



Cabinet agenda

Date: Tuesday 28 September 2021

Time: 10.00 am

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

Membership:

M Tett (Leader), A Macpherson (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing), G Williams (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration), S Bowles (Cabinet Member for Communities), S Broadbent (Cabinet Member for Transport), J Chilver (Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources, Property and Assets), A Cranmer (Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services), C Harriss (Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure), N Naylor (Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Regulatory Services) and P Strachan (Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment)

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Agenda Item

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To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2021

3 Declarations of interest

4 Hot Topics

5 Question Time

Question from Councillor Robin Stuchbury to Councillor Gareth Williams (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration)

Currently Buckinghamshire Council has a minimum target of 25% affordable housing in the VALP and the Council should be supporting neighbourhood plan aspirations for a higher percentage of 35%. These are testing times for the younger generation trying to get a foothold on the housing ladder or to be able to remain and work within Buckinghamshire and there is a real likelihood a large percentage may settle within the northern corridor through the Cambridge Arc. I genuinely seek an understanding of how Buckinghamshire Council will be able to meet demand for accommodation within the targets proposed in the recently adopted VALP and I should like to know what steps are going to be taken to maximise affordable housing within the area of the VALP, and also in the emerging Buckinghamshire plan ?

Question from Councillor Alison Wheelhouse to Councillor Gareth Williams (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration)

In a fast evolving planning environment, given the recent proliferation of Permitted Development prior notification applications for:

- change of use from office user to residential use (Class O, now Class MA - Part 3 Schedule 2 Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) which permits change of use from Class E to C3)
- addition of storeys to existing buildings
- new Class ZA

please will the Cabinet Member for Planning and the Leader ensure that Article 4 Directions be made as soon as possible in relation to Classes MA and ZA, and addition of storeys to existing buildings? While these types of development may be of benefit in the right circumstances, they should require full planning consent and should be capable of being called-in to planning committee, so that the community voice is heard in the planning system and the potential loss of commercial space is properly assessed.

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11	Exclusion of the public (if required) To resolve that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act. Paragraph 3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)	
12	Confidential Appendix for Wycombe Air Park	103 - 130
13	Date of next meeting 19 October 2021 at 10am	

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For further information please contact: Craig Saunders -
democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk on 01296 585043, email
democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

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Cabinet minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Monday 13 September 2021 in The Oculus, Buckinghamshire Council, Gatehouse Road, HP19 8FF, commencing at 10.00 am and concluding at 11.39 am.

Members present

M Tett, A Macpherson, G Williams, S Bowles, S Broadbent, J Chilver, A Cranmer, C Harriss, N Naylor and P Strachan

Others in attendance

Z Mohammed, R Stuchbury and A Wheelhouse

Agenda Item

1 Apologies

There were none.

**2 Minutes
RESOLVED –**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 July, 2021, be approved as a correct record.

3 Declarations of interest

There were none.

4 Hot Topics

The following hot topics were reported:-

The Leader

The Leader encouraged those that would like to continue to receive regular communications from the Council on events, services, project and consultations in their area to sign up for newsletters at www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk.signup.

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

Cabinet were informed that Government's announcement last week on adult social care reform was a welcome step in the right direction. An Adult and Social Care

White Paper would come forward in due course that the Council would ensure it responded to. The Government needed to ensure it worked with councils, their partners and those with lived experience, in order to develop a care and support system that was fit for the future and had sustainability of funding.

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration

Cabinet were informed of two issues:

- Local Heritage List Campaign– the Council was one of 22 areas in the country participating in a MHCLG pilot scheme, which was now live, to identify non-designated local heritage assets (buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas or landscapes which had been identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of their heritage interest), but must include buildings. Members of the public were encouraged to identify assets they believed should be added to the list.
- Design Code pilot – the Council was one of 14 local planning authorities in England selected by the MHCLG to apply the new National Model Design Code (NMDC) to their areas in a six-month testing programme. The code would give local planning authorities a toolkit of design principles to consider for new developments, such as street character, building type and façade. It also features environmental, heritage and wellbeing factors. It would also help place shape for the new Buckinghamshire Local Plan.

Cabinet Member for Transport

Cabinet were informed that the Council had been awarded £0.5m from the Department of Transport to enhance and maintain signalisation (i.e. traffic lights and sensors) around the Aylesbury gyratory.

Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure

Cabinet were informed that local theatres had recently opened, which had included a production of 'Hairspray' at the Aylesbury Waterside theatre. Buckinghamshire had recently featured in coverage that it was the home of the Paralympics. Finally, the return of Pub in the Park would be taking place in Marlow from 16-19 September 2021.

Cabinet Member for Communities

Cabinet were informed of two issues:

- Community Boards update – a successful meeting of Community Board Chairmen and Vice Chairmen had been held on 6 September looking at projects and activities being undertaken. Some of the projects being worked up included some Boards joining up to work on tackling speeding, the environment and a community karting project at Silverstone. 3 project approval panels had been held and considered 26 projects valued at approximately £500K. Projects approved included for highways projects with feasibility studies, super health and wellbeing projects including outdoor gyms in 2 Parishes, a new BMX park, 7 dementia projects to raise awareness in the community and a Community fridge. To date, approximately £800K in projects had been approved.

- Community Safety funding – the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner had announced additional Community Safety funding for Buckinghamshire: £50K in 2023-24 and £51K in 2024-25. This would bring the total funding to £537,585.

Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment

Cabinet were informed that the national shortage of HGV drivers continued to impact refuse collections, in particular in the Chiltern and Wycombe areas. The contractors (Veolia) had reported on Friday that they only were able to put out 41 of the normal 61 rounds in these areas due to driver shortages. While this situation continued it had been agreed to continue the practice of collecting food waste alongside recyclates. Buckinghamshire Council had continued to collect green waste across the area, although this service had been suspended by some other nearby Councils due to driver shortages.

5 Question Time

Question from Councillor Robin Stuchbury to Councillor Gareth Williams, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration

“As you are aware a number of bodies were uncovered during excavations ahead of work at West End Farm, on Brackley Road in Buckingham for a planned care home. This included skeletons of 80 bodies with hands tied behind their backs. I would be grateful if the Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration could provide an interim report of the basic analysis of this major historic site to provide clarification of what took place and in what date period for local residents. I understand that some of the investigations have been halted due to financial issues between the developer and Network Archaeology, which have been ongoing for some considerable time, and if this is the case what action can be taken by officers to bring this to a quick resolution?”

Response

“We are aware of the issues surrounding this archaeological excavation, which took place in 2018-19, in accordance with a condition attached to planning consent 16/00847/APP granted to Brio Homes through appeal. Between 70 and 80 irregular burials were excavated, some singular and others multiple, with some of the skeletons appearing to be face down with their hands behind their backs. There was limited artefactual evidence recovered but two medieval buckles suggested a long-lived medieval burial ground. The excavation was carried out by Network Archaeology in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the Council’s archaeology service.

Following the completion of the excavation, it was agreed that the development could commence, with an archaeological watching brief to be carried out on any groundworks. This was to ensure any further burials be identified and appropriately excavated. It was agreed that the reporting could be postponed until all archaeological works had finished. However, in 2019 all works ceased on site whilst Brio Homes awaited the result of a Variation of Permission application.

After raising our concerns about storage and conservation of the skeletons, Brio Homes agreed in February 2020 to pay for the initial stabilisation of the human remains. This work was completed in August 2020, but is only the first stage in the post-excavation process, and to date no further works have been undertaken. In April 2021 it became apparent that Brio Homes had failed to settle the outstanding balance on works already completed, and as such Network Archaeology were no longer prepared to undertake any further works, including producing a written report on the skeletons.

It is unfortunate that the planning permission Brio Homes won under appeal has lapsed, and there has been no approach for a renewal. Brio Homes have also withdrawn their application for a variation of permission. It appears that they have decided against developing the site and therefore have no intention of funding the post-excavation works. Brio Homes do not appear to be in breach of any condition due to the final phase of works having not taken place, nor will they need the archaeological condition discharged if they do not progress with the development. It therefore seems that Buckinghamshire Council cannot insist that they fund the post excavation works and Network Archaeology cannot undertake the works without payment.

Since April 2021 Buckinghamshire Council archaeology service have made repeated requests for updates from Network Archaeology. There is an outstanding contractual issue between Brio Homes and Network Archaeology that needs to be resolved in order for this project to progress. We have repeatedly requested the following information:

- Contact details for relevant persons at Brio Homes to discuss the outstanding works directly;
- Costs for the production of an initial site report summarising works undertaken to date;
- Costs for full analysis and publication of the site.

Once Buckinghamshire Council has this information it will be possible to consider alternative funding and publication options and move this project forward. The archaeology team are working hard to resolve the issues, but we need Brio Homes and Network Archaeology to take responsibility for the excavated remains from this site and to work with us on this matter.”

Question from Councillor Alison Wheelhouse to Councillor Gareth Williams, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration

“Given recent multiple Permitted Development “prior notification” applications for 15m high mobile phone masts across the county, and in view of the recently completed Government consultation on this topic, please will the Cabinet Member for Planning and the Leader ensure that: 1. a new Electronic Communications Supplementary Planning Document be implemented as soon as possible; and 2. that an Article 4 Direction be made without delay in relation to permitted development

rights for electronic communications masts and cabinets, so that these will require planning consent and can be called-in to planning committee. The SPD and Art.4 Directions are needed for the following reasons:

- To avoid piecemeal applications for masts and associated cabinets from multiple carriers and to implement a strategic overview.
- The need for a clear policy on mast sharing, site sharing and a requirement for submission of data on existing availability and sharing facilities in any given area.
- To maximise the use of existing sites and masts.
- Much distress is being caused to communities by carriers making unsuitable prior notification applications under the current permitted development rules, leaving communities with limited voice on the matter. This issue will be further aggravated if proposals are implemented as set out in the Government's recently completed technical consultation, which would allow masts up to 15m as permitted development without need for prior approval.

In summary, could the Cabinet Member please confirm what steps the Council intends to take to address the points raised above at 1. and 2.?"

Response

1) a new Electronic Communications Supplementary Planning Document be implemented as soon as possible.

"Thank you for your question regarding an SPD for electronic communications. I understand that these can have a blight on the landscape and localised visual amenity. This, as I understand it is why there are safeguards to protect the most sensitive landscapes and to ensure that there is local consultation on the siting of masts and equipment. The development management teams are in place to assess such applications and to refuse prior approval if the equipment does not meet the tests set out in the National Planning Policy Framework. Two such applications for prior approval have recently been refused. This rather indicates the system as set down by government is capable of working.

For example, the application to determine if prior approval is needed for a new mast and equipment at the Junction of Wooster Road and Owlsars Close failed to meet the frameworks tests of:

- 1) consultation;
- 2) siting and appearance; and
- 3) an effective statement that certifies that when operational International Commission guidelines will be met.

And was therefore refused. This as I consider it, is the correct process to assess such electronic communications.

But turning to the request for the creation of an SPD to provide guidelines, I refer again to the National Planning Policy Framework. Paragraph 114 could not be

clearer in that the framework makes it a policy requirement for Local Plans and decision making to support the expansion of electronic communications networks. To have an SPD that is capable of being taken account of in decision making would likely stray into specific policy areas that the framework disallows in paragraph 118. Such as seeking to prevent competition between different operators, question the need for an electronic communications system, or set health safeguards different from the International Commission guidelines for public exposure.

I can refer to the Bracknell Forest SPD which as long ago as the first introduction of the framework in 2012, revoked their Supplementary Planning Guidance on Telecommunications Development, as it would not be compatible with the framework. In addition, there is not a policy hook across all the development plans currently operating in Buckinghamshire, to hang an SPD off. Turning to the future, Electronic Communications as they remain part the framework, will be a policy consideration for the Buckinghamshire Local Plan 2040.

For these reasons, I believe the Council is best to ensure that the existing mechanisms in place to assess applications for electronic communications is through the current development management approach.”

Notes:

Piecemeal prior notifications and a strategic approach.

The National Planning Policy Framework provides a national policy framework for ‘supporting high quality communications’. The framework makes it a policy requirement for Local Plans and decision making to support the expansion of electronic communications networks [para. 114]. Para. 115 states that sites ‘should be kept to a minimum’ but only if consideration is given to ensure ‘the needs of consumers, the efficient operation of the network and providing reasonable capacity for future expansion’.

Para. 116 requires that local planning authorities ensure that:

- a) they have evidence to demonstrate that electronic communications infrastructure is not expected to cause significant and irremediable interference with other electrical equipment, air traffic services or instrumentation operated in the national interest; and
- b) they have considered the possibility of the construction of new buildings or other structures interfering with broadcast and electronic communications services.

This evidence can be provided as part of an application to seek the local planning authority’s opinion if a Prior Approval application is required for what otherwise would be permitted development.

Applications for electronic communications development (including applications for prior approval under the General Permitted Development Order) should be

supported by the necessary evidence to justify the proposed development. This should include:

- a) the outcome of consultations with organisations with an interest in the proposed development, in particular with the relevant body where a mast is to be installed near a school or college, or within a statutory safeguarding zone surrounding an aerodrome, technical site or military explosives storage area; and
- b) for an addition to an existing mast or base station, a statement that self-certifies that the cumulative exposure, when operational, will not exceed International Commission guidelines on non-ionising radiation protection; or
- c) for a new mast or base station, evidence that the applicant has explored the possibility of erecting antennas on an existing building, mast or other structure and a statement that self-certifies that, when operational, International Commission guidelines will be met. [para. 117].

The application should therefore be supported by relevant evidence to enable a planning application / prior approval to be determined.

The framework provides that local planning authorities must determine applications on planning grounds only. They should not seek to prevent competition between different operators, question the need for an electronic communications system, or set health safeguards different from the International Commission guidelines for public exposure. [para. 118].

This means that the planning authority should not set out policies that would be refused planning permission on the basis of not site sharing, mast sharing, need or its own health safeguards.

A Supplementary Planning Document would therefore need to be silent on these issues and would therefore would not be fit for purpose to achieve a strategic or non-piecemeal approach.

The development plans covering the south, east, [central and north*] planning areas do have polices related to electronic communication. The western area is not covered. Countywide coverage is therefore not possible, and given that a SPD is not the right approach, should guidance be provided?

*Subject to Council Adoption

Plan	Policy
Wycombe	None (alluded to in PR7 as being in CP7)
Chiltern CS	CS15, 19 and 26
South Bucks CS	CP10
VALP	CP7
Minerals and Waste	None

‘Should we introduce an informal procedural/guidance note to guide Electronic Communications?’. This at first may seem to be an appropriate approach. But

these are not 'effective'. This is because a procedural/guidance note cannot be used in determining planning applications and could not be referred to in the reasons for approval or refusal of an application.

Such a note could:

- set out the different processes to be followed for different types of telecommunications development;
- point to the national and local policies that are relevant to the determination of telecommunications applications;
- contain a glossary of terms relating to telecommunication development; and
- not contain policy or additional detailed guidance for developers.

However, this would seem to have little real value as it should be noted that applications are submitted without reference to any local consideration; other than that required by the framework [at best]. Therefore, we need to consider if producing one would be an efficient and economic use of officers and members time. Officers consider, based on the weight of the current evidence in determining applications, that the current system in place is effective.

Councillor Wheelhouse is referring to a consultation that has ended but no response has been made by the government [here](#).

The role of the Local Plan and pre-applications is set out by government [here](#).

Article 4 Directions 'that an Article 4 Direction be made without delay in relation to permitted development rights for electronic communications masts and cabinets, so that these will require planning consent and can be called-in to planning committee.'

"Thank you for the second part of your question on Electronic Communications.

As I stated in the first part of this question, the development management process is the right process to determine electronic communications development. Applicants can apply for a decision on whether or not a prior approval application is required. They can also apply directly for prior approval to confirm if it is permitted development. **The local planning authority can consider paragraph 117 of the framework to determine if the application is 'justified'. This justification requires the applicants evidence on consultation, radiation and that the applicants have explored the possibility of erecting antennas on an existing building, mast or other structure.**

An Article 4 Direction in addition to the current development management tools and safeguards as set out in legislation is not likely to be effective for the whole of Buckinghamshire and may well be called in by the Secretary of State. Quite specifically the framework provides under paragraph 116 that:

Local planning authorities should not impose a ban on new electronic communications development in certain areas, impose blanket Article 4 directions

over a wide area or a wide range of electronic communications development, or insist on minimum distances between new electronic communications development and existing development.

For these reasons, again, I believe the Council is best to ensure that the existing mechanisms in place to assess applications for electronic communications is through the current development management approach.”

Notes:

There are two types of Article 4 direction – ‘immediate’ and ‘non-immediate’. An immediate Article 4 direction takes effect either immediately following its issue, or at a time within one year of being issued. A ‘non-immediate’ Article 4 direction takes effect at least one year after being issued, but no later than two years after issue. The main difference is that if the Article 4 takes effect less than one year from issue, compensation is payable to affected landowners. After one year, there is no compensation.

Para. 53 of the framework covers the removal of permitted development rights:

The use of Article 4 directions to remove national permitted development rights should:

- where they relate to change from non-residential use to residential use, be limited to situations where an Article 4 direction is necessary to avoid wholly unacceptable adverse impacts (this could include the loss of the essential core of a primary shopping area which would seriously undermine its vitality and viability, but would be very unlikely to extend to the whole of a town centre) [not relevant]
- in other cases, be limited to situations where an Article 4 direction is necessary to protect local amenity or the well-being of the area (this could include the use of Article 4 directions to require planning permission for the demolition of local facilities) [potentially relevant]
- **in all cases, be based on robust evidence, and apply to the smallest geographical area possible** [means that it will not be effective across the county]

The council already acts on the tools available.

The development management process is the right process to determine electronic communications development. Applicants can apply for a decision on whether or not a prior approval application is required. They can also apply directly for prior approval to confirm permitted development. Here the local planning authority can employ paragraph 117 of the framework. It can determine if the application is ‘justified’. This justification requires the applicants evidence on consultation, radiation and that the applicants have explored possibility or erecting antennas on an existing building, mast or other structure.

6 Forward Plan (28 Day Notice)

The Leader introduced the Forward Plan and commended it to all Members of the Council and the public, as a document that gave forewarning of exactly what Cabinet would be discussing at forthcoming meetings.

RESOLVED –

That the Cabinet Forward Plan be noted.

7 Adoption of the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan

Councillor Williams, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration introduced a report on the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP). A supplementary report had also been issued to amend a minor error regarding a site area and to recommend that Council be asked to delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration, in consultation with the Service Director for Planning and Environment, to make further minor amendments that would not alter the implementation of the plan.

Following its submission in 2018, the appointed Inspector had completed his Examination of the plan and prepared his binding report setting out how the VALP should be modified in order to be sound. To fully enact the plan, as modified to accord with the Inspector's report, it had to be adopted by the Council. If the plan was not adopted, it would need to be withdrawn leaving the North and Central areas of the council without an up to date Development Plan.

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration stressed that it was important for the Aylesbury Vale area of the Buckinghamshire Council to have an adopted Local Plan as it would support the delivery of 30,134 homes, including 16,000 in and around Aylesbury. Of these numbers, approximately 8,000 homes would be built to take the unmet housing needs from the southern part of the Council's area. An adopted local plan would allow local people and the Council to determine and decide where development took place rather than be subject to unwanted opportunistic and speculative developments from developers. Lastly, the VALP would also provide an incremental increase in the amount of green belt space in the Vale, which was highly unusual for a Local Plan to achieve.

The Cabinet Member responded to questions on the VALP as follows:

- that the Council would engage with the Whaddon Parish Council at the earliest opportunity with regards to a SPD on the Shenley Park development.
- that the Plan, and the Council, recognised the importance of providing infrastructure (including road infrastructure, looking at the A421), schools, and health facilities as part of development in the north of Buckinghamshire. In total, HIF infrastructure funding of £172m had been obtained to provide the necessary infrastructure that would accompany the housing and other growth.
- that the Council had a dedicated team who would continue to support Town

and Parish Councils with the formation of their Neighbourhood Plans and planning related issues.

- that the VALP (Section 6 detailed economic development) also recognised the importance of providing and ensuring that there was good access to employment sites and that local jobs were provided as well as housing. The Plan looked to ensure and provide protection to viable employment sites. There were 13 key employment sites in the VALP including at Haddenham Business Park, Westcott, Arla and Silverstone, as well as ancillary land and other business sites.
- on the various environmental and green initiatives that formed part of the plan, including 120 already designated Conservation Areas, the heritage points that had been discussed earlier in the meeting, the key new development at the Aylesbury Garden Town and the green way, a whole section on biodiversity and geo-diversity, and on protections offered to sites of specific scientific interest.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Planning Inspector’s report, Appendix 2 to the agenda, be accepted.**
- (2) That the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan, as modified in accordance with the Inspector’s report (Appendix 1), and updated to amend a minor error regarding a site area referred to in paragraph 2.1 of the supplementary agenda report, be submitted to Council with a recommendation that it be adopted.**
- (3) That the final Sustainability Assessment report, detailed with the supplementary agenda, be noted.**
- (4) That Council be recommended to delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration, in consultation with the Service Director for Planning and Environment, to make further minor amendments that will not alter the implementation of the plan.**

8 Extension to the role of the Virtual School Head - Allocation of Section 31 Grant Funding

Councillor Cranmer, Cabinet Member for Education and Children’s Services introduced a report on the increased responsibility of the Virtual School Head. On 16 June, 2021, the Department for Education had announced that from September 2021 Virtual School Heads would take a strategic leadership role in promoting the educational outcomes of the cohort of children with a social worker and for those who had previously had a social worker and were aged from 0 up to 18 years.

All local authorities were eligible to receive grant funding provided under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 to deliver the extended Virtual School Head role. Funding provided Virtual School Heads with the additional resource required to take

on the strategic leadership role for children with a social worker and was sufficient to recruit additional team members to support them with these responsibilities. The amount allocated to Buckinghamshire was £127,496.

During discussions, Cabinet Members commented that they were fully supportive of the proposal.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the increased responsibility of the Virtual School Head be noted.**
- (2) That it be agreed that grant funding provided to the Council under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 to deliver the extended Virtual School Head role be used for that purpose.**

9 Community Board Annual Report and Update

Councillor Bowles, Cabinet Member for Communities, introduced a report on the achievements of Community Boards in their first year (2020-21) and plans for the year 2021-22. Community Boards had been launched as part of the unitary council in July 2020 and despite the challenges faced by the Covid pandemic they had made a great start at connecting with Buckinghamshire communities as the local face of the Council.

The 16 Community Boards were a brand new way of working as part of the new Council's commitment to Localism, driving forward council and community priorities in a way that was right for that local area. The Boards helped the Council to connect with community groups, partners and residents to understand what mattered to them and to then work together to problem solve.

As part of the review of the first year, an annual report has been produced to recognise and reflect on the achievements of the Community Boards in launching a new service, establishing themselves within their communities and supporting local initiatives. This review had also provided an opportunity to strengthen processes and ensure there was robust governance and transparency across processes and decision making. The report also provided an update on what was on the horizon for Community Boards in 2021-22.

The Cabinet Member for Communities had informed Members earlier in the meeting, during the 'Hot Topics' agenda item, on the variety of Community Board projects that had been approved to date, totally approximately £800K. A number of Cabinet Members highlighted the issues that were being addressed in their own Community Board areas through Working Groups. Members also asked that thanks be passed on to the Communities team for all the support that had been provided to Community Boards since April 2020.

RESOLVED –

That the achievements of the Community Boards in their first year (2020-21) and plans for the year 2021-22 be noted.

**11 Confidential Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 20 July 2021
RESOLVED –**

That the confidential Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 20 July, 2021, be approved as a correct record.

**12 Date of next meeting
Tuesday 28 September 2021 at 10am**

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Buckinghamshire Council Cabinet/Leader forward plan

The local authorities (executive arrangements) (meetings and access to information) (England) regulations 2012

This is a notice of an intention to make a key decision on behalf of Buckinghamshire Council (regulation 9) and an intention to meet in private to consider those items marked as 'private reports' (regulation 5).

A further notice (the 'agenda') will be published no less than five working days before the date of the decision meeting and will be available via the Buckinghamshire Council website ([Cabinet agendas](#) / [Leader decisions](#)).

All reports will be open unless specified otherwise.

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Cabinet 28 September 2021				
Buckinghamshire County Deal Proposals To obtain support for the ongoing negotiations with central government to secure a county deal for Buckinghamshire based on the priorities and proposals set out in the Recovery and Growth Proposition		Councillor Martin Tett Lisa Michelson		20/9/21

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p>Director of Public Health Annual Report 2021 Each year the Director of Public Health produces an annual report on the health of the population. This year the annual report focuses on domestic violence and abuse. This report covers some key areas including how to recognise signs of domestic abuse and where to get help, who may be at greater risk of experiencing domestic abuse and when, including research on warning signs leading up to domestic homicides. It also covers what is known about interventions that contribute to reducing the risk and harms of domestic abuse and the need for more work to focus on preventing perpetrators from committing domestic abuse. The report makes recommendations based on our local situation for a range of partners in Buckinghamshire to implement. Cabinet is requested to note the Director of Public Health Annual Report and endorse the recommendations within it.</p>		<p>Councillor Angela Macpherson</p> <p>Dr Jane O'Grady</p>		21/5/21
<p>Oxford-Cambridge Arc Vision proposal response Buckinghamshire Council's formal endorsement of The Buckinghamshire Growth Board's draft response to government's consultation on the Oxford to Cambridge Arc Spatial Framework Vision.</p>		<p>Councillor Martin Tett</p> <p>Lisa Michelson</p>		26/8/21
<p>Wycombe Air Park Grant of lease</p>	Chiltern Villages	<p>Councillor John Chilver</p> <p>John Reed</p>	Part exempt (para 3)	26/8/21

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Cabinet 19 October 2021				
Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) Annual Report Annual report		Councillor Angela Macpherson Joanne Stephenson		12/7/21
Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (BSCP) Annual Report Annual report		Councillor Anita Cranmer Richard Nash		12/7/21
Bus Service Improvement Plan The Strategy to improve Bus Services in Buckinghamshire		Councillor Steve Broadbent Sara Turnbull, Joan Hancox	Part exempt <i>(para 3)</i>	20/9/21
Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy This report will propose the adoption of the Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy		Councillor Peter Strachan Edward Barlow		20/9/21
South East Aylesbury Link Road (SEALR) Phase 2 Cabinet decision to accept a funding and delivery agreement for the SEALR Phase 2 project	Aston Clinton & Bierton; Aylesbury South East; Wendover, Halton & Stoke Mandeville	Councillor Martin Tett Ian McGowan	Part exempt <i>(para 3)</i>	20/9/21

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p>Support to the Provider Market as a result of COVID-19 COVID-19 has created a number of challenges in the care market, including rising costs around staffing and PPE; a changing profile of clients for bed-based care, with clients presenting with more complexity; and disruption to the self-funder market. A specific request has been received to provide financial support during the COVID-19 crisis. This paper requests Cabinet review and consider the recommendations as outlined in the confidential report.</p>		Councillor Angela Macpherson Tracey Ironmonger	Part exempt (<i>para 3</i>)	18/6/21
<p>Youth Justice Strategic Plan Annual report</p>		Councillor Anita Cranmer Richard Nash		12/7/21
Cabinet 9 November 2021				
<p>Children's Social Care Improvement Plan Progress Update Quarterly Update</p>		Councillor Anita Cranmer Richard Nash		30/6/21
<p>Domestic Abuse Strategy To agree the new Domestic Abuse Strategy</p>		Councillor Steve Bowles Claire Hawkes		26/8/21
<p>Q2 Budget Monitoring Report 2021-22 Quarterly report</p>		Councillor John Chilver Richard Ambrose		20/7/21

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Q2 Performance Report 2021-22 Quarterly report		Councillor John Chilver Matthew Everitt		20/7/21
Statement of Community Involvement The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is a document that we must produce and keep up to date to ensure effective community involvement at all stages in the planning process. It sets out how anyone who lives, works, plays or carries out business in the Buckinghamshire Council area can be involved in local planning decisions and the preparation of planning documents.		Councillor Gareth Williams Darran Eggleton		28/4/21
Cabinet 7 December 2021				
Voluntary Sector Grant Review Cabinet to review and agree final recommendations		Councillor Steve Bowles Claire Hawkes		18/8/21
Cabinet 4 January 2022				
Council Tax Base 2022-23 To set Buckinghamshire Council's Council Tax Base for the following financial year		Councillor Martin Tett Richard Ambrose		20/7/21
Draft Budget and Capital Programme Including budget consultation analysis		Councillor Martin Tett Richard Ambrose		20/7/21

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Fees and Charges 2022-23 To agree fees and charges for the forthcoming financial year		Councillor Martin Tett Richard Ambrose		20/7/21
September 2020 Leader Decisions				
A355 Amersham Road, Beaconsfield Layby Prohibition of Motor Vehicles To prevent the fly tipping of hazardous materials on two laybys located on A355 Amersham Road, Beaconsfield	Beaconsfield	Councillor Steve Broadbent Ricky Collymore		2/11/20
A40 Oxford Road / Wycombe Speed Reduction A40 Oxford Road / Wycombe Speed Reduction from 60mph to 50mph	West Wycombe	Councillor Steve Broadbent Bestman Agu		20/7/21
A41 PPTC Bus Lane Relocation Statutory Consultation Bus Lane relocation on the A41 Bicester Road as part of the A41 PPTC scheme.	Aylesbury North West; Stone & Waddesdon	Councillor Steve Broadbent Vanessa Silva		14/5/21
Adoption of the Hollands Farm Development Brief Hollands Farm (BE2) is an allocation in the Wycombe District Local Plan. This development brief sets out the Council's preferred approach to development of the allocation and will guide decisions on planning applications there.	The Wooburns, Bourne End & Hedsor	Councillor Gareth Williams Rosie Brake		20/7/21

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Agreement of expenditure of Section 31 Grant Funding To agree spending of Section 31 Grant funds as allocated by the Department for Transport		Councillor Steve Broadbent Suzanne Winkels		21/5/21
Amendment to Charges for Adult Social Care Services 21/22 To approve the amendments to charges for adult social care services for the year 2021-22		Councillor Angela Macpherson Tracey Ironmonger		26/8/21
Assets of Community Value Policy To agree the Assets of Community Value Policy		Councillor Steve Bowles Katie McDonald		30/7/21
Aston Clinton - Traffic Calming Vertical traffic calming and speed limit reduction	Aston Clinton & Bierton	Councillor Steve Broadbent Zunara Aslam		19/3/20
Biodiversity Net Gain Scheme in Buckinghamshire Next steps towards implementation of a biodiversity net gain scheme in Buckinghamshire		Councillor Peter Strachan David Sutherland		5/10/20
Buckinghamshire Council Coat of Arms Design and registration of a new coat of arms for Buckinghamshire Council		Councillor Martin Tett Roger Goodes		20/7/21

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p>Budget Adjustments to the Approved Capital Programme To approve changes to the Approved Capital Programme</p>		<p>Councillor John Chilver Sue Palmer</p>		14/9/20
<p>Business Case for the recommissioning of The Vines (respite service for Children and Young People) To agree the Business Case for the recommissioning of The Vines - a six bedded unit providing residential short breaks to disabled young people aged 11 – 19 years old with behaviours that challenge which is due for renewal on 1st April 2022. This is for a 2 year contract with one year extension.</p>		<p>Councillor Anita Cranmer Tracey Ironmonger</p>	Part exempt (para 3)	18/8/21
<p>Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Report annually to elected members on how the duty to secure sufficient childcare is being met. The report will be made available and accessible to childcare providers and parents.</p>		<p>Councillor Anita Cranmer Richard Nash</p>		26/8/21
<p>Choice and Charging Policies Adult Social Care policies</p>		<p>Councillor Angela Macpherson Tracey Ironmonger</p>		17/9/20
<p>Commissioning of Direct Payment Support Service The following 4 contract will be commissioned to support the Councils Direct Payment Offer.</p>		<p>Councillor Angela Macpherson Lisa Truett</p>	Part exempt (para 3)	3/12/20

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Department for Transport “Gear Change” & Local Transport Note 1/20 Briefing on new HMG active travel policies and proposal to adopt Local Transport Note 1/20		Councillor Steve Broadbent Suzanne Winkels		7/5/21
Devolution Pilots To agree devolution pilot schemes		Councillor Steve Bowles Claire Hawkes		30/6/21

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p>E-Scooter Trial Extension of End Date Request for agreement to extend the end date of the e-scooter trial until March 2022.</p>	<p>Aston Clinton & Bierton; Aylesbury East; Aylesbury North; Aylesbury North West; Aylesbury South East; Aylesbury South West; Aylesbury West; Booker, Cressex & Castlefield; Downley; Hazlemere; Ryemead & Micklefield; Stone & Waddesdon; Terriers & Amersham Hill; The Risboroughs; Totteridge & Bowerdean; Tylers Green & Loudwater; West Wycombe; Wing</p>	<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent Joan Hancox</p>		<p>30/7/21</p>

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p>East West Rail Work In Kind (WiK) Prioritisation and Winslow Station Car Park Delivery</p> <p>To agree the proposed WiK Prioritisation schedule, which sets out future priorities for the council for utilising its WiK contribution in relation to EWR and the delivery option for the Winslow Station Car Park.</p>	Winslow	<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent</p> <p>John Reed, Joan Hancox</p>	Part exempt (<i>para 3</i>)	9/8/21
<p>Gerrards Cross Waiting Restrictions</p> <p>Report to be written with recommendations upon the conclusion of a statutory consultation on waiting restrictions proposed in Gerrards Cross.</p>	Gerrards Cross	<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent</p> <p>Ricky Collymore</p>		12/7/21
<p>High Wycombe Transport Strategy Consultation</p> <p>Request for agreement to conduct public consultation on the draft High Wycombe Transport Strategy once it has been agreed by Wycombe Members.</p>	<p>Booker, Cressex & Castlefield; Downley; Hazlemere; Ryemead & Micklefield; Terriers & Amersham Hill; Totteridge & Bowerdean; Tylers Green & Loudwater; West Wycombe</p>	<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent</p> <p>Suzanne Winkels</p>		14/5/21

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Highway Safety Inspection Policy Update to the existing Highway Safety Inspection Policy		Councillor Steve Broadbent Keith Carpenter		30/6/21
Highways Development Management commuted sums Highways Development Management last updated our commuted sums in 2006, this is a proposal to update these not only in line with inflation but to use a slightly different format.		Councillor Steve Broadbent Lee Steadman		15/10/20
Household Waste Collection Policy Document South Bucks Area To make minor changes to waste collection policies in the south of Buckinghamshire to harmonise the service delivered.		Councillor Peter Strachan Martin Dickman		20/7/21
Interim Tree Risk Management Strategy Approval of an interim tree risk management strategy with respect to trees that Buckinghamshire Council manages		Councillor Peter Strachan David Sutherland		5/10/20
Lacey Green Waiting Restrictions A report, with recommendation, to be written regarding the results and responses received during the Statutory Consultation on waiting restriction proposals in Lacey Green.	Ridgeway West	Councillor Steve Broadbent Ricky Collymore		18/6/21

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
<p>Mobile Homes Sites - Fit & Proper Persons Policy Item to require decision to approve and publish a Determination and Fee Policy following legislative changes relating to Fit & Proper assessment of persons operating Mobile Homes Sites</p>		<p>Councillor Nick Naylor Jacqui Bromilow</p>		9/8/21
<p>Prohibition of Motor Vehicles - Stocklake and Broughton Lane, Bierton To formalise the new carriageway layout at Stocklake and Broughton Lane, Bierton. The carriageways have been realigned and now has sections where motor vehicles are physically unable to access. The proposed Traffic Regulation Order will formalise the restrictions on motor vehicle movement.</p>	Aston Clinton & Bierton	<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent Ricky Collymore</p>		2/11/20
<p>Provider Sustainability The purpose of this report is to consider the Council's response to market changes.</p>		<p>Councillor Angela Macpherson Tracey Ironmonger</p>	Part exempt <i>(para 3)</i>	30/7/21
<p>Saunderton Vale Waiting Restrictions A report, with recommendation, to be written regarding the results and responses received during the Statutory Consultation on waiting restriction proposals around the Saunderton Train Station, High Wycombe.</p>	Ridgeway West	<p>Councillor Steve Broadbent Ricky Collymore</p>		18/6/21

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
Town & Parish Charter To agree the Town and Parish Charter		Councillor Steve Bowles Kate Walker		15/10/20
Tree Planting Programme - Year 1 Sites To agree the progression of sites for the first year of the tree planting programme		Councillor Peter Strachan Edward Barlow	Part exempt (<i>para 3</i>)	14/5/21
Support to the Provider Market To seek approval for support to ensure the care market continues to be able to respond to the needs of Buckinghamshire residents.		Councillor Angela Macpherson Tracey Ironmonger	Part exempt (<i>para 3</i>)	6/4/21
Wendover Cycleway Improvements Progression of Wendover Cycleways Improvements project to construction following public consultation on 3 cycleway improvement options	Wendover, Halton & Stoke Mandeville	Councillor Steve Broadbent Ben Fletcher		14/5/21
October 2021 Leader Decisions				
High Wycombe Junction Protection Restrictions Report on a Statutory Consultation proposing waiting restrictions in the High Wycombe area. A recommendation will be made in the report after taking the responses received into account	Abbey; Booker, Cressex & Castlefield	Councillor Steve Broadbent Ricky Collymore		26/8/21

Item and description	Wards affected	Councillor(s) / contact officer	Private report? (relevant para)	Date notified
December 2021 Leader Decisions				
Better Lives Strategy 2022-2025 The strategy for adult social care in Buckinghamshire		Councillor Angela Macpherson Clare Capjon		26/8/21
Steeple Claydon school The governing board of the school have launched a consultation with their local community on a proposal that they change the way they manage the Early Years provision in the school. If agreed the proposal would mean that a qualified teacher would lead the provision. Currently as allowed under Department for Education regulations the provision is overseen by a committee of school staff and governors. The initial consultation runs until 17 September. If there is support for the proposal the school would then publish a statutory notice giving people four weeks to comment on, support or object to the proposal. If agreed the school's age range would change from 4-11 years of age to 2-11.	Grendon Underwood	Councillor Anita Cranmer Andrew Tusting		30/6/21

Individual Leader decisions (in consultation with the Cabinet Member) are not discussed at meetings – a report is presented to the Cabinet Member and the Leader will decide whether to sign the decision.

If you have any questions about the matters contained in this forward plan, please get in touch with the contact officer. If you have any views that you would like the cabinet member to consider please inform the democratic services team in good time ahead of the decision deadline date. This can be done by telephone 01296 382343 or email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk. You can view decisions to be made and decisions taken on the council's website.

The council's definition of a 'key decision' can be seen in part 1 of the council's [constitution](#).

Each item considered will have a report; appendices will be included (as appropriate). Regulation 9(1g) allows that other documents relevant to the item may be submitted to the decision maker. Subject to prohibition or restriction on their disclosure, this information will be published on the website usually five working days before the date of the meeting. Paper copies may be requested using the contact details below.

*The public can be excluded for an item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt (private) information as defined in part I of schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972. The relevant paragraph numbers and descriptions are as follows:

Paragraph 1 - Information relating to any individual

Paragraph 2 - Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual

Paragraph 3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

Paragraph 4 - Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority

Paragraph 5 - Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings

Paragraph 6 - Information which reveals that the authority proposes:

(a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or

(b) to make an order or direction under any enactment

Paragraph 7 - Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

Part II of schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 requires that information falling into paragraphs 1 - 7 above is exempt information if and so long, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. Nothing in the regulations authorises or requires a local authority to disclose to the public or make available for public inspection any document or part of a document if, in the opinion of the proper officer, that document or part of a document contains or may contain confidential information. Should you wish to make any representations in relation to any of the items being considered in private, you can do so – in writing – using the contact details below.

Democratic services, Buckinghamshire Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP19 8FF 01296 382343
democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

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Report to Cabinet

Date: 28 September 2021

Title: **Director of Public Health Annual Report: Domestic Violence and Abuse**

Cabinet Members:

- Angela Macpherson, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing
- Carl Jackson, Deputy Cabinet Member for Public Health
- Steve Bowles, Cabinet Member for Communities
- Arif Hussain, Deputy Cabinet Member for Community Safety

Contact officer: Jane O’Grady

Ward(s) affected: All wards

Recommendations: Cabinet is requested to note the Director of Public Health Annual Report and endorse the recommendations within it.

Recommendations within the Director of Public Health Annual Report: Domestic Violence and Abuse

The following recommendations should, in addition to statutory duties for support for people living in safe accommodation, inform the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board strategy and delivery plan:

1. The Domestic Abuse Board should support awareness raising of domestic abuse through coordinated, county-wide participation in a selected national campaign
2. The Domestic Abuse Board should consider how bystander training could be utilised locally and promoted, as an evidence-based intervention to challenge harmful attitudes, language and behaviour relating to domestic abuse for people of all ages

3. Buckinghamshire Council Community Safety team should consider how to increase the diversity within the domestic violence and abuse champions scheme by actively recruiting network members that reflect the diversity of people that may experience domestic abuse
4. The Domestic Abuse Board should develop and roll-out high-quality, shared, scenario-based training across Buckinghamshire for key stakeholders and front-line staff. Primary care should also consider implementing the IRIS training package as an effective evidence-based training programme across Buckinghamshire
5. The Domestic Abuse Board should oversee the development of a Buckinghamshire domestic abuse referral pathway for all staff to follow, to ensure timely and responsive delivery of services, fully understood by frontline staff and accessible to victims seeking help
6. All Board member agencies to support the development of an evidence base for what works for perpetrators, to inform commissioning of promising interventions, and evaluation of their effectiveness

1. Background

- 1.1 Each year the Director of Public Health produces an annual report on the health of the population. This year the report focuses on domestic violence and abuse.
- 1.2 One in 20 adults are estimated to experience domestic violence every year equating to almost 21,000 people a year in Buckinghamshire or 57 people every day. Women are more commonly victims of domestic abuse than men but it can happen to anyone, at any age, across all gender identities, ethnic groups and walks of life.
- 1.3 This report covers some key areas including how to recognise signs of domestic abuse and signposts where to get help, who may be at greater risk of experiencing domestic abuse and when, including research on warning signs leading up to domestic homicides. It also covers what is known about interventions that contribute to reducing the risk and harms of domestic abuse and the need for more work to focus on preventing perpetrators from committing domestic abuse.
- 1.4 The report makes recommendations based on our local situation for the new Buckinghamshire Domestic Abuse Board and a range of partners in Buckinghamshire to implement. The Buckinghamshire Domestic Abuse Board will be responsible for strategy development and development and oversight of an action plan which should include the responses to these recommendations. This will fall under the remit of the Communities portfolio.
- 1.5 The report was written taking into account the views of a range of partners from Buckinghamshire Council, the NHS, Thames Valley Police, Women's Aid and the views of survivors of domestic abuse and service users who contributed to our needs assessment.

2. Main content of report

- 2.1 Ending domestic abuse is everyone's business and requires a co-ordinated response from national government, local partners and the public. Tackling domestic abuse, and providing effective support services for victims as well as perpetrators is a national priority; the Domestic Abuse Bill 2021 was passed by Parliament in April. The Bill and its statutory requirements, such as the formation of a Domestic Abuse Board, will inform local actions.
- 2.2 Domestic abuse can be poorly recognised by victims and those around them. It can take place in different types of relationships such as between family members, ex-partners and people not living together. Children are particularly vulnerable given the wide ranging and long lasting impacts of observing and suffering domestic abuse.
- 2.3 Latest figures for England and Wales from the Office for National Statistics estimate that there were 1.28 million incidents and crimes relating to domestic abuse in 2019/2020. Twice as many women experienced some form of domestic abuse as men. Being younger, disabled, unemployed, from a single-parent household, and/or of mixed ethnicity increased the risk of experiencing domestic abuse. Between 2017 and 2019 there were 357 domestic homicides in England and Wales. Between 2011 and 2020, there were 39 domestic homicides in the Thames Valley area, 15 of which were in Buckinghamshire.
- 2.4 Perpetrators are more likely to be men and are more often a partner or ex-partner. 86% domestic homicides between 2017 and 2019 in England and Wales were committed by men. Police data for Buckinghamshire show that 72% of perpetrators in Buckinghamshire were male (10 months to January 2021).
- 2.5 In England and Wales, domestic abuse rates had been gradually decreasing between 2005 and 2020. However, since the Covid-19 pandemic, this trend has reversed. During the first lockdown (March-June 2020), Police data showed a 7% increase in domestic abuse related offences. Contacts to the National Domestic Abuse charity Refuge rose by 61% and contacts to the charity Respect which supports male victims of domestic abuse rose by 70%. Local data for Buckinghamshire showed an increase in both reported domestic abuse crimes and use of services by victims.
- 2.6 Some people are more likely to be victims of domestic abuse. However, a lack of complete data on victims limits our understanding of the full picture. Much of our data comes from surveys or services. A lack of data may reflect reluctance to provide information, poor data collection, or barriers to accessing services, either because they are not inclusive or are perceived not to be.
- 2.7 We know that being disabled, having mental ill health, being from an ethnic minority, and identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or another definition

of gender and sexuality identity increase the risk of being a victim. This risk is increased at certain times: when drugs or alcohol are used, when separating or fleeing from abuse, during or after pregnancy, and around the time of football matches. We know that having low self-esteem or depression, being hostile towards women, having economic or marital stress, low social cohesion and social capital, and low bystander intervention in a community increase the risk of being a perpetrator.

- 2.8 Experiencing and witnessing domestic abuse can have devastating impacts on victims, and their children, friends and wider family. Harm as a result of domestic abuse can have lifelong impacts on physical, mental and sexual health. The more severe the abuse, the greater the impact. In the worst cases, domestic abuse can result in homicide, including suicide as a result of domestic abuse. Domestic abuse also has a societal impact. Our report estimates that the potential annual cost of the consequences of domestic abuse in Buckinghamshire is £687 million. We estimate that the cost of responding to the domestic abuse cases *that we know about* in Buckinghamshire is about £3.5 million.
- 2.9 Domestic abuse is a complex societal issue and prevention of domestic abuse and the response to domestic abuse must be multifaceted and multi-agency. Embedding early intervention and prevention into a multiagency response to domestic abuse is highlighted in the government's Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy. The response includes government-led initiatives as well as local authority multi-agency working, safeguarding, and commissioning. It highlights the multi-layered and co-ordinated health, social and criminal justice approaches required to tackle this issue and can be applied to all victims.
- 2.10 Historically, many interventions addressing domestic abuse have not been thoroughly evaluated so it is vital that new and existing programmes should be monitored and reviewed to improve the robustness of the evidence. We know that there are many potentially effective domestic abuse interventions for victims, including school-based awareness raising, bystander interventions, improving public awareness and advocacy, training of frontline staff, and high risk support such as independent domestic violence advisors and multiagency risk assessment conferences. Interventions for perpetrators are even less well understood, however national guidance suggests that these interventions are an important part of domestic violence and abuse services and should be developed and thoroughly evaluated.
- 2.11 Preventing domestic abuse from occurring must be a priority and we are supporting our schools to implement recent RSHE (relationships, sex and health education) that includes recognising domestic abuse and abusive relationships, coercive control, consent, and mutual respect in friendships and relationships. Looking ahead, the

new multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board will be championing good practice in awareness raising, education and training and the provision of high-quality support and advocacy services. Services for victims (including children) and perpetrators will be further developed to meet the needs of diverse groups and people with protected characteristics, recognising that anyone can be a victim. Starting with partners on the Board, all organisations will be encouraged to adopt measures to keep employees and service users safe from domestic abuse including during home working, remote digital working, and consultations. The Board will also explore how we can share and learn from past and current domestic homicide reviews to understand how such tragedies can be prevented in the future.

3. Outcomes from last year's Director of Public Health report

- 3.1 Last year's annual report (2020) focused on providing an overview of the health of our residents to the new unitary council for Buckinghamshire, the new Community Boards, the local Primary Care Networks and our Integrated Care Partnership and local residents. It reviewed our current health and what factors influence it, recent health trends and some glimpses of what the future might hold. It highlighted how the broad range of responsibilities of the new council can be used to positively influence resident's health and the importance of working at a local level with communities and partners to benefit all.
- 3.2 The report was being finalised when the UK was hit by the first wave of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and since then all our efforts have been refocussed on responding to this. We are now planning our recovery, while we continue to learn about the virus and it's impacts on our communities.
- 3.3 The recommendations in the 2020 report will continue to be implemented as we move into the recovery phase of the pandemic. Our recovery work will be informed by how the virus has affected some communities more than others. This unequal impact reflects some of the variations in people's health which were highlighted in the 2020 report. Working in partnership we are taking forward the recommendations of the 2020 report including working with communities to tackle the common long term conditions such as heart disease and diabetes that affect people's health and result in differences in health and early death between different communities in Buckinghamshire and also accounted for some of the differential harms we saw from COVID.
- 3.4 A more detailed report is currently being prepared regarding progress against the 5 recommendations within the DPHAR 2020.

4. Other options considered

- 4.1 The recommendations in this report aim to improve prevention of domestic abuse in Buckinghamshire, and improve services for both victims and perpetrators. It acknowledges the opportunities afforded by the Domestic Abuse Bill and linked funding and statutory changes such as the formation of a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board. If the recommendations are not supported and implemented there is potential that valuable opportunities to improve the health and wellbeing of our residents is missed. Furthermore, as domestic abuse crime and service use have been seen to rise since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, this should be a key part of Buckinghamshire's recovery from COVID.

5. Legal and financial implications

- 5.1 This is a report setting out a high level summary of domestic abuse, and its impacts on individuals and society. There are no direct financial implications of adopting this report.
- 5.2 No direct legal implications for this report.

6. Corporate implications

- 6.1 Value for Money: This is a high level report covering a diverse range of areas and therefore cannot be covered by a single value for money assessment. Individual policy decisions may flow from the report which will have individual value for money assessments.
- 6.2 Other Consideration: This report is for partners as well as Buckinghamshire Council and will be disseminated and presented after approval by Cabinet in a variety of partnerships.

7. Local councillors & community boards consultation & views

- 7.1 The Cabinet Member and Deputy Cabinet Member for Adults and Health, and the Cabinet Member for Communities and Deputy Cabinet Member Community Safety have reviewed this report as it relates to their responsibilities.
- 7.2 Local members will be sent copies of the report after Cabinet Decision and the report is also being presented at the Health and Adult Social Care Committee, and the Health and Wellbeing Board and will also be presented at the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board.
- 7.3 A plan will be put in place to share the report and the recommendations with community boards after publication.

8. Communication, engagement & further consultation

- 8.1 Beyond the above, normal communication channels will be used to disseminate the report to partners and residents.

9. Next steps and review

- 9.1 The report and needs assessment will provide an evidence base for the work of the new Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board. The Board's remit will include the development of a new domestic abuse strategy and action plan, and decisions relating to services for perpetrators and victims. The Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board will report on progress of multiagency actions tackling domestic abuse which will incorporate the recommendations from the DPH report.

10. Background papers

- 10.1 The full Director of Public Health Annual Report is included as an appendix to this report.

11. Your questions and views (for key decisions)

- 11.1 If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report please get in touch with the author of this report.
- 11.2 Report author: Jane O'Grady (jane.ogrady@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) 01296 387623

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DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Domestic Violence and Abuse



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Acknowledgements

Thanks to all who participated in the domestic violence and abuse needs assessment and in compiling this report, especially those who allowed us to reflect their views and personal stories. Also particular thanks to Lucy Cunningham who led on pulling together all the information for this report.

Contributing stakeholders:

Adam Johnson
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Francis Habgood
Jenny Chapman
Karen Ross
Lisa Latchford
Louise Hurst
Lucy Cunningham
Mollie Raine
Sanita Kalyan
Sue Hinks
Teresa Martin
Tiffany Burch

Thank you to the survivors and service users who shared their experiences.



If you think you or someone you know may be experiencing domestic abuse, go to reducingtherisk.org.uk/Buckinghamshire for support and advice.

1. INTRODUCTION

This year my Director of Public Health Annual Report focuses on domestic violence and abuse.

One in 20 adults are estimated to experience domestic abuse every year equating to almost 21,000 people a year in Buckinghamshire or 57 people every day. Women are more commonly victims of domestic abuse than men but it can happen to anyone, at any age, across all gender identities, ethnic groups and walks of life.

Domestic abuse is a crime often hidden from view, at home and out of sight. It often goes unreported, as victims and witnesses such as children in the family may not report abuse for many different reasons. Surveys suggest fewer than one in five women experiencing domestic abuse report it to police. On average it takes three years for victims of domestic abuse to access support services.

Domestic abuse has a profound impact on victims and survivors, their family and wider society. Domestic abuse causes poor physical and mental health both in the short and long term, and in some extreme cases death. There are also serious consequences for children in the household witnessing domestic abuse with impacts on their mental and physical health, safety and educational attainment. Domestic abuse also contributes significantly to homelessness and increases the risk of poverty for victims and their children. The Home Office estimates that the economic and social costs of domestic abuse are over £66 billion in England and Wales.

The prevalence of domestic abuse was vividly highlighted during the Covid-19 pandemic. During and following the first lockdown, data up to January 2021 showed a 15% increase in domestic abuse crimes reported to police for Buckinghamshire with a 13% increase in known victims and perpetrators. Service data showed an increase in demand for domestic abuse support services.

Ending domestic abuse is everyone's business and requires a co-ordinated response from national government, local partners and the public.

This report is informed by a needs assessment undertaken by Buckinghamshire Council, views from victims and service users, frontline professionals and organisations in Buckinghamshire. It covers key areas including how to recognise signs of domestic abuse and where to get help, who may be at greater risk of experiencing abuse and when, including research on the warning signs leading up to domestic homicides. It also covers what is known about interventions that contribute to reducing the risk and harms of domestic abuse and the need for more work to focus on preventing perpetrators from committing domestic abuse. The Domestic Abuse Bill 2021 was recently passed in April and will also inform local actions. My report makes recommendations based on our local situation for a range of partners in Buckinghamshire to implement.

Finally I would like to thank all those who participated in the needs assessment and in compiling this report, especially those who allowed us to reflect their views and personal stories. I hope that the coming years will see us make very significant progress in reducing domestic abuse in Buckinghamshire and offering effective support to all those affected.

Dr Jane O'Grady
June 2021

2. WHAT IS DOMESTIC ABUSE AND HOW CAN WE RECOGNISE IT?

What is Domestic Abuse?

The Domestic Abuse Bill (2021) sets out a new statutory definition of domestic abuse that covers both the nature of the relationship and the range of behaviours that are considered abusive.¹

It says that **behaviour is abusive** if it consists of any of the following:

1. Physical or sexual abuse.
2. Violent or threatening behaviour.
3. Controlling or coercive behaviour.
4. Economic abuse.
5. Psychological, emotional or other abuse.

The behaviour can consist of a single incident or ongoing behaviour.

Domestic abuse can take place in different types of relationships, it can be between family members, ex-partners and people not living together. The definition refers to people aged 16 or over, but the Bill says that children can still be victims. If the abuser directs his/her behaviour at a child in order to be abusive to another adult, this is domestic abuse (see appendix for full definition).



For women, coercive control has been shown to be the most common, and the most dangerous context of abuse.

There were 24,856 offences of coercive control recorded by the police in the year ending March 2020 in England and Wales.² It is defined as "*...assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim*". This can also include stalking, which is a pattern of persistent and unwanted attention. For women, coercive control has been shown to be the most dangerous context of abuse.³

“ In middle class suburbia, there's a culture of things being hidden. It's humiliating to admit you're going through something like this. ”

- Victim of domestic abuse, Buckinghamshire

How can we recognise signs of domestic abuse?



Recognising domestic abuse is the first step to taking action.

Recognising domestic abuse is the first step to taking action. Some victims as well as their friends, family and colleagues may not recognise or acknowledge the abuse. There are resources available to help us all recognise domestic abuse,⁴ and to respond effectively as a positive bystander so that we can assist victims safely.⁵

Signs that someone may be a victim of domestic abuse include:

- Being withdrawn.
- Becoming isolated from family and friends.
- Having bruises, burns or bite marks.
- Having finances controlled.
- Not being allowed to leave the house, or stopped from going to college or work.
- Having internet, social media or other communications monitored.
- Being repeatedly belittled, put down or told they are worthless.
- Being told that abuse is their fault, or that they are overreacting.

Children may respond to experiencing and/or witnessing abuse in different ways. Signs in children include:

- Being anxious, depressed or withdrawn, easily startled.
- Having difficulty sleeping, having nightmares or flashbacks.
- Complaining of physical symptoms such as tummy aches.
- Bed wetting.
- Developing behavioural problems e.g. temper tantrums and problems in school, behaving as though they are much younger than they are, becoming aggressive.
- Having a lowered sense of self-worth.
- Older children playing truant, using alcohol or drugs, or self-harming.
- Developing an eating disorder.
- Feeling angry, guilty, insecure, alone, frightened, powerless or confused.
- Having ambivalent feelings towards both the abuser and the non-abusing parent.

“ It took me a long time to realise there was a problem and therefore to seek help. I felt that it wasn't bad enough to be abuse because he wasn't hitting me. ”

- Victim of domestic abuse, Buckinghamshire

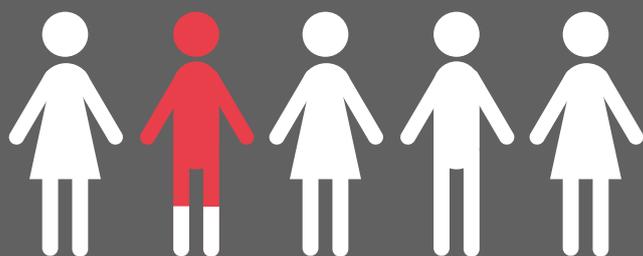
3. HOW COMMON IS DOMESTIC ABUSE?

Victims

Data on domestic abuse comes from several sources. The Crime Survey for England and Wales and national police data on recorded crime are analysed and published by the Office for National Statistics. Local data from Thames Valley Police is available to inform what is happening in Buckinghamshire.

We can also use national and local data on use of domestic abuse services to determine who is using services.

The current data have limitations. Domestic abuse often goes unreported and, when it is reported, there can be a lack of detail about the type of abuse suffered and the characteristics of people involved e.g. ethnicity. For example, fewer than one in five women (17%) who had experienced partner abuse in the year to March 2018 reported the abuse to the police.⁶



Fewer than one in five women (17%) who had experienced partner abuse in the year to March 2018 reported the abuse to the police.

For the year to March 2020 in England and Wales⁷ we know that:

- One in 20 adults aged 16 to 74 years reported experiencing domestic abuse in the year to March 2020 (ONS).
- There were approximately 1.28 million recorded domestic abuse-related incidents and crimes.
- Twice as many women experienced some form of domestic abuse as men.
- Women aged 16 to 19 years were more likely to report being a victim of domestic abuse than women in all other age groups. 14% of women in this age group said that they had experienced any domestic abuse.
- For men, the age group most likely to report being a victim of domestic abuse was also 16 to 19 years old. 5% of men of this age said that they had experienced any domestic abuse.
- People with a disability were more likely to experience domestic abuse than people without a disability.

- Unemployed people were more likely to have experienced domestic abuse than those who were employed or economically inactive.
- People living in a single-parent household were more likely to experience domestic abuse.
- People in the Mixed ethnic group were more likely to experience domestic abuse compared to other ethnicity categories (Asian/Asian British, Black/Black British, White and Other).
- Women in the lowest household income bracket are four times more likely to report being victims of domestic abuse.⁸
- There were 357 domestic homicides between 2017 and 2019.⁹ Men committed 86% of all domestic homicides. The victim was female in 77% of domestic homicides cases. The suspect was male in 96% of female homicides and 53% of male homicides.

We also know from research in England and Wales that:

- Women experience more of certain types of abuse: more repeated physical violence, more severe violence, more sexual violence, more coercive control, more injuries and more fear of their partner compared to men.¹⁰
- 91% of domestic violent crimes causing injuries are against women.¹¹
- 83% of victims experiencing more than ten violent crimes are women.¹¹



Domestic abuse affects an estimated 21,000 adults in Buckinghamshire each year, or 57 people every day.

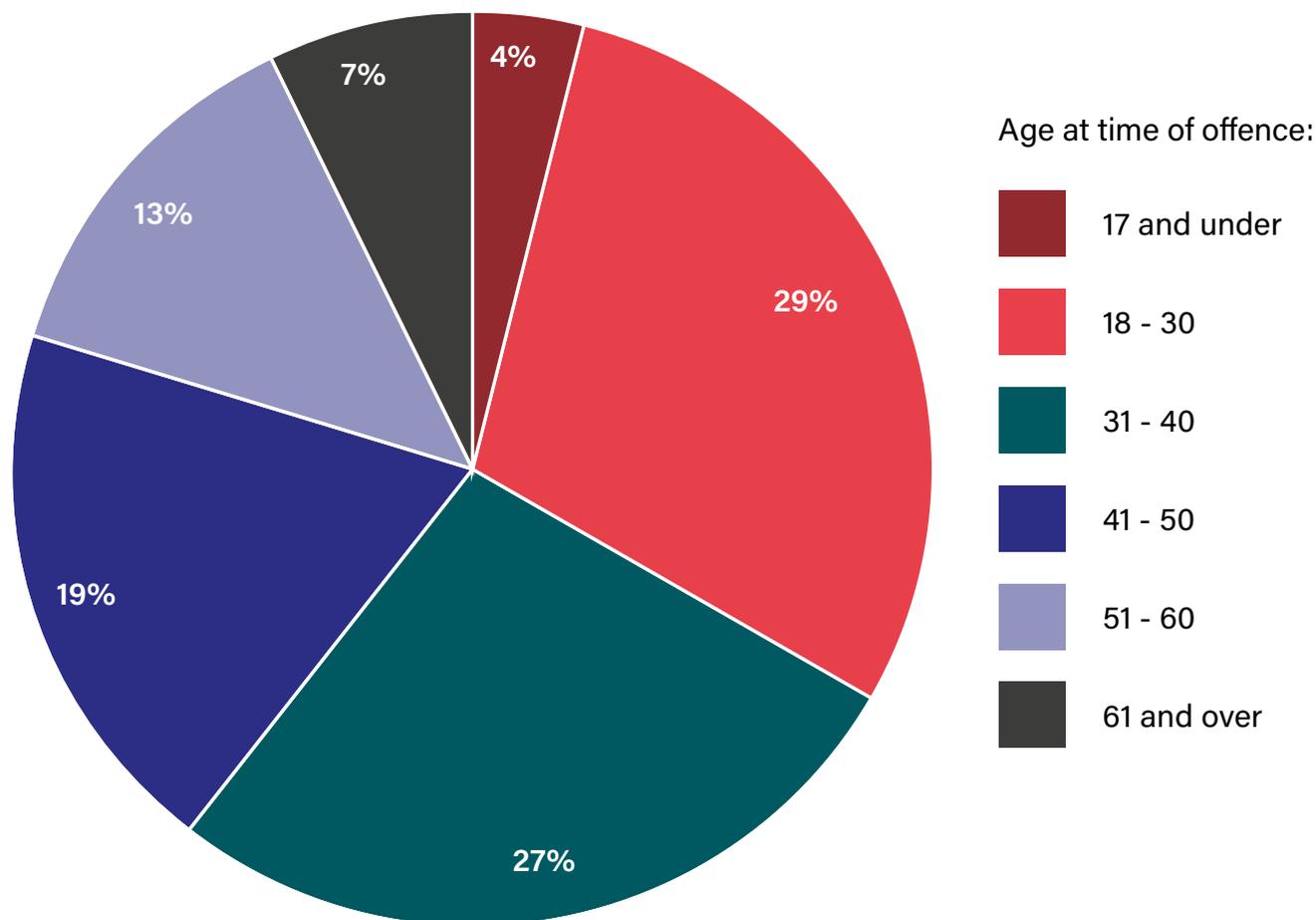
Domestic abuse data for Buckinghamshire tell us the following:

- Domestic abuse affects an estimated 21,000 adults in Buckinghamshire each year, or 57 people every day.
- Police data for Buckinghamshire from 2020 to 2021 showed that:
 - Only around 4,000 victims of abuse were recorded. This reflects a known pattern of under-reporting of domestic abuse for all victims.
 - More victims are female (71%) than male.
 - Over half of victims (56%) are aged between 18 and 40 years of age.
- Between 2011 and 2020, there were 15 domestic homicides in Buckinghamshire and 39 across the Thames Valley area.

“It’s more difficult to tell people that you’re a victim of abuse if you’re male – it’s too shameful and embarrassing.”

- Victim of domestic abuse, Buckinghamshire

Age of victim at time of abuse. Buckinghamshire data as recorded by Thames Valley Police, April 2020 to Jan 2021



A local needs assessment (2019) found that domestic abuse services in Buckinghamshire compare well to gold standard guidance from the National Institute for Health and Social Care Excellence (NICE).¹² For example, the county has the recommended number of independent domestic violence advisers (IDVAs) for its population size. Local domestic abuse service data add to our knowledge of domestic abuse.^a Understanding who is (and who isn't) using services can inform service planning, commissioning, and delivery.

Data collection in these services can be challenging and sensitive, and therefore service data are often incomplete. However, comparing the data we have with national estimates suggests that some groups may be under-represented in service users. These groups include, but may not be limited to: men, older people, ethnic minorities, disabled people and people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or have another definition of their gender and sexuality (LGBT+). This under-representation may reflect the fact that not all victims want to seek help, and/or that services are not meeting the needs of these groups.

^a *Women's Aid Bucks provides domestic abuse services in Buckinghamshire, including independent domestic violence advice (IDVA), outreach services and refuge space.*

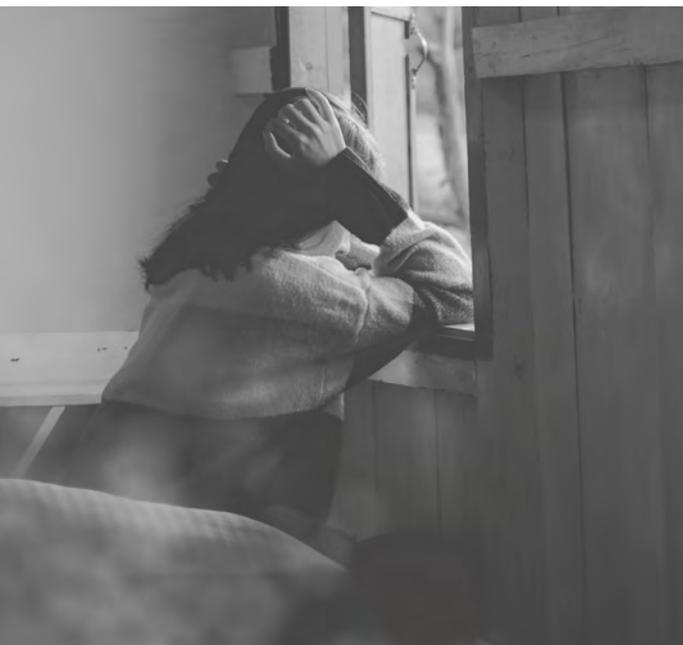
Perpetrators



Less is known about the people who carry out domestic abuse than their victims.

Less is known about the people who carry out domestic abuse than their victims. It is vital that we understand more about perpetrators if we are to understand how to prevent abuse and change their behaviour.

Whilst data are limited,¹³ one report suggested that there are around 400,000 perpetrators in England and Wales causing high and medium levels of harm.¹⁴ Perpetrators are more often a partner or ex-partner rather than a family member.¹⁵ They are more likely to be male. Male perpetrators are more likely to seriously injure or kill their victim; of the 357 domestic homicides committed in England and Wales between 2017 and 2019, 86% were committed by men.¹⁶



3,212 perpetrators committed 4,431 domestic abuse crimes.

From Thames Valley Police data for Buckinghamshire (10 months to January 2021), we know that:

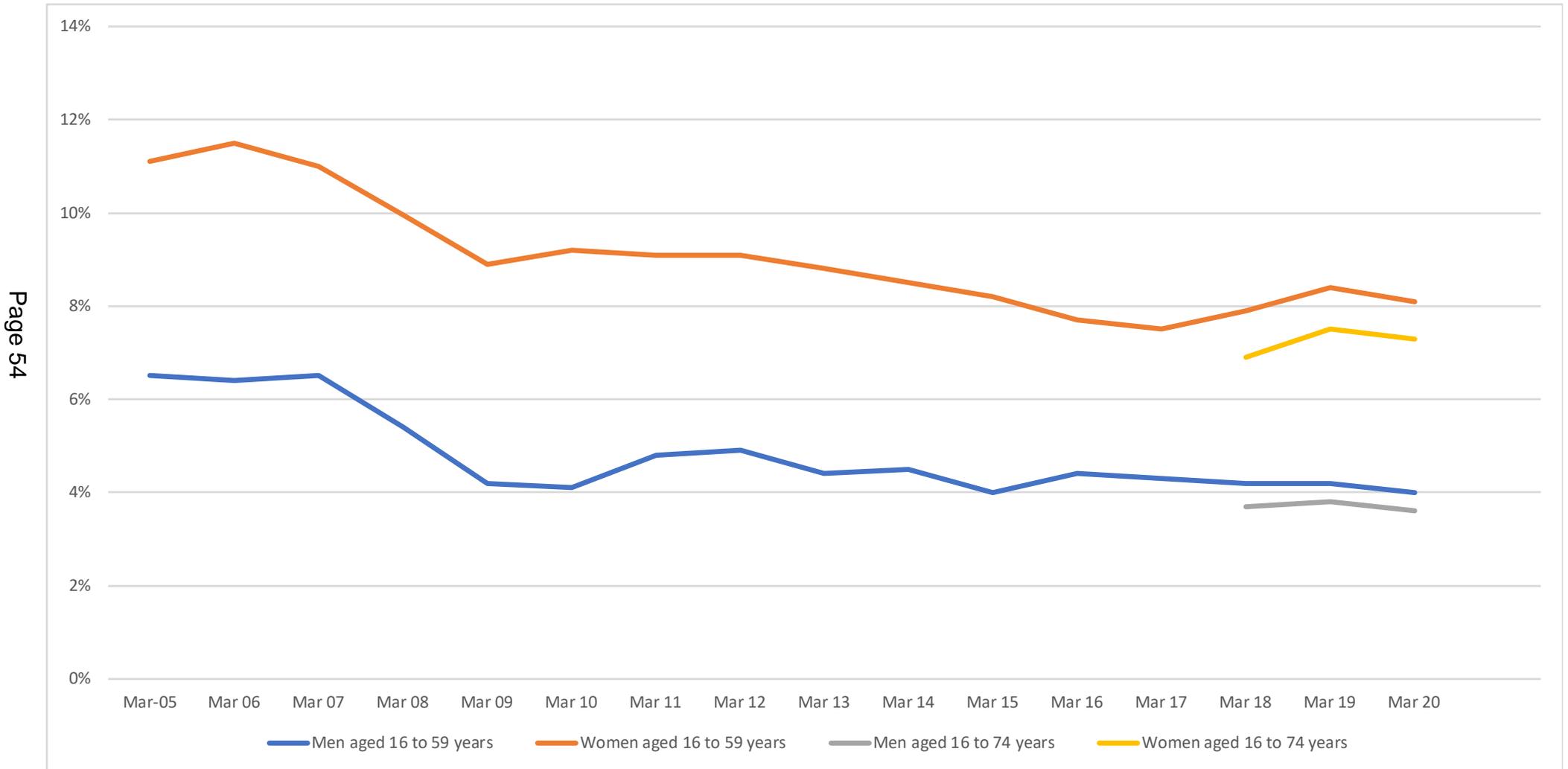
- There were 3,212 perpetrators who committed 4,431 domestic abuse crimes (Thames Valley Police data for Buckinghamshire, April 2020 - January 2021).
- 72% of perpetrators of known gender were male.
- 64% of perpetrators of known age were 40 years old or under.

Perpetrators can be children as well as adults. Research and local professionals tell us that teen-to-parent and teen-to-teen domestic abuse occurs locally.

Trends over time

Crime Survey for England and Wales data show fewer people experiencing domestic abuse over time, from 2005 to 2020.

Percentage of adults reporting domestic abuse in the annual Crime Survey, England and Wales, 2005 to 2020.¹⁷



Despite the gradually decreasing rates of domestic abuse reported in surveys, there was a 9% increase in domestic abuse-related incidents and crimes reported to police from 2019 to 2020 in England and Wales. This may relate to changes in police recording or may reflect a true increase in reporting to the police.



Domestic abuse-related incidents and crimes accounted for 15% of all crime in Buckinghamshire from 2019 to 2020.

In Buckinghamshire, these crimes accounted for 15% of all recorded crime from 2019 to 2020, 14% of all crime from 2018 to 2019, and 11% of all crime from 2017 to 2018.

The Covid-19 pandemic saw a significant increase in reported domestic abuse. During the first lockdown (March to June 2020), police data showed a 7% increase^b in domestic abuse related offences.¹⁸ In the 10 months from April 2020, contacts to the National Domestic Abuse charity Refuge¹⁹ rose by 61% and contacts to the charity Respect which supports male victims of domestic abuse rose by 70%.²⁰ Calls to the National Stalking Helpline in the year from March 2020 increased by almost 10%.²¹ The lockdown resulted in victims being confined at home with perpetrators. School closures may have increased exposure of children to household violence. In-person contact with health and social services reduced. And home visits which may have identified and intervened in risky situations were reduced. Victims reported that the abuse worsened during the pandemic, especially if they lived with their abuser.²²

^b As the number of offences flagged as domestic abuse-related has been increasing in recent years, it is not possible to determine what impact the coronavirus pandemic may have had on the increases in 2020.



The Covid-19 pandemic saw a significant increase in reported domestic abuse.

Victims reported that the abuse worsened during the pandemic, especially if they lived with their abuser.

In Buckinghamshire, reports of domestic abuse and use of domestic abuse services have increased since the start of the pandemic. The table shows increases in police and service use data.

POLICE DATA	Before Covid-19 April 2019 to Jan 2020	After Covid-19 April 2020 to Jan 2021	Percentage change
Reported domestic abuse crimes	3849	4431	15% ↑
Numbers of victims	2924	3291	13% ↑
Numbers of perpetrators	2839	3212	13% ↑
Domestic-related stalking crimes*	54*	415*	669% ↑*
<i>*Large increase is due to changes in recording practises by the Home Office in April 2020.</i>			
SERVICE DATA	Before Covid-19 April to Sept 2019	After Covid-19 April to Sept 2020	Percentage change
Victims supported by IDVAs^c	601	1062	77% ↑

^c This includes victims supported within a police station and/or within Women's Aid IDVA services in Buckinghamshire.

I never expected domestic abuse would happen to me

"I always thought that domestic violence and abuse was something that happened to other people. But it happened to me. This is my story from ten years ago.

"He will be nameless. We met online, but we had mutual acquaintances in common, so I felt okay about meeting him. We first met in a quiet local pub - he wasn't really my type, and I only agreed to a second date to not hurt his feelings. However after meeting more, I felt that we had a connection. We ended up moving in together quite quickly and that's when my life began to change.

"From the start he was 'love bombing' me, a tactic that abusers sometimes use to get you on side - sending texts saying that he really liked me, and thought I was amazing. He was also controlling and overbearing - my phone would ring and he would be hovering, wanting to hear what I was saying. He would question me - what did they want, why had or hadn't I spoken about him? Then there were questions about why people weren't ringing or texting me. I felt that I couldn't do anything right.

"Things reached a head when I stayed away overnight for a work trip. He accused me of making it up - I was going away because I was having an affair (I wasn't). He cornered me in our bedroom, pushing me against the wall, yelling and screaming at me. In his mind, he was right - I couldn't say anything to stop him. I'm not proud of it, but I slapped him. Silence. Nothing happened. I got my bags and I left. For the next 36 hours I had text after text saying things like the police would arrest me, he was sorry, please come back, I love you, I need you, why aren't you telling me the truth, don't you dare come back, your stuff is in bin bags at the front door.

"You might wonder, why I didn't ring someone and tell them? What do you say? Who do you tell? Abusers pull you away from your friends and family. Contact becomes limited, and often you can't see people without the abuser being present. Unless you've been in this position, you can't imagine how lost and alone you feel. Reaching out to talk to someone, becomes the most impossible thing you can do.

"Christmas came. I was trapped in a flat, with a man I was petrified of. We rowed, and by 4am, he had ripped out clumps of my hair, tried to strangle me, kicked me in the ribs, given me a black eye, and ripped an earring out my ear. He proposed at some point that night. I said yes because I didn't know what else to say. It was terrifying. I couldn't even cry. I just felt numb.

"It was another three weeks before I left, and I can't tell you what happened. I don't let myself think about it. But I did leave. And I didn't go back."

- Anonymous resident, Buckinghamshire

4. WHO IS AT GREATER RISK OF SUFFERING DOMESTIC ABUSE?

Some people are more likely to be victims of domestic abuse. Tools such as the DASH risk checklist (Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment and Honour Based Violence) help trained health and social care professionals and the police to assess the risk level (standard, medium or high) of domestic abuse victims.²³ The checklist identifies vulnerabilities such as mental ill health, financial dependency and disability. High and medium risk victims receive support from independent domestic violence advisors (IDVA), and may be referred to a multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC).

However, a lack of complete data on victims limits our understanding of the full picture of who is at greater risk of domestic abuse. Much of our data come from surveys or services. A lack of data may reflect reluctance to provide information, poor data collection, or barriers to accessing services, either because services are not inclusive or are not perceived to be.

Disability



Around 14% of disabled adults experienced domestic abuse, compared with 5% of adults without disabilities from 2018 to 2019 (in England and Wales).

Around 14% of disabled^d adults experienced domestic abuse, compared with 5% of adults without disabilities from 2018 to 2019 (in England and Wales).²⁴ Disabled men are twice as likely to experience domestic abuse compared to non-disabled men (8% and 4% respectively);²⁵ disabled women are more than twice as likely compared to non-disabled women (17% and 7%). National and local data suggest that either disability is not recorded by services, or that disabled victims are not accessing them.

“ Having a physical disability meant that it was difficult for me to get advice or support outside home. ”

- Victim of domestic abuse, Buckinghamshire

Learning disability

National data suggest that one in five (19%) people with a learning disability experienced any domestic abuse in the last year (2019 to 2020).²⁶

^d *Being disabled refers to a person self-reporting a long-standing illness, condition or impairment, which causes difficulty with day-to-day activities.*

Mental ill health

Domestic abuse and mental ill-health are commonly associated. Recent research suggests that women with mental health problems are three times more likely to experience domestic abuse, and women experiencing domestic abuse are three times more likely to develop mental health problems.²⁷

Older people

Older people are affected by domestic abuse. Police data for Buckinghamshire from 2019 to 2020 showed that 9% of victims of known age were 61 years or older. However this age group only made up 4.5% of IDVA service users in the same year. Older people may be more vulnerable to coercive control (including economic abuse) given their dependence on family and carers as they age.²⁸ They may be unwilling or unable to disclose, recognise or leave abusive relationships due to age-related conditions such as dementia. Such situations are both a safeguarding and a domestic abuse concern.

Ethnicity

Ethnicity is not well recorded in relation to domestic abuse. Recent police data show that in Buckinghamshire, in 70% of cases the victim's ethnicity was not recorded. Domestic abuse is also commonly under-reported in ethnic minorities. Although domestic abuse is experienced by people from all ethnic origins, cultural values and norms will affect people's perceptions of and responses to domestic abuse. For people from some ethnic minority backgrounds, these may include fear (of not being believed, of being exposed, of the criminal justice system), victim-blaming culture, and failure to recognise abuse. Honour and shame are highly important concepts in certain cultures, and the consequences of dishonouring family or community by disclosing abuse are significant.

I will live with the abuse rather than get divorced.
Divorce in my culture means my life is over.

- Quote from Thames Valley BAMER Project Report



Honour and shame are highly important concepts in certain cultures, and the consequences of dishonouring family or community by disclosing abuse are significant.

The Thames Valley Black, Asian, minority ethnic and refugee (BAMER) Project Report identified barriers faced by women from ethnic minorities who experience abuse. For example a victim needing a family member to interpret at appointments is denied privacy to discuss abuse with the health or social care professional.²⁹

“ English isn't my first language so I use language translation apps when I meet with different workers - it's not perfect but it works. ”

- Victim of domestic abuse, Buckinghamshire

Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities

There are limited data around domestic abuse in the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities. However, as in other communities, community members and workers have noted domestic abuse as a serious and long-standing problem.³⁰ The domestic abuse charity One Voice 4 Travellers estimated as many as three in four women from these communities experience domestic abuse at some point in their lives.³¹

Sexual orientation and gender identity

National statistics do not report domestic abuse by sexual orientation or gender identity. However, studies suggest that between 25 and 40% of lesbian, gay and bisexual people report one or more domestic abuse incidents in their lifetime. This rises to between 28% and 80% for trans people.³² An NSPCC survey in UK schools suggested that 44% of teenagers with same-sex partners had experienced some form of physical partner violence, increased from 20% for those in heterosexual relationships.³³

Domestic abuse victims with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or another definition of their gender and sexuality identity (LGBT+) are known to present with higher levels of risk and complex needs compared to non-LGBT+ people, such as mental health problems, self-harm and drug and alcohol misuse.³⁴



LGBT+ victims may face threats of 'outing' about sexual orientation and gender identity.

They also face unique issues such as being victim to threats of 'outing' about sexual orientation and gender identity, and 'identity abuse' which may include withholding of medication or clothing relating to their identity.³⁵

“ Most of my friends and family didn't know I was gay so I didn't want to drop a double bomb-shell on them by telling them I was also being abused by my partner. ”

- Victim of domestic abuse, Buckinghamshire

5. WHAT ARE THE RISK FACTORS FOR BECOMING A PERPETRATOR?

Certain factors are associated with increased risk of perpetrating domestic abuse. They may not cause the abuse to happen, but they contribute. Risk factors can be cumulative, and combine to increase the risk of committing domestic abuse.³⁶

Greater risk is associated with low self-esteem, hostility towards women, and/or the need for dominance and control. A history of depression and suicide attempts have also been linked to increased risk of becoming a perpetrator. Where economic stress, marital conflict and/or jealousy occurs, domestic abuse is more likely. Additionally, evidence suggests that communities with lower social cohesion, lower bystander intervention, and lower social capital have higher rates of intimate partner violence.

In contrast, protective factors can reduce the influence of risk factors. Good physical and mental health and a sense of wellbeing are protective against perpetrating abuse.

Good physical and mental health and a sense of wellbeing are protective against perpetrating abuse.

Having a stable home and family life are also protective. Communities with greater social cohesion, good access to healthcare and knowledge and training of bystander interventions have reduced risk of domestic abuse. Social norms that discourage violence and support gender equality, and public policy that aims to level up health inequalities are also protective.³⁷

To illustrate the interplay between risk and protective factors, a recent study with domestic abuse practitioners showed common risk and protective factors associated with becoming a perpetrator.³⁸ For example, normalising abusive behaviour was a risk factor. Protective factors included having meaningful support networks. Understanding these multilevel factors can help identify various opportunities for prevention. For example, improving access to stable housing, and promoting bystander interventions to reduce the risk of domestic abuse.

“ It was useful - I learnt how to put myself in my partner's shoes and to see things from her perspective.

I wouldn't have done this unless I'd been forced to. There should be more help and advice like this to help men before they get into a criminal situation like I did.

- Perpetrators of domestic abuse in Buckinghamshire reflecting on their attendance at a positive relationships programme

6. WHEN IS SOMEONE MORE AT RISK OF DOMESTIC ABUSE?

There are certain times when abuse may be more severe or more frequent.

Pregnancy and postnatal period

International estimates suggest that between four and nine of every 100 pregnant women are abused during pregnancy or soon after birth.³⁹



Pregnancy is associated with an increased risk of domestic abuse.

Pregnancy is associated with an increased risk of domestic abuse and also changes to the pattern of abuse.⁴⁰ The time of greatest risk is thought to be the postnatal period. Estimates suggest that between 290 and 650 Buckinghamshire women may be affected by domestic abuse each year when pregnant or in the postnatal period. Midwives and Health Visitors are aware of the potential for domestic abuse and screen patients carefully, seeking specialist help as appropriate. Local domestic abuse services support pregnant and postnatal women.

Drug and alcohol use

Drug and alcohol use can decrease inhibitions, act as a catalyst, and may lead to violence to solve conflicts in intimate partner relationships.⁴¹ In the Crime Survey for England and Wales (2018) victims reported that the perpetrator was under the influence of alcohol in 17% of cases and drugs in 11% of cases. Victims were under the influence of alcohol (8%) and drugs (2%) less often at the time of abuse.⁴² Recent police data for Buckinghamshire show that nine in ten perpetrators were not using alcohol at the time of the offence.

Separating or fleeing from perpetrator



Leaving - and shortly after leaving - an abuser is a dangerous time for the victim.

Leaving an abuser is a dangerous time. The risk of further abuse can increase as and after the victim leaves. One study explored post-separation violence, and found three in four women suffered further abuse, and one in three women suffered continued post-separation violence.⁴³ Furthermore, 37 of the 91 women killed by a male partner in the UK in 2018, had either separated or were taking steps to separate from their partner. Eleven of the 37 women were killed in the first month of separation.⁴⁴

Football matches

Studies in England have shown significant increases in the number of domestic abuse cases recorded by the police when the men's national team are involved in significant football matches, both when they win, and even more so when they lose.⁴⁵ A recent study showed that England football success in international tournaments also increased the likelihood of alcohol-related violent behaviours in the home.⁴⁶ A London hospital reported a 200% referral increase to its domestic abuse support service during the 2014 men's football World Cup.⁴⁷ The Women's Aid campaign 'Football United Against Domestic Violence' aims to raise awareness of domestic abuse, and battle sexist attitudes that underpin abuse against women. Wycombe Wanderers are one of the football clubs that supports this campaign.⁴⁸

7. WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE?

Experiencing and witnessing domestic abuse can have devastating impacts on victims, and their children, friends and wider family. There are also wider societal impacts. Tools such as the DASH risk checklist help trained health and social care professionals to identify the risk of harm victims may be facing.

Victim's health



Harm as a result of domestic abuse can have lifelong impacts on physical, mental and sexual health.

Harm as a result of domestic abuse can have lifelong impacts on physical, mental and sexual health. The more severe the abuse, the greater the impact. In the worst cases, domestic abuse can result in homicide, including suicide as a result of domestic abuse.

One in five domestic abuse victims at high risk of serious harm or murder reported attending an accident and emergency department because of their injuries in the year before getting help. Abuse can also result on long term health problems.

A study interviewing women and girls over 15 years old found that those who had experienced physical or sexual violence by a partner were more likely to report overall poor health, chronic pain, memory loss, and problems walking and carrying out daily activities.⁴⁹

Sexual violence can lead to infections, chronic pelvic pain, sexually transmitted infections, unintended and unwanted pregnancies, and abortions.⁵⁰

Alcohol and drugs can be used by the victim as a way of coping or self-medicating, putting victims at risk of further ill health.⁵¹ Their effects may also leave victims less capable of negotiating resolution and at risk of further violence.

Domestic abuse and mental ill health are commonly associated. A recent study found that half of women presenting to their GP with domestic abuse had already had some form of diagnosed mental illness.⁵² Victims experience anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, inability to trust others, flashbacks, eating and sleeping disorders, and emotional detachment.⁵³ Considering or attempting suicide has been reported in 16% of victims, and self-harming in 13% of victims.⁵⁴ An estimated one in three women who attempt suicide in the UK have experienced domestic abuse.⁵⁵

Domestic abuse affects all areas of life, as well as poor health.

Housing and homelessness



Domestic abuse is a leading driver of homelessness. Latest national figures from 2020 show that domestic abuse was the second most common reason given for losing a home.

Domestic abuse is a leading driver of homelessness. Latest national figures from 2020 show that domestic abuse was the second most common reason given for losing a home (14.5% of cases).⁵⁶ The homeless charity Crisis estimates that almost one in five of homeless women (18%) are homeless due to domestic abuse.⁵⁷ Domestic abuse accounts for at least one in ten people who require local authority support for homelessness in England, Wales and Scotland.⁵⁸ Actual need may be higher; the survey showed that one in three respondents left their home because of the abuse or leaving a relationship.

Finances

A recent survey of female survivors of domestic abuse found that one in three respondents said their access to money during the relationship was controlled by the perpetrator.⁵⁹ One in four respondents said that their partner did not let them have money for essentials during the relationship. A similar number reported that they used savings or children's money for essentials. Many (43.1%) reported being in debt because of the abuse, and over a quarter regularly lost sleep through worrying about debt.

The consequences of domestic abuse can increase the risk of poverty. One study found that women in poverty were more likely to have faced extensive violence and abuse (14%), compared to women not in poverty (6%).⁶⁰

Employment

Over half (56.1%) of respondents on the same survey who had left an abusive relationship felt that the abuse had impacted their ability to work. Just under half of all respondents felt the abuse had negatively impacted their long-term employment prospects/earnings.

Children and young people



In the words of UNICEF, some of the biggest victims of domestic abuse are the smallest.

In the words of UNICEF, some of the biggest victims of domestic abuse are the smallest.⁶¹ Domestic abuse has a negative impact on the mental, emotional and psychological health of children. Children can suffer social and educational developmental problems, and in some cases grow to accept abuse as normal behaviour. An estimated one in five children are exposed to domestic abuse in the UK,⁶² with 130,000 children living in homes where there is a high risk of serious harm or murder due to domestic abuse.⁶³

In Buckinghamshire, for the financial year 2020 to 2021, there were over 2,400 referrals for a social care assessment to children's social care where domestic violence was the primary concern. This represents a 31% increase on the previous year. This accounts for 23% of all children's social care referrals. Almost 700 children and young people where domestic violence was a concern were given children in need plans, child protection plans or became looked- after. Children starting a social care service from 2020 to 2021 – where domestic violence was the primary concern – accounted for 23% of all children's social care services received. 105 children who had domestic abuse mentioned as a factor in their assessment became looked after by the local authority from 2020 to 2021. This represents half of all children who became looked after in that year. These figures will underestimate domestic abuse suffered and witnessed by children in Buckinghamshire as not all cases will be referred to social care. Of the 116 children accommodated in Women's Aid Buckinghamshire refuges from 2019 to 2020, over half (66%) had directly witnessed domestic abuse, and 17 of the families were subject to a Child Protection Plan.

The full extent of harm will differ for each child depending on their circumstances and age. Around two in three (62%) children living with domestic abuse are thought to be directly harmed by the perpetrator; harm is also caused by witnessing abuse.⁶⁴ Wider effects such as having to move home and school to escape abuse can further harm children by increasing instability in their lives. A survey of women in English refuges showed that about two in three residents had children with them.⁶⁵

Growing up with domestic abuse is likely to be a traumatic and stressful negative experience.

Growing up with domestic abuse is likely to be a traumatic and stressful negative experience, and the impacts will vary between children. Children may demonstrate outward behaviours such as aggression, anti-social behaviour and risk taking;⁶⁶ others may have difficulty expressing their emotions. Children may also feel depressed, anxious, angry, guilty, confused, and helpless.⁶⁷

The impacts can be long term. Studies suggest that exposure to domestic abuse in early life may increase the risk of:

- Alcohol use. Children witnessing violence are more likely to misuse alcohol later in life.⁶⁸
- Becoming a victim or perpetrator of domestic abuse, although this association is complex.^{69,70} For example, normalising experiences of abuse will make it difficult for children to establish and maintain healthy relationships, and may increase their risk of domestic abuse in the future.
- Antisocial and risk-taking behaviour, early pregnancy and homelessness. Experiencing any or a combination of these in adolescence increases vulnerability to sexual exploitation and criminal behaviour.⁷¹

“Feeling safe is even more important when you have your children to think about.”

- Victim of domestic abuse, Buckinghamshire

Wider society

A Home Office report estimated the annual economic and social costs of domestic abuse, including domestic homicides, to be over £66 billion in England and Wales (year ending March 2017).⁷² The largest costs as a consequence of domestic abuse were the physical and emotional harms (£47,287 million). The largest costs in response to domestic abuse were police costs (£1,257 million). The average total cost per victim was an estimated £34,010, made up of lower-costing crimes such as indecent exposure, to the highest-cost crime of domestic homicide.



Using Home Office costs with our local estimate of 21,000 victims, we estimate that the potential annual cost of the consequences of domestic abuse in Buckinghamshire is £687 million.

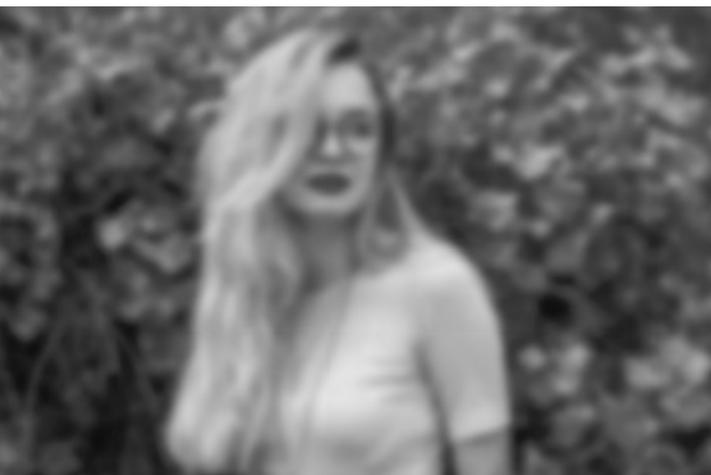
Using Home Office costs with our local estimate of 21,000 victims, we estimate that the potential annual cost of the consequences of domestic abuse in Buckinghamshire is £687 million. This is physical and emotional harm costs of £510 million, lost output costs of £152 million (time off work and reduced productivity), and health service costs of £25 million.

Using Home Office costs with our local estimate of about 4,000 victims known to the police in 2020 to 2021, we estimate that the potential annual cost of responding to domestic abuse in Buckinghamshire only for those we know about is £3.5 million, of which police costs account for £2.5 million. However, the health impact and costs would still accrue whether the victim reported the crime or not, so the local health costs will be an underestimate.

Deaths from domestic abuse: domestic homicide reviews

A domestic homicide review must be carried out by local authorities in England and Wales following the death of an individual aged 16 or over, which has, or appears to have resulted from violence, abuse or neglect, and inflicted by someone personally connected to the victim.^e

Each review provides a detailed account of events leading up to the homicide, the context, and what we can learn from the event. The most recent data from the Home Office (December 2016) show that over 400 reviews have been completed since domestic homicide reviews started in 2011.⁷³ As of July 2020, 39 domestic homicides have taken place in the Thames Valley region, and 15 in Buckinghamshire.



As of July 2020, 39 domestic homicides have taken place in the Thames Valley region, and 15 in Buckinghamshire.

What can we learn from these deaths?

Published homicide data for England and Wales (from the Home Office report and another recent report), show that no two cases are the same.⁷⁴ However, there are certain key themes which have been identified. Data for England and Wales are used given the limited data available for local cases.

- Women are more likely to be victims than men. About eight in ten victims are female.
- Men are more likely to be perpetrators than women. About nine in ten perpetrators are male.
- Data on ethnicity of victims is often missing.
- Substance misuse can be a prominent feature in the lives of both victims and perpetrators.

^e Perpetrator and victim related, or are/were in intimate partner relationship, or member of the same household.

- Victims and perpetrators are commonly known to services prior to the homicide. For example, just under half of cases were known to the police to be in an abusive relationship.
- Perpetrators of homicides follow a pattern of behaviour, including having previous controlling behaviour, and reacting violently to loss of control of the victim or relationship.⁷⁵

Given that domestic homicide reviews aim to identify learning, service improvements and better prevention of domestic abuse and homicide, an anonymised and accessible national database of reports would help local authorities learn from other areas to help prevent these tragedies from happening.⁷⁶

Warning signs for intimate partner homicides

Between 2009 and 2018, a woman was killed every four days by her partner or ex-partner in the UK.⁷⁷

Most victims of intimate partner homicides are women. A review of 372 intimate partner homicides of female victims, and patterns of behaviour in national domestic homicide review information identified **eight stages** that may predict homicide.⁷⁸ Controlling behaviour by the perpetrator was the best predictor of homicide, rather than a history of violence. This review has led to learning about how these homicides can be predicted, and therefore prevented.

All perpetrators who reached the last stage and committed homicide moved through each of the eight stages. However, many cases saw progression to stage five or six, followed by either regaining control and returning to stage three, or moving to another relationship.

1. **Pre-relationship history.** In almost all cases the perpetrator has a history of coercive control, stalking or domestic abuse.
2. **Early relationship.** The relationship moves at speed, such as moving in together and declaring love early on.
3. **Relationship.** There are controlling patterns in every case study, such as limiting the victim's movements, what she wears, or who she sees. The relationship may be dominated by coercive control, stalking, or domestic abuse. This stage ranged from 3 weeks to 50 years in the case studies.
4. **Trigger/s.** Risk rises due to possible loss of control by the perpetrator over the victim or the relationship. Usually this loss of control comes from separation initiated by the victim.
5. **Escalation.** The perpetrator tries to gain back control back. More frequent and severe controlling behaviours are seen, such as crying, violence, stalking, or suicide/murder threats.
6. **Change in thinking.** With the loss of control comes a decision by the perpetrator about how they deal with this loss. This may be to form a new relationship, to mend the current relationship, or to decide to kill someone.
7. **Planning.** The perpetrator plans the homicide. This could include buying weapons, digging a grave, researching methods online, planning and organising finances, or stalking to gather intelligence.
8. **Homicide.** Case studies included violent homicides where the level of violence used appears to have no direct relation to that within the relationship.

Over 125 domestic abuse organisations and professionals have been calling for a national response to perpetrators for some time, including a national perpetrator strategy. A positive step towards this came in the HM Treasury Budget 2021, which included funding across England and Wales for perpetrator behaviour change programmes that work with offenders to reduce the risk of abuse occurring.⁷⁹

To start with it was the occasional push or slap, but it got worse

"I met my ex-husband when I was 17. I moved in with his family six months later when I was pregnant. Everything went well for a while. However, one evening at the pub he suddenly told me we were going home – I thought it was a bit strange but agreed. On the way home he told me that he was angry with me as I was flirting with another man. I told him that I hadn't and he slapped me around the face. This was a bit of a shock but he apologised straight away and told me that he was sorry.

"Things went okay, we got married and my child was born. I quickly became pregnant again and although things did become a bit tense, I put this down to the pressures of suddenly having a family. My ex-husband would drink a bit. It seemed that if he had too much we would argue, he would say that I was lazy, and that I could not look after my children properly. The drinking was happening most evenings and so were the insults. Then it started to get physical.

"To start with it was the occasional push or slap, but it got worse. One particular evening, when the children were six and five, he came home from work early and shouted at me because the dinner was not ready when he had arrived. He told me that I was useless, slapped me across the face and then told me to get on with his dinner. When I took it through to him he started shouting at me – 'What the hell are you giving me, I don't like this..!' He grabbed the back of my neck, and pushed my face towards the food, shouting at me all the time, saying I was trying to poison him. Then he shoved his hand full of food in into my mouth and told me to eat it. He pushed me to the floor and started to punch and kick me.

"The children were screaming. He told me to shut them up or he would sort them out too. I managed to quieten them down by taking them upstairs. When I returned I apologised to him about the food and he told me to clear it up. He said that I was not fulfilling my duty as his wife properly. He then made me have sex with him and all the time he was telling me how useless I was and that I deserved everything I got.

"The next morning I decided that I could not do this anymore. I contacted my friend and she took me to her house. We spoke to housing and they gave me the number for Women's Aid, where there was space in a refuge for me and my children. I did not have much with me, just a few clothes and things for the children. When I got to the refuge I was shown to a room and was given some spare clothes and food. I did not have any money. My worker helped me to claim a crisis loan and sorted out getting my benefits. I did report what had happened to the police and my worker came with me to make a statement. The police were very helpful but unfortunately although they arrested him he denied everything. They were unable to proceed with any charges.

"When I was in the refuge I was helped with things like housing, and support for the children getting them in to school. I stayed in the refuge for six months and I was then offered a house from the Council. The staff at the refuge helped me to get things for the house and helped me move in. I contacted Women's Aid later as my ex-husband had applied for custody of the children. He was awarded contact only. I could not have coped without the help of Women's Aid and I am so grateful to them for helping me and the children. My ex-husband no longer sees the children as he moved out of the country."

- Anonymous resident, Buckinghamshire

8. WHAT WORKS TO PREVENT DOMESTIC ABUSE?

Domestic abuse is a complex societal issue spanning many areas of life. Prevention and the response must be multifaceted.

Domestic abuse is a complex societal issue spanning many areas of life. Prevention and the response must be multifaceted. The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has published guidance on multi-agency working for domestic violence and abuse (2014) which includes 17 recommendations.⁸⁰ These include a local strategic partnership to prevent domestic abuse; the scope, shape and variety of local services; the quality of partnership working; and staff knowledge and skills in identifying and supporting victims of domestic abuse.

Embedding early intervention and prevention into a multiagency response to domestic abuse is highlighted in the government's Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy (2016 to 2020).⁸¹ The response includes government-led initiatives as well as local authority multi-agency working, safeguarding, and commissioning. It highlights the multi-layered and co-ordinated health, social and criminal justice approaches required to tackle this issue and can be applied to all victims rather than only women and girls.

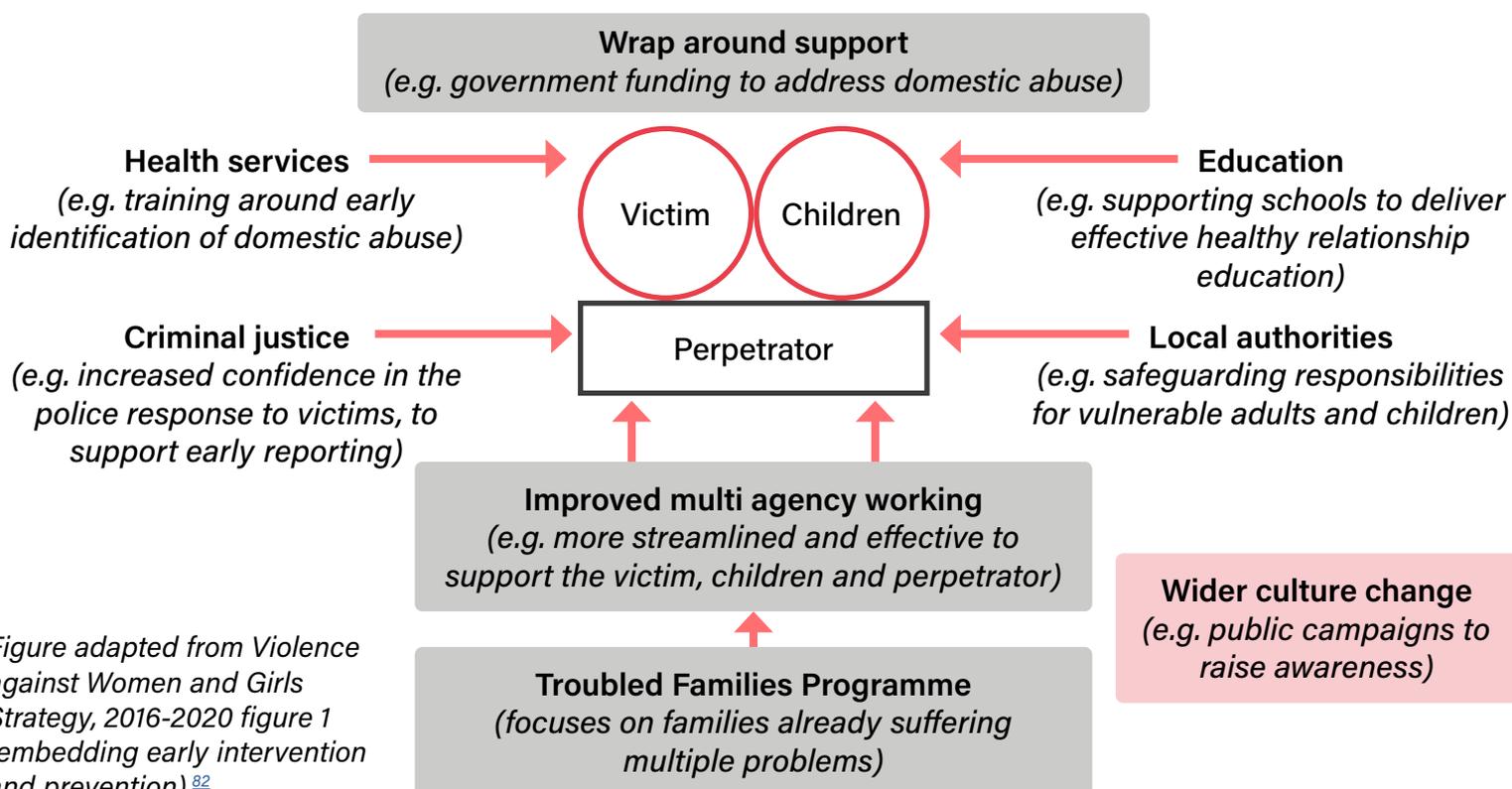


Figure adapted from Violence against Women and Girls Strategy, 2016-2020 figure 1 (embedding early intervention and prevention).⁸²

New and existing programmes should be monitored and reviewed to improve the robustness of evidence.

Historically, many interventions addressing domestic abuse have not been thoroughly evaluated so it is vital that new and existing programmes should be monitored and reviewed to improve the robustness of the evidence. Some evidence based or potentially effective domestic abuse interventions are highlighted below.

- **School-based awareness raising of domestic abuse** is known to achieve positive changes in knowledge and attitudes towards domestic abuse and prevent dating violence.
- **Campaigns to raise awareness of domestic abuse** is a fundamental step in victims and bystanders recognising domestic abuse. This should be combined with signposting the public and professionals to services.



'Bystander interventions' challenge harmful attitudes, language and behaviour relating to domestic abuse.

- **'Bystander interventions'** challenge harmful attitudes, language and behaviour relating to domestic abuse.⁸³ These interventions – from challenging a disrespectful statement to noticing signs of domestic abuse and offering support – can be undertaken by anyone. Solace Women's Aid provides training and materials via their website for everyone,⁸⁴ as well as information specifically for men.⁸⁵
- **Offering safe opportunities to seek help** such as campaigns using code words that victims can use in specific circumstances to alert someone to abuse. As services have moved online, and in-person interactions are replaced with a digital offer, a hand signal or gesture may be preferred to a code word. Examples include the recent 'Ask for ANI', 'Ask for Angela', and the Zoom signal campaigns.⁸⁶

- **Advocacy** interventions with victims are based on empowerment, discussing solutions, and setting goals to respond to their situation. These interventions usually link survivors with legal, police, housing and financial services, and many also include psychological or psycho-educational support. NICE recommends that all domestic abuse victims should be provided with advocacy and advice services tailored to their level of risk and specific need.⁸⁷ Evidence suggests that intensive advocacy may improve quality of life and reduce physical abuse for one to two years.⁸⁸
- **Training of health care professionals** in domestic abuse education and advocacy may lead to an increase in awareness, and greater disclosure, identification and referral to domestic abuse services.⁸⁹ For example, data from domestic homicide reviews show us that a victim's contact with services may be limited to their GP so it is vital that GPs are skilled and proactive in recognising signs of domestic abuse and referring patients for urgent help.

The 'Identification and Referral to Improve Safety' (IRIS) training and support programme is an example of an effective health care training intervention, designed for GP surgeries.⁹⁰ Evaluation of IRIS showed improved identification of women experiencing domestic abuse and improved referral rates to specialist services (compared to surgeries not trained in IRIS).⁹¹ A recent evaluation across GP surgeries in London showed that of the 144 surgeries trained in IRIS, a 30-fold increase in domestic abuse referrals was seen compared to the those surgeries without IRIS training.⁹² These outcomes show that clinician behaviour can be changed in relation to domestic abuse enquiry and referral, for the benefit of the victim. A cost-effectiveness study showed the IRIS programme to have lower costs and greater effectiveness for GP surgeries, compared to surgeries offering usual care (not using IRIS).⁹³

- **Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA)** are trained to address the safety of victims at high risk of harm from intimate partners, ex-partners or family members. There is evidence suggesting that IDVAs have a positive impact on the safety and well-being of victims experiencing extremely serious levels of domestic abuse.⁹⁴ This reduced risk of harm has some effect on reducing the risk of domestic abuse to children.
- **Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs)** are regular multiagency meetings to discuss high risk domestic abuse cases. A coordinated safety plan is enacted to support the victim. The victim is ideally represented by an IDVA. Research indicates that MARACs (and IDVAs) can improve victim safety and reduce revictimization, and therefore may be a highly cost-effective measure.⁹⁵

Perpetrator interventions

Interventions aimed at perpetrators can be either criminal sanctions, or perpetrator interventions and programmes. Only 1% of perpetrators receive any specialist intervention to challenge or change their behaviour.

NICE guidance states that *'There is lack of consistent evidence of the effectiveness of programmes for people who perpetrate domestic violence and abuse.'* However, *'such interventions are an important part of domestic violence and abuse services, and provided they are supported by robust evaluation to inform future commissioning decisions, should be recommended.'*⁹⁶

NICE has also published quality standards for domestic violence and abuse (2016).⁹⁷ The standards are (1) asking about domestic abuse, (2) responding to domestic abuse, (3) referring to specialist services for victims, and (4) referring to specialist services for perpetrators.

9. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report shows that domestic violence and abuse is common, but often hidden and underreported. The impacts for victims, survivors, their families, and society are serious and wide-reaching. In preparing this report, we have reviewed the latest data, evidence and looked at current service provision.

Preventing domestic abuse from occurring must be a priority and we are supporting our schools to implement recent RSHE (relationships, sex and health education) that includes recognising domestic abuse and abusive relationships, coercive control, consent, and mutual respect in friendships and relationships. Looking ahead, the new multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board will be championing good practice in awareness raising, education and training and the provision of high-quality support and advocacy services. Services for victims (including children) and perpetrators will be further developed to meet the needs of diverse groups and people with protected characteristics, recognising that anyone can be a victim. Starting with partners on the Board, all organisations will be encouraged to adopt measures to keep employees and service users safe from domestic abuse including during home working, remote digital working, and consultations. The Board will also explore how we can share and learn from past and current domestic homicide reviews to understand how such tragedies can be prevented in the future.

The following recommendations should, in addition to statutory duties for support for people living in safe accommodation, inform the Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board strategy and delivery plan:

- 1** The Domestic Abuse Board should support awareness raising of domestic abuse through coordinated, county-wide participation in a selected national campaign.
- 2** The Domestic Abuse Board should consider how bystander training could be utilised locally and promoted, as an evidence-based intervention to challenge harmful attitudes, language and behaviour relating to domestic abuse for people of all ages.
- 3** Buckinghamshire Council Community Safety team should consider how to increase the diversity within the domestic violence and abuse champions scheme by actively recruiting network members that reflect the diversity of people that may experience domestic abuse.
- 4** The Domestic Abuse Board should develop and roll-out high-quality, shared, scenario-based training across Buckinghamshire for key stakeholders and front-line staff. Primary care should also consider implementing the IRIS training package as an effective evidence-based training programme across Buckinghamshire.
- 5** The Domestic Abuse Board should oversee the development of a Buckinghamshire domestic abuse referral pathway for all staff to follow, to ensure timely and responsive delivery of services, fully understood by frontline staff and accessible to victims seeking help.
- 6** All Board member agencies to support the development of an evidence base for what works for perpetrators, to inform commissioning of promising interventions, and evaluation of their effectiveness.

10. GLOSSARY

Adverse Childhood experience (ACE): ACEs are stressful events occurring during childhood that directly affect a child or affect the environment in which they live (e.g. growing up in a house where there is domestic violence). ACEs can have long-term negative impacts on health and well-being.

Child protection plan: A plan drawn up by the local authority to set out how a child can be kept safe, how things can be made better for the family and what support they will need.

Honour based violence: A crime or incident which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or community.

Independent domestic violence advisor (IDVA): IDVAs support victims to reduce immediate risk and increase self-esteem and resilience. The aim of the service is for victims to effect change and keep themselves safe in the longer term.

LGBT+: People who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or have another definition of their gender and sexuality.

Multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC): A multiagency panel producing a coordinated action plan to increase the victim/s safety and manage the perpetrator/s behaviour.

Protected characteristics: It is against the law to discriminate against someone because of the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation. The Equality Act of 2010 protects citizens against discrimination.

Stalking: This can be a form of domestic abuse. It is a pattern of persistent and unwanted attention, and is often committed by ex-partners but can be committed by anyone.

11. APPENDICES

I. Domestic abuse full definition

Full government definition of domestic violence and abuse:

- Behaviour of a person towards another person is domestic abuse if (a) the people are each aged 16 or over and are personally connected to each other, and (b) the behaviour is abusive.
- Behaviour is abusive if it consists of any of the following:
 - a. physical or sexual abuse
 - b. violent or threatening behaviour
 - c. controlling or coercive behaviour
 - d. economic abuse
 - e. psychological, emotional or other abuse

The definition covers different types of relationships including family members, ex-partners and those who are not cohabiting. Although the definition refers to people aged 16 or over, children can still be victims. If the abuser directs his/her behaviour at a child to be abusive to another adult, this is domestic abuse.

Controlling behaviour is defined as *“a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour”*. Coercive behaviour is defined as *“an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim”*. This can also include stalking, which is a pattern of persistent and unwanted attention.¹⁰³

Economic abuse is wider than financial abuse, as described by the charity Surviving Economic Abuse: *“Economic abuse is designed to reinforce or create economic instability. In this way it limits women’s choices and ability to access safety. Lack of access to economic resources can result in women staying with abusive men for longer and experiencing more harm as a result.”*¹⁰⁴

Psychological, emotional or other abuse can include controlling another person using emotional or manipulative methods such as shaming, criticizing and embarrassing. A consistent pattern of emotional abuse will have a negative effect on a victim’s self-esteem and mental health.

II. Domestic Abuse Bill

The Domestic Abuse Bill 2021 was passed in April 2021.¹⁰⁵ It will:

- Widen the definition of domestic abuse to include other abusive behaviour as well as violent or sexual offences
- Improve the justice system to provide protection for victims, for example limiting or prohibiting cross-examination of victims

- Strengthen the support for victims of abuse by statutory agencies
- Appoint Domestic Abuse Commissioner (Nicole Jacobs was appointed in September 2019)

The Domestic Abuse Bill 2021 includes a number of statutory and non-statutory intentions that affect local authorities, some of which are summarised here:

Local authorities in England to provide support* to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation.

- Local authorities in England to establish a multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board. The Board will:
 - Assess the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse services for all victims
 - Develop and publish a strategy for this provision, and use for commissioning decisions
 - Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy, and report back to central government
 - Include wide representation (local authority, voices of victims and their children, domestic abuse charities, health care providers and police and other criminal justice agencies)

* Support includes advocacy support, domestic abuse prevention advice, specialist support for victims with protected characteristics and/or complex needs, children's support, housing-related support, and counselling and therapy for adults and children.

All eligible homeless victims of domestic abuse automatically have 'priority need' for homelessness assistance.

- Currently, domestic abuse victims without a priority need (such as being pregnant) must show that they are vulnerable as a result of fleeing domestic abuse in order to access homelessness assistance. The Bill removes the need to prove this vulnerability.

When rehousing an existing lifetime secure tenant, local authorities must honour this by granting a new lifetime secure tenancy in the case that the tenant or household member has been a victim of domestic abuse and is being rehoused as a result.

Introduce regulations and statutory guidance on Relationship Education, Relationship and Sex Education, and Health Education.

Invest in domestic abuse training for responding agencies and professionals.

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Report to Cabinet

This report has been submitted under 3.46a of the Cabinet Procedure Rules as consideration of this item was requested after the publication of the 28 day notice, and is required in response to the assessed responsibilities and protection of the interests of the Council.

Date:	28 September 2021
Title:	Buckinghamshire County Deal Proposals
Cabinet Member(s):	Martin Tett, Leader of the Council
Contact officer:	Lisa Michelson, Service Director – Economic Growth and Regeneration
Ward(s) affected:	All
Recommendations:	Cabinet is recommended to support the ongoing negotiations with central government to secure a county deal for Buckinghamshire based on the priorities and proposals set out in our Recovery and Growth Proposition
Reason for decision:	A county deal is an opportunity to secure additional government investment and opportunities for the county to support our recovery and growth ambitions

1. Executive summary

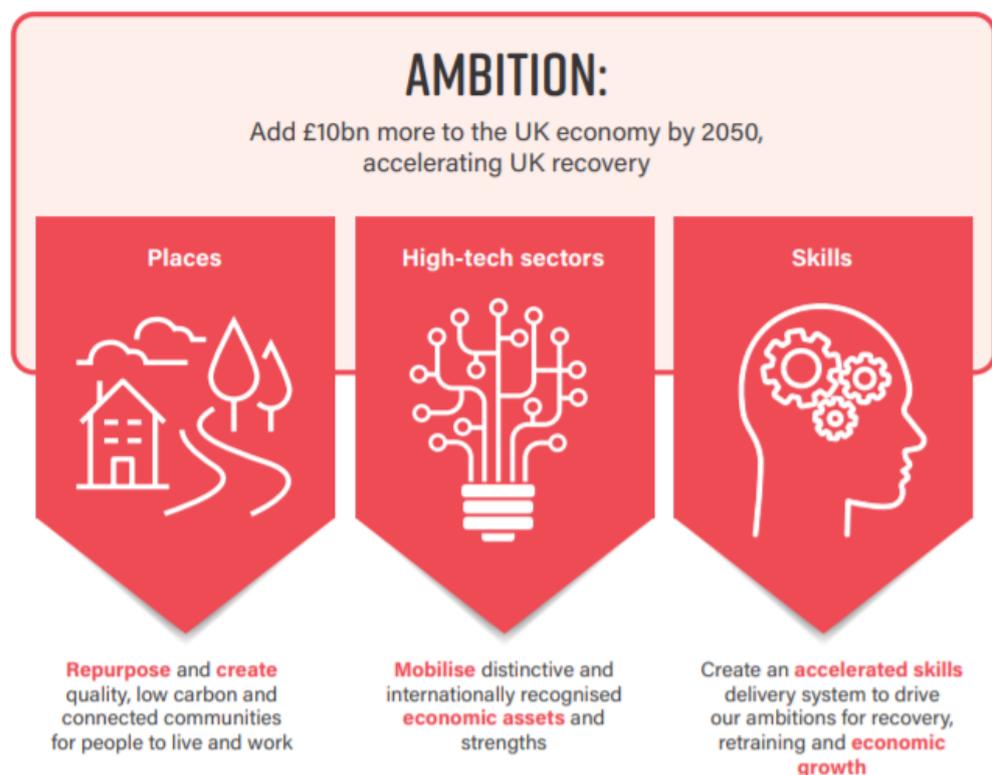
- 1.1 During 2020 through the Buckinghamshire Growth Board (comprised of elected members and representatives from health and business) the council and its partners developed proposals for a Recovery and Growth Deal building on the unique strengths, partnerships, and opportunities within the County. In November 2020 Cabinet agreed the deal proposition and supported engagement with government with the aim of securing investment in the county.

- 1.2 In July the Prime Minister set out his vision on how the government would level up the UK. As part of this he announced plans to take a more flexible approach to devolution through the creation of new 'County Deals'.
- 1.3 Expressions of interest were invited from upper tier local authorities interested in pursuing discussions with government to develop a County Deal.
- 1.4 To confirm our intention to submit a bid the Leader of the Council wrote to the Minister in August this year.

2. Our County Deal proposal

- 2.1 Buckinghamshire's proposition: *Succeeding as a place, succeeding as a country* was supported by Cabinet in November 2020 and shared with Government Ministers and their departments in January this year. It is available on the council's website here: <https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/4516606/recovery-and-growth-proposal.pdf>
- 2.2 This document stimulated positive engagement with a number of government departments and has enabled Buckinghamshire to make a strong case for investment through ongoing discussions with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government and other government departments.
- 2.3 Although there is no template for an application, the Government has indicated that County Deals will be guided by some key principles. These were set out in a letter from the Secretary of State to council Leaders, Chief Executives and Mayors in July:
 - Strong local leadership will be fundamental
 - County devolution should operate across a sensible economic geography of a suitable scale and one based on local identity, bringing local partners together and with powers exercised at the right level to make a difference for local communities.
 - The nature and appropriateness of proposed governance structures will impact on the nature of the deal and the types of powers and flexibilities provided in a deal. We will expect demonstrable improvements in governance, efficiency and local service join-up as part of the deal that support the delivery of levelling up.
 - Deals to include significant reform proposals, including ways to achieve greater financial efficiency, administrative streamlining and / or more joined up services in an area.
- 2.4 **Summary of our proposition**

- 2.5 We believe that we are well positioned for a County Deal as we have a strong local leadership through the council and the Buckinghamshire Growth Board, a clear set of ‘asks’ and positive support from our key partners. Following the move to unitary local government in the county we have the advantage of strong local alignment and the most coterminous county structure in England as all our key partner organisations share our county geography.
- 2.6 Our County Deal proposals are focused around our vision for Places, our High-tech sectors and Skills.
- 2.7 Through a combination of direct project investment, broader investment funds and specific freedoms and flexibilities to enable us to deliver services more efficiently and effectively locally we will be able to drive economic recovery and growth.



3. Legal and financial implications

- 3.1 At this stage there are no legal or financial implications however if we are successful in securing a County Deal for Buckinghamshire there will be significant investment in the county through the council as accountable body and likely governance requirements for the council and Growth Board to consider.

4. Corporate implications

- 4.1 There are no direct corporate implications at this stage, however should our discussions progress into Buckinghamshire becoming a pilot County Deal area we will establish clear delivery arrangements across the Council and wider partners.

5. Local councillors & community boards consultation & views

- 5.1 Elected members have been kept updated in relation to the discussions to date. Further discussions will take place with local members and community boards on the implications for the deal should we be announced in the first wave of successful bids.

6. Communication, engagement & further consultation

- 6.1 Through the Growth Board partners have been involved in the development of the Recovery and Growth proposals that form the basis of our County Deal offer to government. These were published on the council's website earlier in the year and are available for people to see.
- 6.2 Further discussion and communication plans will be developed depending on the progression of negotiations with central government.

7. Next steps and review

- 7.1 We anticipate feedback from Government on our County Deal proposals in the near future as it is expected that the pilot areas for the new deals will be announced alongside autumn funding announcements and the Levelling Up White Paper.
- 7.2 Cabinet will updated on the outcome of our expression of interest and ongoing discussions.

8. Background papers

- 8.1 Buckinghamshire's Recovery and Growth Proposition *Succeeding as a place, succeeding as a country* can be viewed here
<https://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/4516606/recovery-and-growth-proposal.pdf>

9. Your questions and views (for key decisions)

- 9.1 If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report please get in touch with the author of this report. If you have any views that you would like the cabinet member to consider please inform the democratic services team on 01296 382343 or democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk



Report to Cabinet

Date:	28 th September
Title:	Buckinghamshire Council consultation response to the Oxford Cambridge Arc Spatial Framework Vision
Cabinet Member(s):	Martin Tett - Leader
Contact officer:	Lisa Michelson Service Director Economic Growth and Regeneration
Ward(s) affected:	none specific
Recommendations:	<p>Cabinet are RECOMMENDED to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree the draft response to the Oxford Cambridge Arc consultation • Delegate responsibility for submission of the final response, incorporating any further changes after the Cabinet meeting, to the Corporate Director in consultation with the Leader of the Council.
Reason for decision:	To ensure Buckinghamshire Council’s view is submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for consideration prior to the consultation deadline of October 12th.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 Following the launch of the Oxford Cambridge Arc Spatial Framework policy paper in February 2021, the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government launched the first of three proposed consultations.
- 1.2 This first consultation focuses on ‘*Creating a Vision for the Ox-Cam Arc*’ and the proposed scope of the sustainability appraisal.
- 1.3 This report sets out the context of the consultation and the proposed response from the council. The draft response is attached to this report.

2. Content of report

Background and Context

- 2.1 The Oxford to Cambridge Arc was conceived in 2017 as a nationally strategically significant knowledge- intensive economic region offering huge potential for future economic growth. The economic prospectus for the Arc was launched in October 2020. Local authorities in Buckinghamshire had been party to local government discussions about the Arc up until August 2020 when Buckinghamshire Council withdrew its support for the Arc and left the Arc Leaders Group (along with the University and Local Enterprise Partnership) over concerns about the central imposition of housing targets and marginalisation of the views of individual councils.
- 2.2 In August 2021, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) launched the consultation '*Creating a Vision for the Ox-Cam Arc*' alongside a sustainability appraisal scoping document. The consultation aims to support the Government in producing a vision for the Spatial Framework, and therefore, guide the area's future growth to 2050. Buckinghamshire is included in the consultation content that makes up the Arc geography.
- 2.3 In February 2021 government made a commitment to develop a Spatial Framework, which will form national planning policy and transport policy for the Arc. This means local authorities must have regard to it when preparing plans such as the next iteration of the Local Transport Plan or new Buckinghamshire Local Plan. It is also suggested that the Spatial Framework is capable of being a material consideration in relevant planning decisions.
- 2.4 The current consultation poses a number of questions to establish views on what the Arc vision should be to 2050 and whether certain aspects should be prioritised. For example, addressing climate change, growing the Arc as a place of education, and making sure the Arc keeps growing as a place for business.
- 2.5 As Buckinghamshire Council and partners, including the Local Enterprise Partnership, withdrew from the Arc Leaders' Group and set a clear policy position on the Oxford-Cambridge Arc last year it is proposed that Buckinghamshire Council does not interact directly with the consultation questions and instead responds to the Minister responsible for the Arc to reiterate our position and set out a number of queries and concerns about the Arc proposals.
- 2.6 Additionally, the document and consultation questions fundamentally do not offer scope to understand and challenge the specific detail about the Arc and are fairly superficial.

The response

- 2.7 A proposed draft letter is attached to this report. The steer for this has been drawn from the Leader's recent press release about the Arc and letter to Town and Parish councils which set out the council's main concerns, alongside direct liaison with the Leader.
- 2.8 The headlines from the draft letter include:
- Reiterating our objection to the Arc proposals that will have undue influence on our ability to make plans for Buckinghamshire in Buckinghamshire
 - Reminding central government of our withdrawal from the Arc Leaders' Group
 - Highlighting the streamlining of local governance in Buckinghamshire and our desire to be in control of our own future
 - Disapproval that decisions which impact upon Buckinghamshire may be taken by areas geographically far away from Buckinghamshire or made in Whitehall
 - Reiterating our ambition to lead place-based recovery through setting out our own Strategic Vision and desire to agree an ambitious County Deal for Buckinghamshire with the Government.
- 2.9 In addition to the proposed letter, the attached draft response sets out headline comments received from council services including,
- Planning Policy,
 - Economic Growth and Regeneration,
 - Environment and Heritage,
 - Schools Commissioning, and
 - Transport Strategy
- 2.10 The appendix with technical queries, concerns, and priorities supports the political concerns and rationalise our unease at the Spatial Framework.

3. Other options considered

- 3.1 Not to respond to the consultation – due to the significance of the central government’s proposals for the Oxford Cambridge Arc and the potential impacts on the local authority and Buckinghamshire as a place, this option is not recommended.

4. Legal and financial implications

- 4.1 The consultation response itself has no direct financial or legal implication.
- 4.2 It is currently unknown whether not engaging with the Oxford Cambridge Arc will have legal or financial implications.

5. Corporate implications

- 5.1 This consultation response itself has no direct corporate implications.
- 5.2 Should the Spatial Framework progress as proposed by central government it will have implications on Buckinghamshire Council and its future plans and strategies including the Buckinghamshire Local Plan.
- 5.3 It is also unknown how the Buckinghamshire position on the Arc may influence County Deal negotiation with central government

6. Local councillors & community boards consultation & views

- 6.1 Further consultation is planned with the Leader of the Council. A briefing session for Parish Councils is planned for the 27th September.

7. Communication, engagement & further consultation

- 7.1 On the 4th August Buckinghamshire Council released a press release following the launch of the Oxford Cambridge Arc consultation. The press release reiterated Buckinghamshire Council’s position on the Arc.
- 7.2 On the 27th August, the residents’ newsletter reiterated our position on the Arc and provided a link to the press release.
- 7.3 Engagement is planned with parish councils to discuss the Council’s approach to the consultation in further detail.
- 7.4 Buckinghamshire Council will engage with partners of the Buckinghamshire Growth Board and seek to submit an overarching response on behalf of the Board and its partners. We understand that the LEP will work through the Growth Board to

respond to the consultation but other partners such as the NHS may make individual representations to emphasise their own needs and views.

8. Next steps and review

- 8.1 Any proposed amendments will be made, and the response will be submitted in accordance with the recommendation by October 12th.

9. Background papers

- 9.1 The consultation can be found here:

9.2 <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/creating-a-vision-for-the-oxford-cambridge-arc>

- 9.3 The Buckinghamshire Council press release can be found here:

9.4 <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/news/vision-for-oxford-cambridge-arc-spatial-framework-statement/>

10. Your questions and views (for key decisions)

- 10.1 If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report please get in touch with the author of this report. If you have any views that you would like the cabinet member to consider please inform the democratic services team. This can be done by telephone 01296 382343 or email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

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Leader of the Council

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Christopher Pincher MP
 Minister of State
 Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government
 2 Marsham Street
 London
 SW1P 4DF

12 October 2021

Dear Christopher,

RE: Creating a vision for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc

We are writing in response to your public consultation seeking views on creating a vision for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc Spatial Framework. As you will know, as Leader I wrote to Simon Clarke, then the Minister for Local Government on the 20 August 2020, with copies to our Members of Parliament, making clear Buckinghamshire's withdrawal from the so called 'Arc Leaders Group'. I clearly set out our reasons for doing so. These included the increasing tendency for the views of individual councils to be marginalised as evidenced by the issuing of the so called 'Joint Declaration' by councils and MHCLG, which neither the then Buckinghamshire County Council, nor the Aylesbury Vale District Council saw or subscribed to before it was issued. The Arc had always been described as 'a coalition of the willing' by both local councils and central government. It was increasingly clear that this was no longer the case.

Therefore, we are particularly concerned to note that reference to Buckinghamshire in the documents does not make clear our position as a local authority on these proposals. It is absolutely essential that the public consultation is accurate and reflects the generally accepted legal principles that consultees have sufficient information in order to respond sensibly. Furthermore, a failure to refer to Buckinghamshire Council's position will be of concern to our constituents who will be well aware of the public statements that our local councillors in Buckinghamshire have made on the Oxford-Cambridge Arc proposals. We trust that you will address this concern immediately.

You will already appreciate that in addition to Buckinghamshire Council, the Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership and the University of Buckingham, also withdrew from the so-called 'Oxford to Cambridge Arc' Leaders' Group last October. Buckinghamshire is unique in the region of being a new unitary council delivering streamlined local leadership and governance that is coterminous with our Local Enterprise Partnership, our main business representative organisation (Bucks Business First), our Health CCG and Acute Hospital Trust and our college group. As a significant area of the south east of England with a strong shared 'place making' focus Buckinghamshire wants to be in control of its own future economic development and housing decisions. Instead, the Arc concept would potentially result in non-locally imposed targets, and

decisions about Buckinghamshire's future taken by votes from other areas as far away as Corby and the Fenlands. Furthermore, as a county we wish to support our businesses to develop opportunities wherever they occur, given the different contexts and needs of individual industries and sectors. These business linkages may be with Arc council areas but may just as easily be with Berkshire, London or indeed elsewhere in the country or even internationally. From my personal experience in business, opportunities are rarely dictated by Government defined geographies.

Nonetheless, when we withdrew, we wished the best to those councils who wanted to remain within the Arc Leaders Group. We also agreed we would continue to cooperate with them and indeed other councils and LEPs on a case-by-case basis. Therefore, this would enable discussions on the appropriate geography regarding matters that explicitly impacted upon Buckinghamshire.

Over the past eighteen months, here in Buckinghamshire, we have enhanced our proactive collaborative working with our partners on the Buckinghamshire Growth Board to ensure we as a place are at the forefront of driving economic recovery and growth out of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Growth Board will soon be sharing our collaborative strategic vision for the county that is being developed by the partners of the Growth Board and key stakeholders that will play a crucial role in delivering plans made in Buckinghamshire for Buckinghamshire. Our emerging strategic vision sets out our shared ambition and overarching commitment to deliver a thriving, resilient, and successful Buckinghamshire. As we finalise our own localised ambitions, it would be disappointing, to say the least, if 'top-down' Government regional policy, driven centrally, unduly affected our commitments to enhance Buckinghamshire as a place for its residents, communities, and businesses.

We have already been engaged for nearly a year with your ministerial colleagues about the exciting County Deal opportunities that could enable Buckinghamshire to contribute substantially to the Government's ambition of 'Global Britain'. This opportunity seeks to make the most for Buckinghamshire on a deliverable, place-based scale. This contrasts with a regional geography that is likely to be unwieldy, insensitive to local concerns, and which is likely to fail to deliver at pace. For convenience, the Buckinghamshire Growth Board's emerging strategic vision and initial recovery and growth proposition that was submitted to your ministerial colleagues at the start of the year can be found [here](#).

Lastly, we would ask you to acknowledge our reiterated position that the proposals to establish a Spatial Framework for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc will impact negatively on the production of local plans, such as the new Buckinghamshire Local Plan. A spatial framework for the Arc would be a 'material consideration' for new Local Plans.

In conclusion, we would urge MHCLG to reconsider its proposals and look closely at the probably social, economic, environmental, and political impacts of a Spatial Framework. We have set out several specific comments in the technical appendix to this letter. These highlight and explain our concerns and challenges, and rationalise our unease at your proposals.

Yours sincerely

Martin Tett
Leader of the Council

Technical Appendix:

This technical appendix expands our comments on MHCLG's Oxford-Cambridge Arc *Creating a Vision Consultation* thematically. Buckinghamshire Council would welcome clarification from MHCLG on the concerns set out below.

Implications for local policy

As stated above, the proposals for a Spatial Framework for the so-called Oxford Cambridge Arc is of significant concern for the Council. The Framework will set national planning and transport policy for the area, therefore imposing an additional layer of complexity and requirements on the production of Buckinghamshire's first countywide Local Plan and next Transport Plan. As a new unitary authority in the process of transforming services in Buckinghamshire, these Arc proposals create further difficulties and uncertainty. Whilst a timeline is set out for proposed consultations and publication of our Plan, we are no clearer about what happens next. For example:

- How will any evidence base be developed for the Arc Spatial Framework?
- Are local authorities to be involved in the evidence base process?
- At what stage would local authorities input into an evidence base?
- How do MHCLG plan to engage in preparing the draft Spatial Framework?
- What level of scrutiny will the Spatial Framework be subject to?

Linked to this, we have specific concerns regarding the process for identifying *the most sustainable locations for new homes* and *Opportunity Areas* for growth. In particular, we welcome clarification on the following:

- How will the development process of the Spatial Framework identify locations for growth?
- How specific will these areas be?
- What are the expected quantities of growth?
- Why will the Spatial Framework that will be making land use allocation not be subject to an Examination in Public?
- How will the existing Green Belts be considered?

In addition, essential to good planning requires the identification, coordination, and significant investment into supporting infrastructure. Current infrastructure across Buckinghamshire is in need of investment, and existing planned local growth will create further pressures without it. The consultation material suggests that the Spatial Framework could help to identify the long-term need for new infrastructure and investment. This would occur alongside the creation of an infrastructure plan. However, there remain concerns about the implications of this proposal. Notably:

- What status would an Infrastructure Plan have?
- What implication will it have on the need for Local Infrastructure Delivery Plans?
- How will schemes be identified as priorities, and what local input will be included within this process?
- How will the schemes be funded?
- How will existing local authority guidance, for example, related to education infrastructure, be taken into account?

The consultation material also commits to an Economic Strategy, *supported by strong economic evidence*. While we have highlighted our concerns regarding the implications of these commitments on future strategies, it is unclear how a proposed Spatial Framework and commitments such as the Economic Strategy will align with existing strategies. For example, it is unclear:

- How will an Arc wide Economic Strategy align with Local Industrial Strategies (LIS), Economic Recovery Plans (ERP), or any Local Economic Development Strategies (LEDS) that exist?
- What the scope of an Economic Strategy would be? For example, would supporting individuals and human capital be considered?
- Will funding be allocated to support the delivery?

These concerns extend beyond the alignment to the LIS, ERP, and any LEDS as it is unclear what the implications will be to commitments made by Arc wide policy. We would urge MHCLG to clarify these concerns and appreciate the potential impacts on locally developed strategies.

Governance and economic growth

In respect to governance and economic growth, first, we wish to raise our concerns regarding the proposed Arc Growth Body. The consultation documents state that the Government is considering setting up a new Arc Growth Body to provide *the clear economic leadership voice to help businesses and innovation within the Arc*. Furthermore, it is suggested that the Body would *help to boost the area's potential as a global innovation powerhouse by promoting the Arc internationally*.

However, it is unclear how an Arc Growth Body would be established, who would be involved in the body, how it would operate, and its remit. In addition to this, there is no explanation as to how the potential Body would interact and interface with existing governance structures across the so-called Oxford Cambridge Arc geography, including Buckinghamshire Council and the Buckinghamshire Growth Board. This proposal raises concerns at what the potential Body's responsibility could be, and what democratic accountability there would be for its decision-making. We urge the Government to clarify its proposals about the potential Arc Growth Body alongside reconsidering the wider proposals for the so-called Oxford Cambridge Arc.

We note that economic statistics, such as GVA, employment rate, and employment by sector, are included within the consultation material. Whilst these stats provide a foundation for explaining government ambitions for the area, there are many other statistics that could be used to demonstrate the true condition of the economy. Furthermore, the use of so-called Oxford Cambridge Arc wide statistics also masks significant variations that will be evident across the area. It is unclear what these stats are designed to do or how they will shape any proposed framework or strategies across a heterogeneous region.

The consultation material references 'strong and innovative' sectors that are present within the area, we appreciate references to Buckinghamshire's sectoral super strengths and acknowledge the strategic importance these clusters have in supporting our long-term prosperity, however we are concerned that other sectors, in which businesses are operating innovatively, supporting the economy, and offering opportunities for growth, are not considered. The consultation does not indicate how any proposals for the Arc area would support these businesses. Likewise, where there

is a sectoral cluster in one area, it is unclear what the benefits are to businesses in the same sector but not geographically close. Prompts in the Economy chapter indicate that focus would be placed upon “new workspaces in places where they can make the most of cross-sector collaboration” and “putting industries in the best places to suit their needs”, which causes a risk of employment and economic growth being concentrated in certain areas. There is a further risk that businesses move from their existing locations significantly disrupting commuter patterns making transport planning more difficult, and negatively impacting the economy in affected areas including reduced local spend.

Digital infrastructure is vitally important, the impacts of Covid-19 have changed the way people and businesses operate. People and businesses will not always need a dedicated physical space in which to learn and work. However, learning or working from home requires digital infrastructure fit for purpose. This significant shift in working approaches should be analysed appropriately and reflected in assumptions for the future economy.

Within the consultation material, there is a physical focus to growth proposals however, sustainable economic growth is about people as well as place. To ensure growth is felt by all, consideration should be given to skills development and employability support. Yet, it is unclear how these have been considered. At the end of the Economy chapter, there are questions included on education and training but background information on this is limited.

As noted previously the headline data presented on the Arc conceals significant differences between places and amongst different demographic groups. The document makes some reference to the benefits of growth not being felt by all. However, there are also concentrations of deprivation within the area. Not everyone in the so-called Oxford Cambridge Arc is highly skilled or employed in an innovative sector. Consequently, it is unclear what social and economic benefits the so-called Oxford Cambridge Arc will offer to these individuals and how the region will be ‘levelled up’ through this framework.

Finally we identify that reference to towns and village centres is insufficient. Whilst reference is made in the material to ensuring good access to town centres, the changing nature of town centres and challenges and opportunities are not identified. In Buckinghamshire, we are focusing heavily on creating future-proofed quality town and village centres that are vibrant, resilient, and connected. Town and village centres are at the heart of communities, bringing people together, providing flexible workspaces, and supporting the needs and wants of both existing and new communities. We consider them a strong selling point for inward investment, yet it is unclear how the current Arc proposals would offer any support for town centres regeneration.

Transport connectivity

Aligning to our concerns about the specificity of potential housing and opportunity areas in the Spatial Framework, Buckinghamshire Council is very concerned about the potential impact on Buckinghamshire's highway network. The area of north Buckinghamshire is rural in nature, comprised of small market towns that are largely connected by single carriageway rural A and B roads. Town centres are congested and severely constrained, with limited to no capacity to accommodate additional traffic. The area is also poorly connected to the Strategic Motorway network making strategic links to the wider region and employment areas challenging.

New transport infrastructure that complements the traditional market town and historic rural road nature of North Buckinghamshire is vital to securing long-term prosperity in the area. We acknowledge England's Economic Heartland (EEH) Transport Strategy is recognised as the strategy for the region and that the proposed Spatial Framework would build upon the priorities listed in the EEH Transport Strategy. EEH engaged closely with all local authorities in the EEH area to develop this strategy and it sets out ambitious targets for transport in the area. Any new transport-related proposals should complement this strategy and be developed in agreement with the EEH Authorities.

While we welcome the approach that walking, cycling, and public transport should be the first choice for transportation within the so-called Oxford Cambridge Arc the practicalities of this in a largely rural area with dispersed and lower population densities and poor connectivity to major employment areas means that road transport is still likely to dominate and be the main choice of transport in the area. Buckinghamshire Council are a strong supporter of East West Rail (EWR) and see this as being transformational for northern Buckinghamshire; providing connectivity and opportunities in Oxford, Cambridge and further afield and supporting the existing planned growth in Aylesbury. But, the Aylesbury link still lacks government's commitment for delivery, which undermines our confidence in the stated aspiration of delivering more sustainable transport modes and achieving a modal shift in the area.

The key transport-related challenges / priorities for Buckinghamshire are set out in greater detail below:

- North-south connectivity is a strategic priority for Buckinghamshire. In your map of major transport routes, there is no strategic north to south road or rail network that covers Buckinghamshire. Reliance is currently placed on a network of rural A and B roads that route through towns and villages which are congested and not appropriate for significant growth. We would need considerable forward investment in north-south and Major Road Networks (MRNs) to support any further sustainable growth in the area.
- East West Rail has significant strategic importance to Buckinghamshire, providing improved access to public transport and better connectivity across the north of the county with greater strategic links with Milton Keynes, Cambridge, Oxfordshire and beyond. The new station at Winslow is fully supported by the Council, along with the planned Aylesbury Link that is essential in supporting the current and future prosperity

of Aylesbury. New development sites in Aylesbury were deemed more viable partly because of the new rail connection proposed by EWR. Therefore, it is essential that EWR is delivered in full, including the connection between Claydon Junction and Aylesbury, known as the Aylesbury Link. This should be delivered as a two-track route to achieve maximum economic and decarbonisation benefits for Aylesbury. The route should also support roll-out of improved digital infrastructure in Buckinghamshire through a first-rate digital spine provided by the major infrastructure project.

- Northern Buckinghamshire is predominantly rural and comprises smaller towns and villages and a traditional rural highway network. Whilst recognising that decarbonisation of our transport system and reducing the need to travel are important, our population in this area is ageing, highly car-dependent, and there are limited options for travel by non-car means. There remains a need to accept that our existing dispersed population will remain car-dependent for the foreseeable future. Therefore, there is a need to cater for high levels of car travel in the short term, whilst investigating and bringing forward focused means to encourage public transport, walking, and cycling through a forthcoming Buckinghamshire-wide Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and forthcoming Bus Service Improvement Plan. These plans will acknowledge the localised nuances in Buckinghamshire that the Spatial Framework's regional approach is likely to miss, therefore failing to consider local circumstances and challenges.

Environment, ecology, and ecosystem services

Improving our environment is one Buckinghamshire's priorities. We are a beautiful county, and our stunning natural and historic landscapes are home to local, national, and internationally recognised species, spaces, and habitats. Over a quarter of our county is within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and the Metropolitan Green Belt covers a further third. The need to deliver new homes and associated infrastructure for our growing population must be sensible, responsible, and sustainable, benefitting the existing local areas. The concept of the Arc Spatial Framework may limit our ability to respect such values that are imperative to delivering a thriving, resilient, and successful Buckinghamshire.

Questions posed within the consultation material seek opinions on the importance of protecting, restoring, and improving the natural environment. However, there is conflict associated with this, which is unclearly addressed. In some instances, allowing access to nature can result in a degradation of habitat and loss of sensitive spaces. Where the natural environment is protected, restored, and improved, there can be three categories for considering the management of space. These are space which is managed:

- Primarily for human recreation (should be limited to formal play and sports)
- Primarily for wildlife and excluding people (likely to be limited to the most sensitive areas)
- For both people and places (should be the most prevalent)

The relationship between these types of space and between them and other land uses is critical to their success. As a result, it is not easy to see how the proposed approach to the so-called Oxford Cambridge Arc would consider the Lawton principles for biodiversity of bigger, better, connected and more, that are important when planning for the natural environment. It is also

essential that these are considered both holistically and in the context of individual sensitive species and habitats.

The Council notes that connectivity and infrastructure are considered within the consultation material. It is positive that green and blue infrastructure has been recognised as needing to be identified and plotted along with other forms of infrastructure. But there are likely to be local nuances and we would welcome further clarification on how this could be undertaken. Secondly, it is unclear whether the actual wide-ranging benefits of green and blue infrastructure are appreciated. These elements need to be considered holistically as well as individually. Buckinghamshire has already committed to ambitiously increasing its tree planting. This priority has wide-ranging benefits, and the incorporation of trees in development and the broader landscape is important not only for good place making but as an efficient way of achieving a wide range of environmental improvements.

Buckinghamshire is one of the pilot areas for Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) which will play an important local role in supporting our environment. While further analysis is required before our LNRS is adopted, it is unclear where or what the links to LNRS are when these will contain crucial and detailed data that is expected in evidence bases. We consider that the collection and interpretation of remotely sensed data in coordination with existing environmental mapping data should be modelled as an important method of understanding the constraints and opportunities for the natural environment. For example, hyperspectral mapping can identify the tree canopy cover for the area, different species, and areas of potentially poor environmental health.

Regarding the sustainability appraisal scoping report, it is right that biodiversity is in the consideration of issues and opportunities, but the accompanying detail would limit how effectively it would be considered as it is limited to designated sites and not the wider landscape. There is a distinct lack of clarity when considering the consultation material. In the scoping appraisal, biodiversity is scoped in; however, the proposed 'Spatial Framework' issues identified are relatively limited. In relation to habitat loss and fragmentation, it only references designated ecological habitats'; however designated sites are only part of wider habitat networks and they cannot function in isolation. Wider habitat networks include a variety of spaces and features that may be less significant in isolation but are essential to wider ecological functionality when taken together. Therefore, habitats must not be confined to those which are designated.

In addition to this, it is suggested that only significant effects will be considered, which could mean that the cumulative impact will not be reflected. As a result, it could risk efforts to avoid, mitigate, and compensate for the other impacts not being factored in. Consequently, this may leave an impression that any proposed Spatial Framework is more sustainable than it is.

Finally, ecosystem services and natural capital are given value in the appraisal document. The validity of this valuation is questionable as the detail is not given on how financial values have been determined. It appears likely that they are based upon estimates which do not consider the true, full value of natural capital and ecosystem services. For example, woodlands are identified as providing flood mitigation, and this is given a value, but the positive or negative value of other land uses for flood mitigation is not considered. Meadows and hedgerows can also have beneficial value with regards to flood mitigation, whilst agricultural land (arable in particular) may have negative values due to the lack of vegetation at sometimes of the year and the runoff of soil into stream, rivers and, drainage networks which can reduce their capacity. It is also true that urban areas will have negative impacts in many cases regarding flood

mitigation. The full costs and benefits relating to natural capital and ecosystem services need to be considered. Only then can this type of approach be used to inform decision-making. Otherwise the justification for future decision-making will not stand up to scrutiny and decisions will likely have substantial unintended consequences. Understanding the full costs and benefits relating to natural capital and ecosystem services is a substantial task. It is unlikely that all the values and variables have been taken into account in one place before. Substantial investment needs to be made to establish a reliable and replicable approach. There is also a need for considerable time and resources to develop an up to date and accurate understanding of the baseline. The LNRS pilot for Buckinghamshire made a start on this but more work is needed.

The Historic Environment

In addition to its inherent cultural interest, the historic environment plays a significant role in what makes the existing area special. Local distinctiveness or identity is influenced by historic buildings and archaeology, patterns of settlement, fields and landscape, townscape, and street forms, all of which contribute to a unique sense of place that is appreciated by residents, workers, and visitors alike. The historic environment has the potential to be a powerful driver for economic growth, attracting investment and tourism, and providing a focus for successful regeneration. Alongside the best in new design, the historic fabric of a place is an essential element in creating distinctive, enjoyable, and successful places in which to live, work or visit. Heritage can also be a significant focus for local communities, helping to bring people together and define local identities. It also has an important role to play in combatting climate change by promoting the inherent sustainability of historic buildings and their reuse as a lower-carbon alternative to new build. We consider that the historic environment opportunity, which is recognised as a key element in Buckinghamshire's emerging strategic vision, appears absent compared to other elements of the proposed framework.

The Council considers that it would ultimately fail to recognise the historic environment's full extent and importance. For example, it is not mentioned in 'Creating a vision for the Oxford Cambridge-Arc' (excepting in a passing reference to local plans) albeit it is recognised in part in the scoping report. Nationally, the Heritage Sector is an important economic sector with a total GVA of £36.6bn and providing over 563,509 jobs in 2019 (pre-Covid-19) (Historic England, Heritage and the Economy, 2020). Heritage employment growth outstripped the rest of the UK economy, growing almost twice as fast between 2011 to 2019. Its economic contribution should not be underestimated. Therefore, it is critical for the success of sustainable growth that it is given proper consideration. This consideration will need to be underpinned by an appropriate evidence base wider than just the consideration of designated heritage assets.

It is disappointing that the 'Historic Environment' is not included under the consultation questions for the 'Environment' or in chapter 2 of 'Creating the Vision', nor the interweaving relationship with the natural environment recognised. Human activity has helped shape the natural environment for millennia leaving evidence, for example, in the form of, field systems, woodland management, parklands, paths, routeways, buildings, water and the biodiversity and land use activities they support. In turn, the natural environment and its geography, climate, and geology have all influenced settlement patterns, industrial processes, building design, and materials and subsistence activities.

In relation to climate change, the vital contribution that the historic environment can make to reducing carbon emissions and flood risk is not recognised. This can take many forms such as the sympathetic refurbishment and retrofit of traditional buildings, which will emit less carbon than

building new buildings, using fewer materials and reducing waste; through preserving and expanding the forests and woodlands which often have significant heritage value and act as a carbon sink; and by maintaining the natural historic environment of greenspaces reducing flood risks and lower temperatures.

As outlined in the comments related to governance and economic growth, any consideration of the historic environment needs to be based understanding and analysing each area's unique history, local character, identity, and context to avoid the generalisation of important findings.

In respect to the sustainability appraisal scoping report, we are concerned that the historic environment has not been recognised to its fullest extent/potential within the strategic context section nor in the scoping annexe, neither in terms of its full breadth or the range of economic, environmental, and social opportunities it can provide. Part of the problem is that the evidence base relied upon for this purpose is too narrow with a principal focus on designated heritage assets and upon the built environment.

Whilst again we welcome that the historic environment has been scoped in and been given its own sustainability theme, we would highlight a number of issues apparent in the scope as set out (table 5.1 of the report): 'archaeology' is also a heritage asset; use of 'international renown' could suggest that only designated heritage assets of the highest order will be assessed excluding the majority of heritage assets from assessment; and that only where their 'attractiveness' will be affected will this constitute an issue (again see similar in sections 1.11-1.19 of the scoping annexe). Identifying the individual heritage assets, the elements that can contribute to their significance, and how this significance may be impacted should be assessed following the guidance as set out in the NPPF, NPPG and Historic England Good Practice Advice notes. This will include many types of heritage assets, e.g. archaeology, landscapes, buildings of local interest, parks and gardens, not just designated heritage assets.

The range of potential historic environment issues highlighted is very narrow, and we would point the Government towards Historic England Advice Note 8: Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment (2016) for further guidance. The Options and Assessment Stages assessing the various options put forward and those going ahead for full assessment must include an assessment of all the potential effects upon the historic environment along with any mitigation measures identified. Cumulative effects arising must be assessed, and proposals for monitoring the effects are important.

Similarly, the list of opportunities is very short and focussed fully on delivering benefits to the historic environment. It should be recognised that the historic environment can also deliver cross-cutting economic, social and environmental gains, for example, by fostering heritage-led regeneration at the same time as addressing heritage at risk or helping mitigate climate change using traditional skills.

Additional Strategic Data should include the Historic Environment Records (HERs), which hold a wealth of information on locally, regionally, and nationally significant heritage assets and are the primary source of information for planning, development-control work, and land management. It is important that data is gathered as the baseline currently set out in the consultation documents is inadequate for the purpose of developing a Spatial Framework.



Report to Cabinet

Decision Date:	28 September 2021
Title:	Wycombe Air Park
Relevant councillor(s):	Councillor John Chilver; Cabinet Member for Resources and Property & Assets . Local Councillors are Cllr D Barnes, Cllr Z Mohammed, Cllr M Turner
Author and/or contact officer:	Jaswinder Boom jas.boom@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Ward(s) affected:	Chiltern Villages;
Recommendations:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Authorise the Service Director for Property & Assets in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources, Property and Assets and the S151 Officer and Service Director of Legal Services to conclude negotiations and heads of terms, agree contracts, exchange and complete on the lease of Area A land as shown on the plan contained in this report and adjacent to Wycombe Airpark as set out in this report and the confidential report containing the financial information considered at Part 2 of this agenda. 2. Authorise the Service Director for Property and Assets in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources, Property and Assets and the S151 Officer and the Service Director for Legal Services to discontinue negotiations with the parties set out in confidential annex at Part 2 of this report for the disposal of Area A.
Reason for decision:	The proposal continues the strategy of releasing the Area A land for employment uses, and if agreed will generate a significant rental income stream for the Council as set out in the Confidential Annex in the Part 2 report.

1. Executive summary

To authorise the Service Director for Property & Assets to conclude negotiations, and heads of terms, exchange and complete a lease with the prospective tenant for:

1. Licence to occupy Area A land as shown on the plan contained in this report in accordance with the terms considered in the Part 2 report considered in the confidential part of this agenda.
2. Agreement to lease (subject to planning) and lease for Area A land contained in this report in accordance with the terms considered in the Part 2 report considered in the confidential part of this agenda.

These property transactions will facilitate and bring forward the Area A land for commercial uses as set out in the Wycombe Local Plan and bring employment to this location.

2. Content of report

- 2.1 Buckinghamshire Council own 10 hectares (26 acres) of land adjacent to Wycombe Airpark known as Area A/Southside, edged red on plan below.

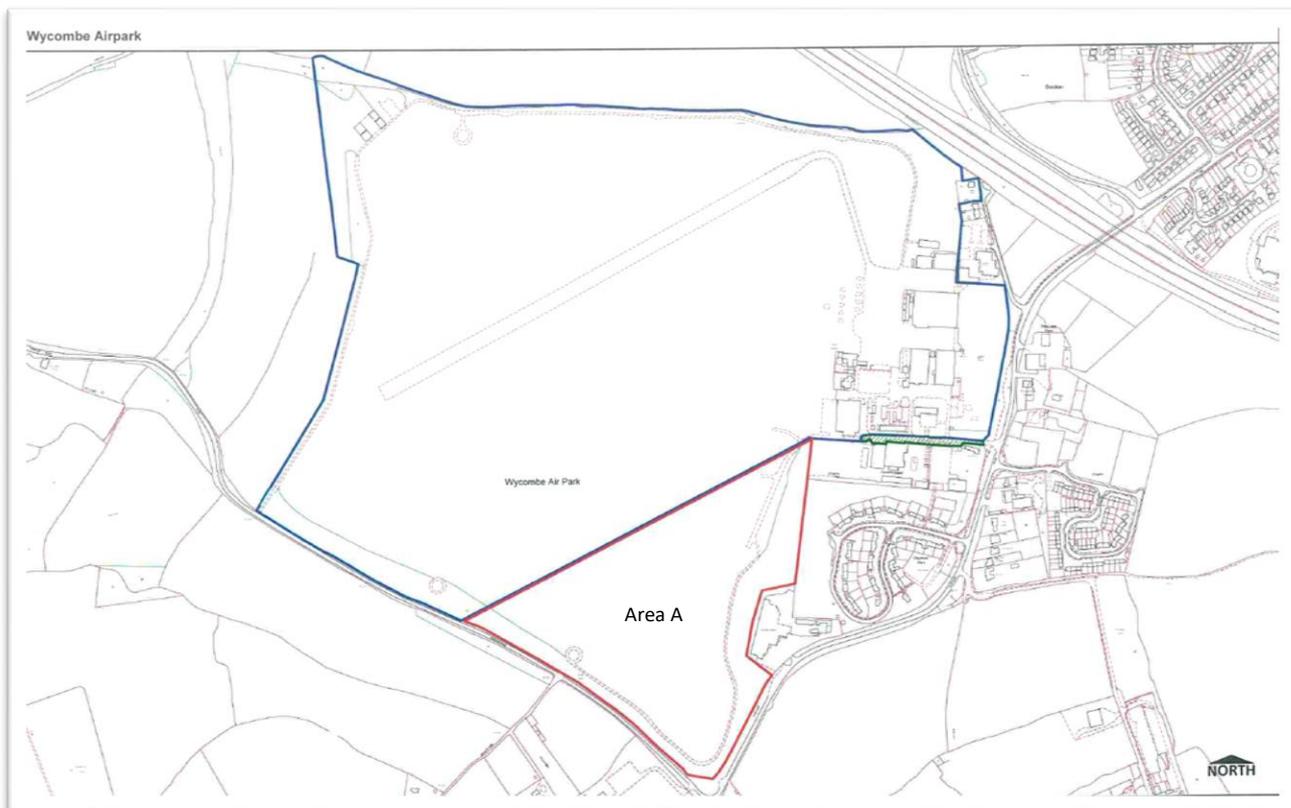


Fig 1: Area A land, adjacent Wycombe airpark

- 2.2 Terms have been agreed to let the Area A land. The terms are confidential and are set out in the Part 2 report.

3. Other options considered

- 3.1 Do nothing. This would not see the site developed for employment opportunities and would not achieve a rental income for the Council. This is not the recommended option.
- 3.2 To consider a potential sale of the freehold of the property. This is considered in the Part 2 report. This is not the recommended option as it would see the Council forgoing the rental income stream outlined in the Part 2 report.

4. Legal and financial implications

- 4.1 The Delegated Scheme for Officers provides the Service Director with the authority to approve the acquisition or disposal of land and building where the consideration is no greater than £500K, provided that any costs are within approved budgets. The aggregate of this transaction exceeds £500K making this a Key Decision.
- 4.2 The transaction enables the Council to generate revenue rental income by letting Area A. The transaction does not require any capital funding.

5. Corporate implications

5.1 This section includes the relevant corporate plan priorities relating to this report and make reference to the other implications that need to be taken into account:-

- a) Property – the report proposes an improvement to an existing revenue site.
- b) Climate change – not applicable to this report it is disposal of a lease.
- c) Sustainability – not applicable to this report, it is a disposal of a lease.
- d) Equality (does this decision require an equality impact assessment) – not applicable to this report it is a disposal of a lease.
- e) Value for money – the proposed investment versus revenue achieved on the land to the south of the airpark demonstrates value for money to the Council.

6. Consultation with local Councillors & Community Boards

6.1 Local Councillors have been consulted and are supportive of the transaction and will be notified on approval of the lease and on completion based on the terms outlined in Part 2 of this report. They will also be engaged and consulted on any subsequent discussions regarding the air park as outlined in the Part 2 report considered in the confidential part of this agenda.

7. Communication, engagement & further consultation

7.1 Elements of the proposed transaction are subject to a planning application which will be consulted on in the usual way. A communications policy will be developed.

8. Next steps and review

8.1 Finalise documentation to enter and complete contracts, subject to approvals.

9. Background papers

9.1 Key Decision Report for The disposal and acquisition of land and buildings on adjacent to the Wycombe Air Park Feb 2021

10. Your questions and views (for key decisions)

10.1 If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report please get in touch with the author of this report. If you have any views that you would like the cabinet member to consider please inform the democratic services team. This can be done by telephone 01296 382343 or email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

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