



## Budget Scrutiny Inquiry Task and Finish Group Agenda Supplement

Date: Thursday 12 January 2023

Time: 10.00 am

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

| Agenda Item   | Time         | Page No        |
|---|--------------|----------------|
| <b>4 Climate Change and Environment (Councillor Gareth Williams)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome by the Chairman to the Cabinet Member, Deputy Cabinet Member and supporting officers</li><li>• Introduction by the Cabinet Member of their priorities and the overarching strategy for the budget</li><li>• Inquiry group questioning of the Cabinet Member</li></ul>  | <b>10:00</b> | <b>3 - 22</b>  |
| <b>5 Education and Children's Services (Councillor Anita Cranmer)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome by the Chairman to the Cabinet Member, Deputy Cabinet Member and supporting officers</li><li>• Introduction by the Cabinet Member of their priorities and the overarching strategy for the budget</li><li>• Inquiry group questioning of the Cabinet Member</li></ul> | <b>11:15</b> | <b>23 - 48</b> |

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](mailto:democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk).

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# Budget Scrutiny

## Climate Change & Environment

12 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

# Overview of the Portfolio

**Cabinet Members: Cllr Gareth Williams (Portfolio Holder) and Cllr Jilly Jordan (Deputy Portfolio Holder)**

The Climate Change & Environment portfolio is aligned to the:

- Communities Directorate (Richard Barker - Corporate Director Communities), specifically Neighbourhood Services (Waste Strategy & Management) (Martin Dickman – Service Director) and
- Planning Growth & Sustainability Directorate (Ian Thompson – Corporate Director PGS), specifically Environment (Climate Change & Environment) (Steve Bambrick – Service Director)

The portfolio helps to deliver all of the Corporate priorities and is principally responsible for:

- Climate Change Strategy and action on mitigating climate change
- Tree planting programme including the Queens Green Canopy
- Energy and Environmental Policy; and Biodiversity Strategy
- Waste Strategy and Management
- Waste Collection
- Street Scene
- Waste disposal/treatment
- Waste Enforcement (litter & fly tipping)
- Strategic Flood Management
- Natural Environment Partnership

# Overview of the Portfolio

## Climate Change

Our Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy sets actions for the council to take to become carbon neutral by 2050 and will have a cross-cutting impact on all council services.

Work is underway to plant 543,000 trees on council-owned land over the next 10 years.

The council has participated in a pilot scheme for developing Local Nature Recovery Strategies, designed to map, plan, and help drive a more coordinated, practical, and focussed action and investment to help nature thrive.

This portfolio also includes environmental specialisms such as:

- Strategic flood management (which has a significant grant-funded capital programme)
- Ecologists
- Archaeologists
- Heritage
- Urban design specialists

# Overview of the Portfolio

## **Waste, recycling and fly-tipping**

The council, as the Waste Collection Authority, has a statutory duty to collect household waste from the kerbside of residential properties.

The service also includes all household waste collections, bulky and clinical waste collections, street cleansing, grounds maintenance and the commercial collection services.

As a Waste Disposal Authority the service also covers the management and disposal of waste and includes the councils 9 Household Recycling Centres, the Bio Waste Transfer Station and the Energy from Waste facility.

Initiatives supported to encourage residents to reduce, reuse and recycle include the Real Nappy Library, Litter Lotto and Community Fridges.

The service continues to support the SCRAP fly-tipping campaign and enforces against fly-tipping.

# Portfolio priorities

- **Net Carbon Zero by 2050** – by delivering key actions set out in our Climate Change & Air Quality Strategy, moving towards electric vehicles for council use, seeking opportunities to generate solar energy by putting photovoltaic electric generation on Council land, communicating to public Council climate change ambitions and actions and progressing ambition to plant over 500,000 trees and creating a new woodland in North Buckinghamshire
- **Flood prevention** – through delivery of key capital schemes and progressing the Project Groundwater
- **Produce a Tree Strategy** for Buckinghamshire
- **Increase electric vehicle charging points** – doubling EV charging points across Buckinghamshire by end 2023/24 and adoption of an EV Charging Action Plan
- **Recycling Initiatives** – continued delivery including a food waste reduction and recycling campaign, to increase recycling and energy recovery rates in Buckinghamshire
- **Review of Waste Strategy** – to determine the best waste service delivery model which is sustainable and ensures consistently high service quality
- **Zero- tolerance towards fly-tipping** – to continue to proactively educate and safeguard the public around their duty of care through partnership campaign work alongside the robust enforcement of fly-tipping in Buckinghamshire
- **Investing in waste collection vehicles** across the county and trialling new electric or alternative fuel vehicles where possible
- **Biodiversity net gain scheme** - establish a fully functioning biodiversity net gain scheme



# Our Service Users

**99.9%** of all bin collections are successful



Approximately 110,000 bins collected every day



Less than 0.5% of Buckinghamshire's waste goes to landfill



Households in Buckinghamshire recycle 56% of their waste



**700+** people have been prosecuted for fly-tipping since 2004

**£1M+** paid by convicted offenders in fines and costs



## Household Recycling Centres

1.8 million visits made to HRCs annually




Buckinghamshire's HRCs have a 74% Recycling Rate

## Energy from Waste

**25** Megawatts

Generating 25 Megawatts of electricity

**40** Thousand homes

Powering 40,000 homes

**£150** Million

Saving £150 million for Bucks over 30 years

## Fly-tipping enforcement

**LET'S S.C.R.A.P. FLY TIPPING IN BUCKS**



## Waste Promotions & Education



Social media promotes waste reduction & recycling to 40,000 local people a year




**£5m** Council Funds set aside to deliver Climate Change Strategy and leverage Govt Grants

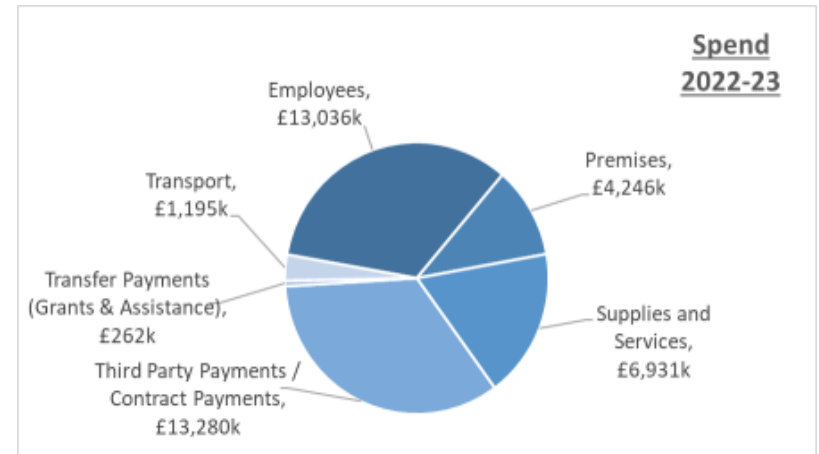
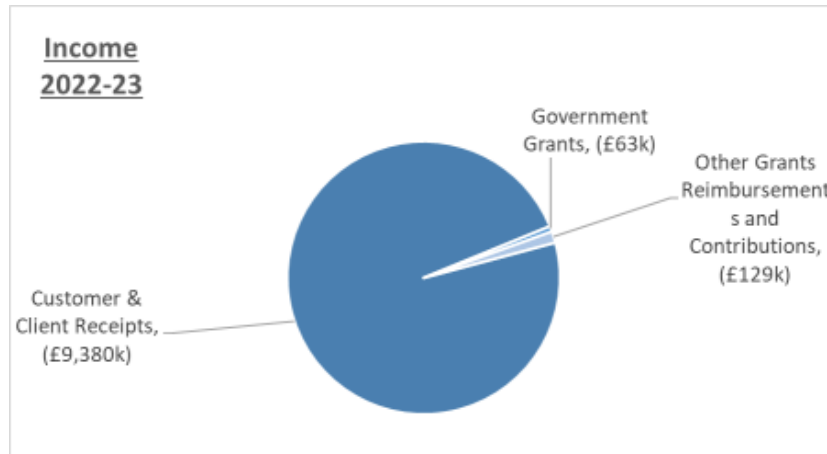
**25%** of electricity purchased by the Council is from renewable sources

# Revenue Budget 2022-23

The charts and tables below show the base revenue budget (excluding temporary virements) for Climate Change & Environment income and expenditure.

|                              |                     | 2022-23        |               |               |
|------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
|                              |                     | Income £000    | Expense £000  | Net Budget    |
| Environment                  | Energy & Resources  | (323)          | 640           | 317           |
|                              | Natural Environment | (132)          | 1,660         | 1,528         |
| <b>Environment Total</b>     |                     | <b>(455)</b>   | <b>2,299</b>  | <b>1,844</b>  |
| Street Cleaning              | Street Cleaning     | (380)          | 2,967         | 2,587         |
| <b>Street Cleaning Total</b> |                     | <b>(380)</b>   | <b>2,967</b>  | <b>2,587</b>  |
| Waste                        | Waste               | (8,738)        | 33,239        | 24,501        |
| <b>Waste Total</b>           |                     | <b>(8,738)</b> | <b>33,239</b> | <b>24,501</b> |
| <b>Grand Total</b>           |                     | <b>(9,572)</b> | <b>38,505</b> | <b>28,933</b> |

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# Revenue forecast at Q2

|   | Budget        | Y/E Outturn   | Variance       | Change in Variance (from Q1 Cab) £000 |
|---|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
|   | £000          | £000          | £000           |                                       |
| Expenditure                             | 3,560         | 3,670         | 110            |                                       |
| Income                                  | (1,690)       | (1,800)       | (110)          |                                       |
| <b>Environment</b>                      | <b>1,870</b>  | <b>1,870</b>  | <b>0</b>       | <b>0</b>                              |
| Expenditure                             | 3,010         | 3,090         | 80             |                                       |
| Income                                  | (380)         | (350)         | 30             |                                       |
| <b>Street Cleaning</b>                  | <b>2,630</b>  | <b>2,740</b>  | <b>110</b>     | <b>0</b>                              |
| Expenditure                             | 49,260        | 54,180        | 4,920          |                                       |
| Income                                  | (24,740)      | (33,060)      | (8,320)        |                                       |
| <b>Waste</b>                            | <b>24,520</b> | <b>21,120</b> | <b>(3,400)</b> | <b>(2,210) ↓</b>                      |
| <b>Climate Change &amp; Environment</b> | <b>29,020</b> | <b>25,730</b> | <b>(3,290)</b> | <b>(2,210) ↓</b>                      |

**Climate Change and Environment Revenue:** Budget £29m, Forecast £25.7m, Favourable Variance **£3.3m**

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a) EFW & Residual Waste - Budget -£0.1m, Var Favourable £3.8m

Income from electricity sales is now higher than forecast in Q1 (£1.3m) - now £3.9m in Q2 after a proposed transfer to reserves of £15m. This is due to the increase in wholesale electricity prices. There is potential for electricity income forecast to increase further depending on market activity however the impact of the Government's Electricity Generator Levy announcement is likely to have a significant and detrimental impact on income in this area.

b) In addition, income of £4.4m related to the undisputed element of an ongoing legal case regarding Third-Party Waste and metals income has been received post court judgement, including interest, for period 2016/17 to 2021/22. It is proposed that this income be contributed to a corporate reserve as it is non-recurring income outside of business as usual.

c) Grounds Maintenance – Budget £0.8m, Var Adverse £0.1m

Overspend due to additional grant awards to voluntary organisations and unachievable income streams from Higginson Park Trust and miscellaneous licences.

d) Household Waste Recycling Centres - Budget £3.1m, Var Favourable £0.2m

Underspend due to savings achieved from the current 9 site contract as 10 site contract envisaged to commence in November 22 and additional re-use income and commodities income.

e) Waste Disposal – Budget £2.6m, Var Adverse £0.1

Overspend due to inflationary pressures on current costs in Green Food Bulky Wood (GFBW) contract.

f) Environment – Budget £1.8m, Nil Variance

# Revenue budget savings from April 2020

The following savings have been made since the Unitary vesting day in April 2020:

|  | 2020/21<br>£'000 | 2021/22<br>£'000 | 2022/23<br>£'000 | Total<br>£'000 |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| <b>Contract Harmonisation</b>                                    |                  |                  |                  |                |
| Environmental Health Services - Dog Waste Contract               |                  | -65              | -65              | -130           |
| HRC contract trade income  |                  |                  | -14              | -14            |
| Greenwaste   |                  |                  | -750             | -750           |
|  |                  | <b>-65</b>       | <b>-829</b>      | <b>-894</b>    |
| <b>Better Buckinghamshire</b>                                    |                  |                  |                  |                |
| Neighbourhood Services:  |                  |                  |                  |                |
| Garden waste increased income                                    |                  | -300             | -237             | -537           |
| Service Improvements - Southern Waste Contract                   |                  | -20              |                  | -20            |
| Grounds Maintenance Wycombe                                      |                  | -18              |                  | -18            |
| Bulky Waste charging   |                  | -190             |                  | -190           |
| Bring servicing of waste abd recycling fleet in house & Taxi MOT |                  | -10              |                  | -10            |
| Minor changes to Wycombe Services                                |                  |                  | -15              | -15            |
|  |                  | <b>-538</b>      | <b>-252</b>      | <b>-790</b>    |
| Horticulture Contract brought in house                           | -400             |                  |                  | -400           |
| GFBW Waste Contract  | -25              |                  |                  | -25            |
|  | <b>-425</b>      |                  |                  | <b>-425</b>    |
| <b>TOTAL SAVINGS</b>   | <b>-425</b>      | <b>-603</b>      | <b>-1,081</b>    | <b>-2,109</b>  |

# Proposed changes to the Revenue Budget

| Climate Change & Environment |  | Change<br>2023-24<br>£000's |
|------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| <b>Environment</b>           |  |                             |
| Grant funded expenditure     | Tree Planting (funded from grants and reserves)  | 50                          |
| Grant Income                 | Tree Planting (funded from Grant income)   | (21)                        |
| Reserves                     | Use of Climate Change reserve to fund Tree Planting  | (29)                        |
| <b>Street Cleaning</b>       |  |                             |
| Savings                      | External contract savings in Grounds Maintenance (Better Buckinghamshire programme)                            | (8)                         |
| <b>Waste</b>                 |  |                             |
| Savings                      | External contract savings in Waste services  | (400)                       |
| Growth                       | Increase in Fleet maintenance costs  | 100                         |
|                              | Increase in Household Recycling Centre contract and service provision costs                                    | 50                          |
|                              | Increase in staffing to support waste collection round review in the North of the county.                      | 115                         |
|                              | Increase in Strategic waste operating costs (contract inflation, housing and tonnage growth)                   | 238                         |
|                              | Reduction in Waste income and increased staffing costs   | 120                         |
| Income                       | Increase in Garden waste collection income from increased number of customers                                  | (300)                       |
|                              | Increase in Garden waste fees (£5 increase per annum)  | (350)                       |
|                              | Increase in Household Recycling Centre Commodities and Re-Use income (partly Better Buckinghamshire programme) | (450)                       |
|                              | Increase in income from Energy from Waste plant  | (11,800)                    |
|                              | Wycombe Garden Waste Fees & Charges (Better Buckinghamshire programme)   | (250)                       |
| Inflation                    | Additional costs (contract inflation, housing and tonnage growth) - for Strategic Waste budgets                | 70                          |
|                              | Waste Contract inflation   | 1,540                       |
| Special Items                | Funding for Waste Options Appraisal and ongoing legal case   | 750                         |
|                              | Increase in Household Recycling Centre contracts and provision   | (115)                       |
| Reserves                     | Use of reserve to fund Waste Options Appraisal and ongoing legal case  | (750)                       |

# Proposed changes to the Revenue Budget

- Proposed budget changes respond to the changed landscape in the energy market and inflationary environment whilst contributing to the Corporate Plan and member priorities e.g. Waste Strategy review.
- The Autumn Statement introduced a 45% Electricity Generator Levy effective from January 2023 and electricity income from EfW proposals include the impact of this. This is expected to be a temporary increase and is assumed will taper off as energy prices revert to normal levels.
- Waste contract inflation includes growth costs for GFBW waste disposal, EfW, HRCs and Waste collection.
- Other growth items include increased costs to maintain North Waste collection fleet due to age and replacement programme, establishment growth of 3 FTE for North Waste to add one extra round and Ground maintenance staffing pressures and unachievable income.
- Savings of £400k are expected to be made from cost reduction for the Casepak contract which provides dry waste recycling services to the Council.
- Additional income is proposed for Garden Waste collections with an anticipated increased customer base as well as a £5 increase in price (10% fee uplift). These proposals include Wycombe Garden charges.
- The new HRC contract is expected to deliver additional commodities and re-use income.
- Special items include increased HRC contracts and provision with the opening of a new site, one-off funding for Waste Option appraisal commissioning strategy and Environment Bill implementation (this will be covered through reserve contribution) and an adjustment to remove use of Waste reserve line no longer needed.
- The Tree Planting Programme – a key part of the Council’s Climate Change Strategy – continues to be delivered, funded by a combination of Government Grants and the Council’s own £5m Climate Change fund.

# Overall Revenue Budget 2023-24

|                              |                     | Income<br>£000  | 2023-24<br>Expense<br>£000 | Net<br>Budget |
|------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Environment                  | Energy & Resources  | (323)           | 640                        | 317           |
|                              | Natural Environment | (153)           | 1,233                      | 1,081         |
| <b>Environment Total</b>     |                     | <b>(476)</b>    | <b>1,873</b>               | <b>1,397</b>  |
| Street Cleaning              | Street Cleaning     | (380)           | 2,959                      | 2,579         |
| <b>Street Cleaning Total</b> |                     | <b>(380)</b>    | <b>2,959</b>               | <b>2,579</b>  |
| Waste                        | Waste               | (21,883)        | 34,939                     | 13,056        |
| <b>Waste Total</b>           |                     | <b>(21,883)</b> | <b>34,939</b>              | <b>13,056</b> |
| <b>Grand Total</b>           |                     | <b>(22,738)</b> | <b>39,771</b>              | <b>17,033</b> |

| Change Type              | Total<br>£000   |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Grant funded expenditure | 50              |
| Grant Income             | (21)            |
| Growth                   | 968             |
| Income                   | (13,150)        |
| Inflation                | 1,265           |
| Savings                  | (421)           |
| Special Items            | (82)            |
| Reserves                 | (509)           |
| <b>Grand Total</b>       | <b>(11,901)</b> |

# Challenges, Risks & Opportunities

- The Government's Electricity Generator Levy which is likely to have a significant and detrimental impact on income for the Council's Energy from Waste facility.
- Long term investment in Climate Change Strategy – £5m climate change fund is committed; challenge and opportunity will be in building further climate change proposals into 'Business as Usual'.
- Management demands following housing growth (waste collection north, household recycling centres)
- Reliability of Alternative Fuel waste collection vehicles within the council's term
- The combined impact of Brexit and COVID on the availability of HGV Drivers
- The value of recycling collected kerbside – likely to impact delivery of recycling initiatives
- Fly-tipping – continuing to enforce particularly in South Bucks
- Energy price inflation resulting in higher electricity income for the Council\*
- Fuel and contract inflation resulting in higher costs for Northern waste collection fuel costs and higher contract costs for Waste (including EfW, Green, Food & Bulky Waste, Household recycling centres and Southern Waste) and grounds maintenance
- Southern Waste contractor delivering a consistent service in line with contractual requirements and obligations
- Opportunities for Climate-Change related Income generation (solar farms, battery storage) & bidding for Government Grants to fund initiatives.

*\*Energy price inflation is a cost risk in other portfolios, mainly in Property and Transport.*



# Top 5 Contracts

| Supplier name                 | Annual Contract Value £k | Description (inc. Contract End Date)  |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Drax Solutions Limited        | 13,900                   | Electricity Supply Provider majority of Council assets, including Corporate Estate, Street Lighting. Harmonisation across legacy contracts nearly complete. Budgets largely held in other Portfolios (e.g. Property); Energy team manage the contract and monitor usage, drive efficiencies, etc; This includes all meter points, including all schools and partners that have opted into the contract; start date 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2022; end date 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2024; no extensions |
| Veolia Environmental Services | 11,776                   | Joint waste, recycling and cleansing contract; took over Serco contract in Sept 2020 and Biffa contract in November 2021; start date 7 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2020; end date 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2030 (5 year break clause within this 10 year contract); 10 year extension length (10 +10).   |
| Total Gas                     | 3,750                    | Gas provider for majority of Council Assets; start date 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2020; end date 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2024 with 4 year extension option.   |
| FCC Waste Services (UK) Ltd   | 2,700                    | Integrated household waste recycling centre; start date 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022; end date 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2027; extension length is 5 years with option of individual period(s) of no shorter than 1 year.  |
| FCC Recycling (UK) Ltd        | 2,600                    | Green, Food and Bulky Waste contract; start date 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb 2021; end date 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2026; extension length is 5 years with option of individual period(s) of no shorter than 1 year.   |

# Fees & Charges

- Each year, as part of the MTFP, the Fees and Charges schedule is reviewed in detail as part of the MTFP project timeline.
- Fees and charges are applied to waste services for refuse and recycling bin replacements, contract services for garden, bulky, residual, schools, trade residual waste, trade recycling, HRC trade waste and non-household waste.
- The majority of Fees and Charges are proposed to be amended by a 9% RPI increase and one of the proposals includes an RPI increase for green waste collection subscriptions.
- Environmental Specialist Fees, such as the provision of specialist ecology and conservation advice, are increasing by 9%. These are not large income generators for the Council, so a 9% increase will only provide £3k-£5k additional income, which has not been included as a budget change due to its de-minimus value.

# Capital Budget and Forecast Q2

| Service / Project                             | Actuals to Date<br>£000 | Released Budget<br>£000's | Unreleased Budget<br>£000's | Total Budget<br>£000's | Forecast Outturn Released<br>£000's | Forecast Unreleased<br>£000's | Forecast Outturn<br>£000's | Forecast Variance<br>£000's |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Flood Defence Schemes                         | 346                     | 1,393                     | 434                         | 1,827                  | 1,094                               | 158                           | 1,252                      | -575                        |
| Strategic Flood Management                    | 0                       | 100                       | 0                           | 100                    | 100                                 | 0                             | 100                        | 0                           |
| <b>Flood Management Total</b>                 | <b>346</b>              | <b>1,493</b>              | <b>434</b>                  | <b>1,927</b>           | <b>1,194</b>                        | <b>158</b>                    | <b>1,352</b>               | <b>-575</b>                 |
| Biowaste Treatment                            | 1,870                   | 2,483                     | 0                           | 2,483                  | 3,883                               | 0                             | 3,883                      | 1,400                       |
| Southern Waste Contract - Vehicles            | 0                       | 0                         | 4,018                       | 4,018                  | 3,418                               | 0                             | 3,418                      | -600                        |
| Southern Waste Contract-Depot Improvmnt       | -157                    | -525                      | 0                           | -525                   | 75                                  | 0                             | 75                         | 600                         |
| Recycling Centres Vehicles & Plant            | 0                       | 0                         | 360                         | 360                    | 0                                   | 360                           | 360                        | 0                           |
| Recycling Centre Welfare Facilities           | 136                     | -26                       | 280                         | 254                    | 254                                 | 0                             | 254                        | 0                           |
| Pembroke Rd Depot Welfare Facilities          | 11                      | -15                       | 200                         | 185                    | 185                                 | 0                             | 185                        | 0                           |
| Aylesbury Waste Vehicles Replacement          | 94                      | 0                         | 2,471                       | 2,471                  | 2,471                               | 0                             | 2,471                      | 0                           |
| Recycling Initiatives & Waste Containers      | 175                     | 343                       | 0                           | 343                    | 343                                 | 0                             | 343                        | 0                           |
| Buckingham HRC & Waste Transfer Station       | 0                       | 0                         | 275                         | 275                    | 0                                   | 275                           | 275                        | 0                           |
| Recycling Centres Drainage EA Compliance      | 5                       | 0                         | 700                         | 700                    | 0                                   | 700                           | 700                        | 0                           |
| <b>Waste Total</b>                            | <b>2,134</b>            | <b>2,260</b>              | <b>8,304</b>                | <b>10,564</b>          | <b>10,629</b>                       | <b>1,335</b>                  | <b>11,964</b>              | <b>1,400</b>                |
| Solar Car Port & Electric Fleet               | 0                       | 95                        | 0                           | 95                     | 95                                  | 0                             | 95                         | 0                           |
| <b>Climate Change &amp; Air Quality Total</b> | <b>0</b>                | <b>95</b>                 | <b>0</b>                    | <b>95</b>              | <b>95</b>                           | <b>0</b>                      | <b>95</b>                  | <b>0</b>                    |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                            | <b>2,480</b>            | <b>3,848</b>              | <b>8,737</b>                | <b>12,585</b>          | <b>11,918</b>                       | <b>1,493</b>                  | <b>13,410</b>              | <b>825</b>                  |

**Climate Change & Environment Capital:** Budget £12.6m, Var **£0.8m**

- a) Biowaste project carry forward of £2.4m due to delay in construction start date (build commenced Nov 21) - this also includes landscaping and retention costs - anticipated to be completed this financial year. It is expected this project will exceed budget by £1.4m due to increased fuel, steel costs and the disposal of contaminated soil, which will be funded from in-year revenue and reserves contributions.
- b) £0.6m of slippage on Flood alleviation schemes; reprofiling has been agreed via a project update paper to Highways Board in September, and will be reflected in Qtr 3.

# Proposed Capital Programme 2023-24 to 2026-27

## Climate Change & Environment Portfolio Capital Programme 2023/24 to 2026/27

### Expenditure

| Service Area                           | Project Group / Project                       | 2023/24<br>£000's         | 2024/25<br>£000's         | 2025/26<br>£000's         | 2026/27<br>£000's         | MTFP Total<br>£000's         |
|--|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Neighbourhood Services                 | Waste   |                           |                           |                           |                           |                              |
|  | Aylesbury Waste Vehicles Replacement          | 2,390                     | 2,390                     | 630                       | 1,180                     | 6,590                        |
|  | Buckingham HRC & Waste Transfer Station       | 1,275                     | 250                       | 4,600                     | -                         | 6,125                        |
|  | High Heavens Flare                            |                           |                           | 500                       |                           | 500                          |
|  | Pembroke Rd Depot Welfare Facilities          | 600                       | -                         | -                         | -                         | 600                          |
|  | Recycling Centres Drainage EA Compliance      | 489                       | 407                       | -                         | -                         | 896                          |
|  | Recycling Centres Vehicles & Plant            | -                         | 2,106                     | -                         | -                         | 2,106                        |
|  | Recycling Initiatives & Waste Containers      | 660                       | 680                       | 700                       | 920                       | 2,960                        |
|  | Replacement Bulk Shredder                     | -                         | 664                       | -                         | -                         | 664                          |
|  | Southern Waste Contract - Vehicles            | -                         | 221                       | -                         | -                         | 221                          |
|  | <b>Waste Total</b>                            | <b>5,414</b>              | <b>6,718</b>              | <b>6,430</b>              | <b>2,100</b>              | <b>20,662</b>                |
| <b>Neighbourhood Services Total</b>    |   | <b>5,414</b>              | <b>6,718</b>              | <b>6,430</b>              | <b>2,100</b>              | <b>20,662</b>                |
| Planning and Environment               | Climate Change & Air Quality                  |                           |                           |                           |                           |                              |
|  | Climate Change Strategy                       | 655                       | 780                       | 1,260                     | -                         | 2,695                        |
|  | <b>Climate Change &amp; Air Quality Total</b> | <b>655</b>                | <b>780</b>                | <b>1,260</b>              | <b>-</b>                  | <b>2,695</b>                 |
|  | Flood Management                              |                           |                           |                           |                           |                              |
|  | Flood Defence Schemes                         | 3,525                     | 4,310                     | 3,595                     | -                         | 11,430                       |
|  | Strategic Flood Management                    | 50                        | 50                        | 50                        | -                         | 150                          |
|  | <b>Flood Management Total</b>                 | <b>3,575</b>              | <b>4,360</b>              | <b>3,645</b>              | <b>-</b>                  | <b>11,580</b>                |
| <b>Planning and Environment Total</b>  |   | <b>4,230</b>              | <b>5,140</b>              | <b>4,905</b>              | <b>-</b>                  | <b>14,275</b>                |
| <b>Funding</b>                         |   |                           |                           |                           |                           |                              |
| <b>Funding - MTFP Table</b>            |   | <b>2023/24<br/>£000's</b> | <b>2024/25<br/>£000's</b> | <b>2025/26<br/>£000's</b> | <b>2026/27<br/>£000's</b> | <b>MTFP Total<br/>£000's</b> |
| Revenue Contributions to Capital       |   | (160)                     | (180)                     | (200)                     | (720)                     | (1,260)                      |
| Ringfenced Grants                      |   | (2,720)                   | (3,590)                   | (2,135)                   | -                         | (8,445)                      |
| Revenue Contributions (Service)        |   | (855)                     | (980)                     | (1,460)                   | (200)                     | (3,495)                      |
| <b>Total Funding</b>                   |   | <b>(3,735)</b>            | <b>(4,750)</b>            | <b>(3,795)</b>            | <b>(920)</b>              | <b>(13,200)</b>              |
| <b>Net Portfolio Totals</b>            |   | <b>5,909</b>              | <b>7,108</b>              | <b>7,540</b>              | <b>1,180</b>              | <b>21,737</b>                |
| <b>Funded From Corporate Resources</b> |   | <b>(5,909)</b>            | <b>(7,108)</b>            | <b>(7,540)</b>            | <b>(1,180)</b>            | <b>(21,737)</b>              |
| <b>Total</b>                           |   | <b>-</b>                  | <b>-</b>                  | <b>-</b>                  | <b>-</b>                  | <b>-</b>                     |

- Waste capital proposals allow for business as usual to continue as well as seeking to meet health & safety requirements at sites
- All waste capital programme items are to be centrally funded except for waste containers and bins which will be funded from reserve
- Rolling programme includes replacement of North Waste Vehicles, North and South Waste containers, HRC vehicles and plant and Buckingham HRC & Waste Transfer Station – all of which meet business as usual needs
- One off funding proposed includes replacement of High Heavens Flare, Pembroke Road Depot welfare facilities, recycling centres drainage EA compliance and vehicles & plant and bulk shredder – all linked to health and safety compliance

# Proposed Capital Programme 2023-24 to 2026-27

- Proposed capital programme responds to business as usual needs, takes account of inflationary impacts whilst contributing to the Corporate Plan and member priorities e.g. waste collection vehicle investment across the county and trialling new electric or alternative fuel vehicles where possible.
- Rolling programme includes replacement of North Waste Vehicles, North and South Waste containers, HRC vehicles and plant and Buckingham HRC & Waste Transfer Station.
- Investment in vehicles, plant and containers for waste collection allows for compliance with Environmental Protection Act, minimising health risks to residents. Statutory waste collection service vehicles need to be replaced before they reach their expected useful life when the fleet would not be able to sustain all services and would incur higher repairs, maintenance and hire costs (for breakdowns) to keep the service running. Containers are required to be purchased every year in the county and this includes replacement of broken bins, new property growth and new customers for mainline and garden waste.
- The HRC replacement shredder is required to replace the existing one which is reaching the end of its useful life and contractually needs to be replaced.
- The High Heavens flare is required for the old land fill site which is producing methane and can be controlled by flaring with the potential to generate income. The investment is for equipment required to make this site safe.
- Climate Change & Air Quality projects are as set out in the Climate Change Strategy, to improve building energy efficiency in Council buildings (e.g. installing solar panels), install solar car ports and support the electrification of Council's fleet. Funded from grants and the councils £5m climate change fund.
- The Flood Management Programme continues to leverage grants from DEFRA and the Environment Agency – including delivery of the £8m Project Groundwater – to tackle highest priority flood risks within the County. Some of these projects are likely to be hit by inflationary pressures; the Council holds a £0.5m contingency within its flooding programme, and will look to bid to the Environment Agency to meet additional costs through its regular business case submission process.



# Questions





# Budget Scrutiny

## Education and Children's Services

12 January 2023



# Agenda

- Overview of the Portfolio
- Portfolio priorities
- Our Service in Numbers
- 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
  - Benchmarking / VFM indicators



# Overview of the Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: [Councillor Anita Cranmer](#), Deputy Portfolio Holder: [Councillor Joseph Baum](#)

**The Education and Children’s Services Portfolio includes the following services and functions. All of these are statutory functions required of the council by law or by our regulator Ofsted.**

Children’s social care - specialist social care services provide support to children in need of help and protection.

- Our services include:
  - statutory assessment and care planning for children at risk of significant harm
  - provision for looked after children and those leaving care
  - youth offending
  - fostering and adoption services

Education – Ensuring all children and young people have access to a good education is of primary importance.

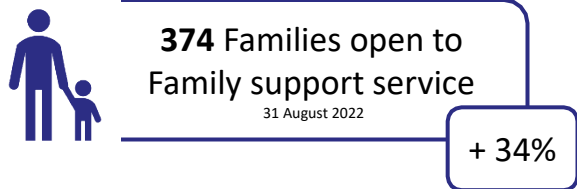
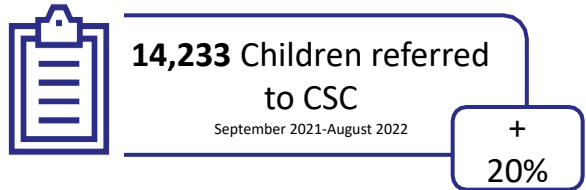
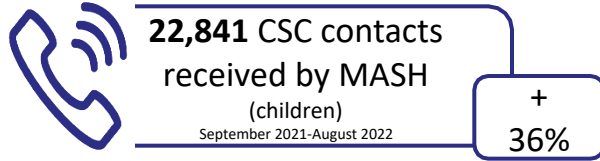
- Our services include:
  - Support for early years provision
  - School Improvement service
  - Adult Learning service
  - Integrated Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) service
  - Family Support Service
  - Delivering the statutory responsibility to provide sufficient early years and pupil places as well as managing the fair allocation of school admissions.

# Portfolio Priorities

The Education and Children's Services Cabinet Portfolio have identified the following priorities:

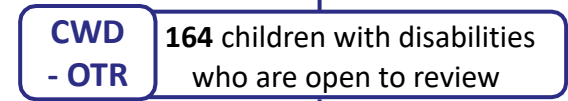
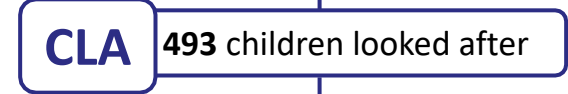
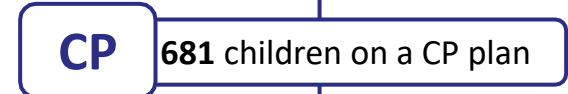
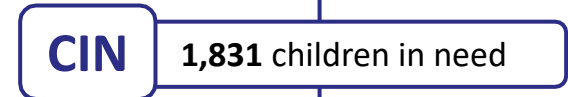
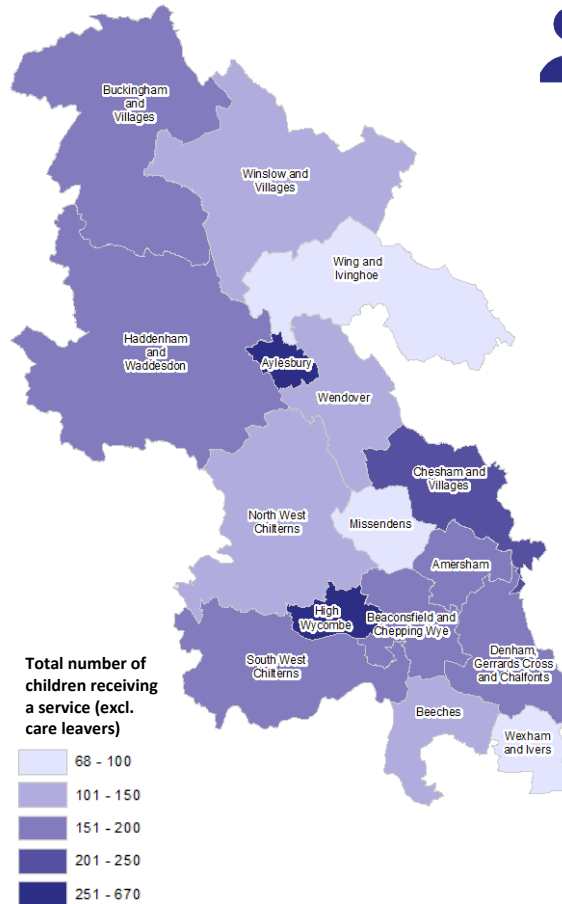
1. Deliver the actions set within our Ofsted Improvement Plan and SEND Improvement Plan to secure better outcomes for children and young people and deliver our ambition to be good/outstanding.
2. Manage the greater level of risk, complexity and seriousness of casework as a result of the pandemic and more recently, the cost of living crisis.
3. Recruitment and retention of social care workforce
4. Placement Sufficiency for Looked after children and special school places for children with SEND.
5. Improving Education Provision and Educational Outcomes
6. Work with schools to ensure that young people have access to good mental health support
7. Developing early help offer and increase the support available to children and families through Partners and the voluntary sector.

# Our Service in Numbers

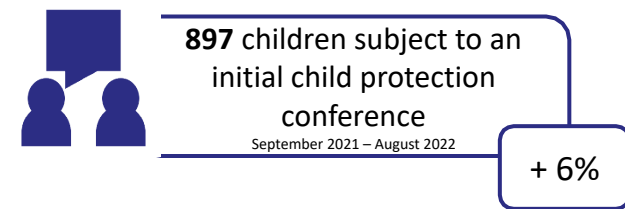


\*% increase/decrease compared to 2020/21

## Our Service in Numbers



\*CP/CLA children counted under both CP and CLA categories



# Our Service in Numbers



**88,942** Total number of pupils attending state funded schools

May 2022



**5,635** EHCP's maintained by Bucks

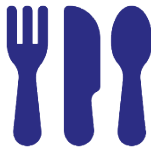
5 Sept 2022



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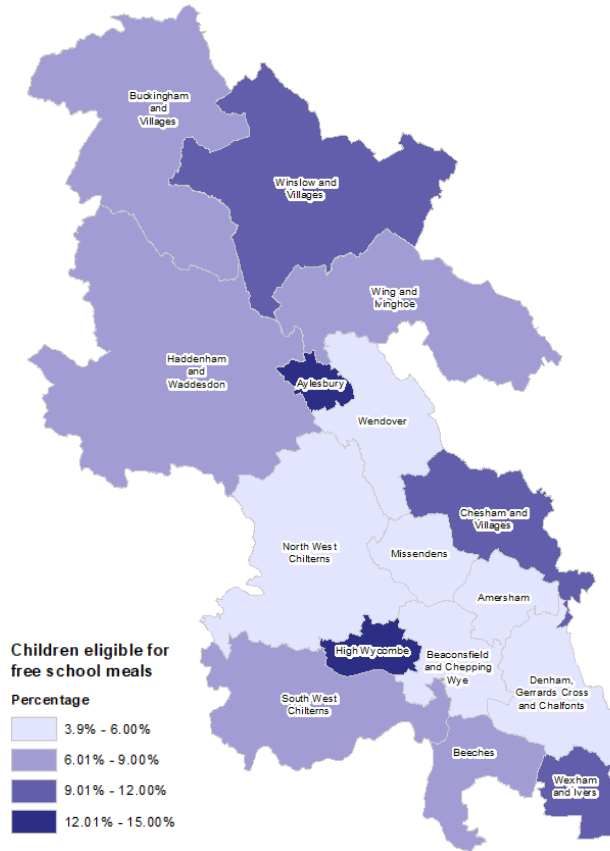
**902** Children electively home educated

31 July 2022



**10,892** Pupils eligible for free school meals

May 2022



**67** Children missing from education (CME)

31 July 2022



**1,594** Pupils attending special schools

May 2022



**9,417** Pupils with SEN support

May 2022



**1.6% (207)** Not in education employment or training (NEET)

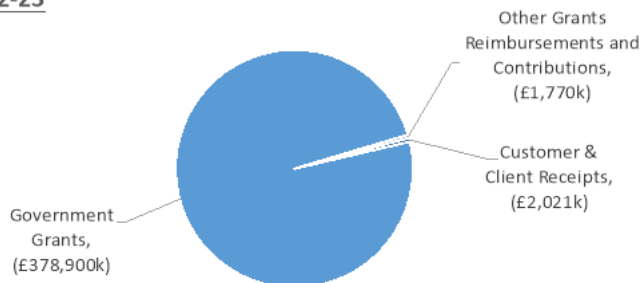
July 2022

# Revenue Budget 2022-23

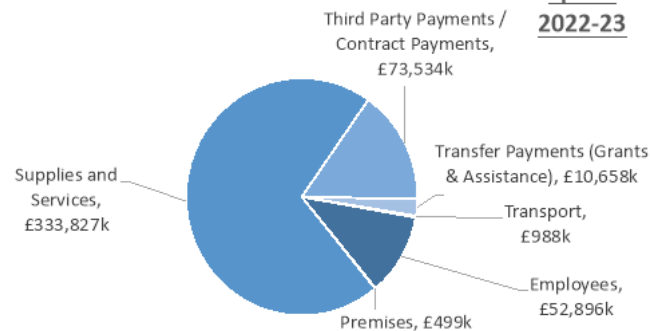
|  |  | 2022-23          |                |               |
|--|--|------------------|----------------|---------------|
|  |  | Income £000      | Expense £000   | Net Budget    |
| Children's Social Care                           | Children in Care                         | (4,996)          | 52,930         | 47,934        |
|  | Children with Disabilities               | -                | 6,619          | 6,619         |
|  | Quality, Standards & Performance         | -                | 4,275          | 4,275         |
|  | Safeguarding                             | -                | 10,565         | 10,565        |
|  | Social Care central costs                | (1,372)          | 6,730          | 5,358         |
| <b>Children's Social Care Total</b>              |  | <b>(6,368)</b>   | <b>81,119</b>  | <b>74,751</b> |
| Education  | Early Help                               | (4)              | 6,904          | 6,900         |
|  | Education & Learning                     | (6,224)          | 7,967          | 1,743         |
|  | Special Educational Needs & Disabilities | (126)            | 6,237          | 6,111         |
| <b>Education Total</b>                           |  | <b>(6,354)</b>   | <b>21,108</b>  | <b>14,753</b> |
| Education - Dedicated Schools Grant              | Central block                            |                  | 5,295          | 5,295         |
|  | Early Years Block                        |                  | 32,515         | 32,515        |
|  | Funding Block                            | (351,256)        |                | (351,256)     |
|  | High Needs Block                         |                  | 104,011        | 104,011       |
|  | Schools Block                            | (18,713)         | 228,148        | 209,435       |
| <b>Education - Dedicated Schools Grant Total</b> |  | <b>(369,969)</b> | <b>369,969</b> | <b>-</b>      |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                               |  | <b>(382,691)</b> | <b>472,195</b> | <b>89,504</b> |

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**Income**  
**2022-23**



**Spend**  
**2022-23**



# Revenue Forecast at Q2

|   | Budget        | Y/E Outturn   | Variance     | Change in Variance<br>(from Q1 Cab)<br>£000 |
|---|---------------|---------------|--------------|---|
|   | £000          | £000          | £000         |   |
| Expenditure                               | 79,660        | 90,140        | 10,480       |   |
| Income                                    | (4,520)       | (5,780)       | (1,260)      |   |
| <b>Children's Social Care</b>             | <b>75,140</b> | <b>84,360</b> | <b>9,220</b> | <b>4,140 ↑</b>                              |
| Expenditure                               | 26,310        | 26,520        | 210          |   |
| Income                                    | (11,380)      | (11,250)      | 130          |   |
| <b>Education</b>                          | <b>14,930</b> | <b>15,270</b> | <b>340</b>   | <b>100 ↑</b>                                |
| Expenditure                               | 319,010       | 318,690       | (320)        |   |
| Income                                    | (319,010)     | (318,690)     | 320          |   |
| Education - Dedicated Schools Grant       | 0             | 0             | 0            | 0   |
| <b>Education &amp; Childrens Services</b> | <b>90,070</b> | <b>99,630</b> | <b>9,560</b> | <b>4,240 ↑</b>                              |

## Education & Children's Services Revenue: Budget £90.1m, Forecast £99.6m, Var +£9.5m

- 10/09/20
- An adverse variance of £9.5m is projected against the budget of £90.1m. This is an adverse movement of £4.2m compared with the previous quarter.
  - An adverse variance of £9.2m is reported against the budgets for Children's Social Care and an adverse variance of £0.3m against budgets for Education
  - The factors contributing to the significant overspend continue to be:
    - Increase in demand experienced by front line social care teams leading to the requirement for additional staffing in order to manage caseloads. This represents an increase of 26% since 2020.
    - National position in relation to the sufficiency of placements for children looked after is leading to a shortage of available placements and very high unit costs of those placements that can be accessed. This is also resulting in the need to develop creative solutions to support young people with complex needs and manage risk.
    - Increase in the number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASCs) coming into Buckinghamshire is 120% on last year and 29 out of 30 have come through the National Transfer Scheme since April. This leads to an increase in the costs of accommodation for care leavers as those young people turn 18.
    - Continued increases in seriousness and complexity of support needed for children with disabilities.

# Revenue budget savings from April 2020

|   | Actual        |               | Forecast    |
|---|---------------|---------------|-------------|
|   | 2020/21       | 2021/22       | 2022/23     |
|   | £'000         | £'000         | £'000       |
| <b>Savings</b>  |               |               |             |
| Placement Sufficiency Strategy  | -500          | -1,607        | -43         |
| Reduced demand for legal services                                       | -545          | 0             | 0           |
| Social Care: Review of the delivery of non-statutory services           | -723          | -250          | 0           |
| Education: Review of the delivery of non-statutory services             | -114          | 0             | 0           |
| Savings achieved in Accommodation Costs through joint work with Housing | 0             | -275          |             |
| Social Care: Home Working Savings                                       | 0             | -43           | 0           |
| Education: Home Working Savings   | 0             | -12           | 0           |
| Social Care: Staffing Review  | 0             | 0             | -170        |
| Education: Staffing Review  | 0             | -28           | 0           |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>-1,882</b> | <b>-2,216</b> | <b>-213</b> |
| <b>Additional Income</b>  |               |               |             |
| Increased Trading with Schools  | 0             | 0             | -50         |

# Proposed changes to the Revenue Budget (1 of 2)

| Education & Children's Services |   | Change<br>2023-24<br>£000's |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| <b>Children's Social Care</b>   |   |                             |
| Growth                          | Impact of demand and complexity on case loads within Social Work teams  | 3,168                       |
|                                 | Impact of National Placement Sufficiency on unit costs  | 2,683                       |
|                                 | Increase in demand in statutory social care services due to demography and complexity                                 | 1,322                       |
|                                 | Increase in Domiciliary Care and Direct Payment Costs   | 1,150                       |
|                                 | Increased costs from National Transfer Scheme for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASCs)                       | 1,724                       |
| Income                          | Additional income from partners for complex needs packages  | (200)                       |
| Inflation                       | Increase in contract costs  | 197                         |
|                                 | Increase in placement costs for looked after children   | 5,042                       |
| Savings                         | Developing local solutions for placement sufficiency strategy   | (620)                       |
|                                 | Efficiency savings through development of Edge of Care services   | (390)                       |
|                                 | Partner Contributions for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services   | (500)                       |
|                                 | Reduction in agency staff costs   | (407)                       |
| Special Items                   | Impact of demand and complexity on case loads within Social Work teams  | (1,413)                     |
|                                 | Increased costs from the expansion of the Social Work Academy to support recruitment and retention of permanent staff | 141                         |
|                                 | One-off expenditure funded from Supporting Families reserve   | 300                         |
|                                 | Reserve funded costs from expansion of the Social Worker Academy  | 61                          |
| Reserves                        | One-off reserve funding for additional social workers   | 1,413                       |
|                                 | Use of reserves to fund expansion of the Social Worker academy  | (61)                        |
|                                 | Use of Supporting Families reserve  | (300)                       |

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- New growth proposals prioritise meeting the additional costs of meeting increased demand and managing the impact of a lack of sufficiency of placements for children in care
- New savings proposals focus on the development of local solutions to reducing demand for placements and developing local provision



# Proposed changes to the Revenue Budget (2 of 2)

| <b>Education &amp; Children's Services</b> |   | <b>Change<br/>2023-24<br/>£000's</b> |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Education</b>                           |   |                                      |
| Growth                                     | Increased case loads for staff carrying out statutory assessment work   | 515                                  |
|  | Loss of School Improvement Grant  | 542                                  |
|  | Pressures on Education central services   | 383                                  |
|  | Supporting participation in Education, Employment and Training for Post-16 students with Special Educational Needs (SEND) | 163                                  |
| Income                                     | Increased income from trading with schools  | (50)                                 |
|  | Loss of School Improvement Grant  | (81)                                 |
|  | Review of fees and charges  | (13)                                 |
| Savings                                    | Efficiency savings in Education central services  | (383)                                |
| Reserves                                   | Reserve funding for loss of School Improvement Grant  | (461)                                |
|  | Use of Supporting Families reserve for first year   | (163)                                |

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New growth proposals for 2023-24 prioritise

- Increased staffing to carry out statutory assessment work
- Additional costs of school improvement work following the cessation of grant funding – this pressure will be met through a mixture of income from schools and use of reserves
- Increased support for participation in Education, Employment and Training for students with SEND – this pressure will be met through use of reserves in 2023-24

# Overall Revenue Budget 2023-24

|  |  | 2023-24          |                 |                |
|--|--|------------------|-----------------|----------------|
|  |  | Income<br>£000   | Expense<br>£000 | Net<br>Budget  |
| Children's Social Care                           | Children in Care                         | (4,996)          | 62,391          | 57,395         |
|  | Children with Disabilities               | (200)            | 7,769           | 7,569          |
|  | Early Help                               |                  | 300             | 300            |
|  | Quality, Standards & Performance         |                  | 4,416           | 4,416          |
|  | Safeguarding                             | 1,413            | 11,913          | 13,326         |
|  | Social Care central costs                | (1,372)          | 6,427           | 5,055          |
| <b>Children's Social Care Total</b>              |  | <b>(5,155)</b>   | <b>93,215</b>   | <b>88,060</b>  |
| Education  | Early Help                               | (4)              | 6,904           | 6,900          |
|  | Education & Learning                     | (6,369)          | 8,048           | 1,680          |
|  | Special Educational Needs & Disabilities | (126)            | 6,752           | 6,626          |
| <b>Education Total</b>                           |  | <b>(6,498)</b>   | <b>21,704</b>   | <b>15,206</b>  |
| Education - Dedicated Schools Grant              | Central block                            |                  | 5,295           | 5,295          |
|  | Early Years Block                        |                  | 32,515          | 32,515         |
|  | Funding Block                            | (351,256)        |                 | (351,256)      |
|  | High Needs Block                         |                  | 104,011         | 104,011        |
|  | Schools Block                            | (18,713)         | 228,148         | 209,435        |
| <b>Education - Dedicated Schools Grant Total</b> |  | <b>(369,969)</b> | <b>369,969</b>  | <b>-</b>       |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                               |  | <b>(381,623)</b> | <b>484,889</b>  | <b>103,266</b> |

| Change Type        | Total<br>£000 |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Growth             | 12,100        |
| Income             | (344)         |
| Inflation          | 5,239         |
| Savings            | (2,750)       |
| Special Items      | (658)         |
| Reserves           | 175           |
| <b>Grand Total</b> | <b>13,762</b> |

# Challenges, Risks & Opportunities

The Education and Children's Services Portfolio have identified the following challenges and risks impacting on the budget:

## **Increases in Demand**

- The portfolio is seeing increases in demand and complexity across Early Help and Children's Social Care
- Increases in demand are being experienced nationally
- The impact is initially seen on the staffing requirement across the portfolio as caseloads increase, this is resulting in a risk of up to £1.3m against the staffing budget
- Continued demand pressures may impact on the capacity of the portfolio to maintain our current Ofsted rating and to deliver on our ambition to be good/outstanding

## **National Placement Sufficiency Issues**

- Placement sufficiency on a national basis is in crisis. Demand significantly outstrips supply leading to providers profiteering and unit costs for individual placements rising.
- Inability to source appropriate placements – can lead to high cost care packages in the community (eg £30k per week, £1.5m per year for one child) in order to manage risk and keep young people safe
- High unit costs – average unit costs for external placements have increased since April. For example the average unit cost of external residential placements made since April 2022 is £6,800 per week compared to a budgeted weekly average cost of £4,487
- Unprecedented level and pace of change leading to highly unpredictable costs – likely to increase pressure on placement budget by up to £3.5m based on current estimates

## **Recruitment of permanent staff**

- Inability to recruit permanent staff and Increased agency staff numbers
- Cost of agency staff has increased over the last 12 months

## **Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children**

- Impact of National Transfer Scheme – mandatory scheme, started March 2022, requirement to take 10 young people per month – compared to 6 in total for last year. Initial estimates suggest risk of £0.5m in the current year.

## **National Care Review**

- Includes recommendations to address the issues of placement sufficiency through the development of regional care consortia
- Government response required to include review of family support functions

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL

# Challenges, Risks & Opportunities (2)

## **Demand for Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)**

- Demand for EHCPs has increased by approximately 10% per annum in recent years. All local authorities are experiencing increases in demand for EHCPs
- The financial impact is on the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and on the staffing requirements within the Integrated SEND Service

## **SEND Sufficiency and capital implications**

- Development of sufficient places to meet the needs of pupils with SEND within Buckinghamshire schools
- Capital development required to provide additional places – funding includes specific grant funding, developer contributions and bid to DfE free school programme

## **Education White paper**

- The most significant reform is the commitment to ensure every school will become part of a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) by 2030. Local authorities to be allowed to set up their own MATs.
- Review and reorganisation of roles and responsibilities across partners including schools, MATs, LAs, Regional Schools Commissioners and the DfE.
- Risk that new duties are not fully funded

## **SEND Green Paper**

- National review of SEND Services to have implications for service delivery and cost

## **Further development of early help services**

- Reducing reliance on local authority services and developing partnerships with other sectors

## **Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficit**

- Like many other local authorities, the council has a DSG deficit due to pressures in particular around High Needs, with a deficit management plan in place. The deficit at the end of the 2021-22 financial year was £3.6m

# Top 5 contracts

| Vendor                               | Annual Contract Value £k | Description (inc. Contract End Date)  |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust   | 10,002                   | CAMHS - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service<br>Joint funded with BOB ICB - 83% ICB, 17% BC<br>5 year contract with 2 year extension<br>Extended end date 30/09/2022 and waiver till 31/03/2023                                     |
| Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust     | 3,764                    | Integrated Therapies: Physiotherapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational therapy<br>Joint funded with BOB ICB - 54% CCG, 46% BC<br>3 year contract with 2 year extension<br>Extended end date 31/03/2022 and waiver till 30/09/2023 |
| Buckinghamshire College Group        | 3,480                    | Post 16 Education   |
| Action for Children Services Limited | 2,918                    | Countywide Integrated Short Breaks service for disabled children and young people aged 0-19 years<br>Joint funded with BOB ICB - 18%<br>6 year contract, end date 31/03/2025  |
| Aspire Schools                       | 1,897                    | Alternative Education Provision<br>3 year contract with 2 year extension<br>Extended end date 31/08/2023  |

# 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 inflation increase.

The Fees and Charges schedule for Education and Children's Services is being reviewed in detail as part of the MTFP process. The main areas where fees and charges to members of the public are applied are:

1. Adult Learning – community courses
2. Penalty notices for unauthorised absence from school (statutory charge)

There are also a number of services that are offered on a traded basis to schools and early years providers. The traded offer, and associated price structure, is also reviewed as part of the MTFP.

# Capital Programme

Buckinghamshire Council has a statutory duty under Section 14 of Education Act 1996 to ensure that there are sufficient early years and school places in its area to ensure that schools in its area are sufficient in number, character and equipment to provide education suitable for the different ages (including pupils who are over compulsory school age but under the age of 19), abilities and aptitudes and special educational needs of pupils of school age.

The council also has duties under the Education Act 1996 and the SEN Code of Practice 2014 to identify, assess and make provision for children with SEN where necessary.

The proposed capital programme enables the LA to provide additional school places to meet its statutory duty and provides a rolling programme of maintenance and improvement to ensure school premises continue to be a safe and suitable environment for our young people.

# Capital Budget and Forecast Q2

| Service / Project                      | Actuals to Date<br>£000 | Released Budget<br>£000's | Unreleased Budget<br>£000's | Total Budget<br>£000's | Forecast Outturn Released<br>£000's | Forecast Unreleased<br>£000's | Forecast Outturn<br>£000's | Forecast Variance<br>£000's |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Children's Homes                       | 0                       | 0                         | 499                         | 499                    | 0                                   | 0                             | 0                          | -499                        |
| <b>Children's Social Care Total</b>    | <b>0</b>                | <b>0</b>                  | <b>499</b>                  | <b>499</b>             | <b>0</b>                            | <b>0</b>                      | <b>0</b>                   | <b>-499</b>                 |
| Primary School Places                  | -587                    | 4,986                     | 1,567                       | 6,553                  | 2,840                               | 500                           | 3,340                      | -3,213                      |
| Provision for Early Years              | 0                       | 83                        | 101                         | 183                    | 10                                  | 0                             | 10                         | -173                        |
| School Property Maintenance            | 2,480                   | 5,625                     | 0                           | 5,625                  | 5,625                               | 0                             | 5,625                      | 0                           |
| Secondary School Places                | 10,356                  | 24,385                    | -2,990                      | 21,394                 | 21,278                              | -100                          | 21,178                     | -216                        |
| Provision for Special Educational Need | 692                     | 1,760                     | 2,631                       | 4,391                  | 1,881                               | 1,000                         | 2,881                      | -1,510                      |
| School Toilets                         | 127                     | 217                       | 0                           | 217                    | 217                                 | 0                             | 217                        | 0                           |
| School Access Adaptations              | 52                      | 151                       | 0                           | 151                    | 151                                 | 0                             | 151                        | 0                           |
| <b>Schools Total</b>                   | <b>13,118</b>           | <b>37,206</b>             | <b>1,308</b>                | <b>38,515</b>          | <b>32,002</b>                       | <b>1,400</b>                  | <b>33,402</b>              | <b>-5,113</b>               |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                     | <b>13,118</b>           | <b>37,206</b>             | <b>1,807</b>                | <b>39,014</b>          | <b>32,002</b>                       | <b>1,400</b>                  | <b>33,402</b>              | <b>-5,612</b>               |

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## Education & Children's Services Capital: Budget £39.0m, Var -£5.6m

- A favourable variance of £3.2m against schemes for primary school places, including an underspend of £1.4m against the Kingsbrook Primary school project. Underspends will be utilised in the delivery of future projects to increase school places in line with the council's sufficiency duty.
- A favourable variance of £0.2m against secondary school places.
- A favourable variance of £1.5m against schemes to deliver additional capacity for SEND provision. The underspend will be rolled forward to develop provision in line with the SEND Sufficiency Strategy.



# Proposed Capital Programme 2023-24 to 2025-26

| Service Area             | Project Group / Project                | Values            |                   |                   |                   |                | MTFP Total<br>£000's |
|--------------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------------|
|                          |  | 2023/24<br>£000's | 2024/25<br>£000's | 2025/26<br>£000's | 2026/27<br>£000's |                |                      |
| Education                | Schools                                |                   |                   |                   |                   |                |                      |
|                          | Primary School Places                  | 8,105             | 21,000            | 19,875            | 13,575            | <b>62,555</b>  |                      |
|                          | Provision for Early Years              | -                 | -                 | -                 | -                 | -              |                      |
|                          | Provision for Special Educational Need | 4,855             | 14,600            | 7,740             | 2,000             | <b>29,195</b>  |                      |
|                          | School Access Adaptations              | 200               | 200               | 200               | 200               | <b>800</b>     |                      |
|                          | School Property Maintenance            | 6,000             | 6,000             | 6,000             | 6,000             | <b>24,000</b>  |                      |
|                          | School Toilets                         | 250               | 250               | 250               | 250               | <b>1,000</b>   |                      |
|                          | Secondary School Places                | 6,311             | 3,000             | 1,300             | 200               | <b>10,811</b>  |                      |
|                          | Provision for Cost Inflation           | 2,900             | 5,000             | 3,800             | 2,400             | <b>14,100</b>  |                      |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b> |  | <b>28,621</b>     | <b>50,050</b>     | <b>39,165</b>     | <b>24,625</b>     | <b>142,461</b> |                      |

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- The proposals take into account projected pupil numbers across the county based on expected birth rates, housing development and migration. Projections are monitored and reviewed continually and the programme reprofiled to align with housing development etc
- Priorities for the delivery of additional places for pupils with SEND are driven by the SEND Sufficiency Strategy which has recently been consulted on, and includes projected numbers of pupils with Education Health and Care Plans. The proposals included in the programme for SEND will enable completion of phase 1 of the sufficiency.
- Extension/maintenance works will improve the school estate and ensure that schools are able to function and remain open as safe environments for young people.



# Questions





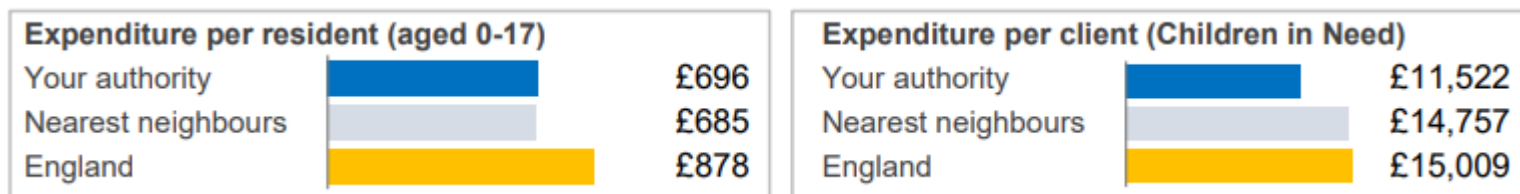
# Appendix – Benchmarking and Value for Money



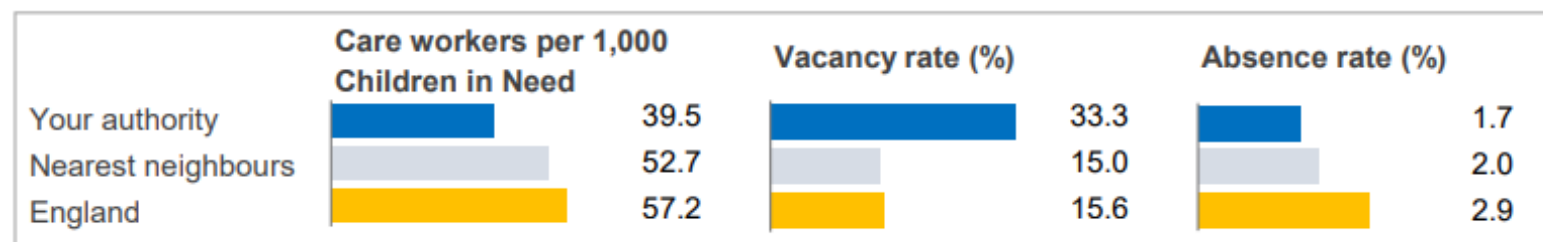
# Benchmarking and VFM

- Benchmarking data is based on budgeted spend 2021-22
- Workforce data is taken from DfE data for September 2020
- Unit costs are compared either to the 0-17 population or numbers of Children in Need
- Nearest Neighbour (NN) authorities are taken from a list of statistical neighbour authorities used by the Department for Education (DfE) to compare with Buckinghamshire, and a number of South East authorities

## Summary Tables – Relative Spend

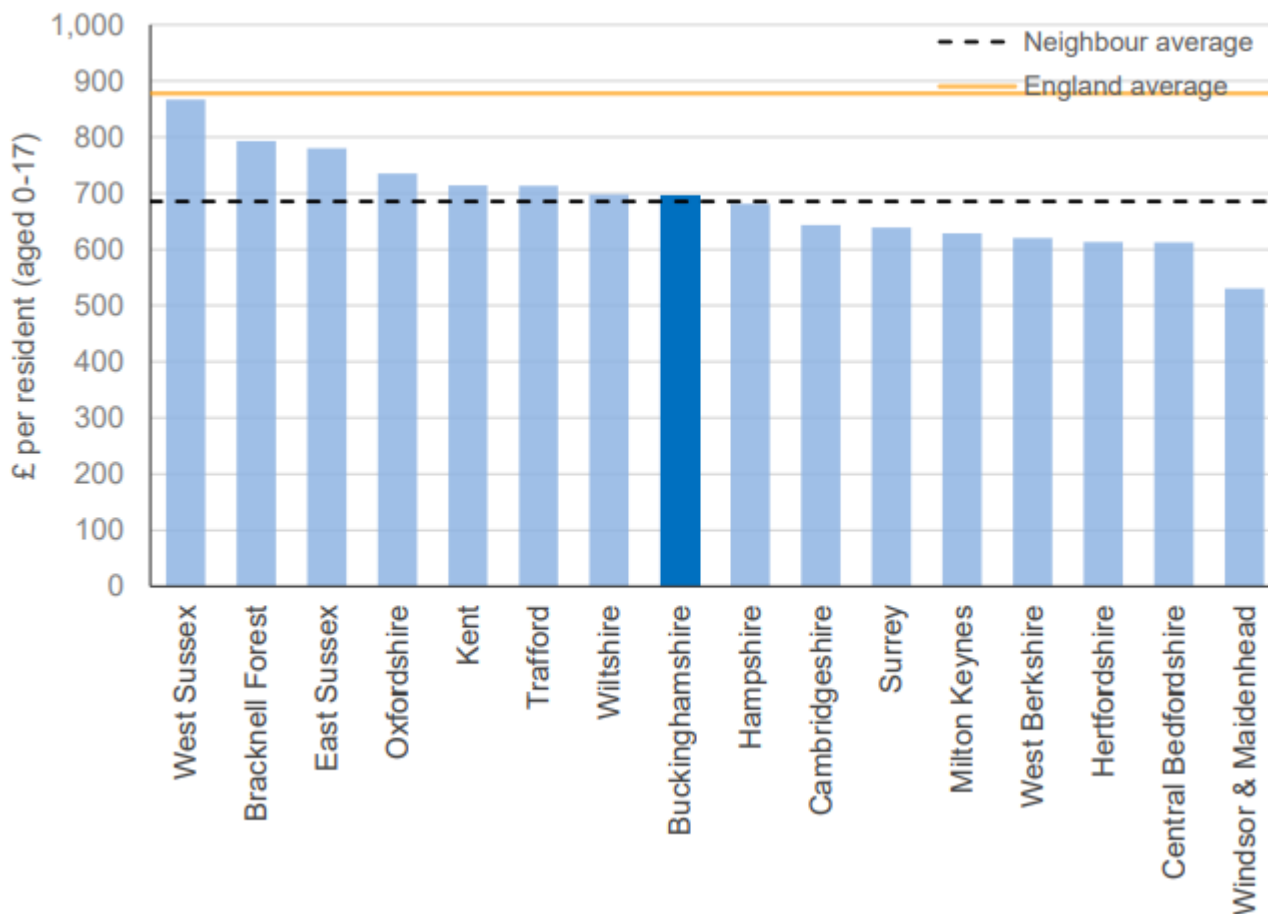


## Summary Table – Key workforce statistics (as of 30 September 2020)



# Benchmarking and VFM

**Table 1 – Children’s Social Care budgeted expenditure per resident (aged 0-17) 2021-22**



Budgeted expenditure per resident aged 0 to 17 was 1.5% higher than the nearest neighbour average and 20.7% lower than the England average in 2021-22

# Benchmarking and VFM

Table 2 – Composition of Budgeted Expenditure 2021-22

| Service Group                          | Buckinghamshire |               | NN average<br>(% of total) | England average<br>(% of total) |
|--|-----------------|---------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
|  | (£m)            | (% of total)  |                            |                                 |
| Children Looked After                  | 48.653          | 51.4%         | 50.2%                      | 50.6%                           |
| Safeguarding Children's Services       | 25.296          | 26.7%         | 27.0%                      | 24.3%                           |
| Family Support Services                | 13.516          | 14.3%         | 12.2%                      | 11.6%                           |
| Other Children's and Families Services | 3.029           | 3.2%          | 1.1%                       | 2.9%                            |
| Services for Young People              | 2.072           | 2.2%          | 3.3%                       | 3.4%                            |
| Youth Justice                          | 2.000           | 2.1%          | 1.5%                       | 2.0%                            |
| Asylum seekers                         | 0.145           | 0.2%          | 1.1%                       | 1.3%                            |
| Sure Start and Early Years             | 0.000           | 0.0%          | 3.5%                       | 3.9%                            |
| <b>Total Children's Social Care</b>    | <b>94.711</b>   | <b>100.0%</b> | <b>100.0%</b>              | <b>100.0%</b>                   |

# Benchmarking and VFM

Table 3 – Budgeted Unit Costs 2021-22 relative to other local authorities

| Expenditure category                   | Your authority |               | Nearest neighbours    |               |              | All authorities       |               |                | Units                   |
|--|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------------|
|  | Budget (£m)    | Unit cost (£) | Average unit cost (£) | Difference    | Rank (of 16) | Average unit cost (£) | Difference    | Rank (of 146)  |                         |
| Children Looked After                  | 48.653         | 65,967        | 53,692                | 22.9%         | 2nd          | 47,840                | 37.9%         | 7th ●          | Children Looked After   |
| Safeguarding Children's Services       | 25.296         | 3,077         | 3,958                 | -22.2%        | 13th         | 3,649                 | -15.7%        | 96th ●         | Children in Need        |
| Sure Start and Early Years             | 0.000          | 0             | 96                    | -100.0%       | 16th         | 126                   | -100.0%       | 136th= ●       | Residents (aged 0-4)    |
| Services for Young People              | 2.072          | 42            | 60                    | -30.2%        | 12th         | 80                    | -47.3%        | 103rd ●        | Residents (aged 13-19)  |
| Family Support Services                | 13.516         | 1,644         | 1,828                 | -10.1%        | 11th         | 1,752                 | -6.2%         | 80th ●         | Children in Need        |
| Youth Justice                          | 2.000          | 31            | 23                    | 39.4%         | 3rd          | 40                    | -21.9%        | 85th ●         | Residents (aged 10-17)  |
| Other Children's and Families Services | 3.029          | 368           | 189                   | 95.4%         | 2nd          | 384                   | -4.0%         | 33rd ●         | Children in Need        |
| Asylum seekers                         | 0.145          |               |                       |               |              |                       |               |                |                         |
| <b>Total Children's Social Care</b>    | <b>94.711</b>  | <b>11,522</b> | <b>14,757</b>         | <b>-21.9%</b> | <b>14th</b>  | <b>15,009</b>         | <b>-23.2%</b> | <b>119th ●</b> | <b>Children in Need</b> |

**Key:**

Unit costs: bottom 20% of authorities in England ●●●●● top 20% of authorities in England

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