Funding - MTFP Table	2023/24 £000's	2024/25 £000's	2025/26 £000's	2026/27 £000's	MTFP Total £000's
s106	(1,320)	(456)	-	-	(1,776)
Community Infrastructure Levy	(365)	(293)	-	-	(658)
Ringfenced Grants	(4,404)	-	-	-	(4,404)
Revenue Contributions (Service)	(5,969)	(1,238)	(340)	(340)	(7,887)
Total Funding	(12,057)	(1,987)	(340)	(340)	(14,725)

Net Portfolio Totals	35,373	32,285	32,285	23,484	123,427
Funded From Corporate Resources	(35,373)	(32,285)	(32,285)	(23,484)	(123,427)
Total	-	-	-	-	-

Proposed Capital Programme 2023-24 to 2025-26

- **Highways & Technical Services**

- The proposed programme assumes all inflation pressures in the current programme are managed within existing budgets apart from those agreed as part of the Capital Review. The key principle was that the £100m investment in roads remains secure.
- Strategic Highway Maintenance within the programme put forward seeks to address any backlog issues for e.g. failed roads, manage steady state of roads and countywide structures, comply with the council's statutory duty as a Highway Authority to maintain what is provided on the highway network. This investment meets Council's priority of delivering on continued roads investment whilst managing the risk of increased asset deterioration and backlog increase and minimising the build up of a legacy problem of future years. Structures of historic importance, such as Marlow Bridge, will improve structural integrity and operational aspect of the bridge which carries significantly higher levels of traffic than initial designs planned for.
- Car parks investment is part of the rolling programme to keep car parks in a fit for purpose condition.

- **Transport Services**

- The fleet budget remains unchanged from previous years and is funded from reserve. Indications are that there is an increased internal demand for new fleet from departments who previously didn't use the Fleet Management services and with Unitary are optimising on synergies. There is therefore a risk that the amount may increase but the risk is mitigated with funding from reserve and costs recovered from service users.

- **Transport Infrastructure and Delivery**

- No new capital bids put forward. The majority of projects delivered in this area are externally funded, with the proposed programme covering a number of s106 and HS2-funded cycleway and small scale highway schemes, plus projects brought forward as part of the Council's East West Rail work-in-kind contribution. Note that the major Highways Infrastructure projects (including SEALR) are held in the Leader Portfolio for the purpose of the MTFP.



Questions



Top 5 Contracts – Transport Services by Total Contract Value

Vendor	Total Contract Value £k	Description (inc. Contract End Date)
Premium Minibuses & Cars Ltd	3,641	Transport Services contract for home to school transport; start date 31 st March 2022; end date 31 st July 2024; 2 years extension option.
Express Travel UK Ltd	3,095	Transport Services contract for home to school transport; start date 31 st March 2022; end date 31 st July 2024; 2 years extension option.
Atlas Cars	2,857	Transport Services contract for home to school transport; start date 31 st March 2022; end date 31 st July 2024; 2 years extension option.
TWK Ltd	2,471	Transport Services contract for home to school transport; start date 31 st March 2022; end date 31 st July 2024; 2 years extension option.
Neales Taxis Ltd	2,443	Transport Services contract for home to school transport; start date 31 st March 2022; end date 31 st July 2024; 2 years extension option.

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Transport Services Top 5 Contracts are shown above by **Total** Contract Value as some suppliers hold multiple contracts and aren't picked up on Slide 18 'Top 5 Contracts' for the portfolio which reflects Annual Contract Value .





Budget Scrutiny

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Accessible Housing & Resources

9 January 2023

Agenda Item 8



Agenda

- Overview of the Portfolio
- Portfolio Priorities
- Revenue Budget 2022/23
- Revenue Forecast Q2 Cabinet
- Revenue Budget Savings since April 2020
- Proposed Changes to the Revenue Budget
- Overall Proposed Revenue Budget 2023-2024
- Challenges, Risks and Opportunities
- Top 5 Contracts
- Fees and Charges
- Capital Budget and Forecast 2022-23
- Proposed Capital Programme 2023- 2027
- Questions
- Appendices

Overview of the Portfolio

Cabinet Members: John Chilver and Tim Butcher (Deputy)

The Resources Portfolio spans a number of services and teams whose core purpose are to provide:

- Support Services
- Property & Assets
- Service & Business Improvement
- Legal & Democratic Services

The Portfolio delivers the Corporate Plan commitments in relation to:

- Delivering excellent customer service
- Support Services which ensure the Council is financially fit, efficient and responsive to change,
- Retention, recruitment and development of talented and committed staff to provide the best services for our local residents and businesses
- Managing our assets to create long term benefits and additional income, reducing our dependency on the taxpayer.

Overview of the Portfolio

Resources Sarah Murphy Brookman				DCE Sarah Ashmead		PGS Ian Thompson	
Finance Service Director David Skinner		HR&OD Service Director Sarah Keyes	IT Services Service Director Tony Ellis	Business Ops Service Director Lloyd Jeffries	Service Improvement Interim Service Director Matt Everitt	Legal and Dem Services Service Director Nick Graham	Property & Assets Service Director John Reed
Finance strategy (including medium term financial plans)	Budget monitoring and financial support for major projects	Payroll	IT Strategy	Customer Service	Service Improvement	Legal Services	Delivery of Accessible Housing
Financial reporting, including financial accounts and other statutory returns	Supporting operational and customer facing activities	Human Resource Operations	IT Service Desk and Deskside Support	Council Access Points.	Business Intelligence	Democratic Services	Property transformation and regeneration projects
Financial systems	Revenues and Benefits	Resourcing	Cyber Security	Business Support.	Partnerships, Policy & Communications Service Director Roger Goodes	Elections	Major projects, Development & Investment
Strategic procurement and supplier relationship management	Direct payments	Safeguarding	Applications Management and System Integrations	Business Development		Electoral Registration	Capital programmes delivery of schools programme
Pensions administration and investments	Financial assessments for Adult Social Care	Organisational Development	Network Management	Blue Badge Service.	Website and Digital Strategy	Member Allowance	Oversight of our companies
Treasury management	Schools finance support	Learning & Development	Hosting and Infrastructure Management	Independent Mobility assessments.		Strategic Insurance	Management of the agricultural estate & strategic asset management
Supporting directorates and portfolios are finance business partnering		HR Policy & Reward	Telephony and Collaboration	Blue Badge enforcement.		Business Assurance (Internal Audit, Risk Management, Fraud)	Health & safety, Soft facilities management, planned and reactive maintenance.
		HR Consultancy	Information Assets and Digital Development	Welfare Benefits Service.		Information Management	
		HR Systems	Joint working with partners e.g. BHCT and NHS Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning	Customer Improvement.			
				Customer insight and customer analysts.			

Portfolio Priorities (1 of 2)

Accessible Housing

- Development of accessible housing, including on surplus public sector land, and requirements on private developments to include affordable housing for local people and key workers.
- Maintain virtual elimination of rough sleeping across Buckinghamshire through integrated public health & wellbeing approach.
- Continue to address housing need by working with partners and stakeholders.

Service Improvement

- Co-ordinate all unitary savings to be delivered including Better Buckinghamshire Service Reviews, contracts and asset optimisation (£18 million in total by 2025/26).

Customer Experience

- Implement a 'Customer First' culture that is prioritised through the entire organisation to deliver an improved Customer Experience.
- Implementation of the Master Data Management (MDM) solution and a Customer Relationship Management system (CRM).

Property & Assets

- Delivery of capital projects and programmes – including regeneration, schools, sport, leisure projects and the One Public Estate Programme.
- Active management of the council's estate to maximise opportunities from our property holdings and provide a safe suitable workplace for staff in our operational estate.

Portfolio Priorities (2 of 2)

Support Services

- Continue the development of Buckinghamshire Council website to improve content and accessibility.
- Continue to maintain a high standard of Legal and Democratic advice and support to the Council.
- Consolidate our support services onto single systems and applications, supported by single teams with single sets of processes.
- Deliver the ICT One programme which provides a secure and resilient single network, single identity and domain with single applications and integrations.
- Maximise the effectiveness of SAP IT system and core HR and Finance systems through process improvement and data cleanse in support of our Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) strategy.
- Support the attraction and development of a skilled and motivated workforce with effective leadership to deliver services.
- Maintain strong Financial management of £1.2bn gross budget
- Maintain oversight and shareholder management of the councils companies.

Income

- Increasing income to protect front line services by:
 - maximising opportunities for property asset optimisation, investment and income
 - delivering an active asset management programme including a substantial rental income stream and capital receipts
 - reviewing potential for a housing development programme.
 - maximising on fees & charges across all council services as part of the MTFP process.
 - developing a viable Traded Services Strategy that delivers high quality, good value services to customers that covers its costs at the gross contribution level

Portfolio Key Data



Support for **147** councillors



£475m Council Tax
£178m Business Rates



605,238 customer contacts received **



3rd largest tax base in Country
(**249,000** properties) *



367,300 calls answered into the Customer Service Centre (CSC) **



569,520 Council Tax, **45,812** Business Rate bills and reminders, issued each year **



796,292 web page views of the Buckinghamshire Council home page **



c£80.6m Housing Benefit payments
12,023 Housing Benefit recipients *



3482 individual pages on the Buckinghamshire Council website *



4,021 open legal cases *



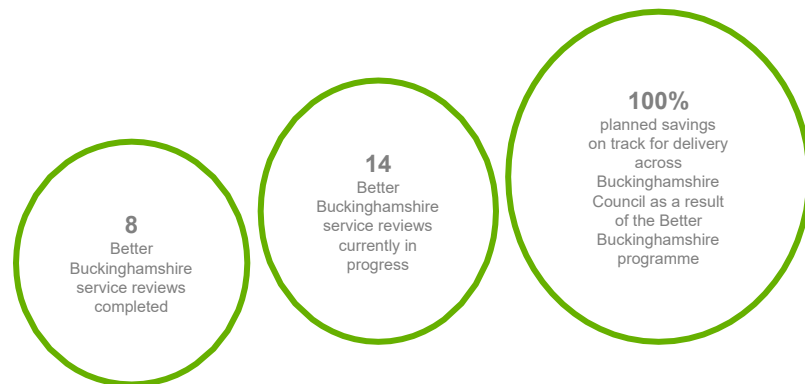
1,763 Council properties



267 committee meetings supported **



6,642 full Land Charge Searches and
8,381 Personal Searches **

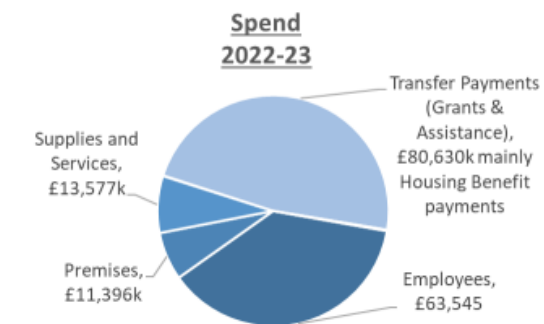
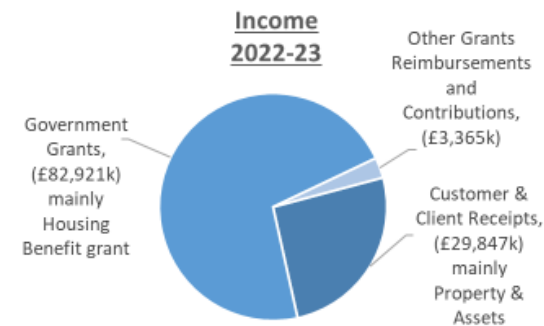


* Statistics from internal monitoring systems (data from Nov 2022)

** Statistics from internal monitoring systems (based on rolling year to 30th Nov 2022)

2022-23 Revenue Budget

		Income £000	Expense £000	Net Budget
Business Operations	Business Development	(100)	408	308
	Business Operations	(269)	7,114	6,845
	Customer Services	-	3,929	3,929
Business Operations Total		(369)	11,451	11,082
Digital	Digital		616	616
Digital Total			616	616
Finance	Finance	(3,092)	11,672	8,580
	Revenues & Benefits	(86,211)	86,318	107
Finance Total		(89,303)	97,990	8,687
Human Resources & Organisational Development	Human Resources & Organisational Development	(405)	5,086	4,681
Human Resources & Organisational Development Total		(405)	5,086	4,681
Page 78 Total	ICT	(101)	13,936	13,835
Page 78 Total		(101)	13,936	13,835
Legal & Democratic Services	Business Assurance and Insurance Services	(128)	2,587	2,459
	Democratic Services & Elected Members	(27)	5,224	5,197
	Information Management	(5)	1,193	1,188
	Legal Services	(1,308)	7,110	5,802
Legal & Democratic Services Total		(1,468)	16,114	14,646
Property & Assets	Commercial Property & Agricultural Estate	(11,803)	857	(10,946)
	Property Maintenance & Strategic Asset Management	(12,660)	20,123	7,463
Property & Assets Total		(24,463)	20,980	(3,483)
Resources	Management and Business Management	35	494	529
Resources Total		35	494	529
Service Improvement	Service Improvement	(61)	3,524	3,463
Service Improvement Total		(61)	3,524	3,463
Grand Total		(116,134)	170,190	54,057



The largest item of Income and Spend across the portfolio relates to Housing Benefit which the Council administers on behalf of the Department for Work & Pensions

2022-23 Revenue Forecast Outturn at Q2 (1 of 2)

	Budget	Y/E Outturn	Variance	Change in Variance
Q2 Revenue Monitoring	£000	£000	£000	£000
Expenditure	186,240	187,690	1,450	500
Income	(130,990)	(130,370)	620	100
Total For Portfolio	55,250	57,320	2,070	600

Note: Q2 Revenue forecast budget includes one-off budgets e.g. pay awards, and is higher than the base budget for 2022/23

At Q2 the Portfolio is forecasting an adverse variance of £2.1m. The main variances are described below:

- £0.3m adverse variance in Finance, being income shortfall on Council Tax/Business Rates Court costs recovered, pressure arising from optimistic legacy income budget plus reduction in caseloads processed during Phase 2 of the single Revenues & Benefits system implementation. Expected income of £0.25m for the last 6 months of the year has been identified as a risk. Movement from Q1 adverse £0.05m.
- £1.12m adverse variance in Legal & Democratic Services. Legal Services £0.9m adverse variance primarily being due to increased demand from statutory services. Business Assurance £0.45m adverse variance due to increased insurance premiums and outsourced audit and fraud activity to cover vacant posts. Democratic Services £0.23m favourable variance due to staff vacancies and reduction in Member running costs. Movement from Q1 adverse £1.12m.

2022-23 Revenue Forecast Outturn at Q2 (2 of 2)

- £1.1m adverse variance in Property & Assets from projected increases in Energy Prices due to inflation. Movement from Q1 £0.4m favourable following the Government's price cap announcement.
- £0.3m favourable variance within Resources Directorate & Business Management, being accelerated Better Buckinghamshire / Contract harmonisation savings, currently used to offset income shortfall on Revenues & Benefits Council Tax/Business Rates Court costs recovered. These savings have been identified in advance of full-service reviews, and a further saving of £0.5m is to be set aside in a reserve to partly fund an ERP solution in future years. Movement from Q1 favourable £0.04m.
- Service Improvement £0.14m favourable variance, arising from staff vacancies and staff redeployed to support the Homes for Ukraine Visa Scheme. Movement from Q1 favourable £0.14m.

2020 -23 Revenue Budget savings and additional income (1 of 2)

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	Savings	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000
MTFP	ICT digital programme	-132	0	0
	Customer Services	-125	-125	0
	Resources Directorate - Staffing review	0	-107	0
	Resources Directorate - Home working savings	0	-84	0
	Deputy Chief Executive - Home working savings	0	-13	0
	Democratic Services	-55	-25	0
	Property Services – Efficiency Review delivered	0	0	-125
Contract Harmonisation	Resources	-280	0	0
	DCE	-30	-40	0
	ICT Single Network	0	0	-750
Better Buckinghamshire	Legal & Democratic Services	-170	-333	0
	Revenue and Benefits - single system. Delay in implementation and savings of £206k, with corporate contingency smoothing the savings in year. Savings to be delivered in 2023/24.	0	0	-155
	Customer services - insourcing of legacy Capita staff/contract in Wycombe	0	0	-266
Total Savings since Unitary		-792	-727	-1,296
Additional Income				
MTFP	Property Services – additional income achieved	-734	-394	-1,337

2020-23 Revenue Budget savings and additional income (2 of 2)

	Total Non cashable savings/ Cost pressures absorbed	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000	2022/23 £000
Non cashable savings/ Cost pressures absorbed	HR & OD: Voluntary Redundancy exercise in 2020/21 to bring costs within budgets (full year costs realised in 2021/22)	0	-400	0
	Customer Services	-500	0	0
	ICT - Cyber pressures	-135	-170	0
	Service Now (Customer interface system) - development costs		-78	0
	Revenue and Benefits - single system implementation: Loss of Court cost income and clearing backlog of cases from system closure	0	-140	-444
Total Non cashable savings/ Cost pressures absorbed		-635	-788	-444

2023-24 Proposed changes to the Revenue Budget (1 of 2)

Accessible Housing & Resources (* denotes items that are roll forward of changes from existing MTFP)		Change 2023-24 £000's
Business Operations		
Income	Review of the support and charges to schools for the Schools Information Management System (SIMS) to include current levels of inflation	(58)
Savings	External contract savings within the Resilience Service - cease IT systems contract for Business Continuity Management replace with in-house alternative.	(15)
	Insource Blue Badge enforcement - cease external contract	(30)
	Relocate Council Access Point and sites to libraries.	(60)
	Review of Business Support Operations	(35)
Digital		
Savings	Contract saving - Digital Team	(50)
Finance		
Income	Full cost recovery review for Pensions Service	(100)
	Review of Revenues & Benefits Court Costs income	500
	Review income opportunities for Finance Deputies	(70)
	Review of fees and charges in Finance	(11)
Savings	*Efficiency savings in Revenues and Benefits (Better Buckinghamshire programme)	(364)
Grant funded expenditure	*Change in Housing Benefit Payments and Grant Income	(7,694)
	Change in Local Audit Fees Grant - to meet new requirements	125
Grant Income	*Change in Housing Benefit Payments and Grant Income	7,694
Growth	Increased Audit fees - cost of increased duties	450
Human Resources & Organisational Development		
Income	Review of fees and charges in HR	(76)
ICT		
Savings	*External contract savings - final phase of single ICT network saving (Better Buckinghamshire Programme)	(250)

2023-24 Proposed changes to the Revenue Budget (2 of 2)

Accessible Housing & Resources (* denotes items that are roll forward of changes from existing MTFP)		Change 2023-24 £000's
Legal & Democratic Services		
Savings	Efficiency savings in Democratic Services	(75)
Growth	Increase in Insurance premiums	900
	Increase in Legal Services operating costs - demand from statutory services	1,150
Property & Assets		
Income	*New Rental income opportunities	(2,163)
	Reduce subsidy of community sports facilities - review opportunities for self-funding facilities	(45)
Savings	Efficiency savings in Facilities Management for Council Offices	(17)
	*Efficiency savings in Property Services - Service review	(90)
Growth	*Creation of Sinking Fund for Strategic Assets (2.5% of income) Top up existing fund	38
Inflation	Increase in Cleaning & Security costs	89
	Increase in Energy costs - across Council properties	2,390
Special Items	One Public Estate feasibility studies (funded from reserves)	458
	Technical accounting adjustment - derecognise finance lease now classified as operating leases	878
Reserves	One Public Estate feasibility studies (reserve funding)	(458)
Resources		
Savings	*External contract savings across Resources Directorate (Better Buckinghamshire Programme)	(160)
Service Improvement		
Savings	*Additional Efficiency savings within Service Improvement (Better Buckinghamshire programme)	(150)

2023-24 Overall Proposed Revenue Budget

		2023-24		
		Income £000	Expense £000	Net Budget
Business Operations	Business Development	(100)	408	308
	Business Operations	(269)	6,916	6,647
	Customer Services	-	3,929	3,929
Business Operations Total		(369)	11,253	10,884
Digital	Digital		566	566
Digital Total			566	566
Finance	Finance	(3,273)	12,247	8,974
	Revenues & Benefits	(78,017)	78,259	243
Finance Total		(81,290)	90,507	9,217
Human Resources & Organisational Development	Human Resources & Organisational Development	(481)	5,086	4,605
Human Resources & Organisational Development Total		(481)	5,086	4,605
ICT	ICT	(101)	13,686	13,585
ICT Total		(101)	13,686	13,585
Legal & Democratic Services	Business Assurance and Insurance Services	(128)	3,487	3,359
	Democratic Services & Elected Members	(27)	5,149	5,122
	Information Management	(5)	1,193	1,188
	Legal Services	(1,308)	8,260	6,952
Legal & Democratic Services Total		(1,468)	18,089	16,621
Property & Assets	Commercial Property & Agricultural Estate	(13,050)	857	(12,193)
	Property Maintenance & Strategic Asset Management	(12,660)	22,450	9,790
Property & Assets Total		(25,710)	23,306	(2,403)
Resources	Management and Business Management	35	334	369
Resources Total		35	334	369
Service Improvement	Service Improvement	(61)	3,374	3,313
Service Improvement Total		(61)	3,374	3,313
Grand Total		(109,443)	166,201	56,758

Change Type	Total £000
Grant funded expenditure	(7,569)
Grant Income	7,694
Growth	2,538
Income	(2,023)
Inflation	2,479
Savings	(1,296)
Special Items	1,336
Reserves	(458)
Grand Total	2,701

Portfolio Challenges, Risks & Opportunities

Commercial Property & Agricultural Estate

- Challenge and risk from Economic uncertainty in delivery of new rental income opportunities and capital receipts.

Property Maintenance & Strategic Asset Management

- Challenge to deliver property rationalisation savings in current MTFP and expected savings in total of £2.4m by 2025/26

Finance, HR/OD, ICT, Business Operations

- Challenge to deliver on BAU while supporting the rest of the Council through transformation and change and undergoing own service transformation.

Top 5 Contracts

Supplier Name	Details	Start Date	End Date	Service Area	Annual Contract Value £000's
Pertemps Recruitment Partnership Ltd	Temporary Staffing contract (Pertemps) Pay as Used - costs charged out to Directorates	01/09/2022	31/08/2025	HR/OD	22,000
Bytes Software Services	Microsoft Licensing and Cloud Services	01/12/2019	30/11/2023	ICT	1,500
Busy Bee Cleaning Services Ltd	Cleaning contract covering the majority of offices & Corporate Estate (inc. Adult Learning centres)	01/08/2020	31/07/2023	Property & Assets	770
CFH Docmail LTD	Electoral Print Contract	01/05/2022	30/04/2025	Democratic Services	459
IDOX Software Ltd	Provision of Data and Applications Solutions	01/04/2022	31/03/2027	ICT	309

Fees and Charges

Each year, as part of the MTFP, we review the schedule of Fees and Charges.

The majority of Fees & Charges are amended by an inflationary increase – For 2023/24 this will be a 6% increase on 2022/23 rates for traded services with schools.

Services include:

- **Business Services to Academies, Schools and Other:**
 - HR &OD e.g. payroll, recruitment, Employees Relations Advice, Safeguarding/DBS, Occupational Health.
 - ICT – Networking, Technical Support, Additional Remote Backup Service.
 - Schools Information Management System (SIMS).
 - Schools Admin and Bursar services.
- Schools Health & Safety and Schools Property Maintenance.
- Local Land Charges - fees revised to reflect market demands
- Business Insight for Schools (e.g. Comparative data on Exam results, bench marking, demographic/deprivation data, Free Schools meals eligibility checker).
- Electoral Register statutory set fee, no change (e.g. copies of registers).

2022-23 Capital Budget and Forecast Outturn Q2

Service / Project	Actuals to Date £000	Released Budget £000's	Unreleased Budget £000's	Total Budget £000's	Forecast Outturn Released £000's	Forecast Unreleased £000's	Forecast Outturn £000's	Forecast Variance £000's
Delivery of Technology Strategy	296	819	66	884	528	17	545	-340
Social Care Systems	0	200	0	200	145	0	145	-55
Buckinghamshire Network	415	2,026	0	2,026	1,749	0	1,749	-276
Device Refresh & Windows 10	147	57	0	57	174	0	174	117
ICT Total	858	3,101	66	3,167	2,596	17	2,613	-554
Agricultural Estate	79	500	0	500	420	0	420	-80
Conversion Old Wycombe Library	55	308	0	308	100	0	100	-208
Corporate Investment Portfolio	63	1,399	500	1,899	310	200	510	-1,389
Enhancement of Strategic Assets	3	200	0	200	100	0	100	-100
Property Management Programme	-34	1,201	0	1,201	1,201	0	1,201	0
Rowley Farm	8	0	25	25	0	25	25	0
Property & Assets Total	173	3,609	525	4,134	2,131	225	2,356	-1,778
Grand Total	1,032	6,710	591	7,301	4,727	242	4,969	-2,332

Accessible Housing and Resources Capital: Budget £7.3m, Var £2.3m

a) ICT Capital programme main variances are as follows:

- £0.34m Delivery of Technology Strategy, mainly £0.24m underspend on EDRMS, based on the decision to continue with existing solution OTCS following discovery work, with unspent budget profiled to 2025/26 when options for replacement technologies will be reconsidered; slippage on Datacentres £0.05m and on unreleased budgets £0.05m.
- Buckinghamshire Network project £0.28m of budget to be transferred to fund revenue reserve for software licences.

b) Property & Assets capital projects are forecasting a variance of £1.8m, of which £1.5m is from slippage on the following projects: construction project delays on roof works at Vale Retail Park (due to tender delays), the Rowley Farm barn refurbishment (due to planning delays), a delay in the agreement on the specification for Orchard House project (still in negotiation), and slippage on how much maintenance is required on Friar's Square this year (less than previously expected). A further £0.2m is a likely underspend on the final retention amounts due for Old Wycombe Library conversion project; once confirmed in Q3, this underspend can be released back to the Capital Programme.

2023-24 to 2026-27 Proposed Capital Programme

Service Area	Project Group / Project	2023/24 £000's	2024/25 £000's	2025/26 £000's	2026/27 £000's	MTFP Total £000's
ICT	ICT					
	Delivery of Technology Strategy - rolling programme	250	250	250	250	1,000
	Laptops & Windows 10 refresh	1,000	3,000			4,000
	Mobile Phone Refresh	250	300	100	100	750
	Members ICT Refresh	-	-	150	-	150
ICT Total		1,500	3,550	500	350	5,900
Property & Assets	Property & Assets					
	Agricultural Estate - maintenance budget e.g. farm buildings	225	-	-	-	225
	Corporate Investment Portfolio - properties across the County to generate income/preserve the value of the asset.	6,814	1,449	-	-	8,263
	Council Own Sites - Housing Development - subject to future review	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	3,000
	Enhancement of Strategic Assets (legal and other costs)	386	-	-	-	386
	Improvements to Capswood 1 & 2	215	-	-	-	215
	Property Management Programme - rolling annual maintenance programme for main offices and corporate landlord	1,125	1,075	1,225	-	3,425
	Rowley Farm - costs of works to secure Rowley Farm property (listed) and prevent further deterioration.	548	-	-	-	548
Property & Assets Total		10,313	3,524	2,225	-	16,061
Total Expenditure		11,813	7,074	2,725	350	21,961



Questions



Appendix 1 Benchmarking Revenue and Benefits

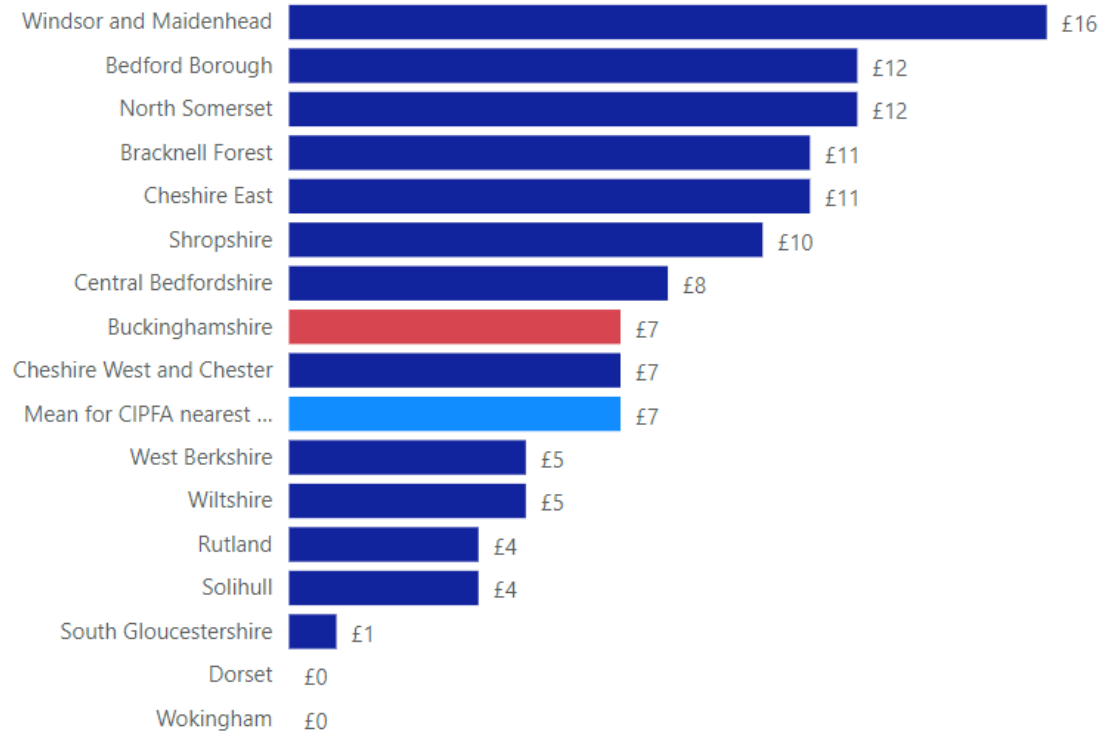
Council Tax and Housing Benefits: Total expenditure on council tax benefits and housing benefits administration per head

Calculation Methodology

The value was calculated by the Local Government Association, the calculation performed is: Total expenditure - Housing benefits administration (R04) and Council tax support administration (R06)/ Total resident population * 1000

Buckinghamshire CIPFA nearest neighbours

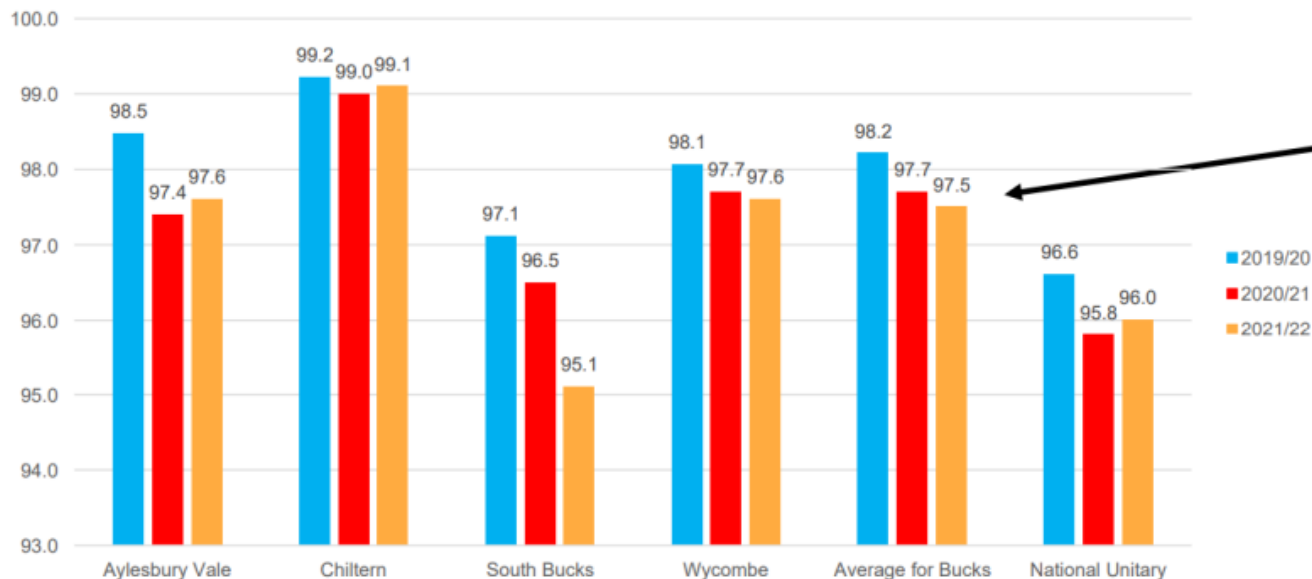
2020/21 Unit Cost - Comparator Group



Appendix 2 Council Tax Collection Comparison

- Buckinghamshire consistently has performed above the national unitary average
- COVID has reduced collection rates nationally between 1% and 4% since 2020
- Buckinghamshire is also above the national Shire District average
- However, collection rates remain well below the rates in 2019/20 both nationally (0.9%) and in Buckinghamshire (0.7%)

Council Tax % Collected 2019-2022



Shire District in 21/22 nationally was 97.2%

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